



REUNION 2018 Greetings, Fellow Martians! Michigan in 2018

It's that time of year again when we start thinking about the next upcoming reunion. You know from the Mars website that the reunion dates have been secured for **Wednesday, September 19th to Saturday, September 22nd** in Port Huron, Michigan. We've made arrangements at the beautiful DoubleTree by Hilton-Port Huron located on the St. Clair River, next to the Blue Water Bridges. Room rates are very reasonable at \$119 plus tax for single or double, including a complete breakfast buffet, so you can make your reservation today. For those of you who arrive by car, self-parking at the hotel is FREE. The hotel includes Freighters Eatery & Taproom and the Port Huron Convention Center. Transportation is available in town using the bus system, taxis and Lyft. We are looking into transportation to and from the airports.

To make reservations at DoubleTree by Hilton-Port Huron, please choose one of the following options:

- 1) Phone the hotel directly at 810-984-8000. Please mention group code **MAR**.
- 2) Phone the DoubleTree by Hilton reservation line at 1-855-610-TREE. Please mention group code **MAR**.
- 3) Visit our web site at PortHuron.DoubleTree.com
In the field provided, enter group code **MAR**.

Remember, your discounted rooms are available until 8/19/18 or until the room block is full, whichever comes first. NOTE: We have blocked 20 rooms and may only be able to add up to 5 additional rooms, if available, when the block is full. So, please, book early!

TENTATIVE ITINERARY

Wednesday, September 19th beginning at 3PM

We'll start our reunion at the Doubletree with Meet & Greet on Wednesday, September 19th beginning at 3PM in the Lighthouse Hospitality Room. Cruise books, snacks, beverages and camaraderie will be the order of the day.

Thursday, September 20th

WAKEUP DOUBLETREE Breakfast Buffet at Freighters Eatery: Mon-Fri 6am-10am

Starting at 9:00 am we'll walk to the International Flag Plaza for a brief memorial service to remember sailors who have lost their lives on the waterways.

From there we will visit the Thomas Edison Depot, the Huron Lightship Museum and the Fort Gratiot Lighthouse and gift shop.

Around noon, we'll be visiting the Charles A. Hammond, American Legion Post #8, where lunch will be provided. After lunch we will be given a tour on board the USCGC Hollyhock WLB-214, stationed in Port Huron.

We will then return to the hotel where you can relax or explore the area on your own until the Dinner Buffet followed by the Mars Raffle!

Friday, September 21st

WAKEUP DOUBLETREE Breakfast Buffet at Freighters Eatery

We will have our Business meeting after breakfast with a trip to the NSCS Gray Fox (TWR-825) to follow. After that we will visit the Great Lakes Maritime Center where you will gain insight on the Great Lakes and ocean going freighters navigating one of the busiest waterways in the world. You can eat lunch at your expense as you watch the freighters pass by.

We will then return to the hotel, where the rest of the afternoon will be yours. Our Farewell Banquet will feature a choice of Parmesan Whitefish or Herb Roasted Pork Loin and immediately following you will be entertained by Elvis, reincarnated!

Saturday, September 22nd

WAKEUP DOUBLETREE Breakfast Buffet at Freighters Eatery, 7am-11am

At our FAREWELL BREAKFAST we will say our goodbyes!

We are still putting some finishing touches on daily itineraries, but listed below are some things Port Huron has to offer:

Port Huron is known as the Maritime Capital of the Great Lakes with unique sites to be explored...immerse yourself in maritime lore by visiting the only existing lightship on the Great Lakes, the Huron Lightship. The Great Lakes Maritime Center will give you insight on the Great Lakes and ocean going freighters navigating one of the busiest waterways in the world. Also tour Fort Gratiot Lighthouse, Michigan's oldest working lighthouse.

The captivating history doesn't stop there...the Thomas Edison Depot Museum depicts the great inventor's life when he lived in Port Huron. The Port Huron Museum reveals the people and events that have molded the Blue Water Area and Knowlton's Ice Museum tells the story of the ice industry.

Walk the historic downtown district amidst grand brick storefronts and discover quaint specialty shops and enriching art galleries. Casual diners and gourmet coffee will delight your taste buds and enjoy waterfront dining along the St. Clair River or Black River. Boaters will find a beautiful marina to suit their needs. Take a sight-seeing trip aboard the Blue Water Trolley.

Also discover beaches and spots for picnicking, walking and biking in the vast presence of the Blue Water Bridges, connecting Port Huron to Sarnia, Ontario, Canada.

Highlights of a trip to Port Huron include:

- Tour the historic Fort Gratiot Light Station, Michigan's oldest lighthouse
- A guided tour of the USCGC Hollyhock (WLB 214) , actively stationed at Port Huron
- The Great Lakes Maritime Center at Vantage Pointe
- Visit the Thomas Edison Depot Museum, the Huron Lightship, the Carnegie Museum and the Knowlton Ice Museum
- Bicycle Rentals
- Fishing – a 1-day license costs \$11 for non-Michigan Residents
- Full-service marinas and docking facilities within walking distance of the downtown district complete with shopping and dining
- Tour the city's attractions for just 10-cents on the Blue Water Trolley
- Waterfront public parks and sandy beaches
- We may offer a narrated sightseeing boat tour aboard the Huron Lady II
- The beautiful Blue Water River Walk, one mile of shoreline restored to its natural beauty. Walk, fish, and view the freighters
- In Sarnia, Ontario, Canada (bring your passports) you can visit Gateway Casino Point Edward

Keep an eye on the website and keep checking back for more news.

See you all at the 2018 USS MARS Reunion at Port Huron, Michigan, September 19th!