



THE BRIGHT PENNY

January 2009

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

2010 Reunion in Denver, CO

I hope your families all enjoyed a happy holiday season, and with 2009 upon us, I wish you all a happy and healthy new year!

In the last edition of the Bright Penny, I mentioned several areas

in which either growth or addition should be priorities now and in the future. Growth in our membership, greater involvement of our members, the possible addition of regional events, and Website enhancements are four areas I'd like to focus on to help build a more vibrant Association.

It is estimated that about 5,000 men served aboard the Berkeley during her 30 years in commission. Approximately 1,033 are on our master roster, and only about 221 are active (paid) members. Even though we are a non-profit organization, active membership is very important to us. We have revamped our Membership Committee, and will have a minimum of six active members who will focus on increasing paid membership and locating former shipmates who haven't been contacted previously. However, we need the help of all former shipmates to ensure that all those who served onboard are aware of the USS Berkeley Association and what we have to offer. We're not requesting that you contact people you don't know, but to contact those you have been in touch with or served with. Former shipmate Dale Johnson contacted me ten years ago, and informed me of the Association and a chance to resume old friendships. I have been very fortunate in reestablishing contact with many of those I served with in addition to starting many new friendships at our reunions. Until Dale's call, I had no contact with a former shipmate in over thirty years. So let's make it a priority to inform those who

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Captain Monteath served on board from 1966-1968, as Operations Officer during two successive deployments to the Western Pacific, when BERKELEY's primary assignments were in naval gunfire support, search and rescue, and Operation Sea Dragon missions in the Gulf of Tonkin off the coast of Viet Nam.

After completing high school in Memphis, Tennessee, he graduated from Vanderbilt University (BA in Geology) and accepted a commission in the Navy, traveling initially to San Diego where his first tour of duty was on the USS CARRONADE, the only Navy ship built from the keel up as a rocket firing gunfire support ship. Following tours of duty on the staff of Commander Landing Ship Squadron Three and the US Naval Training Center, San Diego, he served as First Lieutenant on USS VESUVIUS (AE-15), and then spent two years at the US Naval Postgraduate School, Monterey, California where he was awarded an MS in Oceanography.

After graduating from post-graduate school, Captain Monteath served as Navigator on USS DALE (DLG-19), before reporting to BERKELEY for his two years of duty. After leaving BERKELEY, he reported to the Fleet Numerical Oceanographic Center, in Monterey, for two years of duty in Oceanographic research and forecasting. Following this period of shore duty, he reported to USS RICHARD B. ANDERSON (DD 786) as Executive Officer, and then relieved as Commanding Officer of USS GEORGE K. MACKENZIE (DD 836) during operations in the South China Sea. Following his command tour, he served as Director of Surface Warfare Training on the staff of the Chief of Naval Technical Training, and coordinated training for the new construction Spruance class destroyers.

Captain Monteath attended the US NAVAL WAR COLLEGE in Newport, Rhode Island in 1976, and upon completing the Senior Strategy and Management Course, was ordered to Commander US SEVENTH FLEET staff as Surface Warfare Plans Officer for a two year sea duty tour, homeported in Yokosuka, Japan. On leaving Japan, he was the Surface Warfare Programs Officer for the Office of Program Appraisal in the Pentagon, on the Secretary of the Navy's staff. After completion of his Pentagon tour, he reported for his last tour of duty at the OFFICE of NAVAL RESEARCH, where he was Deputy Technical Director, and Director of Oceanography Programs. He retired in November 1985 after 27 years of active duty.

Shortly thereafter, Captain Monteath accepted a position with SCIENCE APPLICATIONS INTERNATIONAL CORPORATION (SAIC), spending 21 years with them as a Program Manager in various programs including acoustics research, simulation, and contract management. He spent most of his corporate career for SAIC in Falls Church and Arlington, VA and San Diego, retiring for the second time in late 2006. His current career includes playing handball (learned as an alternative sport while serving on BERKELEY), fly-fishing, reading, antiques, and taking interesting courses at local college campuses. He presently resides in Leucadia, California with his wife Leslie, and two very active Jack Russell terriers.

In the Spotlight



Captain Gordon M. Monteath

USS BERKELEY ASSOCIATION

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Annual Dues: \$20.00

Director: Al Meier

Asst. Director: Dale Johnson

Secretary: Pat Clark & Tammy Meier

Treasurer: Gerald Hansen

Membership Committee Chairman: Al Meier

Regional Chairmen:

Northeast: Duane LeDoux

Southeast: Randy Wilkins

North Central: Larry Norris

South Central: Don Carlson

Northwest: Vacant

Southwest: Vacant

Ship's Store Mgr: Gerald Hansen

Bright Penny Editor: Jim Sundahl

Newsletter Publisher: Jim Barrett

Webmaster: Jim Barrett

ACVA Representative: Vacant



Al Meier

**Reflections**

I am writing this on December 7, 2008, it just seems fitting to bring up the sacrifices of the ones we followed and to me it brings back big memories. When I was injured on board the USS Kearsarge (CVS-33) I was sent to US Army's Tripler General Hospital. After having surgery on both knees I was sent to Ford Island, at Pearl Harbor Naval Station for rehab. One of my duties was maintaining the USS Arizona National Monument.

Every day, seven days a week for the six months while on medical hold I would get up and catch a gig to the Monument. My detail was to clean, mop the decks, polish the marble name plates and shine the brass and ship's bell, then wait for the first tourist boat to pick me up and I was off for the day, except the days I had PT or doctor appointments. In the time between when I finished my detail and getting picked-up I had lots of time to spend with our fellow shipmates still buried aboard her. Sounds strange, but it forever changed the way I looked at my NAVY and its part in peace and war. I reenlisted a few months after returning to my ship because of the experience with the USS Arizona.

It is why I enjoy meetings and fellowshiping with fellow shipmates that are living, at the VA hospitals, reunions, meetings, luncheons and dinners. I am proud of my Navy, of my ships: USS Kearsarge (CVS-33), USS Berkeley (DDG-15) and USS Bridget

(DE-1024), my shore duty stations foreign or domestic NSAD Chu Lai, RVN, USN Biological/Research Laboratories at Oakland Naval Supply Center and NSA Da Nang RVN. All had a part in our countries freedom and health, if all my units had reunions and I had the money I would go to all of them. Those that served before, during or that followed me are still my brothers and I love being around them. My shipmates on the Arizona will forever be in my heart, I would sit there and watch the fish swim around the con, strange the tile was still there I believe it was a light marbled green, hear the clang of the hatches opening and shutting (or what goes clang in the dark) with the tide and hope their spirits were at rest. I read their names rank/rates on the marble tablets as I cleaned and polished them wondering what they were like and what they thought during the minutes before the end. I would later get a chance to face death straight on and from the air in the years to come in Vietnam and as a police officer. Maybe sometimes you shouldn't wonder so much.

So for us shipmates living and the spirits of those that have passed, we will gather again for another reunion coming soon in New Orleans. Those that can afford it will be there but I know the hearts of those that can't be there, also. Everyone will get the news of the meetings and fun right here in the Penny soon after. Send your stories of the fun to us, here at the Penny, so we can share it with our shipmates, also, if you hear a good sea story send that too.

So, till we meet, remember our shipmates past and those now and in the future.

Jim (Sunny) Sundahl

Berkeley History January

40 Years Ago, 1969

01-26, Leave and upkeep Long Beach;
27-31, ASW Operations SOCAL. C.O. is CDR Thomas M. Ward, Jr.

30 Years Ago, 1979

1-7, Inport San Diego; **8-31**, Refresher training underway. C.O. is CDR Jack E. Helmann.

20 Years Ago, 1989

1-2, Inport San Diego; **3-5**, Underway SOCAL Op Area. C.O. is CDR Charles R. Girvin III.

10 Years Ago, 1999

Ex-Berkeley in service with the Hellenic Navy of Greece.

Dues Reminder

Annual dues are collected each January. If you have not submitted dues in the amount of \$20.00 for 2009, please send in by 31 January. The annual roster will be mailed in February to members who are current.

Former X.O. tapped for DNI



President-elect Obama has selected Admiral Dennis C. Blair (Ret) for the position of Director of National Intelligence. Admiral Blair served as X.O. of Berkeley 1977-80.

Saluting the flag

New law allows retirees and veterans to salute the flag. The National Defense Authorization Act of 2008 contained an amendment to allow un-uniformed service members, military retirees, and veterans to render a hand salute during the hoisting, lowering, or passing of the U.S. flag. The amendment does not address saluting the flag during the playing of the national anthem, pledge of allegiance, honors (i.e. Taps), or any other saluting situations. All such conduct toward the flag in a moving column should be rendered at the moment the flag passes.

Saving the Charles F. Adams (DDG-2)

In December the Association made a \$1,000 donation to the ACVA. We became the latest Adams Class DDG association to make a donation in support of turning the USS Charles F. Adams (DDG-2) into a Naval Ship Museum as part of the Jacksonville Historic Naval Ship Museum project. The USS King (DDG-3), USS Barney (DDG-6), USS Sellers (DDG-11), USS Strauss (DDG-16), USS Semmes (DDG-18), USS Tattnall (DDG-19) and USS Goldsborough (DDG-20) have also donated \$1,000 or more to this effort.

Ahoy Berkeley Beauties

By Pat Clark



Happy New Year everyone! It seems like only yesterday that we were ringing in the new Millennium and its 2009!! Now that the holidays are behind me, I'm getting busy preparing for the arrival of my first Great Grandchild; a girl. I'm fortunate in the fact that she will be living in San Diego and that's only about an hour and a half from Long Beach.

The day after Christmas, I had a nice visit with Dale Nielsen, plank owner ICC R Div. Even though Dale is experiencing problems with his vision it certainly has not affected his sense of humor.

You know, sometimes we all need a little helping hand; or in this case 'butt'. I realized this while in Boston for our last reunion. Al and Tammy Meier and John 'BJ' Bjerke and Judy and I went on a tour of the USS Constitution. Everything was fine until it was time to disembark and I found that it was a little steep for me. Fast-thinking BJ to the rescue and of course Tammy couldn't resist getting a picture of us.



In this edition, I'd like to introduce Karen Bess, wife of Benjamin L. Bess, plank owner, YNI X Div:

I was born and raised in Portland, Oregon. I graduated from Franklin High School with scholarships and had a 4.0 GPA. I attended Mills College in Oakland until a family emergency resulted in me having to come home. I went to business college and then to work.

Each June, Portland has a rose festival with several Navy ships in town and open to tours. In 1963 a friend and I went downtown to go to the festival activities and see the ships. One of the ships was the USS Berkeley, and on that ship was Benjamin L. Bess. We met and he showed us around the ships, then I invited him home for dinner. We kept in touch with letters, and on Valentine's Day in 1964 he visited and asked me to marry him. Then the ship went to Vietnam. After a couple of postponements, we were married October 10, 1964.

His first shore duty was Bremerton, WA but neither of us liked it there and he missed sea duty. When the Navy asked for volunteers, he went back to sea on the VIRGO AE30. I went back home to live and have our son Ben H. Yep, he missed it all. Our son was 5 months old when he finally got shore duty again.

We came to NAS Whidbey Island, fell in love with it, and we were able to buy our land. Although we couldn't remain here, we kept our land. From here it was VA-25 out of NAS Lemoore, then to COMSUBPAC in Pearl Harbor, HI. We enjoyed it there and I started my career with the Navy Exchange in accounting. We wanted to get back to the mainland, but Ben had to retire to do it on October 31, 1977.

We came back to our land on Whidbey and settled in. I worked my way up through many jobs at the Exchange and after 23 years I took early retirement in 1998. I'd spent the last 8 years as a manager and I was burned out. I worked in the garden, building flower boxes, and was able to ride with Ben on the road in his Swift Transportation big rig off and on for a couple of years. When his health problems forced his retirement, we settled in again and I went back to work part time.

I only work 2 days a week so I still have plenty of time for my flowers. Our beautiful yard is my joy and passion, and I enjoy reading very much. We recently got a good deal on a used truck and fifth wheel, so maybe we can do some traveling in the future.

Well, hopefully, that truck and fifth wheel will get you and Ben to our next reunion.



ALMOST A FIFTH WHEEL

Till next time, Pat



**From the
Quarterdeck
by**

CDR Jim Barrett (Ret)



Within three years, almost all junior sailors living aboard ships in port will trade their mass berthing, gang heads and daily inspections for two-person barracks rooms with private bathrooms, cable and Wi-Fi. Currently, all officers, all sailors E-5 and above, and E-4s with at least four years of service qualify for either a housing allowance or a barracks room when their ship is in port.

However, barracks living isn't without rules. Residents must keep their rooms clean and straighten up common areas, and they undergo weekly inspections. They aren't allowed alcohol if they're under 21, but they're allowed to personalize their rooms as long as they don't put holes in the walls.

Make a mistake—get in a fight, go on unauthorized leave, have unauthorized visitors in your room—and you will lose your rack and be sent back to the ship, officials warn. And, more than likely, your roommates will too.

Sailors are lashing out at Navy leadership over the service's restrictive new wear policy for the Navy Working Uniform, the blue-and-gray camouflage that will begin hitting Navy Exchanges this month.

Under the new rules, sailors and officers driving to and from work will not be allowed to get out of their cars wearing the uniform except for a road or medical emergency. Sailors cannot wear the new uniform during any other stops, such as pumping gas, picking up items at a convenience store or dropping kids off at day care. The Navy is standing fast on this ruling. <http://www.new-navy-uniform.com/picture-nwu.html> new working uniform

The USS Donald Cook (DDG-75) is the only ship in the Navy operating on a four-day work week for the past ten months. Days off are staggered through the week and the program has been a success. On Wednesday the whole crew must be aboard with training as a priority. Interesting enough is that the crew is not working four 10-hour days. Currently everyone must be at work, ready to go a 0600 and leave at 1500. The crew voted for these hours to avoid the traffic rush hours. When they arrive at the ship they go to work right away using work assignments handed out the night before.

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The Director

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may not be aware of the Association and our Website.

During almost the entire time the Berkeley Association has been in existence, the Director and possibly a few other people have undertaken almost all of the tasks required to build our organization into what it is today. I'd like to thank all of our former Directors and their staffs, and focus efforts on greatly expanding participation in the Association. We are off to a good start with our expanded membership committee, but we still need volunteers to head up efforts in the South West and North West sectors. We will also be assembling a reunion committee that will begin planning our 2010 reunion in Denver, CO. A few additional volunteers would help ensure that we can put together a great event including tours and other activities.

Regional events are an area that we may wish to consider, and which could aid the Association in reuniting former shipmates who haven't been able to attend our national reunions. Volunteers can plan events which would be open to all the Berkeley crew, but would be targeted at a specific region. Activities such as a weekend in the Napa/Sonoma wine country, Lake Tahoe, Reno, Atlantic City, or Branson. A 3-night cruise out of San Pedro or Port Canaveral can be easy to coordinate for a fun weekend. Even a one-day event such as a BBQ in an area

TAPS



CDR William A. Rucker III, Operations Officer, 1965-66 passed away March 5, 2008 at his home in Pine Bluff, Arkansas. A part of his legacy is the forming of Rucker's Raiders, a team developed to repel borders and serve as a boarding and landing party. Heavily armed, they were a fearsome looking group.

where there is a substantial number of members in close proximity. These events can be advertised in the Bright Penny newsletter and posted at our Web site. Such events would require much less planning than our reunions, and would be fun and rewarding whether attended by ten or fifty participants. If anyone (and yes, wives are encouraged to participate in planning such events) would like to propose an event, please let us know. Again, we'd welcome any inputs you have that can assist us in bringing more former shipmates together.

Over the past few months, Jim Barrett has added a number of new features to our Website. If you haven't visited the Web site recently, please take some time to view the new additions such as the "Links" and "Historical Events by Year" (under the History tab) sectors. The Links page will link you to U.S. Navy, Military and Veteran Web sites which contain a wealth of information. Under the Historical Events by Year section, you can access information and photos of Commissioning Day and Decommissioning Week as well as newspaper articles regarding some of the battles the Berkeley was involved in during the Vietnam War. Jim also hopes to add more photos of the Berkeley over the years as well as the possibility of some streaming video of the ship underway. We are also looking to add cruise book and other historical features to the website during the coming year.

Our Website serves a couple of main objectives which are to preserve the history and associated memories of the USS Berkeley for those who served aboard her, and to assist us in locating many others of our more than 3,900 ship mates that have not been in contact. Our association could benefit from an infusion of members (crews from the 1975 to 1992 time frame) to blend with the core of active members which are predominately 1962 to 1974 crew members. Our Website is a very important element in communicating among our active members as well as hopefully being an incentive for other former crew members to join the Association and partake in our activities. We would greatly appreciate any photo contributions of former crew members or ship's events that would be of interest. Please contact Jim Barrett if you have photos to share.

The Goat Locker

HAVE YOU HEARD: Harold was an old Retired Navy Chief Engineman? He was sick and was in the VA hospital. Anyway, there was this one young nurse that just drove him crazy. Every time she came in, she would talk to him like he was a little child. She would say in a patronizing tone of voice, "And how are we doing this morning, or are we ready for our bath, or are we hungry?"

Harold had had enough of this particular nurse. One day, Harold had received breakfast, and pulled the apple juice off his breakfast tray, and put it on his bed side stand. He had just been given a urine bottle to fill for testing. So.....you know where the juice went.

Well, the nurse came in a little later and picked up the urine bottle. She looks at it. "My, but it seems we are a little cloudy today....." At this, the Chief snatched the bottle out of her hand, pops off the top, and drinks it down, saying, "Well, I'll run it through again, and maybe I can filter it better this time."

The nurse fainted.....Harold just smiled.....Typical Chief!



The Chief noticed a new Seaman one day and barked at him to get over here.

'What is your name?' was the first thing the Chief asked the new guy.

'John,' the new guy replied.

The Chief scowled, 'Look, I don't know what kind of bleeding-heart, liberal pansy ass stuff they're teaching sailors in boot camp today, but I don't call anyone by their first name. It breeds familiarity and that leads to a breakdown in authority. I refer to my Sailors by their last name only - Smith, Jones, Baker - that's all. I am to be referred to only as Chief. Do I make myself clear?'

'Aye, aye, Chief!'

'Good! Now that we got that straight, what is your last name?'

The new guy sighed and said, 'Darling. My name is John Darling, Chief!'

'Okay-----John, here's what I want you to do...'

All Chief's: Contribute your stories to the Goat Locker.