



T H E B R I G H T P E N N Y

June 1998

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

A Great Reunion!

It was a fun weekend in New Orleans despite temperatures in the low to mid 90's and high humidity. The heat did not appear to discourage people from taking advantage of the shopping and nightlife of the city, and the hotel location could not have been better for walking about in the French Quarter. On Friday night nearly all attended the welcome reception and the hospitality room was full of navy atmosphere as old friends met again after many years of absence. The spectrum of attendees ranged from plankowners to decomm members.

The ship's store was open all weekend and sales of ballcaps and other items brought over \$300 into the treasury.

On Saturday night there was a professional photo session before dinner and a memory booklet will be published later and mailed to each attendee. A fine dinner was served and following was the usual recognition of C.O.'s and other people who contributed an effort towards the reunion. Sea stories followed with a lot of laughter from the group. To kick it off the suggested sea story was, "tell your most bazaar quarterdeck watch." Many other bazaar stories were also presented.

A discussion about the next reunion was held and the group unanimously agreed three years between reunions is too long. Therefore, the next reunion will be held in the year 2000 on the West Coast. Several locations were suggested (one member suggested Olongapo) but the final place will be determined later.

On Sunday morning the dining room was filled for a farewell breakfast and the sea stories continued from the night before. By noon everyone had checked out and was heading for home with fond memories as another enjoyable reunion weekend came to a close.

Save the USS Charles F. Adams (DDG-2)

There is an ongoing effort by the Saginaw Valley Naval Ship Museum to save the USS CHARLES F. ADAMS (DDG-2) and bring her to Bay City, Michigan as a museum ship. As most of you know, the museum ships scattered about the country are World War II vintage. Should this effort succeed, ADAMS will be the most modern ship to be added to the naval museum inventory. If you would like more information or wish to send a contribution, contact the SVNSM, 3372 E. Woodland Drive, Bay City, MI 48706-1670. Tel: 517-686-3125. For information on other ADAMS CLASS DDG's, check out the Web page at www.charlesfadamsclass.com. This Web page is updated continuously and the recent changes are impressive.

SKIPPER IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Captain Helmann was born and raised in Montana and graduated from Montana State College in 1960. He entered Officer Candidate School the same year and was commissioned as an Ensign in the USNR in December 1960.

His first duty was aboard USS Farragut (DLG-6) as "odd jobs" officer and later ASW Officer. During this tour he was in Refresher Training in GTMO during the Bay of Pigs, although he did not participate directly in this venture. From Farragut he went to Destroyer School (Class 2) and upon graduation was assigned as Weapons Officer on USS Jonas Ingram (DD-938). Subsequent shipboard tours were all in DDG's: Weapons Officer on USS Waddell (DDG-24), which included eighteen months homeported in Yokosuka, Japan during the Vietnam era; Executive Officer on USS Lynde McCormick (DDG-8); Chief Staff Officer for COMDESRON THIRTEEN (flagship USS Berkeley); and, Commanding Officer of USS Berkeley (DDG-15) from January 1977 to February 1979.

Captain Helmann's shore tours included assignment as a student at the US Naval Post Graduate School receiving a master's degree in operations research and the Command and Staff Course at the Naval War College. He served as a staff analyst for the Director ASW Programs (OP-95) and the Naval Material and Manpower Analysis Center, Pacific and finished his career as the TARTAR Program Manager in the Naval Sea Systems Command. He retired in 1984.



Captain Jack E. Helmann

After retirement he worked for Vitro Corporation in various positions associated with surface to air missile systems and retired from Vitro in 1994, although he still does some consulting work with DoD contractors. Captain Helmann and his wife, Cynthia, currently reside in Pinehurst, North Carolina and his golf handicap is slowly coming down with practice. Captain and Mrs. Helmann have two daughters, Susan Reidy and Kathleen Helmann whom both live in the Washington, DC area.

H.S. THEMISTOKLES DDG-221

May 5, 1998

Dear CDR Barrett,

Sending you the greetings of my crew, I salute you and the members of the USS BERKELEY Association, from the beautiful island of Paros in the sunny Aegean Sea where we are deployed. You should know by now, that in spite of the 36 years marked on HS THEMISTOKLES' hull, she won't stop proudly serving and protecting the rights of free people and integrity of GREECE under high crew morale. Morale which is built thanks to her seaworthiness and battleworthiness.

Since our last contact, with CDR S. Michalaros letter, HS THEMISTOKLES participated in a great number of missions, exercises, patrols and port visits in the Aegean Sea, Eastern Mediterranean and Black Sea, achieving high performance standards. She fired successfully one training ASROC missile and a lot of 5"/54 ammunition with outstanding accuracy. I hope that you will find interesting the attached photos concerning some of the above activities.

The newspaper article you sent regarding the former HS AETOS brought up a lot of good memories from my junior officer days, when she was used as a training ship. I hope that all your efforts to restore her as a World War II naval museum will be rewarding.

I am sorry that my crew and I cannot participate in your reunion activities that will take place in New Orleans this coming June. We wish you the success of your reunion, we hope you'll have a lot of fun remembering USS BERKELEY sea stories and having in mind that our thoughts will be celebrating with you.

It was very interesting reading about your new web site, which I plan to visit soon, because now we will be able to have direct access to all your activities and records, which I am sure will be very exciting.

Ending this letter, I want to point out that I am extremely proud and consider myself lucky, because I will remain CO of HS THEMISTOKLES for one more year. Some of the future ship's assignments will be a short repair period in Souda Naval Base and participation in SNFM (Standing Naval Force Mediterranean).

Finally, I want to thank you for remembering us and communicating with us, making us feel as active USS BERKELEY ASSOCIATION members.

Sincerely,
CDR Vassilios Tsitonakis, HN
CO HS THEMISTOKLES

USS BERKELEY ASSOCIATION
 P.O. Box 700715
 San Jose, California 95170-0715
 408-996-7035
 E Mail: DDGBerk@aol.com
 Editor: Jim Barrett
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BERKELEY HISTORY
JUNE

30 Years Ago

1-2 Inport Long Beach. 3-8 COMPTUEX 10-68. 8-30 Upkeep Long Beach. CDR Thomas M. Ward Jr. is the Commanding Officer.

20 Years Ago

1-4 Inport at Puget Sound Naval Shipyard. 5-8 Underway local ops. 9 Dependents Cruise. 10-12 Inport PSNS. 13 Shift homeport to San Diego, CA: Transit and arrival in Vancouver, B.C. 14 Inport Van-couver. 15-18 Transit to Seal Beach, CA for weapons onload. 19 Inport Seal Beach. 20 Transit/arrival Long Beach Naval Shipyard for sonar test. 21-23 Inport Long Beach. 24-27 Underway SOCAL area for local ops. 28 Arrive in San Diego (new homeport). 29-30 Inport San Diego. CDR Jack E. Helmann is the Commanding Officer.

10 Years Ago

1-6 Inport San Diego. 6-10 Underway SoCal OpArea. 10-15 Inport San Diego. 15-16 Underway SoCal OpArea. 16-30 Inport San Diego. CDR Charles R. Girvin III is the Commanding Officer.

Member News

Capt. Ronald R. Peterman (CO 89-91) has been reassigned as Chief of Staff to Commander, Carrier Group Two.

Since publication of the December 1997 roster the Association has picked up 23 new members.



STG3 Roger & Yvonne Worley, STG2 John & Kathleen Stobaugh



CAPT Tim French, CAPT Bill Fogerty, CTMC Jim Alley & RDSN Donald Thompson



RD3 Robert & Joyce Landis, RD2 Dale & Charlene Johnson



MMCS Duane and Jean LeDoux, BTCS Terry & Ellen Roe



Guido Guerriero, CWO4 John & Janice Dill

Some of the faces in the crowd at Reunion 98



GMM3 Ray & Donna Bartlett, LT John & Susan Pendleton



FCCS Michael & Jean Wallace



BMC Carl & Rita Schroeder



RD3 Al & Tammy Meier, CAPT Jack & Cynthia Helmann



EM1 George & Jean Kohn, MM1 Frank & Ruth Almeida

Other attendees included CDR Jim Barrett, FTG2 George Bullock and guest Bobbi Pogue, RDCM Willie & Eleanora Bulluck, Charles Clark (USS Boston), GMM1 Lou & Pat Clark, LCDR Art Desrosiers, ICC Jean Dimas, STG3 Donald Drew, LCDR Ron & Helen Farris, STG3 David Lee, ICC Dale Nielsen, IC1 Mike Simasko and CWO3 Bill & Mary Vollmar.

■H.S. THEMISTOKLES (DDG-221)



HS THEMISTOKLES ASROC firing.



HS THEMISTOKLES in formation astern HS FORMIAN DDG-220 (ex-Strauss) and HS NEARCHOS DDG-219 (ex-Waddell).

New ballcaps available. Regular \$7.00, with eggs \$9.00. Add \$3.00 for shipping (any quantity). Pmt. to USS Berkeley Assn.

Editor's note: This is the first correspondence received with the ship's name spelled as shown. The current spelling is more in line with proper use of the Greek alphabet. In reference to HS AETOS, the ship is the former USS SLATER (DE-766) which served the Hellenic Navy for many years. Upon acquiring newer U.S. Navy ships, the AETOS was decommissioned. The Destroyer Escort Sailors Association acquired the ship and had her towed to the East Coast. By a stroke of good timing and planning, DESA used the same tow service that towed the ex-Richard E. Byrd (DDG-23) to Greece to bring ex-SLATER back to the U.S. The ship is now in Albany, NY undergoing restoration. The USS SLATER is one of three remaining Destroyer Escorts built during World War II.