

USS STERETT ASSOCIATION



DD 27 (1910-19)



DD 407 (1939-1945)



DLG 31 (1967-75)



CG 31 (1975-94)



DDG 104 (Commissioned 2008)

Summer, 2013

Branson Reunion 2013 Special



Greetings from the Sterett Association

The countdown is on to the 2013 reunion in Branson. Less than two months remaining to get registered and make plans to join together with your shipmates.

The attendance numbers are growing. It's guaranteed to be a good time. Don't miss out.

This edition of the newsletter will focus on the many attractions and shows available in Branson which has definitely grown way beyond its roots as a country & western show town.

As you check out the Branson info in this newsletter, keep in mind that the best attraction Branson will offer between October 11-13, 2013 is your chance to catch up with and swap sea stories with your old Sterett shipmates.

Reunion Information

The reunion is less than 2 months away.

If you're planning to attend, we encourage you to get registered with the Association and with the Radisson Hotel as soon as possible.

We need fairly accurate numbers of attendees as early as possible so that we can ensure we have the correct number of rooms, dinner arrangements and other things necessary for a smooth and enjoyable reunion.

Reunion information and registration is available on the Sterett web site:

<http://www.sterett.net/Reunions/Reunions.html>

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Reunion Costs:

\$80 per member/primary attendee

\$60 per guest

Among other things, the fee covers:

1. Hospitality Room and Refreshments
2. Association Business Meeting (Room, A/V Equip)
3. Association Dinner Banquet (Food, DJ, Color Guard, A/V Equipment)
4. Memorial Service (Room, A/V Equip)
5. Bus transportation to the Titanic Museum

Annual dues for the calendar year 2014 will be included with payment of the reunion fee.

The Radisson Hotel has established a separate web site exclusively for the Sterett reunion.

Go to: <http://www.radisson.com/usssterett> for hotel information and reservations.

Of course, you can also make your hotel reservations by calling the Radisson directly at 1-888-566-5290.

Shows and attractions:

The traditional reunion schedule does not allow us to try and take in one of the many live shows in Branson as a group.

However, the Association will assist all of our reunion guests in getting discounted tickets to the shows and attractions they choose to see. Some venues require a minimum number before a group discount can be given but most will provide discounts with advanced notification from the organizing group along with a form of a reunion ID. In most cases, the Sterett Association reunion name tag will be used for discounts.

The Radisson concierge will also assist in obtaining discounted tickets for shows and attractions. See a small sampling of the shows that are available in Branson during our reunion below.

Sponsored Tour

There has been a change to the sponsored tour Saturday afternoon.

We recently received word that the Veterans Memorial Museum, which we were scheduled to visit, has closed effective August 15th.

Efforts to locate another venue that would be of interest to our reunion guests and fits within the available time frame on Saturday afternoon have not been successful, although we continue to

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look and are working with the Branson Visitors and Convention Bureau.

The Titanic tour is fascinating and will surely captivate your interest.

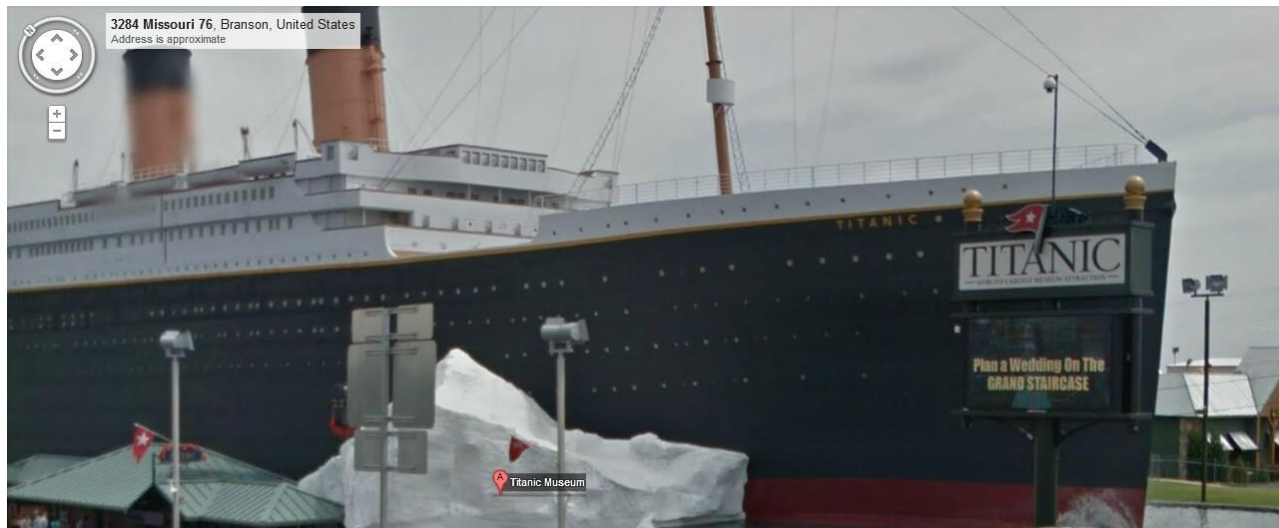
The Sterett Association has decided to offset the admission fee for the Titanic for our current members.

The normal group discounted admission is \$19.00.

For current Association members and their guests, the fee will be \$10; the Sterett Association will pay the remaining \$9.00.

The latest MIGS (Members in Good Standing) list is posted in this newsletter.

Admission for the Museum will be collected at reunion check in. Payment can be made in cash or check to the USS Sterett Association.



Area Transportation

If you're flying to Branson, be sure to make your reservations as early as possible to get the best rates.

Branson Airport:

Like many small regional airports, the Branson airport service is subject to change. Currently, Branson is serviced by **Southwest** and **Frontier** Airlines.

Springfield-Branson International Airport

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Located 50 miles north of Branson, the Springfield airport is serviced by **Delta, American, United** and **Allegiant**.

Currently, the Branson area hotels do not provide shuttle service to/from the Branson airports. Transportation is provided from Gray Line and other commercial companies.

Hotel Information:

The Radisson Hotel Branson has been host of many military and veterans reunions and they take the extra step in making veterans groups feel honored. Although all the hotels step up for veterans and the military, the Radisson is the only one that employs a full time sales manager who does nothing other than coordinate with veterans groups.



Check out the Radisson at: <http://www.radisson.com/usssterett>

The room rates offered at the Radisson are better than those we had in either Biloxi or San Diego.

Guestroom Rate:

King or Double \$89.00

2- Room Leisure Suite \$139.00

Note: - Guestrooms subject to state (7.6%) and local (4.0%) taxes.

Reservations:

Reservations can be made on line at <http://www.radisson.com/usssterett> or by calling 1-888-566-5290. Be sure to mention the USS Sterett Reunion to get the discounted rates.

These rates are good three days before until three days after the reunion.

Plan of the Day

The following is the preliminary Plan of the Day for the 2013 reunion.

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Thursday:

Early Arrivals, Free Time, Local Sightseeing

Friday

Hospitality Room opens at 1500 (Unity Room)

Refreshments Available

Ship's Store Opens

Sea Stories

Local Attractions

Bar Operations

Saturday

0900 - 1130 - Association Business Meeting (Members Only) (Unity Room)

1200 – 1700 Bus Departs for Titanic Museum (Lobby)

Local Sightseeing/Shopping

1800 - Assemble for Dinner (TableRock A)

1805 - Color Guard Presents the Colors

1810 - Opening Remarks/ Introductions

1820 - Invocation

1830 - Dinner

1945 - Guest Speaker (TBD)

2010 - Introduction of Elected Association Officers; Remarks

2020 - Dancing, Social Time

Sunday

0900 - Memorial Service (TableRock B)

Tolling of The Bell for DD 407 Crewmen Killed in Battle

Closing Remarks

1200 - Checkout and Departure

Business Meeting Agenda:

We have several items to take up during our Saturday morning business meeting. Among these are:

Election of New Officers

A new Ship's Store custodian

Location of the 2015 reunion (consideration should be given to locating on the west coast following reunions in Biloxi and Branson).

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Approval of revamped By Laws (Tentative)

Who's Going

The following list of primary attendees (guests not listed) is as of August 9th. With 2 months remaining before the reunion, we anticipate many more Sterett shipmates will be there.

Last	First	Hull
Marrs	Art	DD 407
Hada	Van	CG 31
Sedrel	Steve	CG 31
Johnson	Robert	CG 31
Cucchiara	Andy	CG 31
Moore	Michael	DLG 31
Dietz	Burton	DLG 31
Sandbothe	Scott	DLG 31
Hager	Kenneth	DLG 31
King	John	DLG 31
Payne	Darrell	DLG/CG 31
Smith	Mike	DLG 31
Nichols	Gary	DLG 31
Trotter	Jim	DLG 31
Oniell	JP	DLG 31
Haley	Joel	DLG 31
Malcolm	Ron	CG 31
Fox	Ed	DLG 31
DeVinney	JD	CG 31
Kirk	Jeff	CG 31
Sullivan	George	CG 31
Rains	David	DLG 31
Herron	Mike	CG 31
Norton	Keith	DLG 31
Vitez	Barry	CG 31
Cook	Don	DLG 31
Anton	Steve	DLG 31
Douglas	Richard	DLG 31
Groener	Duffy	DLG 31
Kieran	Frankie	DLG 31
Ness	George	DLG 31
Ness	Jim	DLG 31
Mickel	Evan	CG 31
Sexton	Nick	CG 31
Motz	Larry	DLG 31
Baumgartner	Lane	CG 31
Doan	Lien	CG 31

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Phung	Le	CG 31
Hayes	Steve	DLG/CG 31
MacAllister	David	DLG 31
Berry	David	CG 31

MIGS (Members In Good Standing) as of August 16, 2013

Last Name	First Name	Paid Thru
Acton	Richard	2014
Alexander	Leonard	2015
Andrieuz	Clestian "Lee"	
Anton	Stephen	2017
Avery	Joel	2013
Baumgartner	Lane	2014
Bell	Mark A.	2015
Benavides	Chris	
Berry	David	2013
Bilak	David	2015
Blount	Thomas E Jr	2015
Bolton	James E. "Jim"	2015
Botkin	James	DD 407
Brehio	Edward	DD 407
Brown	Don	2013
Buchanan	Michael	2014
Burch	Ronald	2013
Calhoun	Cal	DD 407
Camp	Ralph	2014
Cline	George A.	2014
Coon	Jack	2013
Cornforth	Mike	2016
Cowan	Van	2013
Cross	Fred	2015
Cucchiara	Andrew	2015
De Vinney Jr	Lloyd	2013
Dean	Dennis	2015
Doan	Liennhu	2013
Dreschnack	Jay	2013
Elder	George	2013
Fox	Edward	2015
Garrison	Merton	2016
Garrity	Michael	2013
Goodson	William A.	DD 407

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Gorin	Doug	2013
Hada	Wilford	2015
Hageman	Donald	2013
Hager	Kenneth	2014
Haley	Joel	2013
Hayes	Stephen	2014
Hennis	David	2014
Herron	William	2015
Hilliard	Dale	2016
Houston	Aaron	2014
Hutchins	Jacque	DD 407
Jacobsmeier	Thomas	2015
Jackson	Glenn	2013
Jimenez	Salvadore	2013
Johnson	Harold "Howie"	2015
Johnson	Trey "Dewitt"	2014
Johnson	Robert	2015
Johnson	Trey	2014
Johnston	James	2013
Keiran	Frank	2013
King	John E.	2013
Kirk	Jeffery	2014
Kolby	James J.	2013
LaCrosse	Denis	2014
Layton	Stephen	DD 407
Lefebvre	Chuck (Frenchy)	DD 407
Long	William H.	DD 407
Madeley	Larry	2013
Malcolm	Ronald	2018
Marcus	Richard B.	2015
Mares	Carl R.	2015
Marrs	Art	DD 407
Martin	Richard	DD 407
Marusa	Mike	2015
McBrian	Wayne	2013
McCullough	Henry	DD 407
McKee	Clovis	2013
Mickel	Evan	2013
Miller	Elden	Member Emeritus
Miller	Harold	2013
Moe	Jerry	2013
Montgomery	Gary	2014
Moore	Michael	2013

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Motz	Lawrence	2020
Murphy	Brendan	2013
Nichols	Gary	2016
Norton	Randy	2016
O'Hanlon	Randy	2013
Patrick	Emery	2013
Payne	Darrell	2013
Perez	Jose "JP"	
Phan	Lana	2016
Phung	Le T	2014
Rains	David	2013
Robinson	James E. "Robbie"	2015
Sandbothe	Bradley S.	2015
Sedrel	Steven	2013
Sexton	Nick	2013
Sherman	Fredrick	
Smith	Mike	2013
Snader	Robert	2015
Stella	William	
Sterett	Deborah A. "Debbie"	2015
Sterett	Ryan	2013
Stevens	Richard	2015
Sullivan	George E	2014
Sullivan	Larry	2015
Thayer	Dwight E.	2013
Thompson	Tommy	
Vincent	Jerry	2018
Vitez	Barry	2013
Vu	Delafer	2013
Wasinger	Phil	2014
Wenig, Jr	Royal	
Wright	Wayne	2013

Branson welcomes and celebrates veterans. Be prepared to feel special!

The Sterett Association does not endorse or recommend any particular Branson show or attraction. The information presented here is strictly informational.

There is no guarantee the stars or headliners mentioned in this information will be appearing on the dates of the reunion.

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Show schedules are subject to change. Interested parties are encouraged to check with the theatre or site.

Advanced show reservations for big name headliners are highly recommended.

The shows listed in this newsletter represent only a small fraction of all Branson offers.

Visit these web sites to find out more:

<http://www.explorebranson.com/>

<http://reunionpro.com/shows-attractions>

http://www.tripadvisor.com/Attractions-g44160-Activities-Branson_Missouri.html

<http://www.titanicbranson.com/>

<http://www.discoverbranson.com/attractions>

<http://www.veteransmemorialbranson.com>

About Branson:

Known as the "Live Music Show Capital of the World," Branson, MO, is truly a one-of-a-kind family vacation destination — and an incredible value — with more than 50 live performance theaters, three pristine lakes, 12 championship golf courses, an international award-winning theme park, dozens of attractions and museums, a historic downtown district, shopping galore, a full range of dining options, and a host of hotels, motels, resorts, RV parks, campgrounds and meeting and conference facilities.

Branson, Missouri, nestled in the lakeside beauty of the Ozark Mountains, is America's affordable, wholesome family entertainment capital that emphasizes fun, comfort and the feeling of being right at home. Featuring an array of live theaters and attraction venues and active recreational pursuits, the community embodies essential American values such as patriotism, faith, courage and generosity of spirit in a warm inviting atmosphere that is truly genuine and heartfelt.

To take advantage of all that Branson offers, you should arrive early and/or stay beyond the reunion dates. The Radisson Hotel discounted room rates are available three days before and three days following the reunion.

Shows and attractions available during the Sterett Reunion period:

Kenny Rogers in Concert

Friday, October 11, 2013

Times: 8 p.m.

Location: Oak Ridge Boys Theatre

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OUTLAW RUN NEW AT SILVER DOLLAR CITY

New for 2013

Thrill ride enthusiasts around the world will mark a first-of-its-kind ride debut at Branson's Silver Dollar City in Spring 2013 when the 1880s-style theme park makes history with the opening of Outlaw Run, the world's most daring wood coaster.

THE CHILDREN OF TITANIC

The world's largest museum attraction will bring Titanic's littlest heroes out of the shadows and into the hearts of guests when they find new stories dedicated exclusively to the Children of Titanic. Each child who boarded Titanic had a dream and a story to tell.

Join us on the Reunion sponsored tour Saturday.

PARAKEET PETE'S WATERFRONT ZIPLINE

Branson Zipline Canopy Tours presents Parakeet Pete's Waterfront Zipline! Guests will launch from Branson Landing and zip across Lake Taneycomo up to an observation platform on Mount Branson. From there guests will be able to take time to look over Branson and then zip back across Lake Taneycomo to Branson Landing. This will be the most thrilling aerial view of Branson you'll ever experience!

ADVENTURES OF MARCO POLO

In 1271 A.D. the Italian explorer, Marco Polo, made his legendary trip to the ancient eastern mysterious nation of China. The Adventures of Marco Polo is an epic tale of exploration and wonder, love and loss with a cast of over 50 performers, magnificent sets and costuming. Beginning in July at the White House Theatre.

DANCING QUEEN: ABBA'S GREATEST HITS

Touring since 2009 in places such as Monaco, Las Vegas, Reno and Niagara, Dancing Queen is now proud to call Branson its home. ABBA fans won't want to miss this new show at the King's Castle Theatre. The show pays tribute to the group in a musical extravaganza featuring singers and dancers performing those groovy 70's tunes!

THE OAK RIDGE BOYS

Theirs is one of the most distinctive and recognizable sounds in the music industry. The four-part harmonies and upbeat songs of The Oak Ridge Boys have spawned dozens of country hits and a #1 pop smash, earned them Grammy, Dove, CMA and ACM awards and garnered a host of other industry and fan accolades. Every time they step before an audience, the Oaks bring 15 years of hits and 50 years of tradition to bear on a stage show widely acknowledged as among the most exciting anywhere. And, each remains as enthusiastic about the process as they have ever been. With unparalleled harmonies and a presence that awes any country music fan, the Oak Ridge Boys have a new home this year at their own theatre!

Oak Ridge Boys Theatre

October 10 8:00 PM

BRANSON AREA GOLF



National recognition: Branson Creek named top public course in Missouri and Payne Stewart is number three, according to Golf Digest. Also recognized were Murder Rock and LedgeStone.

Hamner Barber Variety Show

An incredible evening of fun featuring amazing magical illusions, hilarious comedy, music, dance and more.

The Hamners present their award winning illusions to an astonished audience who can't believe their eyes.

(I saw this show as part of Branson Reunion Planning Conference last August. It was pretty amazing).

Hank Williams Revisited

"Hank Williams Revisited" a unique tribute to the legendary Hank Williams starring Tim Hadler features Hank's big hits like Cheatin' Heart, Hey Good Lookin', I'm so Lonesome I Could Cry, as well as songs from Hank's alter ego "Luke the Drifter". Go from Hank's beginning, thru the evolution of what Hank brought to country music, and experience how the legacy of Hank Williams continues to live in the present through artists he influences today.

Little Opry Theatre

October 11, 12 shows at 2:00 PM

October 13, show at 8:00 PM

The Haygoods

Why spend an evening at The Haygood Family Show? This talented group of 7 brothers and 1 sister is the REAL DEAL! The Haygoods bring the house down night after night with incredibly tight harmonies, innovative, energetic choreography, and amazing performances on over 20 different instruments! With over 5,000,000 people in the last 20 years taking part in the Haygood experience, you'd better believe that there's more to this group than buzz-they've got the goods, pure and simple.

RFD-TV The Theatre

October 13 – 7:30 PM

Jim Stafford's Rockin' Comedy Show

Hold on to your seat as Jim Stafford takes the stage to deliver a wild ride of fun and uncontrollable laughter. Joining in the fun are Jim's kids - son Sheaffer, one of Branson's most outstanding teen instrumentalist and daughter G.G. (voted Branson's Best Young Female Artist). Both kids follow in dad's footsteps with impeccable timing and excellent musicianship. As Jim takes laughter to a new art form, he'll also astound you with his incredible guitar pickin'. Famous for his million-selling records, "Spiders and Snakes", "Cow Patti", and the infamous "My Girl Bill", Jim satirizes the obvious with his music and comedy, combining hysterical comedy with masterful performances on the classical guitar. You'll marvel at Jim's uncanny ability to play with your mind and strum your senses. Branson's #1 Master of Guitar and Laughter delivers the must see show for Laughing Out Loud!

Jim Stafford Theatre

October 10 – 3:00 PM

October 13 – 8:00 PM

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Legends in Concert

Two power-packed hours of entertainment awaits you at Legends in Concert! Now playing at Dick Clark's American Bandstand Theater, this world famous live tribute show features an amazing cast of all-star entertainers assembled on one stage in one of the most sought after productions in the world. Proclaimed by the International Press Association as the "Show of Shows" and "Show of the Year", featuring "Entertainers of the Year", Legends in Concert dazzles men, women, and children alike with spectacular, fun-filled entertainment that the whole family will enjoy. Legends in Concert is one incredible theatrical production including the Legends in Concert band and fabulous singers and dancers. Using authentic costumes and their own natural voices, the Legends in Concert cast captures the very essence of the stars they re-create with such emotion and attention to detail – you have to see it to believe it!

Dick Clark's American Bandstand Theatre
October 10-15 – 3:00 PM and 8:00 PM

Mel Tillis

Grand Ole Opry member and Country Music Hall of Fame Inductee, Mel Tillis has entertained millions as a singer, songwriter, and actor. This September thru December, Mel Tillis will entertain crowds with his award-winning talent and beloved, chart topping songs including "Detroit City", "Ruby," and "Coca Cola Cowboy" right here in Branson.

Clay Cooper Theatre.
October 10-12 2:00 PM

Mickey Gilley

Mickey Gilley, whose thirty-nine hit songs -- of which seventeen went to the top of the country charts -- made him the legend he is today. His top-rated, award-winning eight piece band, and his two excellent backup singers, jumps right in as Mickey takes his audience through a musical medley of his string of Number One hits. With the magic he's held over audience for over two decades, Mickey has all the moves down as the cameras flash. Always the showman, Mickey shows that he's every bit the storyteller as he recounts his days of growing up in Ferriday, Louisiana and the adventures he shared with his cousins and fellow keyboard-players, Rocker Jerry Lee Lewis and Televangelist Jimmy Swaggart. The fact he's most proud of is having a street named after him in Ferriday before his famous cousins did.

Mickey Gilley Theatre
October 13-15 8:00 PM

Motown Downtown

There is a new little theater in town, and its producing some mighty fine music in the evenings. Unlike many of the larger theaters, the Hot Hits Theater seats 85 and everyone in the audience is up close and personal to the performers, In the evenings, this intimate room is home to MOTOWN DOWNTOWN. Rico J is emcee and performer, with a lot of spirit and enthusiasm. Tributes to the TEMPTATIONS & FOUR TOPS with Kirk Hunter's tribute to Marvin Gaye, Frederick Berry's tribute to Lionel Richie, Greg Laster's tribute to James Brown and Kevin Dogan's tribute to Stevie Wonder.

Branson Hot Hits Theatre
October 9-13 7:00 PM

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New Jersey Nights

Join us as we take you on a musical journey of sun, surf, cars and girls as these incredible singers and dancers capture tribute to the incomparable harmonies of two of the greatest American Rock and Pop Bands of all times- **The Four Seasons and The Beach Boys!**

King's Castle Theatre

October 10 & 11 3:00 PM

October 12 10:00 AM

October 13 8:00 PM

Oh What a Night - A Musical Tribute to Frankie Valli and the Four Seasons

OH WHAT A NIGHT! features over 20 hit songs like: Grease, Sherry, Big Girls Don't Cry, Walk Like a Man, Can't Take My Eyes Off You, My Eyes Adored You, Working My Way Back to You, Let's Hang On, Who Loves You...And many more hits you'll enjoy from the dynamic songbook of those Boys from Jersey.

Andy Williams Moon River Theatre

October 11 - 12 2:00 PM

October 14 8:00 PM

#1 Hits of the 60s

All of Branson has come to know this fun-filled, fast-paced, high-energy production show and its award-winning cast and live band. Join us for a non-stop party as we continue to celebrate the good vibrations of the 60's with music & dance, comedy, timely trivia, and unique video segments, **including our very special tribute to Vietnam Veterans.**

Caravelle Theatre

October 10 2:00 PM

October 11 8:00 PM

October 14 8:00 PM

The Duttons

The Duttons are international touring and recording artists that play everything from bluegrass to classical in their shows, featuring a variety of instruments: violin, guitar, bass, viola, banjo, mandolin, keyboard, harmonica and drums among others. The Duttons have not only won recognition in national fiddling contests, and as studio musicians but have also garnered praise and awards in classical violin competitions.

Dutton Family Theatre

October 11 2:00 PM

Special Box Office Price of \$24 (normally \$33.50) for anyone who is wanting to come see The Duttons or George Dyer during your stay. I will offer this from October 9-October 16.

Ride The Ducks

Branson Ducks is a fun tour of Branson. A land and water sightseeing duck tour with an exciting splashdown into Table Rock Lake or Lake Taneycomo. If you're looking for fun things to do in Branson, our duck tours are tops. Branson duck tours deliver the most family fun in the area.



Adults and seniors will have just as much fun as kids, as our captains lead you through the scenic Ozarks and a splash into the lake. While on the lake you can drive the duck, if you want.

Main Street Lake Cruises

There's no better place to take in Branson's beauty and charm than on the shores of lake Taneycomo, be it on board the landing Princess (100' Yacht) or the Lake Queen (65' Paddle Wheeler.) Our venues are exquisitely furnished, offer spectacular views of the region, and have friendly, professional staff to help you plan an event that will be absolutely fantastic! We are able to accommodate your every occasion from individual and families to groups and reunions. Available daily.

There are hundreds more shows. The best reference for Branson shows and attractions, including show schedules is available at: <http://www.explorebranson.com/>

Advanced tickets are strongly recommended, especially for big name headliners.

Questions:

We have established a reunion email account: sterett.reunion@hotmail.com.

Use this email address if you have any questions about the Sterett Reunion. You can also contact me at shayes@cableone.net

Have you seen or heard about all the good times Sterett shipmates had at a reunion and wished you had been there? You have two months to be part of the fun.

We do not have the services of a chaplain as yet. If you would like to volunteer to assist us with the pre dinner invocation and at the Sunday memorial service, please let me know.

Looking forward to seeing you in Branson.

For the Sterett Association:

Steve Hayes