



USS JAMES MADISON (SSBN627) ASSOCIATION

A 501c Veterans Organization

November, 2021

**Happy Thanksgiving, Merry Christmas,
Happy New Year and hope to see you at the reunion!**

Dear Shipmates and Friends,

2022 USS James Madison Reunion Galveston, TX:

Hopefully you have made your travel plans and reservations for the reunion scheduled for March 23 – 27, 2022. If not, it will be at The Clarion Pointe Hotel 2300 Sewall Blvd., Galveston, TX 77550-7940. Phone number (409) 750-9192. Registration form is attached.

Board positions:

Treasurer needed. Time to relieve the watch. Our association treasurer, Don Hix, after multiple years of service, has requested a watch relief. It's time for someone else to step up. Duties include accounting for moneys from our membership dues and reunion fees, disbursement of funds to vendors, donations, etc. and dealing with the bank (currently Wells Fargo). In addition to the transactional nature of the treasurer's position, the treasurer is a key influencer/decision maker in the governance of our association. If you would be willing to consider the position, feel free to contact any current board member before the reunion business meeting to ask questions or discuss duties.

All officer positions will be elected at the meeting.

Extend your reunion experience:

Tim Esch and Don Dahl are planning to cruise after the reunion. Both booked on the Royal Caribbean ship Liberty of the Seas, for a 7-day cruise out of Galveston 3/27 – 4/3. No group rates or events, just a nice follow up to the reunion and a chance to tell a few more sea stories. Contact the cruise line at 800-398-9819 or <https://www.royalcaribbean.com/>

Contact information:

We keep a database of shipmates for our mailings and need to ask that if you have moved please send Sam Walton secretary@ussjamesmadison627.com your new information so that we can update our spreadsheet and keep you informed. We sometimes share information by email so it is appreciated if you keep us advised when you change your e-mail also.

Missing shipmates:

An on-going issue for us is to locate and reach our shipmates. Any help in identifying and locating remaining shipmates is appreciated. There is a list of shipmates on the website showing some of the missing, but we still know that there are still some that have not been identified.

Membership Dues: The Membership Form is attached. If you've already paid up through 2021, you can disregard. The date can be found on your current membership card. Dues are \$10 per year, even if you miss a year. The dues help to support the association and the Reunions. If you're unsure about your status, please contact Sam Walton at:

secretary@ussjamesmadison627.com

Historian: JD Walton is our ship's historian and continues to collect sea stories and memorabilia that have been saved. If you have things to share with him, please contact him at w1140@msn.com. These memories are available to share at our reunions.

USSVI: United States Submarine Veterans, Incorporated is a nationwide organization of Submarine Veterans. Visit their website at www.ussvi.org and "Find A Base" or "Join Us" for more information.

Current Board of Directors:

President: Keith Holman,

keith.holman@verizon.net

Vice President: Aaron "Bubba" Gehm,

iuluvsus@aol.com

Treasurer: Don Hix,

vcahix@hotmail.com

Secretary: Sam Walton,

secretary@ussjamesmadison627.com

Volunteers of Merit:

Historian: JD Walton

Webmaster: Keith Holman

Memorials: Charline Huwe

ANNUAL MADISON ASSOCIATION DUES

Name _____

Wife's Name (for Assoc. Membership and/for our records) _____

Address _____

Phone # _____ E-Mail _____

Yrs. on Board 19____ to 19____ Crew _____ Rate/Dept. _____

Amount Paid \$ _____ Yr./Yrs./ Pd. For _____

Dues are \$10 per year. (If not sure, contact Secretary, at secretary@ussjamesmadison627.com, who maintains a current list.) Associate Members (Wives) are \$10 per yr. (We are limited by the IRS to 25% of our membership for Assoc. Members; therefore, it is first come, first serve.) If you wish to pay in advance, add \$10 for each year and note above. Make check payable to: USS JAMES MADISON ASSOCIATION, INC. Mail to: Don Hix, Treasurer: 4911 Albert Lane, Rapid City, SD 57703. PLEASE REMEMBER, by being a paid member of the Association, you are helping to finance the continuation of the USS James Madison SSBN627 Association and the reunions it sponsors.

Welcome to Galveston!

March 23-27, 2022

USS James Madison Reunion

Clarion Pointe at 2300 Seawall Blvd., Galveston, TX, 77550-7940, Phone (409) 750-9192

Note the name of the hotel has changed but this is the same location.

<https://www.choicehotels.com/texas/galveston/clarion-hotels/tx296>

DO NOT ATTEMPT TO MAKE YOUR RESERVATION ONLINE TO GET THE DISCOUNTED RATES.

Our reunion room rate is \$119 per night. Room rates do not include taxes (currently 15%). Breakfast is not included in these rates but is available at \$7 per person each day. The special rate is available 3 nights before and 3 nights after the reunion activities. You must book by phone 409-750-9192 (Prices will be honored Mar 20 - Mar 29, reservations must be made on a timely basis for this rate.)

The hotel is donating the use of the banquet room and hospitality room; please make your reservations with them. One registration fee of \$150.00 per person pre-paid covers Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday activities including tips.

Please register and make payment no later than January 27, 2022.

<p>Wednesday- registration/check in- hospitality room Jimmy Johns sandwiches, veggie tray and cheese/cracker tray Various libations (Cost included in registration fee.)</p>	<p>Thursday NARRATED BUS TOUR PICKUP AT HOTEL AT 9am The tour will consist of an overview of the historical beginnings of Galveston, the 1900 Storm, the seawall and grade raising, other hurricanes and their impact, historical military forts including fort Crockett, San Jacinto, historical districts including The Strand, silk stocking, East end with 1900 storm survivor homes and hurricane Ike tree sculptures, downtown area including ports of Galveston, railroad and train station, former red light district, and Post Office district for lunch and ending at a tour of Bishops palace or Bryan Museum. Return to hotel by 4:00 pm. Tour cost, incl. Tips for driver and guide incl in registration fee. Lunch on your own at various restaurants in the Strand area.</p>
<p>FRIDAY Unstructured day. Galveston offers many options for entertainment. You can schedule your own day with a smaller group of shipmates to meet your own interests. Visit the Pleasure Pier, a Tall Ship, the Oil Rig Display, a Railroad Museum, Moody Pyramids. Rent a Model T-styled Golf cart for up to 8 or pedal bikes. A sample list of options is included elsewhere in this newsletter.</p>	<p>Saturday Shuttle departs beginning at 9 am to Seawolf Park. 10:00 am Tolling of the Boats Memorial Service 11:30 Last Bus back to the hotel. (Bus with handicap access provided as a gift by plank owner H.L. CARES, MD) Lunch on your own. 2:00 pm - Business meeting/election in hospitality room After meeting/election, Clear hospitality room for banquet setup 6 pm open bar before banquet 7 pm banquet.</p>

We will be asking ONE registration fee per person for the entire reunion. This will cover sandwiches & beverages in the hospitality room on Wednesday registration night plus the bus tour on Thursday including tips and the banquet on Saturday evening. Hospitality room will have: snacks, water, soft drinks, wine and beer daily.

ONE FEE OF \$150.00 PER PERSON.

Name of crew member attending _____

Rank & Rate _____ Gold / Blue Crew or both _____

Address & Phone # _____

Guest names _____

Please indicate staying at Clarion Pointe _____ or other (RV, Friends or other hotel) _____

One Registration fee per person: must be pre-paid. Please submit check by January 27, 2022

\$150.00 x _____ = _____ Total cost

Make check out to James Madison Reunion Assoc.

Mail to Don Hix, Treasurer, 4911 Albert Ln Rapid City, SD 57703

Call Gil Raynor if you have questions- work 281-497-8372, Cell 713-397-3481. E-mail g.raynor@raynorassoc.com

Suggestions for Friday or before and after the reunion:

For those interested you can even rent electric golf carts styled as 1908 Ford model t's; 8 seaters and 5 seaters available. Carriage Haus Rentals, 2007 Strand, Galveston, TX 77550, 409-572-9797 www.carriagehausrentals.com for more info

You can also get around Galveston on the trolley system. <https://www.galvestontrolley.com/>

You can request a Galveston Visitor Guide. <https://www.visitgalveston.com/plan-your-trip/visitor-guide-request/>

Here is a list in no specific order.

1. The Pleasure Pier directly across from the hotel <https://www.pleasurepier.com/>
 - a. Rides and amusements
 - b. Dining
 - c. Shops
 - d. 5d theatre
2. The tall ship Elissa and associated museum. <https://www.galvestonhistory.org/sites/1877-tall-ship-elissa-at-the-galveston-historic-seaport>
3. Moody Gardens pyramid <https://www.moodygardens.com/>
 - a. Rainforest Pyramid
 - b. Aquarium
 - c. IMAX theatre
 - d. Lazy river and wave pool depending on weather conditions.
 - e. Colonel paddle wheel boat
4. Walking along the seawall or renting bicycles or 4 wheel covered surreys <https://www.saltwatergiftshop.com/>
5. <https://www.galveston.com/rosenberg-treasure-galvestons-world-war-i-memorial/> (this will also be a stop on our bus tour).
6. Ocean Star Offshore Drilling Rig and Museum: https://www.oceanstaroec.com/?utm_source=www.galveston.com&utm_campaign=hero&utm_medium=text-link
7. Galveston Rail Road Museum. https://galvestonrrmuseum.org/?utm_source=www.galveston.com&utm_campaign=website-link&utm_medium
8. Ride the ferry from Galveston Island to Bolivar and back. Depends on weather conditions and season.
9. Pirate Museum: <https://www.galveston.com/whattodo/arts/museums/pirates/>

Further away by car:

1. Kemah Boardwalk
2. NASA
3. Challenger Seven Memorial Park <https://www.hcp1.net/Parks/ChallengerSevenMemorial>

The closest airport to Galveston is [Hobby Airport in Houston](#) .

The area is also served by [George Bush Intercontinental airport](#)

The hotel does not provide transportation to the airports, there are several shuttle companies that one can use if flying in.

Two shuttle companies serve the airports and Galveston.

Galveston Express is one of many companies in Galveston that provides affordable one-way or round-trip shuttle service between Houston and Galveston Island. Galveston Express Round-trip from Hobby: \$60-\$65. Round-trip from Bush: \$70-\$75. Phone number: 409-762-4397.	Island Breeze Shuttle 5201 Avenue S Galveston, TX 77551 Phone 409-770-0100 Fax 409-497-2275
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There are multiple RV parks nearby as well.

[List of local RV parks:](https://rvshare.com/blog/top-10-campgrounds/galveston-texas) <https://rvshare.com/blog/top-10-campgrounds/galveston-texas>