



THE BRIGHT PENNY

April - June 2012

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

San Diego's Naval History

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San Diego has been a very important location for the U.S. Navy because of its' location on the Pacific and proximity to Latin America and Pacific Rim countries. The Navy has several facilities in the San Diego area including the Naval Air Station North Island, a base on Coronado Island, a submarine base at Point Loma, the Thirty-Second Street Naval Station, and the Naval Station San Diego which is the home port for more than two-thirds of the Pacific Fleet. San Diego was also a naval training center from 1923 through 1997.



The Naval Air Station North Island is the site that was the birthplace of naval aviation. The base on Coronado Island includes amphibious operations, the Silver Strand training complex, and a naval air base. The Point Loma submarine base is home to the most technologically advanced warfare submarines in the world. The Thirty-Second Street Naval Station has operated as a Destroyer base for the Pacific Fleet, and was under the command of Admiral Nimitz in the 1930's.

The Space and Naval Warfare Systems Center San Diego is one

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Originally from St. Joseph, Missouri, Jerry Armstrong enlisted in the Navy one week after graduating from high school in 1948. Upon completion of boot camp in San Diego, he attended submarine school in New London, Connecticut. His first submarine duty was the USS SEA DOG (SS-401) operating out of Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. While attached to SEA DOG Jerry was sent to Class "A" Sonar School in San Diego. Shortly after returning to SEA DOG her home port was changed to Norfolk, VA.

In 1950 he was transferred to the USS SEA LION (SSP-315), a troop carrying submarine and served aboard until the spring 1953. At that time Petty Officer Armstrong volunteered and was selected for training as a crewmember for the USS NAUTILUS (SSN-571). His nuclear power training took place at facilities in Pennsylvania and Idaho. He reported to the NAUTILUS PreCom detail in New London in January 1954 and served aboard NAUTILUS until late 1957. At that time he was transferred to Training Command Pacific at Long Beach, California.

In 1962 Chief Sonarman Armstrong was selected for an Limited Duty Officer (LDO) commission. Following OCS in Newport, Rhode Island Ensign Armstrong was assigned to the USS BERKELEY (DDG-15) pre-commissioning crew in Philadelphia, PA. He served aboard as ASW Officer until 1965. "Serving aboard BERKELEY was a vivid learning experience. CDR W.E. Harper as C.O. was a hard task master, but a great ship handler and teacher. Because of his demand for perfection, BERKELEY was the only missile ship in WestPac with an operational system that could

In the Spotlight



LT Jerry Armstrong

occupy the Positive Identification Radar Advisory Zone (PIRAZ) Station. As such her first deployment was extended from six to nine months."

Transfer orders sent LTJG Armstrong to the pre-com crew of the USS WAINWRIGHT (DLG-28) at Boston, MA. Serving as the Sonar Maintenance Officer, he made his second WestPac deployment to the Tonkin Gulf.

In 1967 LT Armstrong began a three year tour in Rota Spain as the Officer in Charge of the Rota Armed Forces Courier Station. In 1971 he transferred to Commander Ocean Systems Atlantic in Norfolk, Virginia and retired in 1974 after 26 years of naval service.

USS BERKELEY ASSOCIATION

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

E Mail: ddg15@ussberkeley.com

Website: www.USSBerkeley.com

Annual Dues: \$20.00

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Al Meier

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of the most advanced weapons systems centers in the country where they research, develop and test control and communications systems to meet the Navy's information technology needs. This base employs over 3,400 civilian and military personnel.

Another naval facility is the Naval Medical Center San Diego located next to Balboa Park. This is a technologically advanced medical treatment facility that has been in existence since 1917 when it started as a tent dispensary. It is now a high-tech modern facility dedicated to providing the finest medical care.

San Diego was also the second and last home port for the USS Berkeley. The Berkeley moved to its' new home port of San Diego in early 1974 after an extensive overhaul in Bremerton, WA. San Diego was also the site of Berkeley's decommissioning ceremony on September 30, 1992.

The Berkeley and many of its' crew members have historical ties to the city of San Diego, and our September reunion will provide an opportunity to reflect back on those good old days. What better location to celebrate our naval history and the Berkeley's 50th Anniversary!

Save the USS Charles F. Adams Update

The effort to bring the Charles F. Adams back to Jacksonville is closer to becoming a reality according to the Jacksonville Historic Naval Ship Association (JHNSA). JHNSA gained considerable momentum in 2011 with events such as a successful golf fundraiser in April and a spectacular Gala in October which was attended by Florida Governor Rick Scott. The effort has gained unanimous support from the Jacksonville City Council and numerous other organizations.

The ship is currently in the Philadelphia Naval Shipyard, and JHNSA visited multiple times in 2011 and noted that the ship is in great condition. They are continuing to transfer equipment in preparation for the ship's towing to Jacksonville in the near future.

JHNSA is currently focused on fundraising, and have raised approximately \$5 million in-kind. They are a quarter of the way toward raising the \$250,000 to hire a permanent fund-raising staff and complete the environmental permitting by this coming fall.

The Adams Class Visitor Center at the Jacksonville Landing has received additional artifacts for the historic class of naval warships. The main donor is the ex-USS Lawrence (DDG-4). Included in the new artifacts are a NC-2 Plotter, a Dead-Reckoning Tracer (DRT), two AN/SPA-66 radar repeaters, a UQN-1 Fathometer and Loran Navigation equipment.

JHNSA will be holding its' next major event October 12 and 13, 2012 in Jacksonville, FL. More information regarding this event will be posted at the JHNSA and ACVA web sites when it becomes available.

**Berkeley History
April**

50 Years Ago, 1962

Berkeley is in Pre-comm status. Prospective C.O. is CDR Wyatt E. Harper Jr.

40 Years Ago, 1972

01-09 Inport Long Beach; 10-15 Enroute Pearl Harbor; 16 Inport Pearl Harbor; 17-24 Enroute Guam; 23 In chop 7th Fleet; 25 Inport Guam – fuel stop; 26-28 Enroute Subic Bay, R.P.I.; 29-31 Inport Subic Bay

30 Years ago, 1982

Berkeley spent April, and most of 1982, in the Long Beach Naval Shipyard. During regular overhaul, the Berkeley had attention focused on the main engineering spaces and combat system. Perhaps the most important of the enhancements was the addition of the Harpoon Weapon System.

20 Years Ago, 1992

In April 1992 the Berkeley crew was training members of the Hellenic Navy for the planned transfer of the ship to Greece in September.

2012 San Diego Reunion Update

Our San Diego reunion is less than six months off, and it's time to make your reservations for what should be our biggest and best reunion to date. The cost for the banquet and other hotel events is \$80 per person. The cost for our three available tours (tour of an active Navy DDG or other destroyer, the USS Midway tour and a Petco Park tour) along with a description will be available at the web site by the end of April.

Please complete the Reunion Confirmation form that is available at the web site, and also on the back page of this newsletter. Submit your payment to Gerry Hansen at 6318 S. 20th Street, Milwaukee, WI 53221. Please make checks and money orders payable to the USS Berkeley Association. Payment for the reunion and tours is due no later than August 17th, but make your hotel reservations now as the number of rooms at our reunion rate are limited.

Remember that room rates are available for two days prior to and two days after our reunion dates. Please call 619-291-6700 and mention the USS Berkeley reunion when making your reservations. The Hilton Hotel has provided us a Personalized Group Page which can be accessed via a link available at the Berkeley web site. This link is in the Reunion Info sector of the web site under Next Reunion in San Diego. This link is available 24/7 and provides our guests important info such as dates, room rates, directions, etc. You can also book a room through this link.

A Plan of the Day for our reunion dates will soon be available at the web site and will be posted in the Hospitality Suite. Our Hospitality Suite is the perfect place to meet up with other attendees, see our Berkeley history (cruise books, etc.), and shop at the Ship's Store. The Hospitality Suite hours will be posted at the web site soon.



Chaplain's Corner

By: Chaplain Bill Perry

As we think of the Resurrection morning this year, I would like for you to just let your minds go and just imagine that it is not quite daylight yet, and maybe even a light mist hanging over the country side just outside of Jerusalem, and now we get a glimpse of three women full of sorrow, and pain. These three ladies are; Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and another woman by the name of Salome. As they start for the tomb they are being followed by other women with their arms loaded with spices and cloths. They are sad, but you can see that they are on a mission. They are heading to the tomb where Jesus had been buried that previous Friday, just before the Sabbath. Now they are wanting to prepare His body more completely for burial, as the custom was in that day. So, they come to the tomb, and, what is this! They find the tomb empty. They stare in disbelief, as they find that the stone that had covered the entranceway has been rolled away from the mouth of the tomb. The tomb was open. And, it's about here that Mary Magdalene takes off to tell the disciples. Meanwhile, Mary the mother of James continues on toward the tomb, and as she gets close to the tomb she sees the angel of the Lord.

When Mary returns to tell the disciples what she saw, she finds disciples who had been disappointed, and hurt. They were tired and felt betrayed. We should not be surprised by this, because we know that in every death there is a loss, and a loss always brings with it pain. We should know that the pain caused by any death is in fact the price we pay for loving someone. We have all lost loved ones. We know what that loss feels like; we know. In this world, death comes to the ones we love and others we know. Death comes to each one of us. Death is very ugly, and it can be dreadfully painful; it hurts.

Now, it's about here that we need a little good news, and I just happen to have some. It's wonderful news! The news is, the death of Jesus was interrupted by a resurrection. That is GOOD NEWS! Jesus came back on that third day and He presented Himself alive to the disciples. So they, and we also, would know for a fact that He had abolished death. Romans 6:9 says, "For we know that since Christ was raised from the dead, He cannot die again; death no longer has mastery over Him." "He is not here, He is risen!!" He is ALIVE! Jesus abolished death by winning the victory over it, not just for Him, but for us also. Jesus abolished death, made it thoroughly inactive.

What does this mean for us today that Jesus abolished death? It means "because He lived, we who know Him will live also. Death no longer has a hold over us, and praise God, He is risen! He's Alive!!

REUNION REGISTRATION FORM

San Diego, CA

Wednesday, September 19 – Sunday, September 23, 2012

Names of Attendees _____

eMail Address or Phone Number _____

Will you be staying at the Hilton Harbor Island? Yes () No ()

Events you plan to attend: **Bull Session (Thursday evening 9/20)** _____

Welcome Reception (Friday evening 9/21) _____

Business Meeting (Saturday morning 9/22) _____

Banquet (Saturday evening 5:00 – 11:00 p.m.) _____

Banquet Dinner Entrée Selection

Grilled Angus Flat Iron Steak _____

Grilled Salmon _____

Vegetarian Option _____

*The above entrée selections are served with Garlic Mashed Potatoes and Fresh Seasonal Vegetables.

Notes:

If you are planning to bring photos, film, or other form of media, please let us know. Send us an email via the Director e-mail option at the bottom of the Home page of the USS Berkeley web site.

Room Reservations at the Hilton Airport/Harbor Island must be made through the hotel. Please give them a call at 619-291-6700, and be sure to let them know you are with the USS Berkeley group.

Tour reservations can be made through the web site (click on the Reunions tab), and a registration form will be included in the July 2012 Bright Penny Newsletter.