



# THE BRIGHT PENNY

April 2011

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

## 2012 REUNION IN SAN DIEGO

It's hard to believe that 2010 is now a distant memory as we sail through the first half of 2011. 2010 was a year of growth both in former crew members on the master roster and in accomplishments as an



Association. Our master roster currently lists approximately 1,125 names, and our web site has added more history, cruise books, and ships logs (available in Ship's Store) to the many features available. In 2011 we will undertake much of the planning for our 2012 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary reunion in San Diego, CA., and would appreciate your assistance in getting the word out to all former crew members.

We already have a few volunteers for the Reunion Committee, but a few more would be appreciated. Presently, there are two hotel proposals to be reviewed and many tasks to be undertaken in preparing for the reunion. Our goal is to identify the host hotel and the reunion dates by June so that the information will be available for our July 2011 newsletter. Tours and reunion activities such as the Bull Session, Welcome Reception, business meeting and banquet need to be planned and coordinated. These are just a few of the tasks in addition to getting the word out to all former crew members. The Ladies Tea at the Denver reunion was a great success, and we would like to hold another ladies event in San Diego. Suggestions and volunteers for the ladies' event are needed, so please contact me at [alphawhiskey.ddg15@yahoo.com](mailto:alphawhiskey.ddg15@yahoo.com) if you would like to provide assistance.

Our master roster is a valuable Association asset, and we are working diligently to add more names, eliminate missing information, and verify the accuracy of the information listed. The web site roster does not show addresses, phone numbers and email addresses. However, the official master roster, which

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FTCS Lee Peters was born in Blackwell, Oklahoma in October 1945. After high school graduation, and a short stint in college, he joined the Navy in February 1964.

Following recruit training at Great Lakes, electronics training in Bainbridge, MD, and specialized training at Mare Island, CA, Lee (Pete) reported aboard the USS Berkeley in early 1965 as a Missile Fire Control Technician Third Class. The Berkeley had recently returned to her home port in Long Beach, CA, after her first tour of duty with the 7<sup>th</sup> Fleet, where her routine operations had been interrupted and she was diverted to the South China Sea, along with other Navy units, for combat operations off the Vietnam coast and in the Gulf of Tonkin. Pete's initial duties as a highly qualified electronics technician were tempered by months of chipping, painting, repair, and upkeep in the Long Beach Naval Shipyard as the crew prepared the ship for her second deployment. Following several months of training exercises at sea, the Berkeley proceeded again to Vietnam, where Pete worked with several team members on the Weapons Direction Equipment interface between the search radars and the fire control radars. This was the first of five deployments Pete made during the seven years he served aboard the Berkeley, and although Vietnam was stressful and often difficult, Pete recalls the close camaraderie with shipmates, as well as many amazing times in ports of call in the Orient and Australia. Also during this time, he attended search radar school, as well as cross-training on various gun and missile computer and tracking systems.

Pete transferred from the Berkeley as an FTM1 in January 1972 to Mobile Technical Unit 11, where he served as a technical analyst to ships in and around Long Beach. When the Navy reorganized many of its bases in 1974, he was reassigned to Mobile

### In the Spotlight



FTCS Lee Peters

Technical Unit 5 in San Diego, and in 1976 he transferred to the USS Somers DDG-34, located in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. The following year he was promoted to Fire Control Technician Missiles Chief. After five years on the Somers, Pete began his final duties in the Navy at the Human Resource Management Center in Pearl Harbor as an Organizational Effectiveness Consultant. In early 1983 he was promoted to E-8, and he rotated to the Fleet Reserve and retirement in 1984.

While in Hawaii, he met and married Shari, and their first son Travis was born there. After retirement and another year in Hawaii, they moved to Oklahoma, where their second son Tyler was born. Pete has since retired from American Airlines, Sabre, and EDS, where he worked in computer related fields as an application development manager. Today, Lee and Shari enjoy various crafts in their home studio, weekly dances at local clubs, and limited travel when possible.

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Annual Dues: \$20.00

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Al Meier

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is delivered annually to members who have paid dues for the current year, does include your contact information. Please take a few minutes and update your contact information through the web site by going to the "Member Updates" section, and providing current information. This also ensures that newsletters and reunion information are delivered to you in a timely and cost-efficient manner.

The final three cruise books are in the process of being scanned for inclusion at the web site. We are adding historical information and photos as they become available. If you have photos (preferably digital) that we can include, please forward them to either Jim Barrett or Al Meier by clicking on the appropriate name under the "Association Info" tab at the web site. Our goal is to provide the finest web site possible, and your assistance is greatly appreciated!



**From the  
Quarterdeck  
By**

*CDR Jim Barrett ( Ret)*



**Uniform Changes**

It seems there is a never ending change to uniforms in the Navy today and yesterday. Among the changes, some of which are still in the testing stage, is a new crackerjack white uniform. Basically it is a reverse of dress blues. The jumper has black piping on the back flap and sleeves.

For the chiefs' they will soon have an optional ceremonial cutlass, which is modeled after the 1861 U.S. Navy cutlass. It can be worn only when a chief is part of an official party where swords for officers are required. The ceremonial weapon is worn as a side arm, has a blade that is shorter, curved and thicker than a sword. The cutlass becomes available in August.

**Berkeley History  
April**

**40 Years Ago, 1971**

01, InChop 7th Fleet; 01-03, Enroute to Guam; 03, Fuel stop Guam; 03-07, enroute to Subic Bay, P.I.; 07-10, upkeep Subic Bay; 10-12, Enroute to Yankee Station; 12-16, Assigned to CTG 77.5 escort to USS Kitty Hawk (CVA-63); 26-27, Enroute Subic Bay; 27-30, Upkeep Subic Bay.

**30 Years Ago, 1981**

01-09, Inport Guam for upkeep; 09-11, In transit to Subic Bay, R.P.; 12, Inport Subic Bay; 13-16, Enroute to Pattaya Beach, Thailand for multi-ship exercises; 17-21, Inport Pattaya Beach; 22-25, Exercise SEA-SIAM 81-2; 26-27, Inport Pattaya Beach; 28-30, enroute to Hong Kong via Sattahip, Thailand.

**20 Years Ago, 1991**

01-07, At sea enroute to San Diego; 08-25, Inport San Diego; 26-30, Underway Eastern Pacific: Law Enforcement.

**10 Years Ago, 2001**

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

**Found in Shipshewana, Indiana** a Berkeley ball cap with a third class pin and a USS Berkeley pin affixed. Contact the Assn if it is yours.



**Chaplain's  
Corner**

By Chaplain Bill Perry

John 13:34 "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another."

**Friendship**

Friendship is different from all other relationships. Unlike acquaintanceship, it is based on love. Unlike lovers and married couples, it is free of jealousy. Unlike children and parents, it knows neither criticism nor resentment. Friendship has no status in law. Business partnerships are based on a contract. Marriage is a covenant. Parents are bound by the law, as are children. But friends never cheat each other, or take advantage, or lie. Friends do not spy on one another, yet they have no secrets. Friends glory in each other's successes and are downcast by their failures. Friends minister to each other, nurse each other. Friends give to each other, pray for each other, and stand always ready to help. Perfect friendship is rarely achieved, but at its height is a precious thing. (John 15: 12-15)

**From the Webmaster**

The site experienced a number of glitches in December and has since been rebuilt with a new appearance. Sorry for the inconvenience.

The Links page has a wealth of information. So many subjects to select from history to information on mesothelioma.

The Photo Memories page is beginning to receive response. We now have photos for the 1960's and 70's and there is always room for more. The 1980's and 90's are currently empty so members from that era need to send in photos for those periods. Contact the Webmaster via the Association page for instructions prior to forwarding photos.

The Roster Page has a new feature. Are your dues current? That information is now available next to your name.

A Suggestion Box is now available to submit your ideas to the Association. We're always looking for ways to improve the site and the way we do things, such as reunions.

If you have moved, changed your telephone number or e-mail address you can send the new information via the Member Update page.

We are missing the 1976 cruise book. If you have a copy to loan for scanning it would be greatly appreciated.