



# THE BRIGHT PENNY

January - March 2012

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

## HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Hope all of you enjoyed a happy Holiday Season, and we wish you a healthy and happy 2012. This year will be golden when we think about our beloved USS Berkeley, which was commissioned in 1962.



No doubt, for most of us it is hard to believe that so many years have gone by. We hope that most of you will be able to join former shipmates for our next reunion in San Diego next September when we celebrate this occasion.

This year will also be a year of change as Jim Barrett will be leaving his roles of webmaster and newsletter editor. We are very appreciative of all Jim has done since he founded the Association in the 1990's. Both of Jim's former positions need to be filled, and if you are interested in assisting the Association in either position, please contact Al Meier. Let's get some new people involved in the Association!

An area I'd like to focus on for 2012 is the expansion of our Bright Penny quarterly newsletters, and a new editor and/or assistant editor would be extremely helpful in making this a reality. Also, if we have any writers or columnists out there, please consider providing articles for our newsletters. We can also include your Berkeley memories in a new column (possibly called Sea Stories or Reflections), just send an email with your input.

The Association has continued its' slow growth over the past several seasons, and we now have 1,146 names on our master roster. We are also experiencing a very strong 2012 membership renewal through December. If you haven't renewed your membership, or become a first-time member, please consider doing so now. Paid memberships fund our Association's web site and projects such as scanning

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Chief Yeoman John E. Cooke enlisted in the Navy on October 31, 1961 and reported to the Recruit Training Center at Great Lakes, Illinois. Prior to graduation from recruit training he was selected, along with approximately 100 other naval personnel, for a study involving living in a bomb shelter at the Bethesda Naval Hospital. Following this assignment he reported to his first duty station as an Airman Apprentice at the Fleet Electronic Training Unit, Atlantic, Naval Air Station, Norfolk, Virginia. While there he was selected for training where he was taught the basic skills of a yeoman.

John next reported to Helicopter Antisubmarine Squadron Three (HS-3) at Naval Air Station, Norfolk in June 1964 where he was assigned to the Administrative Office. He made one Mediterranean cruise and one manned Gemini capsule pick up in the Caribbean while his squadron was attached to the USS Intrepid (CVS-11). He reenlisted and was sent to YN "B" School at the Naval Training Center, Bainbridge, Maryland.

In 1965 John reported to the Chief of Naval Advisory Group, Vietnam where he was further assigned to the Combat Operations Center on the staff of the Commander, U.S. Military Assistance Command Vietnam, Saigon, Vietnam.

In December 1966 he reported to the Naval Air Facility, Johnsville, Pennsylvania. After two years, he was transferred to the Naval Training Center, Orlando, Florida where he worked in the Recruit Records Section.

In 1971 he reported for duty to the Navy Section, U. S. Military Training Mission to Saudi Arabia at Dhahran, Saudi Arabia. He was one of two enlisted members assigned to the Navy Section.

In 1972 John attended YN "C" School at the Naval Training Center in Bainbridge, Maryland. After completion he was assigned as a Flag Writer to the Naval Inspector General in Washington, D.C. Again, John was one of two enlisted members assigned to the staff. John was promoted to Chief Yeoman during this tour of duty.

In 1974 he reported to the staff of

### In the Spotlight



**YNCSW John E. Cooke**

Commander, Naval Air Training Command, Corpus Christi, Texas where he was assigned as the Flag Writer.

In December 1975 John reported to the USS Berkeley and assigned as the Ship's Secretary and Leading Yeoman. He made one WESTPAC cruise during this tour of duty and many other at sea periods. While in WESTPAC he enjoyed being a part of the Berkeley softball team, which played against a Chinese team while in Hong Kong. During the time Berkeley was in the shipyard at Bremerton John coached the Berkeley basketball team to the shipyard championship. The team went on to compete in the Naval District basketball championship in Seattle.

In December 1978 he reported to the Commander in Chief, U. S. Pacific Fleet at Pearl Harbor where he worked in the Fleet Comptroller's Office.

In 1980 he reported to Commander Cruiser Destroyer Group Two, Charleston, South Carolina as the Flag Writer. He began a Mediterranean cruise in January 1981 and was notified in April that his wife Connie had taken seriously ill. John went home on emergency leave and Connie

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Annual Dues: \$20.00

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Asst. Director: Dale Johnson

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Treasurer: Gerald Hansen

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South Central: Don Carson

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Southwest: Dr. William Perry

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Webmaster: Jim Barrett

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Al Meier

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cruise books for inclusion on the web site, and reproducing ship's logs for the Ship's Store, etc. We will be looking for some new projects to work on soon. Any suggestions?

If you aren't sure about the accuracy of your roster information, or aren't on our master roster, please provide the required information through the "Quarterdeck" page on the web site. Your contact information is not displayed on the web site's master roster, but is available to all current paid members through an annual master roster mailing. Copies of the master roster will be sent in the April 2012 time frame.

Smooth sailing until next time!

**2012 Is Golden!**

**Reunion Update**

Planning for our 2012 San Diego reunion is picking up momentum, and activities for this Golden Anniversary reunion will commence on Wednesday evening September 19<sup>th</sup>. Our main events begin Thursday with a DDG tour and the evening Bull Session, and Friday will be a day for touring the USS Midway and our evening Welcome Reception. Saturday morning begins with our Business Meeting followed by a 1971-72 USS Berkeley Ops presentation, and Saturday evening is our feature event,

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**YNC John E. Cooke**

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passed away within a week from her illness. John earned his Enlisted Surface Warfare Specialist (ESWS) designation during this assignment.

In July 1981 he reported to the Navy Recruiting District, Columbus, Ohio on a humanitarian assignment where he served as the Administrative Officer. Chief Yeoman Cooke retired from active duty on December 31, 1983.

In 1984 he went to work as the Administrative Secretary to the Clerk, U. S. Bankruptcy Court, Southern District of Ohio, located in Columbus. He was later promoted to the position of Personnel Specialist. In 1992 he was transferred to the Dayton office of the Court. John retired from the Court at the end of June 2005 after over 21 years of service. John and his wife Beverly currently live at Choctaw Lake near London, Ohio.



**From the  
Quarterdeck  
By**

*CDR Jim Barrett (Ret)*



**Time to Move On**

Among the many ships I served on during my 30 years of service, the USS Berkeley certainly stands out as among my fondest. It is the ship where I made the transition from fourteen years of enlisted service, leaving as a Senior Chief Petty Officer and beginning a new service as a brand new Ensign. As a junior officer during my 27 months on Berkeley I was well groomed for the many assignments that followed.

After my retirement in 1982 I often looked back on my career and took note of my history of keeping track of former shipmates. In 1983 I decided to see if I could pull together the former officers I served with on Berkeley. By 1985 I had located eighteen members of the wardroom and then put together a reunion in conjunction with the ship's current wardroom, which was held in San Diego. It was a huge success and allowed time for all of us to once again walk the decks of our ship.

For the years that followed it was mostly conducting research in locating former crewmembers. The tools available at that time were primitive compared with what we have today. But, with the help of former officers and the Naval Records Center in New Orleans, a database was beginning to develop. When the Navy announced that the Berkeley would be decommissioned and transferred to the Hellenic Navy in 1992, I determined this would be an appropriate time to once again bring the crew together, and we did. It was a grand event hosted by the ship and at the conclusion many approached me and said, "We've got to do this again." So, that was the beginning of many more reunions and where we are today; from eighteen former members to over one thousand now on file.

Some of you may recall that back in 2000 I passed on the directorship of the Association to Ray Bartlett, but continued to publish our newsletter. In 2004 I then passed on that responsibility, also to Ray. The following year Ray passed away and I was asked by Lou Clark rescue the newsletter and Web site while he was getting up to speed as the new director. It is now six years later and time for me to move on. Al Meier and his staff are doing a superb job managing the Association and it is comforting to know that we are in good hands.

Al is now seeking out individuals to take over the newsletter and Web site. This is my last newsletter and it has been a pleasure writing and publishing articles over the years. Now is the time to bring in younger people with the necessary energy to keep these two positions in motion. Thank you for all of your support for the past 27 years. *Jim Barrett*

**Berkeley History  
January**

**50 Years Ago, 1962**

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

**40 Years Ago, 1972**

**01-02**, Inport Long Beach; **03-07**, Independent ship exercises at Pacific Missile Range; **08-31**, Inport Long Beach.

CDR Jerry A. Dickman is C.O.

**30 Years Ago, 1982**

**15-18**, Visit ship Broadway Pier San Diego; **18**, Underway SoCal OpArea Dependents Cruise; **19-20**, Underway ISE SoCal OpArea gunshoot; **21-22**, Underway transit to San Francisco; **23-25**, Inport San Francisco visit ship; **26-29**, Underway ISE and transit to San Diego; **30-31**, Inport San Diego.

CDR Joseph L. Lockett III is C.O.

**20 Years Ago, 1992**

**Jan 11**, Final Dependent's Cruise off San Diego. Inport San Diego for training of the crew of the Hellenic Navy in preparation for the transfer of the ship to Greece in September.

CDR Fred J. Mallgrave III is C.O.

**10 Years Ago, 2002**

Ex-Berkeley in service with the Hellenic Navy of Greece. In February 2002 H.S. Themistokles was decommissioned after nearly 40 years of commissioned service.

**Web site Visits**

On 5 January 2011 the 50,000th visitor viewed our Web site.

## Reunion Update

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the Banquet. There will also be a Ladies Event providing a good opportunity to meet the other ladies. The day and details for this event are not yet available. Please check the web site for the complete schedule of events, and the latest reunion information.

The Thursday night Bull Session is a perfect opportunity to share stories, photos & videos, etc. We will have video equipment available for sharing your memories. Just let us know what your equipment needs are. This event will be in the Hospitality Suite, and snacks and beverages will be available for all.

The reunion cost will be available by late January, and will be posted at the web site. If you don't have internet access, call Al Meier at 408-656-3879 after January 30th for pricing information. Reservations at the Hilton Harbor Island can be made now, and up until August 19<sup>th</sup> at our discounted rate. Remember the discount rate is available to you for up to 2 days before or after our reunion dates. Call 619-291-6700 to make reservations, and identify yourself as a Berkeley reunion attendee. Also visit the Berkeley web site to access the "USS Berkeley Hilton Hotel" web link to register on line and to find hotel information.

We would like to add another activity or two to our itinerary, and would greatly appreciate any suggestions you may have. Many of our members have attended other ships' reunions, and if there is an activity you enjoyed, please tell us about it. Suggestions can be sent to [ddg15@ussberkeley.com](mailto:ddg15@ussberkeley.com).

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## Sea Tales

There's an old sea story about a ship's Captain who inspected his sailors, and afterward told the first mate that his men smelled bad. The Captain suggested perhaps it would help if the sailors would change underwear occasionally.

The first mate responded, "Aye, aye sir, I'll see to it immediately!" The first mate went straight to the sailors berth deck and announced, "The Captain thinks you guys smell bad and wants you to change your underwear."

He continued, "Pittman, you change with Jones, McCarthy, you change with Witkowski, and Brown, you change with Schultz."



Chaplain's Corner  
By Chaplain Bill Perry

Remembering December 7<sup>th</sup> with a poem worth reading  
Author unknown

*He was getting old and paunchy and his hair was falling fast,  
And he sat around the Legion, telling stories of the past,  
Of a war that he once fought in and the deeds that he had done,  
In his exploits with his buddies; They were heroes, every one.*

*And 'tho sometimes to his neighbors His tales became a joke,  
All his buddies listened quietly for they knew where of he spoke.  
But we'll hear his tales no longer, for ol' Joe has passed away,  
And the world's a little poorer For a Soldier died today.*

*He won't be mourned by many, just his children and his wife.  
For he lived an ordinary, very quiet sort of life.  
He held a job and raised a family, going quietly on his way;  
And the world won't note his passing, 'tho a Soldier died today.*

*When politicians leave this earth, their bodies lie in state,  
While thousands note their passing, and proclaim that they were great.  
Papers tell of their life stories from the time that they were young  
But the passing of a Soldier goes unnoticed, and unsung.*

*Is the greatest contribution to the welfare of our land,  
Some jerk who breaks his promise and cons his fellow man?  
Or the ordinary fellow who in times of war and strife,  
Goes off to serve his country and offers up his life?*

*The politician's stipend and the style in which he lives,  
Are often disproportionate, to the service that he gives.  
While the ordinary Soldier, who offered up his all,  
Is paid off with a medal and perhaps a pension, small.*

*It is not the politicians with their compromise and ploys,  
Who won for us the freedom that our country now enjoys.  
Should you find yourself in danger, with your enemies at hand,  
Would you really want some cop-out, with his ever waffling stand?  
Or would you want a Soldier--His home, his country, his kin,  
Just a common Soldier, Who would fight until the end?*

*He was just a common Soldier, and his ranks are growing thin,  
But his presence should remind us we may need his likes again.  
For when countries are in conflict, we find the Soldier's part  
Is to clean up all the troubles that the politicians start.*

*If we cannot do him honor while he's here to hear the praise,  
Then at least let's give him homage at the ending of his days.  
Perhaps just a simple headline In the paper that might say:  
"OUR COUNTRY IS IN MOURNING, A SOLDIER DIED TODAY."*

**WE ASK THAT YOU KEEP OUR MILITARY IN YOUR PRAYERS.**

## The Goat Locker



### Following Are The Commandments of the C.P.O. Club\*

In order that we may have a club in which to entertain guests, superior officers and where we ourselves as C.P.O.'s may fraternize with pride and pleasure, these items are necessary.

All members must bear in mind that they are responsible for their guests conduct.

As in far lands we must roam,  
Let us make this club our home.

From whose tongue foul words have slipped,  
From his roll, 6 pence is clipped.

He whose head on the table doth lay,  
In sleep or drink, 2 and 6 will pay.

To all those who wish to dance,  
Be sure and give these lines a glance;  
Upon your head no hat must rest,  
While tripping with a lovely guest.

Nor shall two men together prance,  
Six pence you'll pay for each offense.

Speak not, seek not, nor molest,  
The gal that is another's guest.

Permission asked is consent gained,  
But ask it not and you'll be pained,  
To pay a fine for nothing gained.

Those to nuisance do incline,  
Upon their head, will fall a fine.

When your conduct isn't right,  
The governors will judge your plight.

**These Commandments are in effect at all times.**

\*The above commandments are from my father's collections; SFC James E. Barrett, (Chief Shipfitter) USN, 1942, Londonderry, Northern Ireland.

*Jim Barrett*

## Ship's Store

By Gerry Hansen

**Ship's Logs:** We now have a complete collection of the ship's deployment logs from the Vietnam era. Inclusive dates are from date of departure and return to the U.S. You can revisit general quarters and other activity on the gun line, visits to Hong Kong and other ports. The logs provide an excellent way to recapture day by day events during the deployment. The logs can be ordered via the Ship's Store link on the Web site.

## Locator/Missing – Help us Find

This is the first of a series to locate missing shipmates. The following missing officers are from cruise books and rank shown is for that period.

### 1965-66

Ens. Larry Conger - Admin  
Ens. Dennis - Asst to Ops  
LTjg William Poole - Gun Asst  
LTjg Robert Sigrist - DCA

### 1967

LT D.V. Davenport - ASW  
Ens. R.G. Randolph - Gun Asst  
LTjg Fred Myers - Asst 1st LT

### 1970

LCDR L.E. Wood - X.O.  
LT James L. Jennings - CIC  
LTjg James T. Boston  
LTjg James D. Stults - FCO  
LTjg Robert Russell - Fox Div  
LTjg Patrick Hogan - Supply  
LTjg Tommie D. Hardin - N Div

### 1972

LT Robert Russell - Ops  
LTjg John J. Dibernardo - ASW  
Ens. Gene Kendall - Gun Asst  
Ens. Gregory Carlson - 1st LT

### 1981

CDR Roger Andrews - X.O.  
LCDR Bill Cornett - X.O.  
LCDR A. Wilburn - Weps  
LCDR J. McGillvray - Weps  
LCDR A. Desue - Eng  
LCDR L. Huele - Supply  
LT Bob Swanson - 1st LT  
LTjg T. Tobin - OC Div  
LTjg E. Long - OE Div  
Ens. M. Lentz - Supply

### 1989-90

LCDR Michael L. Dvorsky - X.O.  
LCDR Charles P. Irwin - Combat Sys  
LCDR Fernandez L. Ponds - Eng  
LT Gerald Coleman - Combat Sys  
LT Manuel V. Rodriguez - Supply  
LT Croy - Nav/Admin  
LT Leeney - Nav/Admin  
LTjg Flores - CE Div  
LTjg Luetschwager - CG Div  
LTjg Jackson - M Div  
Ens. Ponce - 1st Div

The above individuals should contact the Association via the Quarterdeck page on the ship's Web site.

## 5th Century B.C.

**Thucydides** "A collision at sea can ruin your entire day."

## Enlisted Specialist

The Enlisted Surface Warfare Specialist Badge (also known as the "ESWS pin") is authorized for wear by an enlisted member of the United States Navy who is permanently stationed aboard a navy afloat command and completes the Enlisted Surface Warfare qualification program and personal qualification standards (PQS). For those who possess "underway rates", that is to say enlisted ratings which may only be assigned onboard underway vessels, the Enlisted Surface Warfare Specialist Badge must be obtained after three years as a Second Class Petty Officer. Those failing to qualify are unable to reenlist in their current rate. On each assignment to a new sea-going command, if Surface Warfare is the sailor's primary community, the sailor must requalify ESWS, though requalification standards are somewhat accelerated, and are often basically refreshers.

An enlisted person who has qualified for his or her ESWS Pin places the designator (SW) after his or her rate and rating; for example, Boatswain's Mate Second Class Jones, having qualified for his ESWS Pin, is identified as BM2(SW) Jones.

Unlike other warfare pins available to both enlisted and officers, the ESWS and SWO (Surface Warfare Officer) pins differ by more than just color (gold for officers and silver for enlisted is a common theme in U.S. Navy uniforms). The blade weapons behind the hull on the SWO pin are swords. The blade weapons on the enlisted pin are cutlasses. This can clearly be seen in the curvature of the blades and the shape of the hand guards. This derives from the sword being a symbol of naval officers and their authority, while cutlasses were traditionally the sidearm of the enlisted men.



Enlisted Surface Warfare Pin



Surface Warfare Officer Pin

Additionally, there are Surface Warfare Pins for Special Ops, Supply Corps, Dental Corps, Medical Corps, Medical Service Corps and Nurses Corps.