

Dear Seaboard Family,

Happy New Year!

We hope this letter finds you all healthy, happy and looking forward to our upcoming SPAR Reunion.

This year we are visiting the **Mystic-Groton-New London CT area**. We will be staying in Groton CT.

Our hotel is the Mystic Marriott Hotel and Spa (<http://www.marriott.com/hotels/travel/gonmm-mystic-marriott-hotel-and-spa/>). Boasting 285 rooms and a AAA 4 Diamond restaurant along with an onsite, enhanced Elizabeth Arden Red Door Spa, it is an architecturally stunning Connecticut hotel. It is close to Mohegan Sun & Foxwoods Casinos. The hotel is located just off Exit 88 (Route 117) on Interstate 95. The closest airports are Hartford, CT. Bradley Field (BDL) 43 mi., Providence, RI. (PVD) 46 mi., and Boston, MA. (BOS) 86 mi.

When making your reservation **PLEASE** use the link provided here or on the registration form. It will be the best way to reserve within our room block. <https://aws.passkey.com/go/SeaboardPilotAirlineMystic2017>. Only call Marriott by phone if unable to make your reservation online.

Check-in is Sunday May 21, 2017 and checkout is Wednesday May 24, 2017. Below is the updated reservations information. Please read!

Our group rate is **\$149 per night**. You may also book this rate for up to 3 days prior (5-17) and 3 days post (5-26) reunion. We only have a guarantee of **13** rooms per night with additional rooms as long as availability lasts. **Please don't wait until the last minute to book.** **The rates will increase after the cut-off date of Saturday, April,15, 2017.**

For reservations, please call **Toll Free: 1-877-901-6632**. **The cutoff date to make reservations is Saturday, April 15th, 2017. Rooms will go quickly so please call soon!**

This year, for the 1st time, we will be unable to serve alcohol in the hospitality suite (conference room 7). It is not permitted under hotel policy. There is, however, a full service bar in the lobby.

The 1st outing on Monday 5/22 (**Carpool@9:45am and tour@10:00am**) will be to the **USS Nautilus, and the Submarine Force Library and Museum** located in nearby Groton, CT. This visit includes a self-guided tour of the Navy's first nuclear vessel and the adjoining library and museum. It is the only submarine museum operated by the United States Navy and, as such, is the primary repository for artifacts, documents and photographs relating to U.S. Submarine Force history. The museum's collections include more than 33,000 artifacts, 20,000 significant documents and 30,000 photographs. This should take 1 1/2 to 2 hrs. after which we will carpool to Mystic (9 mi) where you may dine at the world famous "Mystic Pizza" or another nearby restaurant of your choice.

Monday evening we will carpool to dinner (**Carpool@4:40pm and seating@5:00pm**) at "**On the Waterfront**" (rated #3 of 96 by TripAdvisor) in nearby New London (8 mi). **Dinner both nights will be "order off the menu, individual checks". Simple!**

On Tuesday 5/23, (**Carpool@10:15, arrival 10:30**), we go to nearby (5 mi.) **Mystic Seaport, The Museum of America And The Sea**. Mystic Seaport is the nation's leading maritime museum, founded in 1929 to gather and preserve the rapidly disappearing artifacts of America's seafaring past.

The Museum's grounds cover 19 acres on the Mystic River in Mystic, CT and include a recreated 19th-century coastal village, a working shipyard, formal exhibit halls, and state-of-the-art artifact storage facilities. The Museum is home to more than 500 historic watercraft, including four National Historic Landmark vessels, most notably the 1841 whaleship Charles W. Morgan, America's oldest commercial ship still in existence. There are numerous places to eat in the Seaport.

Our dinner out on Tuesday (**Carpool @5:10pm and seating @5:30pm**) will be at "**The Captain Daniel Packer Inne**" (rated #4 of 59 by TripAdvisor), located in Mystic (5 mi.). The Captain Daniel Packer Inne was built on the Mystic River over 260 years ago. Square-rigger Captain Daniel Packer completed construction of the building bordering Water Street in 1756. From that time to the late 1900's the property remained in the Packer family.

Please indicate **yes or no** on the registration form if you will be able to use your vehicle for car pooling. We **need drivers** for each of the **group outings and dinners. Thank you!**

Following Tuesday's dinner we will hold our **Annual Business Meeting** in the Hospitality Suite at approximately 8 pm. This year your officers will be stepping down to allow some "new blood" to lead the group. Should we be unable to find replacements it may be our last formal multi-day reunion.

The sad fact is that our numbers continue to dwindle at an alarming rate. In the last 5 years, we have lost at least 60 SPAR members, of which at least 32 have attended various reunions over the last 16 years! If you can make this year's reunion, please do. Don't put it off, as it may very well be the last one!

See you in Connecticut!

Sincerely,

Lou

Ed

Paul