



# THE BRIGHT PENNY

April 2014

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

## Getting closer to reunion time!

### Association Update



As we approach late April, reunion planning is a high priority, and we hope to see you in Jacksonville come September. We will be posting additional reunion information on the web site in the coming weeks, and registration and tour reservation forms will be available as well. We request your inputs regarding participation at the different events as well as on the Friday and Saturday tours. This information is very helpful for planning and budgeting purposes, so please take a few moments to visit the web site and fill out the questionnaire under the "Reunion Info" tab.

Master rosters will be sent out to all 2014 dues paying members in late April. Our master roster continues to grow, and now stands at over 1,200 former crew members. If you haven't already done so, it isn't too late to forward your 2014 dues and receive a copy. Our membership is currently below the level we have achieved

in recent reunion years, and we hope to close that gap in the coming weeks.

Our Association has been closely monitoring ACVA (Adams Class Veterans Association) and JHNSA (Jacksonville Historic Naval Ships Association) efforts to get the Charles F. Adams (DDG-2) to Jacksonville as a museum ship. The following information was taken from an ACVA email to its' members. These groups are now approaching completion of the lease agreement with the city for the shipyard pier site. They are currently working to meet two deadlines NAVSEA 21 has established for review of their joint Donation Application to bring the ship to Jacksonville. By the end of this month an update is required and includes 1) the city of Jacksonville's commitment to execute a ten-year lease for the museum site, 2) the engineering and environmental requirements to obtain legal access to the site, 3) the breakdown of all capital costs and documented cost estimates necessary to establish the ship museum at the concrete bulkhead pier, and 4) the documented proof of the financial support to meet all the capital costs just mentioned. All of the

required items are currently being assembled for submission to NAVSEA. In addition, a completely revised Donation Application for the new shipyard site at the old shipyard must be submitted to NAVSEA 21 for review by June 30, 2014. This year will be the last opportunity to make ACVA's many years of work a reality, and all ACVA members are urged to provide donations to this effort. I am sure ACVA would also appreciate any new members who would like to support this effort. There is still a very slight chance that the Adams will be in Jacksonville by the time of our reunion.

In closing, I'd like to encourage everyone, especially those who haven't previously attended a Berkeley reunion, to join us for four days of great fun in Jacksonville. Jacksonville has a proud Navy tradition, and many things to do and see in the area.

### Jacksonville Tours

We are attempting to finalize planning on two tours for the Jacksonville reunion. The first is a guided tour of St. Augustine, the oldest town in the United States.

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**USS BERKELEY ASSOCIATION**

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Membership Committee Chairman: Al Meier  
Regional Chairmen:



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North Central: Larry Norris  
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Newsletter Distribution: To dues current members via

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Our professional tour guide meets the group dressed in period costume. They cover 450 years of colorful history: the Ponce de Leon discovery, the pirate days of Sir Francis Drake, the Spanish and English colonial years, and the Victorian Flagler era. We tour all the major sites and stop at the Castillo de San Marcos, the fort that was never captured in battle. St. Augustine was also the first winter resort for the rich and famous during the Gilded Age. Hear how Henry Flagler built the most opulent hotels of the day and turned the city into the "Newport of the South". The second stop will be the Venetian Renaissance gem of Flagler Memorial Church. Our guide creates an interactive tour atmosphere which is fun for everyone.

This tour will be conducted on a coach and will be a 2-hour tour. Once this memorable tour is complete, our guides will lead you to the historic district and make some lunch recommendations. Then you are on your own for lunch and shopping in St. Augustine's unique historic district.

The tour will depart our hotel at 9:30 AM, and will arrive back at the hotel at 4:00 PM. We will have from 12:15 to 3:00 PM for lunch and shopping. This tour will be on Friday September 26<sup>th</sup> providing we meet our minimum requirement of 30 participants.

The second tour is a Military-Themed tour. Our initial goal is to get a tour of a US Navy ship, and we are hoping to get a DDG if possible. We are attempting to set this tour up for Saturday in a time slot that will allow attendance at the Business Meeting and ACVA/JHNSA presentation and have us back at the hotel in plenty of time to get ready for the Banquet. If we aren't able to secure a ship tour, a NAS (Naval Air Station) tour will be substituted. If neither of our primary choices are available (highly unlikely), the 125<sup>th</sup> Fighter Wing of the Florida NAG (F-15's) and the NAS museum are the other possibilities. Pricing for this tour is yet to be determined, and will be minimal as we need only cover transportation costs.

These two tours will be listed on our web site, and we ask that you sign up for the tours early. That will help ensure your participation and guarantee we have sufficient participation. Reservation forms for the reunion and tours will be available on the web site by the end of April. You can also sign up with a form available in this newsletter.

**Ship's History**  
**April 2014**

**50 Year Ago, 1963**

- 01-17** Task group in areas off Japan which included USS Midway (CVA-41).
- 18-XX** Enroute Hong Kong.
- XX-20** Inport Hong Kong (arrival date not listed).
- 21-26** Enroute Bangkok as temporary Flagship for Commander Seventh Fleet (Vice Admiral Thomas H Moorer) .

**40 Years Ago, 1974**

- 01-30** Refresher training Social Op Area.

**30 Years Ago, 1984**

- 01-06** Inport Subic Bay, R.P.
- 07-15** Enroute North Arabian Sea.
- 16-30** Ops North Arabian Sea

**20 Years Ago, 1994**

In service with the Hellenic Navy of Greece as the H.S. Themistokles.

**ACVA Link**

Learn more about one of our sister associations dedicated to keeping the Adams Class DDGs available for us to visit and to rekindle memories of our days aboard the Berkeley.

**[www.adamsclassddgvets.org](http://www.adamsclassddgvets.org)**

## Navy's Latest Class of Destroyers

On April 12, 2014, the U.S. Navy christened the USS Zumwalt DDG-1000 in Bath, Maine. There is very little similarity with this latest class of destroyer and the Adams class DDG's that we served on. The Zumwalt weighs in at 610 feet long and a 15,000 ton displacement, and will employ a crew of only 158 thanks to computers and automation. By comparison, the USS Berkeley was 437 feet long and had a 4,500 ton displacement, and had a crew of approximately 354. That is 173 feet shorter, and 10,500 tons lighter!

The USS Zumwalt was named after Admiral Elmo R. "Bud" Zumwalt who was the 19<sup>th</sup> Chief of Naval Operations from 1970-74, and is the first of what appears to be a class of three ships. Zumwalt was a veteran of WWII, Korea and Vietnam.

The Zumwalt-Class destroyers will employ a sophisticated technology and multi-mission capabilities. Her power allocation flexibility allows potentially significant power savings and is well suited for future high energy weapons and sensors. Her power plant could power 78,000 homes (about 78 megawatts). Such power could enable the first uses of the Navy's magnetic rail gun project which combines magnetic currents and electric fields to fire projectiles at seven times the speed of sound. This system is scheduled to be tested at sea in 2016. The Ship's weaponry is tailored for land attack

and close-to-coast dominance and its sensor and weapons suite is optimized for littoral warfare and for network-centric warfare.

Zumwalt's tumblehome hull avoids enemy radar while its' composite armor absorbs it. The angular shape of the superstructure and the arrangement of its antennas will make the ship less visible to enemy radars. The enemy will view the Zumwalt as a fishing boat sized contact.

The ship has two advanced gun systems firing long-range rocket-powered projectiles that can reach up to 63 nautical miles, and provide precision high volume fire support to forces ashore. Also, the new Long Range Attack Projectile (LRAP), and DDG-1000 will be armed with tactical tomahawks, standard missile SM-3s, and the evolved SeaSparrow missile. The Zumwalt will deploy both active and passive sensors, and a multi-function radar capable of conducting area air surveillance, including over-land, throughout the extremely difficult and cluttered sea-land interface.

The ship also has space for two medium-lift helicopter systems. The Linux-powered bridge has been referred to as a floating data center akin to the bridge on Star Trek's Starship Enterprise. The ship is expected to join the fleet in 2016.

*Sources for this article were the Associated Press, Wikipedia and [www.navy.mil](http://www.navy.mil).*

## Looking for a Few Good Men

A main feature in our quarterly newsletters has been the "In the Spotlight" articles which provide a brief recap of the naval careers for many of our former shipmates. The first In the Spotlight article appeared in the April 1995 Bright Penny newsletter, and this article has appeared in nearly all of the issues since.

Attempts to line up former Berkeley sailors for recent articles has become a formidable challenge, and we are asking for volunteers to share their stories with us. Your input consists of an article recapping your days in the Navy, in particular your time aboard the Berkeley, and a photo in uniform. We prefer that the photo be from the time you were aboard the Berkeley, but a photo of you in uniform will do.

A draft of your article and the photo should be submitted by the 21<sup>st</sup> of the month preceding the newsletter issue (in March, June, September or December), and the final version by the end of that month.

We urge you to seriously consider sharing your story, and join the ranks of shipmates who have contributed to our newsletter. Simply respond to:

[alphawhiskey.ddg15@yahoo.com](mailto:alphawhiskey.ddg15@yahoo.com),

and let us know what newsletter you would like to contribute to. All future issues, beginning with the July 2014 edition, are available.

# The Bright Penny - April 2014

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## 2014 Jacksonville Reunion Registration Form

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Contact email or phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Reunion                      9/25 – 9/28                      \$80x \_\_\_\_\_ = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Banquet Only                      Saturday 9/27                      \$65x \_\_\_\_\_ = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

I / we intend to attend the following events:

Bull Session (Thursday night) \_\_\_\_\_                      Welcome Reception (Friday night) \_\_\_\_\_

Business Meeting/ACVA & JHNSA Presentation (Saturday morning) \_\_\_\_\_

Ladies Event (ladies only Saturday afternoon) \_\_\_\_\_                      Banquet (Saturday night) \_\_\_\_\_

Payment information is listed at the bottom of this form.

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## 2014 Jacksonville Reunion Tour Order Form

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Contact email or phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Tours:

St. Augustine Historical Tour    Friday                      9/26                      \$65    \_\_\_\_\_ = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Military-Themed Tour                      Saturday                      9/27                      TBD    \_\_\_\_\_ = \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
(US Navy ship or NAS tour)

Total enclosed (check or money order payable to the USS Berkeley Association)                      \$ \_\_\_\_\_

The St. Augustine tour will be conducted by Active Escapes, and includes transportation and a guide. The Jacksonville Tours article in this newsletter provides additional information on the above tours.

Please mail payment to:

USS Berkeley Association  
c/o Gerry Hansen  
6318 S 20<sup>th</sup> Street  
Milwaukee, WI 53221

**All Payments for the reunion and tours must be received by September 5, 2014**