



2024 USS MARS REUNION – Residence Inn, Clearwater Beach

PLAN OF THE DAY (S)

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 25

Meet and greet, check into hotel, stow gear and report to the hospitality room after 3:00 PM.

Dinner is on your own. The hospitality room will remain open until 10:00pm.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 26

6:30am – 9:00 AM: Reveille and breakfast, all hands heave out.

11:00 AM: Muster in hotel lobby. Depart for a short walk to the Calypso Queen.

11:30 AM: Arrive at the Calypso Queen

11:45 AM: Board for a narrated two-hour Harbor Cruise of Clearwater Harbor. Full buffet lunch and libations (aka “drinks”) will be provided during the cruise. After the cruise, it’s Liberty Call and you are free to explore the beach and shops, try out the Jolley Trolley, exchange sea stories, or take a well deserved nap!

Dinner is on your own (if you didn’t get enough to eat on the luncheon cruise!)..

7:00 PM : Muster in hospitality room at the hotel for our Fund-Raising Raffle event, bring your donated item. Funds raised will go toward reunion fund. The hospitality room will close at 10:00PM

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 27

6:30am 8:30 am: Reveille and breakfast. Eat hearty, this is a full day!

9:00 AM: Board the bus in rear of the hotel for the trip to Florida Aquarium, Tampa Channelside District

10:00 AM – 12:00 PM : Tour and enjoy all of the exhibits (there are many, even penguins) that the Florida Aquarium offers.

12:00 PM – 1:45 PM Lunch on your own either at the Aquarium Snack Bar or one of the many American and ethnic cuisines at Sparkman Wharf, located closeby and a short walk . Enjoy some of the shopping there as well.

2:00 PM – 3:45 PM Muster at the American Victory Ship. You may either participate in the docent guided tour or explore the ship on your own. Brief memorial for crew members who have passed on the fantail at 3:30 PM. Note: The Victory ship is NOT ADA compliant. For those who therefore may not wish to attend this event, transportation back to the hotel after lunch will be arranged (Please contact Guy Colson in advance if this is required).

4:00 PM – Board the bus, return to hotel.

6:00 PM: Casual buffet dinner in meeting room and lobby. Hospitality Room closes at 10:00 PM

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 28

6:30 AM – 9:00 AM: Reveille and breakfast.

10:00 AM: We will have our critique and business meeting in the hospitality room. After meeting, - the rest of the day is free for you to relax, shop and explore. This could be a great opportunity to explore the beach, Pier 60, the many shopping and dining attractions, and a perfect opportunity to take advantage of the "Jolley Trolley" for some sightseeing and tourism, and taking it all the way up to Dunedin or Tarpon Springs if you wish.

6:00pm: Farewell buffet dinner served in meeting room and lobby.

7:30pm: Guest speaker. Hospitality Room closes at 10:00 PM

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 29

6:30am – 9:00am: Reveille and breakfast.

The hospitality room will not be open on Sunday.

Hotel checkout and farewell. Hope everyone has enjoyed this year's reunion in Clearwater Beach!

NOTES:

- The hotel does not have an airport shuttle. There are two nearby airports... Tampa International (TPA) which is 21 miles away, or Clearwater-St. Pete (PIE) which is 13 miles away. There are several local car services which can provide transportation to and from either airport. They are:
 - Steu Mann (private driver) 727-370-0011
 - Way2GoRides.com 727-424-5458
 - TheSuperide.com 813-551-0025
 - Or, you could use Uber or Lyft if that is your preference.
- Buffet breakfast is served daily at the hotel from 6:30 – 10:00.
- The MARS group rate at the hotel is also valid for 3 days before and 3 days after the reunion.
- The link for hotel reservation is on the registration page, but also here: [Hotel reservation link](#) . If you plan on staying any of the three days either before or after the reunion at our MARS group rate, first make your reservation on the hotel link. Then contact the Residence Inn sales coordinator, Nelly Quiroz at 727-218-1088, and she will handle your reservation for the add'l days.
- It is MANDATORY that Name badges be worn at all planned events.
- For those driving to the hotel, valet parking is at the hotel, Mars special rate is \$15/day.
- If you have a travel trailer, but plan on staying at the hotel during the reunion and need a place to park it during the reunion, a limited number of spaces are available at no charge approximately 30 miles away from the reunion. Please contact Guy Colson for more information.
- If you have a travel trailer or motorhome and DO NOT plan on staying at the Residence Inn during the reunion, please make your own arrangements.
- POD's for each day in more detail will be provided in your welcome packet at the hotel
- For any and all other questions regarding the reunion, please contact the host, Guy Colson (203-586-9033, noslocg@yahoo.com), or Ed Biddle(713-899-5035, edbid@yahoo.com)

Fair winds and following seas...

