



# Fleet Fox Report

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	Lee Merta
2 years	Patrick Meadows
	Ray Pack

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Bill Pine

### Ship's Store

Larry Knisell

### Chaplain

Bill Parker

### Webmaster

Ray Berilla

### Past President

Rod Keith

### President Emeritus

Bart Bartholomew

## U.S.S. JOSEPH STRAUSS (DDG-16) ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER Spring 2017

### 2017 Joseph Strauss Reunion *Reno, Nevada*

Wednesday, September 27 – Sunday, October 1, 2017



### Shipmates, Spouses and Guests

Get set to join us this September for another spectacular reunion. Our destination is Reno --- Nevada's "other" gambling and resort town. Reno is located in the western part of the state near the California border. What the city lacks in glitz or reputation it more than makes up for in attractions and amenities. There are first-rate hotels, golf courses and casinos to rival its southern counterpart. Reno has become a popular destination for families, and a leading convention and reunion destination. Numerous activities and events draw people from around the globe. We have planned some memorable experiences that are sure to be crowd pleasers. Reno truly is "The Biggest Little City in the World." For shipmates able to arrive early, we have scheduled an unforgettable tour of Naval Air Station Fallon, Wednesday morning. Other reunion highlights include: A welcome dinner and party that will have you *Continued on Page 2*

“rolling in the aisles”...or should I say lane? A tour of Donner Memorial State Park; A visit to the town of Truckee; A guided tour along the eastern shore of Lake Tahoe; A trip to Virginia City and A Western themed night. There are countless other activities we just can't squeeze into our four days. All this, plus a great time catching up with shipmates and friends... And with the hotel being such a bargain, come early or stay longer and see it all!!!

## **TRANSPORTATION**

**Reno–Tahoe International Airport (RNO)** - Reno–Tahoe International Airport is a public and military use airport located three miles southeast of downtown Reno, in Washoe County, Nevada. Air passenger service is provided by 8 major airlines. <http://www.renoairport.com> Free shuttle service to and from the hotel is provided by the Silver Legacy.

## **HOTEL**

**Silver Legacy Hotel and Casino** - We are staying at the magnificent Silver Legacy, in the heart of downtown Reno, Nevada. The Silver Legacy Resort Casino is within walking distance of the National Bowling Stadium, and the new River Walk shopping and dining area. A skywalk connects the resort to Circus Circus and Eldorado, sister hotels/casinos. Silver Legacy has an evening comedy club and also boasts a health club with fitness equipment, a seasonal outdoor pool, Swedish sauna, spa tub, steam room, and massage. *Call the Group Reservations Department at 800-687-8733 for room reservations and mention that you are requesting group code USSJS.* Our reunion rate is \$65.00 – Sunday through Thursday nights, and \$105.00 for Friday and Saturday nights. This rate includes the following: a \$15.00 per person/per day breakfast voucher for use at Silver Legacy, Free Airport Shuttle, Free parking, Health Spa Admission, and Free Wi- Fi. These rates are available three days pre/post reunion, based on availability. Be advised that a “Resort Fee” of \$23.43 per day will be charged to your reservation. Upon check-in, \$20.43 will be removed leaving only a \$3 city tax per day. Deluxe spa suite upgrades are an additional \$30.00 based on availability.

## **REUNION TOURS**

### **Wednesday, September 27, 0815-1445 – Naval Air Station Fallon (NASF)**

Book Early! – This tour is limited to maximum of 50 guests; so first-come, first-served for this one! NASF is the United States Navy's premier air-to-air and air-to-ground training facility. Since 1996, it has been home to the Naval Fighter Weapons School (TOPGUN). The surrounding area contains 240,000 acres of bombing and electronic warfare ranges. It is also home to the Naval Strike and Air Warfare Center, which includes TOPGUN, the Carrier Airborne Early Warning Weapons School, and the Navy Rotary Wing Weapons School. Navy SEAL Combat Search and Rescue training also takes place here. The tour bus will arrive at NASF at approximately 0930. Once at NASF we will have a guided tour of the base. Afterwards, and included in your tour price, we are invited to lunch in the Silver State Dining - All Hands Dining. Our meal, in a casual cafeteria style setting, has a selection of hot entrees and includes dessert and beverage. We will depart NASF at approximately 1330. **PLEASE NOTE** that signing up for this tour requires you to supply your social security number on the registration form for base access. Here's what a few Trip Advisor folks had to say about the tour:



❖ *The museum of fighter planes is second to none, explanations and descriptions and stats on plaques for you to read. Old ones, new ones, even some of the enemy ones, a very, very worthwhile experience for all the family.*

❖ *We went by the Naval Air Station in Fallon, Nevada. We liked remembering our prior visit. We were delighted on one visit to be treated to an awesome "free" and "unexpected" air show. Fallon is where Top Gun pilots do their*

*training. We were treated to over an hour of seeing them practicing doing take offs and landings. We watched this from Grimes Point area. It was a truly awesome thing to watch. We also saw them doing ground desert exercises.*

❖ *Although when the movie, "Topgun", was filmed the squadrons were based at NAS Miramar, in California, many of the scenes were actually filmed here at NAS Fallon, including the infamous low-level control tower fly-by. Life imitating art, eventually Topgun was moved to Fallon. If you can access the base, be sure to do so; there is a great, open-air collection of Korean War to Desert Storm aircraft near the Topgun hangars. I've worked at NAS Fallon since 2007. If you love the sound of freedom then this is a great place to be.*

### **Wednesday, September 27, 1800-2200 – Welcome Dinner and Party, Kingpin Club**

Our Welcome Dinner Party will be loads of fun as we dine on an Italian Buffet of: Penne pasta with Bolognese, Orechiette pasta with pancetta in cream sauce, Sweet and spicy Italian sausages, Caesar salad, Tomato/basil/mozzarella salad with balsamic dressing, Garlic bread, and Yummy pistachio cannoli, and of course coffee and tea. Our no host bar will be serving up your favorite cocktails, wines and beers as we listen to some of our favorite music of all time. ALL THIS while having private lanes on which to bowl at Reno's famed Kingpin Club, by Brunswick. It is said that this is where high-class entertainment and the excitement of bowling collide. With an upscale ambiance in an exclusive setting, the club features 10 professional lanes, a full bar and multiple HD flat screens in a hip, modern environment. And as for cosmic bowling, they have it like you've never experienced before with vibrant colors dancing in sync with high-energy music, creating a truly unique experience. Our host, Bob, informs me that he has some surprise bowling activities planned for us. In addition, plan to arrive early, around 1730, and tour the National Bowling Stadium; it's totally awesome!

### **Thursday, September 28, 0845-1630 – Lake Tahoe Experience (Elevation exceeds 7,000')**

We set off today, bound for our first stop at Donner Memorial State Park Visitor's Center in Truckee, California, built to commemorate those who migrated to California from the east in the mid-1800's. The Visitor Center features compelling new exhibits that tell the stories of the



Emigrant Experience, the Donner Party, the Land of the Washoe, Chinese construction of the railroad, and early motoring adventures over Donner Pass. Afterwards we will drop down into town perhaps for a cup of coffee and some shopping in Truckee's unique shops. Then we head south driving by Squaw Valley, home of the 1960 Winter Olympics. By then our stomach's will be growling, so time to pull over at a local spot to take in some views of the lake and enjoy our box lunch right on the shores of spectacular Lake Tahoe. After lunch, stroll along the shoreline or visit the headwaters of the Truckee River teeming with fish. We'll continue on our bus tour along the northern shore of what many call the Jewel of the Sierra. All along the way keep your eye out for homes of the rich and famous along with the site of the famed Ponderosa Ranch from "Bonanza" days. We'll take a rest stop at Sand Harbor giving everyone time to dip a toe in the lake...you said it was what temperature?!!! As we skirt the eastern shore you will hear about and see evidence of the many legends of fortunes gained and lost in this once unknown territory. From there we will make our way back to Reno, with a quick drive through Carson City, Nevada's capital. We arrive back at the Silvery Legacy around 1630.



### **Thursday, September 28 – Evening**

This is an impromptu group dinner at a local eatery arranged by Joan Halfman. Each year Joan continues to surprise us with the choice of restaurant. THANK YOU Joan from all of us for doing this.

### **Friday, September 29, 0900-1600 – Virginia City, Nevada**

There is no doubt Virginia City is the best known of the early Nevada mining towns. This is where it all began. There is simply not enough space to properly and adequately describe all that



happened in the city that gave birth to the fabulous history of Nevada's gold and silver mining processes. In its heyday, Virginia City was "the place" for arts and culture. Today, this historical culture is available for all visitors to enjoy. Virginia City is known as the home of the Comstock Lode and one of the largest mining camps west of Denver. Today, the trusty wooden sidewalks carry visitors who come to see this real life bonanza as well as the icons known around the world.

We'll begin with a ride on the Virginia & Truckee Railroad and feel what it was like to ride into Virginia City "back in the day." The V&T is the most famous of all American Short Line railroads. Construction began in 1869 and in the ensuing 74 years the busy mountain railroad hauled millions of dollars in gold and silver ore from the mines deep below Virginia City. As many as 45 trains a day departed from Virginia City for Gold Hill, Silver City, Carson City and Reno where trains such as the "Lighting Express" connected with the newly constructed transcontinental railroad. The scenic railroad was rebuilt in 1974 and operates daily from Virginia City to historic Gold Hill using century old, ornate, open and closed passenger cars powered by hard working steam and heritage diesel locomotives.

Next we are on our way to tour the Chollar Mine. Its riches first located in 1859, Virginia City's Chollar Mine was one of the leading producers on the Comstock. Over the next 80 years, miners blasted and carted out some \$17 million in gold and silver. The Nevada Mill was erected here in 1887 to process the vast amounts of ore taken out of the mine. Today the mine is open for visitors to see square-set timbering, silver ore, rock drills, as well as displays of old equipment.

Our Virginia City experience also includes a 20 minute narrated Trolley ride. We'll get a brief overview of the history of Virginia City while seeing the landmarks and views the historic town has to offer. A great place to start your time in town!

Lunch will be at your leisure at one of several full service restaurants, or if you prefer the take and go style, there are a couple of those too. Our visit to Virginia City will give you plenty of time to stroll the town and pop in and out of the many specialty stores on "C Street." Our plan calls for us to leave Virginia City around 1500 and arrive back at Silver Legacy at 1600.

### **Friday, September 29, 1730-2300 – Western Night Round Up**

Hope y'all are ready to kick up your heels! We'll start the night with some ropin', shootin', tossin' and a few other surprises. Our Western Buffet includes all your favorite Cowboy grub... plus a Prime Rib carving station to boot. After dinner we'll mosey on to the dance floor where our DJ will have us movin' to some favorite tunes. Making sure the evening goes downhill from here, some of our more rambunctious revelers will step up to the mic, and parley us into a bit of Karaoke. So throw on your western duds, and join us at the Strauss' Ultimate Hoedown.

### **Saturday, September 30**

Please join us for our annual Business meeting concurrent with the ladies silent auction. In the evening we will gather for pictures and our formal banquet including auction and raffle.

### **Have a Little More Time...**

There are so many wonderful activities awaiting you in the Reno/Tahoe Area. Our reunion is designed to give you a small taste of it. In your welcome bag will be information on the many additional sites to see and activities to do. Here are some:

❖ One half mile from the hotel is the **National Automobile Museum**, “One of America’s Five Greatest Auto Museums.” The National Automobile Museum (The Harrah Collection) has a “Wow!” factor you don’t often find in a museum. You’ll see more than 200 eye-popping cars, and authentic street scenes.



❖ Take a stroll along the “**Riverwalk**” where you’ll find a variety of eclectic shops and eateries, nestled along the banks of the Truckee River. A stone’s throw from our hotel.

❖ Step into one of Reno’s many craft breweries. Or, for a ton of fun, hop aboard the **Reno Brew Bike**, a pedal powered, 15 passenger cycle that tours downtown Reno, providing the ultimate brew and bite experience, stopping at some of Reno’s best craft beer establishments.

❖ If you’re into art, visit **The Nevada Museum of Art**, where an impressive roster of national and international artists regularly rotate through the museum’s halls and galleries, or visit the **Stremmel Gallery**, specializing in contemporary American art. Both not too far from our hotel.

❖ Carson City boasts the **Nevada State Railroad Museum** with its extraordinary collection of railroad equipment, artifacts, and related exhibits.

### **LADIES CORNER**

The Ladies’ Silent Auction starts at 0915 on Saturday morning, the same time as the men’s Business Meeting. All ladies are asked to bring an item for the auction. Please remember to keep size and weight in mind as many ladies need to pack for air travel. Bidding starts at \$5.00 and goes up from there. Please e-mail any questions to Marrison at [ljme4748@southslope.net](mailto:ljme4748@southslope.net). We have a great group of ladies and have a lot of fun. A big THANK YOU to Marrison Merta.

### **PRESIDENTS CORNER**

Please join us in Reno for our 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Joseph Strauss Reunion. Our hosts, Chuck and Vicki Broward, have planned an exciting 4-day reunion that you will not want to miss. Many great tours are planned but don’t feel compelled to attend each and every one. Be advised that the Lake Tahoe tour is a high elevation event. The hospitality room will be open during most tours for shipmates and friends to gather. Larry Knisell will have Ship’s Store items for sale in or near the hospitality room. We look forward to seeing what new items Larry will have this year. THANKS Gracie and Larry! Our 2018 reunion location is Annapolis, MD, and 2019 is being planned for Nashville, TN. We will decide on where the 2020 West Coast reunion will be held at the Saturday Business meeting. Please let me know if you would like to host a reunion and come prepared with your suggestions for a reunion city. I would like to remind you that:

❖ 2017 Association dues of \$20 are now due and can be paid via pay pal on our website, or you can include them with your reunion sign-up sheet.

❖ We will elect new Association officers for 2018-2020. Let our election committee lead, Rod Keith (979-776-5426), know if you have any interest in filling an officer position.

❖ Please remember to send me a change of address when you move. Returned postage costs for newsletters are adding up.

❖ Ralph Durham will host a 1/96 scale model remote controlled ship regatta in Ennis, Montana this July 8th. The regatta features two RC Strauss models as well as several other ships from Ralph’s collection. It’s a fun gathering and includes a free BBQ. Also note that Yellowstone National Park is located about a 45 minute drive south of Ennis and would make a great sightseeing trip before or after the regatta. Contact Ralph (406-581-9466) or myself if you are interested in attending the regatta.

❖ Lastly, please consider supporting Rick Campbell by purchasing his latest books *The Trident Deception*, *Ice Station Nautilus*, or his newest book *Blackmail* soon to be released. All are available at Barnes and Nobel book stores. Rick is a retired Submarine Service Commander and supports our reunion auction each year with book donations. Great Reads!!!

## ITINERARY OF EVENTS

### Tuesday, September 26<sup>th</sup>, 2017

1500 Hospitality Suite Opens, Silver Baron 4 - Early Arrivals Gather

### Wednesday, September 27<sup>th</sup>, 2017

0800 NAS Fallon tour group gathers in the hotel lobby  
0815 Bus departs Silver Legacy for Naval Air Station Fallon  
0945-1200 Naval Air Station Fallon "Top Gun" Tour  
1200-1300 Lunch at the Silver State Dining – All Hands Dining  
1330-1430 Bus departs NASF and returns to Silver Legacy  
1430 Hospitality Room Opens – Check in  
1800-2200 Welcome Aboard Reception/Dinner & Party at the Kingpin Club

### Thursday, September 28<sup>th</sup>, 2017

0830 Lake Tahoe Experience tour group gathers in the hotel lobby  
0845 Tour bus departs Silver Legacy for Lake Tahoe Experience  
1000-1115 Donner Memorial State Park Visitor's Center  
1130-1230 Truckee for coffee break and shopping  
1230-1400 Continue tour/stopping for Box Lunch on the shores of Lake Tahoe  
1400-1530 Continue tour along North, then East Shore, stopping at Sand Harbor  
1630 Return via Carson City to Silver Legacy  
1830 Dinner gathering to be arranged by Joan Halfman

### Friday, September 29<sup>th</sup>, 2017

0845 Virginia City tour group gathers in the hotel lobby  
0900 Bus departs Silver Legacy for Virginia City Tour  
1000-1500 V&T Train Ride, Mine Tour, Town Trolley Tour, browse shops, with lunch on your own during our time in Virginia City  
1500-1600 Bus departs, returns to Silver Legacy approximately 1600  
1730-2300 Western Games, Dinner, Dancing and yes...Karaoke at the Silver Legacy, Silver Baron Ballroom (Wear your Cowboy/Cowgirl Duds)

### Saturday, September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2017

0800 Hospitality Suite Open  
0915-1130 Men's Business Meeting in Silver Baron 5  
0915-1030 Ladies' Silent Auction in Silver Baron 6 (1030 Join Men's Meeting)  
1200 Lunch is on your own  
1700-1900 Photos adjacent to Banquet room entrance – Silver Baron Ballroom  
1700 Couples photos  
1800 Group photos  
1800 Cash bar opens  
1900-2200 Formal Banquet – Silver Legacy, Silver Baron Ballroom  
Washoe County Schools JROTC Color Guard  
Raffle and Auction following dinner

### Sunday, October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2017

0700-1000 Breakfast ... Gather to say "Goodbyes" in Hospitality Room

**Please Note: The Hospitality Suite will have limited availability during tours and mealtimes.**

## Reunion 2017 Reno, Nevada Registration Form

**Silver Legacy Resort Casino** ★★★★★

**407 N. Virginia Street**

**Reno, Nevada, 89501**

**800-687-8733**

***IMPORTANT:** You must make your own hotel reservations: Call the Group Reservations Dept at 800-687-8733 for room reservations and mention that you are requesting **group code USSJS**. The room rate is \$65.00 (plus tax) Sunday through Thursday and \$105 (plus tax) Friday/Saturday. Rate includes \$15 per person/per day Breakfast voucher. Your Reservation will reflect a "Resort Fee" of \$23.43 per day of which \$20.43 per day will be removed upon check-in. The \$3 per day remains as city tax. The room rate is available 3 days prior and 3 days after the reunion based on availability. **Deadline for hotel and reunion registration is Aug 27, 2017.***

### Wednesday, September 27 – Sunday, October 1, 2017

<b>Reunion Fee</b> (required per person)	\$15.00 x ____ Person(s) = \$ _____
<b>Wednesday, Sep 27</b>	
Fallon Naval Air Station (Top Gun) Tour	\$32.00 x ____ Person(s) = \$ _____
Full Name #1 _____	Full Name #2 _____
SSN#1 _____	SSN#2 _____
Kingpin Club Welcome Dinner/Party	\$45.00 x ____ Person(s) = \$ _____
<b>Thursday, Sep 28</b>	
Lake Tahoe Experience Tour	\$52.00 x ____ Person(s) = \$ _____
<b>Friday, Sep 29</b>	
Virginia City Tour	\$48.00 x ____ Person(s) = \$ _____
Western Theme Dinner	\$45.00 x ____ Person(s) = \$ _____
<b>Saturday, Sep 30 - Evening Banquet</b>	
Chicken Forestiere	\$43.00 x ____ Person(s) = \$ _____
Chef's Vegetarian Option	\$43.00 x ____ Person(s) = \$ _____
Atlantic Salmon Filet	\$43.00 x ____ Person(s) = \$ _____
<b>Reunion Memory Book</b>	\$30.00 x ____ Book(s) = \$ _____
<b>2017 Association Dues</b> (or you may pay at the business meeting)	\$20.00 = \$ _____
<b>ID Badge</b> (Shipmates and spouse/guest, or for replacement)	\$10.00 x ____ Person(s) = \$ _____
<b>Grand Total:</b>	<b>\$ _____</b>

Name on Shipmate ID Badge: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Division (s): \_\_\_\_\_ Years 19\_\_ to 19 \_\_  
 Name on Spouse/Guest ID Badge: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Do you plan to attend Joan's Thursday group dinner (location TBD)      Yes       No   
 Expected date of arrival at the reunion: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Registrant's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ (Spouse/Guest): \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 City, State ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
**PERSON TO CONTACT IN CASE OF EMERGENCY:** \_\_\_\_\_  
 Relationship: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone No: (\_\_\_\_) - \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_  
 I am interested in holding a reunion in: \_\_\_\_\_

To register for the reunion activities please complete this form and mail it before August 27, 2017 along with your check or money order payable to the **USS Joseph Strauss Association**.

**Mail to:** Chuck Broward      **Questions:** Phone: 707-282-9097  
 8878 Oak Trail Drive      E-Mail: vbroward@comcast.net  
 Santa Rosa, CA 95409



"I liked the tempo of the band blaring Hawaii Five-O through the topside speakers as we pulled away from the USS Pyro after rearming at sea."

### **CONTACT US WITH ANY QUESTIONS OR CONTRIBUTIONS**

Please send address and email corrections/updates to [jazhansen@msn.com](mailto:jazhansen@msn.com)

We welcome any questions or topics that you would like to have presented in your newsletter.

You may contact any of the shipmates listed below by mail, phone, or e-mail, as follows:

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