



**USS Tolovana AO-64
Reunion
Sept 18–21, 2023
Branson Missouri**

Some of us arrived Monday at the Comfort Inn at Thousand Hills in Branson, Missouri. The hotel was very nice with great staff. We had a very nice conference room with a refrigerator, projector and screen for our meet and greet. We ordered out for fried chicken and catfish which was hot and juicy from the Chicken House.



The welcome sign in front of the hotel



The crew gathering in the lobby.

People were still arriving on Tuesday. We had another meet and greet. We went to dinner with a suggestion from Greg for Pasghetti's, which had great food and atmosphere. Then back to the conference room and a good night sleep.



Inside Pasghetti's



The crew chowing down.

Wednesday we met after breakfast and had introductions of everyone. We had six new attendees - Greg Haller, Rick Golden, Jerry Helton, Lawrence Clark, Wayne Whitcomb, and Tom Heinzen. We shared sea stories, looked at the cruise books and the mimeographed ship's old newsletters that were sent to wives and parents. Bob Sanders wrote some of those old letters and they were signed by 3 captains. We carpooled to the Veterans Memorial Museum where they had uniforms from local veterans, weapons, artifacts, and photos from WW1, WW2, Korea, Vietnam, and the Middle East.



Wednesday evening we had an enjoyable banquet on the Branson Belle Showboat. On this lovely paddlewheel boat we had a 2 ½ hour cruise on Table Rock Lake, dinner with dessert, and a very good variety show. We went back to the hotel and relaxed in the conference room.



The Branson Belle Showboat



Its paddle wheel



The crew at the banquet.

Thursday morning we had another meeting in the conference room and discussed the next reunion. Alan and Jane Hibbert are looking into Newport, Rhode Island and will have information for us later.

We had our raffle to raise funds for our business account. We collected \$640 from the raffle, plus \$190 from a special raffle for a beaver fur that Richard Turcott donated. We also had \$500 in donations. Thanks to Greg, Jerry, Rick, JR, and Tom for the contributions. This totaled \$1,330 before expenses. This is the largest amount ever raised at a reunion. What a great crew!



Chowing down at Waxy O'Shea's Irish Pub at the Landing

After the meeting Thursday, we went to the Brandon Landing and took in the shops and restaurants. Most of us went to Waxy O'Shea's Irish Pub and others went to local shows, of which there are a ton.

If anyone wants any of these photos, just send me an email and I will send them to you. I am looking forward to next year.

Your reunion host,
Okie Baughman

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