



T H E B R I G H T P E N N Y

June 2000

A NEWSLETTER FOR MEMBERS OF THE USS BERKELEY (DDG-15) ASSOCIATION

Interest continues to be high for the September Reunion

Reunion plans have been finalized and it will be a great weekend for all. For those who returned RSVP cards indicating they are definitely attending or plan to attend, hotel reservation forms and other reunion information is included with this newsletter. For those not attending a summary of the events are listed in this article.

There will be a Friday night reception with hot Hors D'oeuvres and a hosted bar for the first hour, and will be casual. The Saturday night banquet dinner will be a buffet with three main choices plus numerous side dishes and desserts. Dress is informal coat and tie for the men and equivalent dress for the ladies. A DJ will provide music for entertainment and dancing.

The hospitality suite will be open from noon Thursday until 11:00 PM and during the day Friday and Saturday. We will stock the bar. The ballroom assigned for our Friday and Saturday evening events will be available during the day for gathering and to make purchases from the ship's store. The room must be vacated by 3:00 pm both days.

Group rate arrangements have been made for the Combination Hoover Dam tour & Lake Mead boat cruise and includes a buffet lunch. The tour departs from the hotel at 8:30 am and returns around 5:30. The tour ends with visits to Ethel M's Chocolate Factory and Botanical Gardens. The cost is \$45.50 per person. There are other tours listed in the packet and you may call their 800 number to make individual arrangements.

Hotel reservations should be made individually using the enclosed form. The cut-off date for blocked rooms is 21 August, 2000. After that date rooms are on a "space available" basis at the higher prevailing rate. Seventy-five rooms have been blocked with 50 of them for Thursday arrivals.

Pre-registration is \$50 per person and payment is requested by 15 August. No refunds after 18 September when the final head-count is due to the hotel banquet department. Make check payable to: USS Berkeley Association.

If you are having second thoughts and now plan to attend the reunion you should contact the Association by mail, telephone or e-mail and a reunion packet will be mailed.

(Continued on page 2)

X.O. IN THE SPOTLIGHT

RADM Richard C. Avrit was born and raised in the Pacific Northwest and received his appointment to the U.S. Naval Academy from Alaska. He graduated with the class of 1953 and served 31 years on active duty. He holds a Bachelor's degree in Engineering, a Master's degree in Electronics from the U.S. Naval Postgraduate School, and is a 1960 graduate of the U.S. Naval War College.

During his naval career, Admiral Avrit had numerous operational and technical jobs, both at-sea and ashore. He served afloat in various destroyer and staff billets including XO of the USS Berkeley (DDG-15) 1966-68 and command of the USS Sumner County (LST-1148), USS Sellers (DDG-11) and USS Harry E. Yarnell (CG-17). His sea tours were evenly distributed between the Pacific and Atlantic fleets and he saw combat action in both the Korean and Vietnamese Wars.

While serving ashore, Admiral Avrit had engineering jobs in weapon and electronic system development including field-testing and evaluation of Navy weapons systems; combat system requirements definition; program formulation; and project management. Admiral Avrit served as Chief of Staff, Commander Surface Forces, Atlantic until selected for flag in 1979. Following selection, he continued his project management role as Program Manager for building the Saudi Arabian Navy at \$1 Billion annually. Admiral Avrit subsequently served as Director of Navy Logistics and as Director of Strategic Sealift, both jobs relating to the logistics infrastructure of the Navy to sustain peacetime readiness and wartime capability.

Following retirement in 1984, Admiral Avrit developed new computer technology programs for Information Spectrum, Inc. He subsequently served as CEO/President of the Military Data Corporation, a joint venture of the U.S. Naval Institute and Information Spectrum, Inc. for development of an



RADM Richard C. Avrit

online database of worldwide military forces and their equipment. Admiral Avrit left that position in 1989 to serve as a small business consultant in computer applications in the construction industry. As of 1998, he was fully retired, but actively engaged in web development and maintenance for charitable organizations as well as other church and community work.

Dick met his wife, Dayne, on his first shore duty assignment in Monterey while at USNPGS. They were married in 1959, lived their first year together in Carmel while Dick completed USNPGS, then embarked upon a life filled with adventure, challenge and fulfillment. They have a daughter, Tamra, currently a student at the National War College, an ex-USMC son-in-law who is a pilot for United Airlines, and a three-year old grandchild— all of whom live across the lake from them in Montclair, VA— near the Quantico USMC base.

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BERKELEY HISTORY JUNE

30 Years Ago

1-6, Enroute to Kobe, Japan. 6-9, Inport Kobe. 10-16, Enroute to Vietnam. 16-30, Naval gunfire support. CDR John F. Frost, III. is the Commanding Officer.

20 Years Ago

1-27, Inport San Diego—PRAV. 16-17, Inport San Diego—TYCOM 3-M Inspection. 28-30, Inport NAVSTA San Diego. CDR Kenneth R. Sydow is the Commanding Officer.

10 Years Ago

1-27, Inport San Diego: Phased maintenance availability. 28, Underway SoCal OpArea: Midshipmen Training. 29, Underway SoCal: Dependent's cruise. 30, Inport San Diego. CDR Ronald R. Peterman is the Commanding Officer.

Our newsletter masthead

Bright Penny was the ship's voice call sign during her entire 30 years of service. During her latter years and with advent of secure voice communications, the call sign Bright Penny was seldom used except during non-secure voice communications. Today, Bright Penny continues on as the voice of the USS Berkeley Association.

■ Reunion

At publishing time the definite plan to attend count is 65 and the plan to attend, but not firm count is 52 members. When you add spouses and guests it is expected that 150 or more people will be in attendance. The roster page on the Web site is updated weekly identifying attendees. The planning to attend group should advise the Association as soon as they've made a decision to attend.

See you there!
Wear your ballcap!
Go Navy!



OI Division promotions 1967: Ensign Bill Abbuehl, ACICO (with head bowed—Ensigns pray a lot); LTJG Red Cavaney, CICO; LCDR Gordon Monteath, OPS. Sporting new crowns are RD3 Dickie Pfeiffer, RD3 Mike Stock, RD2 Dale Johnson and RD3 Bob Landis.

Military Personnel Records

The National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) is the nations memory and record keeper. Part of NARA is the National Personnel Records Center (NPRC) in St. Louis, MO. where federal military and civilian records are stored. For military records the address is 9700 Page Avenue, St. Louis, MO 63132-5100. Tele: 314-538-4261 (recorded message). Web site at www.nara.gov.

Relieve the watch!!

There were no volunteers in response to my request in the December newsletter for someone to take over the daily management of the Association. I have been driving the ship for 15 years and it's time for some liberty.

I am willing, for a while, to continue publishing the Bright Penny and maintain the Web site. However, someone needs to come forward and take over the administrative and management functions. I will be available as a consultant to guide the new manager.

A lot of work has gone into building our group and I would not like to see the Association dissolved due to a lack of interest. The ship is taking on water; don't let it sink!

Jim Barrett

TAPS

FTM1 George F. Kramer (Ret), plankowner, October 9, 1999.

LCDR Arthur J. Desrosiers (Ret) of Pancreatic Cancer, January 31, 2000.

Active duty promotions

Martin Drake to **Captain** 1 Dec 1999. Captain Drake is the Chief, Battlestaff Training Branch, Headquarters, U.S. Central Command at McDill AFB, Florida. (1st LT 1979-81).

Change of Command

CDR **Dennis J. O'Meara** assumed command of USS PAUL HAMILTON (DDG-60) on 7 April in Pearl Harbor. A graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy Class of 82, CDR O'Meara served as Fox Division Officer, Fire Control Officer, Auxiliaries Officer and CIC Officer in Berkeley 1982-86. He is the first Berkeley officer to take command of one of the new Arleigh Burke Class DDG's.



H.S. THEMISTOKLES

An e-mail from Greece informs us that the ship has replaced the SQS-23 Sonar and upgraded to a Ratheon DE-1191 System. Hopefully, this may be a good indication the ship will be in service for a while longer.

Sea Tales

Many of our members responded on how much they enjoyed the sea tale by Scott Wyatt. No new stories have been received for this issue. Come on you guys! There were good times and bad times aboard Berkeley, some humorous and some not. Share those memories with a good story for our members.