



# THE BRIGHT PENNY

July 2011

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

## REUNION 19-23 SEPT 2012

### San Diego Reunion

Our 2012 reunion in San Diego will take place from September 19-23, and the Hilton Harbor Island will be our host hotel. The hotel is located a short distance from the San Diego airport and provides complimentary shuttle to and from the airport and Downtown San Diego. We will be celebrating the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the USS Berkeley's commissioning, which took place in December 1962. We are adding an additional day for this reunion to accommodate more events and tours. Reunion planning is underway, and we can still use a few more volunteers to assist the reunion committee. If you are interested, please contact Al Meier at [alphawhiskey.ddg15@yahoo.com](mailto:alphawhiskey.ddg15@yahoo.com) for more details.



We will begin activities Wednesday evening September 19<sup>th</sup>. Tours will be available on Thursday and Friday, and will include a tour of the USS Midway and possibly a tour of an active DDG or other ship. Our plan is to offer at least three or four tours. The Bull Session will be held Thursday night, and is a free lance event where we relive days aboard the Berkeley through sea stories, photos, and hopefully some videos. This event was a hit with the ladies as well! Our Welcome Reception takes place on Friday evening. Our feature event, the Banquet, will be held from 5 PM to 11 PM on Saturday. We will have a Ladies Event, which was very popular in Denver, and the activity and time are not yet available. The reunion will conclude with the Farewell Breakfast on Sunday morning, and this is an ongoing event that will begin around 7 AM. Our Hospitality Suite will be open beginning Wednesday evening through Saturday afternoon, and the Ship's Store

*(Continued on page 2)*

Chief Boilerman Jerry Hudson began his naval career in November 1951. He attended basic training in San Diego, California and then reported to his first duty assignment as a fireman aboard the USS Vammen (DE-644).

Jerry next reported to the USS Nicholas where he served from 1953 through 1955. He then transferred to the USS Walton (DE-361) which was home ported in Pearl Harbor. The Walton was conducting surveillance and various training exercises. Jerry made four Westpac cruises to the Far East, Australia and the Mariana Islands. In 1956 the USS Walton participated in Operation Redwing which was a series of nuclear test detonations. In 1958 the ship was home ported at Treasure Island in San Francisco where it helped train reservist who had been called to active duty.

Jerry's next assignments were aboard the USS Renshaw (DE-499) and USS Joseph P. Kennedy (DD-850) (LantFleet). John F. Kennedy was President and visited the ship. When he came aboard, the snipes were instructed to stay below or change into their dress uniforms. The USS Lloyd Thomas (DD-764) was getting ready to leave port and needed a boilerman, and Jerry decided to transfer.

In 1965-67 Jerry had 2 ½ years of shore duty split among St. Louis, Springfield, West Plains and Poplar Bluff, Missouri. This was the area in which he lived prior to his enlistment, and he enjoyed this time as a recruiter.

In 1967, Jerry attended Boiler School in Philadelphia, PA and was later transferred to the USS Oakhill (LSD-7), which was transferring

### In the Spotlight



**BTC Jerry Hudson**

troops and equipment to Vietnam. Aboard the Oakhill, he was promoted to Chief boilerman. The ship was decommissioned upon returning home.

Next began Jerry's time aboard the Berkeley, which was from 1969 through 1971. He served on board as a Chief Boilerman, and part-time as a Career Counselor. In July 1971, Jerry transferred to NAVSTA, Long Beach and later retired in 1972

Jerry moved back to Springfield, MO and served in the reserves. He worked for the Harford Steam Boiler Insurance and Inspection Company inspecting boilers and nuclear plant construction. Jerry eventually retired in 1986. He has sold antiques & collectibles, and enjoyed woodworking and gardening.

The Chief now resides in Tebbetts, MO with his wife Mary Jane and his pal Pancho!

**USS BERKELEY ASSOCIATION**

5553 Makati Circle  
San Jose, CA 95123  
408-656-3879

E Mail: [ddg15@ussberkeley.com](mailto:ddg15@ussberkeley.com)

Website: [www.USSBerkeley.com](http://www.USSBerkeley.com)

Annual Dues: \$20.00

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Al Meier

*(Continued from page 1)* **S.D. REUNION**

will be open Thursday through Saturday. Hours for the Hospitality Suite and Ship's Store are yet to be determined.

Reunion information will be updated periodically at the web site, and our future newsletters will provide more detailed information on events and things to do in San Diego. Many reunion attendees will arrive early or stay in the San Diego area after the reunion, and this is a great way to spend some extra time with your former shipmates and Association friends. The Hilton is providing the reunion room rates from September 17<sup>th</sup> through September 24<sup>th</sup> based on availability. Free parking is available at the hotel for all guests who have booked rooms. The hotel has much to offer including great views, a 24-hour fitness center with sauna, 24-hour business center, and heated pool and spa. You can check out the Hilton Harbor Island at [www.sandiegoairport.hilton.com](http://www.sandiegoairport.hilton.com).

Our reunions are the events that reunite old friends, and new friends that we have made at other reunions. They are the much-anticipated events that we all look forward to, and we hope to see you in San Diego! Start making your plans today as September 2012 really isn't that far off.



**From the Quarterdeck By**

CDR Jim Barrett ( Ret)



**Former Tradition**

Remember the day when you put on that third class crow and your shipmates carried out a long standing tradition of "tacking on" the new crow. Not anymore! It is considered hazing, against Navy Regulations and is in violation of an Under SECNAV instruction approved in July 2005. Just recently six sailors tacked on the crows of fellow sailors, were found guilty during NJP proceedings and are now awaiting administrative separations recommended by their commanding officer. In my opinion other strong punishment could have been administered at NJP and the Navy would not be losing the skills of six sailors. However, the trend today is a no nonsense approach to hazing and examples of being made of those who violate the rules.

The hazing rules include crossing the equator, submariners earning their dolphins and chief petty officer promotions. Commanding officers are directed that these ceremonies be conducted with dignity and respect and are in compliance with the SECNAV directive.

**Berkeley History July**

**50 Years Ago, 1961**

29, Ship launched at Camden, New Jersey.

**40 Years Ago, 1971**

01, Inport Hong Kong; 02, Enroute Yankee Station via Subic Bay, RPI; 03, Basic stop for fuel, Subic Bay; 04-05, Enroute Tonkin Gulf; 05-10, NSAR Commander; 11-14, Type Training; 14-15, PIRAZ escort; 15-17, NSAR Commander; 18, Enroute Penang, Malaysia via Subic Bay; 19, Basic stop for fuel, Subic Bay; 19-22, Enroute Penang, Malaysia; 22, Crossed the Equator at 0 - 00N, 105 - 53E; 23-26, Inport Panang, Malaysia; 27, Enroute Singapore; 28-31, Upkeep Singapore.

**30 Years Ago, July 1981**

01 - 04, OPS Indian Ocean with the USS Kitty Hawk Battle Group; 04, Participated in Indian Ocean Weapons Week; 05-17, OPS Indian Ocean with the USS Kitty Hawk Battle Group/ enroute Geraldton, Australia; 17-23, Inport Geraldton, Australia; 24-26, Underway OPS in company with USS Kitty Hawk Battle Group; 27-30, Detached Kitty Hawk Battle Group, enroute Singapore; 31, Inport Singapore, brief stop for fuel, underway transit Subic Bay, R.P.

**20 Years Ago, July 1991**

01, Inport San Diego; 02, Underway nSouthern California Operating Area, Midshipmen Training; 03-04, Inport San Diego; 05, Change of Command: CDR R.R. Peterman relieved by CDR F.J. Mallgrave III; 06-07, Inport San Diego; 08-18, Underway Eastern Pacific, Law Enforcement Operations; 19-21, Inport San Diego; 22-26, Inport San Diego; ISIC Command Inspection; 27-31, Inport San Diego.

**10 Years Ago, 2001**

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

**ACVA Update**

Following is a short overview of ACVA's ship museum effort and the latest news on their progress. ACVA's website can be found at [www.adamsclassddgvets.org](http://www.adamsclassddgvets.org).

This effort began in January 2004 when the ADAMS Class Veterans Association was founded by a group of former ADAMS class veterans. Their goal was to find a home for the lone surviving ADAMS class ship. In 2007 a comprehensive material condition survey was performed by a professional marine engineer and members of ACVA. Later that year, two former ADAMS commanding officers and veterans from all specialties performed a ship survey. In 2008 the Jacksonville Historic Naval Ship Association (JHNSA) was formed by Florida residents, Jacksonville businessmen and retired military veterans with the vision of establishing a naval ship museum on the banks of the St Johns River in downtown Jacksonville. A month later, the City Council unanimously approved a resolution supporting the idea. JHNSA and ACVA submitted a Ship Donation Application to the Navy in 2009 and since have been allowed to go aboard decommissioned ships to obtain equipment required to restore the Adams. In November, 2009 JHNSA opened the ADAMS Class Museum Visitor Center at the Jacksonville Landing.

Today, digital billboards stating "Bring Home the Adams" are appearing in five locations around Jacksonville, Florida. The blue and gold billboards are a recent part of the effort. JHNSA is currently working with the Jacksonville City Council to obtain a "Resolution of Commitment" to locate the ADAMS Class Ship Museum on the St Johns River. The only other key remaining step to earning the donation of the Charles F. Adams from the Navy is the fund raising.

Donations have been received from numerous Adams' class ship associations including the USS Berkeley, individual donors (including many who served on the Berkeley), businesses, etc. More funds need to be raised to satisfy this key step. With 80,000 men having served aboard the ADAMS class ships, this would be a great link to their Navy careers!

The USS Berkeley Association still has a vacancy for our ACVA representative. Please contact Al Meier if you are interested.

## Military retirement benefits under scrutiny

By Jim Barrett

For several years Congress has been focused on reducing retirement and health benefit costs to help reduce the deficit. The military retirement benefit of serving 20 years and retiring immediately receiving 50 percent of base pay is going away. The current system has been in effect since 1948, over 60 years.

Just before leaving office Secretary of Defense Robert Gates made a final push to overhaul the system. In a statement he said, "Somebody who has served for ten years leaves with nothing. That doesn't make any sense. That's not fair." The proposal under review dates back to the 2008 Quadrennial review of Military Compensation. Under that plan years of service to qualify for a retirement benefit would be reduced to ten years and eliminate pension payments immediately upon retiring. Personnel that served 10 to 20 years would not start drawing retirement pay until age 60. Service beyond 20 years the age would be 57.

The military health care system, known as TRICARE, was implemented in 1997 and replaced the former system known as CHAMPUS. It was set up in three parts, Tricare Standard, Tricare Extra, Tricare Prime and later Tricare for Life in 2001.

**Tricare Standard:** Available to active duty and retirees age 60 and older. Under this plan beneficiaries can use any civilian health care provider that is payable under Tricare regulations.

**Tricare Extra:** An option to Standard users represents a preferred provider organization (PPO).

**Tricare Prime:** A health maintenance organization (HMO) style plan available to active duty personnel, retirees from the Active Component, retirees from the Reserve Component age 60 or older, and their eligible family members. Under TRICARE Prime, beneficiaries must choose a primary care physician and obtain referrals and authorizations for specialty care.

**Tricare for Life:** Available to Medicare beneficiaries that have purchased Medicare Part B. The benefit was enacted by Congress in response to growing complaints from beneficiaries that as Medicare out of pocket costs increased a benefit was needed to pay these costs in lieu of TRICARE retirees being required to purchase Medicare Supplemental Coverage to pay for prescriptions, physician and hospital dispensed drugs, cost shares and deductibles. Before TRICARE for Life, TRICARE beneficiaries immediately lost TRICARE coverage upon attaining Medicare eligibility. With some exceptions TFL pays the amount Medicare does not cover.

The House Armed Services Committee wants to hike fees for the first time in 16 years. The changes are rather extensive and are focused



## Chaplain's Corner

By Chaplain Bill Perry

Have you felt like giving up lately? Don't!

Nearly a century ago, Christians were concerned about the "Social Gospel". Instead of being a lighthouse for lost souls, the Church during those years, became a soup kitchen.

*Now, in the first part of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, Christians need to become aware of, and concerned about the "Culture Gospel". Instead of being an oasis for the spiritually desperate, the Church in America is becoming a play house of cultural relevancy.*

*Traditional forms of worship are disappearing as if they were dinosaurs. An atmosphere of reverence is all but extinct. An expectation that people attend church services dressed respectfully for the occasion, is frowned upon by many Churches as archaic and old fashioned – as if there is something wrong with being old fashioned.*

*Positive thinking won't make these problems go away and "confessing" that these problems don't really exist doesn't change a thing.. So, What is the cure?*

*There is a very simple answer; Keeping our focus on Jesus Christ; the Church has forgotten to "keep the main thing the main thing". The Church that used to be focused on God and Jesus Christ, is now, in far too many cases focused on itself.*

*We must remember that; "the proper place for a ship to be is in the water, but if the water gets into the ship, the ship will sink. The proper place for the church is in the world, but if the 'world' gets into the church, the church will go down in disgrace."*

Dr. William Perry- Chaplain

primarily towards working age retirees. It is estimated that the hikes would cut defense health care costs by \$35 million in fiscal 2012 and about \$15 million in 2013. It is early for the changes to be implemented for the Senate Armed Services Committee has not yet begun writing its own version of the bill.

Source: Several

## The Goat Locker



### The Chief Petty Officer's Prayer

Dear Lord...

So far today, God, I have lived my life as you would intend.

I haven't lost my temper.

So far I have not even grabbed the Chief's Mess Cook by the throat, like yesterday.

I have said nothing insulting or humiliating to any of the junior officers.

I haven't bitched about the coffee, the ship's schedule, the watch bill or Saturday's Personnel Inspection.

I have told no lies...

I have not cheated at poker.

I have put no ship's tools in my personal toolbox.

In short God, I believe that so far today I have committed no grievous sins.

Thank you, God, for helping me to stay righteous so far.

But Lord, it's almost 0600 and in a little while I'm going to roll out of my bunk, and after that

I think I will need a lot more help.

Amen.

### From the Webmaster

The Photo Memories page is growing. Keep sending your pictures and captions will be added if they are included. A new page has been added to the site. The Video page at present has one link to the decommissioning ceremony. More to be added as they are developed. The reunion page has updates and current information. More will be added as the reunion approaches. [www.ussberkeley.com](http://www.ussberkeley.com)

### 'DON'T ASK, DON'T TELL'

This policy has existed in our armed forces since the Clinton administration. A policy that banned gay people from serving openly in the military. Congress repealed the policy this past December. On July 4th the Pentagon, in compliance with a U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals injunction, instructed the military to stop removing personnel who are gay from the service. The services must also begin accepting applications from homosexual recruits who are otherwise qualified to serve.

In anticipation of this ruling the services have been conducting extensive training with the troops to accept the new policy.

## Just another watch in the Radio Shack

I just got here to relieve the watch, nothing is happening, at least not much.

The man at the desk passed me the word, so listen my friends, here's what I heard: "The broadcast is good, all circuits are up, the coffee is fresh, pour yourself a cup.

All traffic is out, there's nothing to send, we've got the beach fivers; got a cigarette to lend?

Your freqs are all solid, no gear has gone sour, we haven't changed anything for over an hour.

The Bridge has been quiet, and COMBAT's asleep, the phones have been silent, nary a peep.

The log's up to date, the filing is done, so I'll see you later, and hope you have fun"

And with those fine words he did depart, leaving the watch with a very good start.

A few minutes have passed, or so it seems, when in walks the OPS boss with my first two routines.

"They have to go quick, I drafted them late, so treat them as Oboe's, they just can't wait.

Yes sir, I replied, we'll get right on them, I don't believe we'll have any problem.

I logged them in and said to the tape man, do a good job; go as fast as you can.

He said that he would and as I flicked an ash, the broadcast operator yelled "here comes a FLASH!"

Route it to COMBAT, the Bridge and to OPS, and hurry back, make no other stops.

He grabbed it and ran, wasting no time, and then the phone rang, it was the XO on the line.

"Got another down here, can you come get it?"

Yes sir I replied, be there in a minute. To the wardroom I went for an Oboe no doubt, and when I returned the broadcast was out.

Proofed all the outgoing, and got them released, XO had another, it was really a beast.

Twenty addee's; can't find half the routers, then in walks the SUPPO with four more outers.

"When they'll go out I can't really tell, cause right now sir, we're busy as hell.

Send those four out and please make it quick, I said to the Ship/Shore Op, who was getting sea sick.

But he replied that there'd be a delay, for the beach had just gone down for the new day.

I wondered what else could possibly go wrong, but lucky for me we didn't wait long.

For the next event in this strange episode, came when those glorious "Snipes" dropped the load.

We lost a 32, a seven and a nine, oh, why does this happen to me all the time?

I called the ET's and let out a yelp, "My gear's burning up; I'm gonna need help!"

The Bridge called in, said their circuits were down, "We're doing our best" I replied with a frown.

Then COMBAT called to tell me the same, MY GOD! I think I'm going insane.

We brought all circuits up, with maximum power, OH! Just remembered.

Ain't checked my basket in over an hour.

Phones ringing again, the XO no doubt, he wants to know if the traffic's gone out.

OPS boss called, he's got two more, and some fool is banging on the door.

Broadcast is back, but getting tough, we just hit a storm, the seas are getting rough.

Chief came in, wants to see the Pub Check-off List.

I told him that during the outage twenty numbers were missed.

Things are falling all over the deck, and that fool is still banging on the

door.

I pleaded and begged, "Please cut me some slack," ooh boy! I wish I was still in my rack.

My outgoing backlog now tallies eleven, but the tape cutter has only done seven.

My incomings now number thirty-two, boy! This place is just like a zoo.

Got six more Oboes to run around, and the seas are really beginning to pound. The storm outside must really be mean, cause my Ship/Shore operator is turning green.

Then all of a sudden the storm had passed, and we got the beach on Ship/Shore at last.

The broadcast is now holding in tight, everything's beginning to look all right.

Cleaned all the traffic and cleaned up the floor, even got around to answering the door.

Service came in with all the numbers we missed, and I finally signed off the ol' Pub Check List.

Slotted all traffic and routed the boards too, and hey! Believe it or not we're QRU.

My relief just come in to relieve the watch, now nothing is happening, at least not much.

Sitting at the desk I passed him the word, so listen now friend, here's what he heard: "The broadcast is good, all circuits are up, the coffee is fresh, pour yourself a cup.

All traffic is out, there's nothing to send,

we've got the beach fivers, got a cigarette to lend?

Your freqs are all solid, no gear has gone sour, we haven't changed anything for over an hour.

The Bridge has been quiet and COMBAT's asleep, the phones have been silent, nary a peep.

The log's up to date, all filing is done, so I'll see you later, and I hope you have fun.



AN/UGC-38

This teletype, also known as the "Mite", had a history of poor performance. On Berkeley our two Mites were casrep't for most of the 1967 deployment due to lack of parts availability.