



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

December 1999

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

## Reunion response is the best ever!

The initial response has been gratifying and this reunion will be without a doubt the best turnout we've experienced to date. Included with this newsletter is a list of responses to assist you in knowing who will be there. Plans do change so another RSVP card is included with this mailing. If you have already mailed the first one and there are no changes, no further response is necessary. If there is a change, please send an update. Seventy-five rooms have been reserved for this event and hopefully we will need more.

The Gold Coast Hotel has 750 rooms and has provided a firm quote for this occasion and you will find the rates quite reasonable for a year 2000 event. The Sunday through Thursday rate is \$38 per night and Friday through Saturday is \$63 per night, plus room tax of 9%. A Thursday arrival and Sunday departure for two will cost \$179.85 including tax, or an average cost of \$59.95 per night. You can extend your visit at the quoted rates. Additional persons in a room are \$5.00 each per night. The Saturday night banquet dinner is still being negotiated. Plan on approximately \$50 per person.

The hotel has a very large parking lot, both covered and uncovered, and is complimentary. RV parking is included, but no hookup or sleeping in RV's is permitted. In addition to the casinos, other amenities include a 72-lane bowling alley, a 700 seat Bingo parlor (the largest in Las Vegas), five restaurants, heated outdoor swimming pool, two movie theatres and two "live" show lounges. These are just some of the amenities available and more will be listed in the reunion packet to be mailed out later.

The hotel does not provide airport shuttle service, but there are numerous transportation services available at the airport. Commercial shuttles are presently \$6.00 per person, one way. Taxis run \$12-\$16. The hotel is two miles from the airport and one mile from the Las Vegas "Strip". The Gold Coast does provide free shuttle service to and from the Strip. Tours to Lake Mead and Hoover Dam leave from the hotel daily and that information will be available in the packet.

For a tour of Las Vegas visit their Web site at [www.lasvegas24hours.com](http://www.lasvegas24hours.com)

Our reunion announcement has been distributed to all military affiliated magazines. If your local newspaper publishes reunions, please send in the following:

USS Berkeley (DDG-15) Association  
Las Vegas, NV; September 21-24, 2000  
Contact Jim Barrett, P.O. Box 700715  
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Tele: 408-996-7035  
E-mail: [DDGBerk@aol.com](mailto:DDGBerk@aol.com)

## X.O. IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Born and raised in Central Illinois, Captain Art Osborne signed up with the Office of Naval Officer Procurement upon graduation from Illinois State Normal University in 1952. Upon arrival in Newport, Rhode Island, he joined Class 9 in Officer Candidate School, beginning thirty-one and a half years of adventure, occasional boredom and unbelievable excitement as a United States Naval Officer!

Captain Art's first assignment to USS Ammen (DD-527) was a real eye opener! He was First Division Officer, ASW Officer, ASW Weapons Officer, Ship's Training Officer, plus about half a dozen other assorted duties normally assigned to "George." He didn't know the first thing about any of them! But what a way to learn!

Between deployments Art married Pat Meyer, then teaching Physical Education in Des Plaines/Park Ridge, Illinois. She, too, soon found out about the adventure that goes along with being a Navy Wife! But not too busy to raise four children and enjoy five grandchildren. In between her home duties, she was a full-time Navy Wife Volunteer and President of the San Francisco Council of the Navy League, a council with more than 1700 members.

Captain Osborne transferred from the USS Ammen to the U.S. Naval Academy, where he taught Steam to Midshipmen and Pat taught P.E. at Annapolis High. The excitement of the Navy affected them both, and Art shipped over Regular Navy.

MPA in USS Boxer (LPH-4), Aide and Flag Lt. to ComPhibPac, and commissioning Operations Officer in USS Dale (DLG-19) preceded duty as Executive Officer of that great ship USS Berkeley. It was there that Captain Mike Ricinak revealed how a ship should be led! What a great tour....

Command tours for Captain Osborne included USS Bradley (FF-1041) and



**Captain Art M. Osborne**

Destroyer Squadron Nineteen. Ashore he was assigned command of U.S. Naval Station Treasure Island. While in command of Treasure Island, Art was double-hatted as the Senior Naval Representative in the San Francisco Bay Area. It was an opportunity to get involved in the local communities, including working with then Mayor Diane Feinstein to return Fleet Week to San Francisco and to participate in the effort to homeport the Missouri Battle Group in San Francisco.

Following 31 years of active duty, Captain Osborne served as Director of Planning, Engineering, and Maintenance at the Port of San Francisco. Art and Pat are now retired in Coronado, CA. Pat is involved in antiques and Art enjoys golf with the Sea 'n Air Men's Golf Club at Naval Air Station, North Island.

## New guns and ammo

The 5"/54 Mark 42 Mod 10 caliber guns are now history as new models enter the fleet. The large 5" mounts we experienced on the Adams Class DDG's with a crew inside have since vanished. The next generation was a new and smaller 5"/45 MK 45 MOD 2 unmanned mount presently found on the Aegis cruisers and destroyers of the Arleigh Burke Class.

Now, an even newer 5" gun is in development designated as the 5"/62 MK 45 Mod 4 Gun Mount. This gun will not only fire the current inventory of conventional 5" ammo, but also the newly designed EX-171 Extended Range Guided Munition (ERGM) projectiles. The new gun modification includes a new 62-caliber barrel, an Ammunition Recognition System, a Gun/ERGM interface and a new control system.

ERGM is a precision guided, rocket assisted projectile that incorporates a Global Positioning System (GPS) coupled with an Inertial Navigation System (INS) for guidance. The GPS/INS system provides guidance to predetermined, fixed targets at ranges in excess of 60 nautical miles. A less sophisticated type of ammo was used on destroyers during the Vietnam era designated RAP for Rocket Assisted Projectile, but had a much lesser range.

The first of the new guns will be installed in USS WINSTON S. CHURCHILL (DDG-81) which commissions in late 2000 and those to follow through DDG-107. The guns will also be backfit in cruisers as part of the CG Conversion program.

*Late update: Over budget, plagued with technical problems and behind schedule, deployment of the \$44 million project may be delayed until 2004.*

## USS BERKELEY ASSOCIATION

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## BERKELEY HISTORY DECEMBER

### 30 Years Ago

**1-10**, Refresher Training, San Diego. **11-12**, Pacific Missile Range. **13-31**, Leave and upkeep, Long Beach. CDR John F. Frost, III, is the Commanding Officer.

### 20 Years Ago

**1-31**, Underway operations in the Indian Ocean with the USS Kitty Hawk Battle Group. CDR Kenneth R. Sydow is the Commanding Officer.

### 10 Years Ago

**1**, Underway, Subic OpArea. **2-6**, Inport Subic Bay, NGFS Certification. **7-12**, Underway: Battle Group operations. **13**, Freedom of navigation: Kampuchea and Vietnam. **14-18**, Inport Pattaya Beach, Thailand. **19-21**, Enroute to Singapore. **22-27**, Inport, Singapore for Christmas. **28-31**, Underway, enroute to Indian Ocean Operations. CDR Ronald R. Peterman is the Commanding Officer.

### Membership correspondence

Several general correspondence messages are received each month via the Web site Quarterdeck Page. Please use the DDGBerk@aol.com mail box rather than the Web site.



### Sea Tales (The rest of the story) By Scott Wyatt



After we finally took on fuel, the weather lightened up a bit and we were able to hook up with a supply ship, but it was still too fierce for a helicopter.

We were pulling across fresh veggies and fruit when we got a curious call. Apparently the Kitty Hawk had refused their ice cream and the supply ship was asking us if we wanted ice cream. Hell, we hadn't seen so much as an apple or a head of lettuce in a month and they were asking us if we wanted ice cream? Of course we wanted ice cream! Sling after sling of ice cream had come across when the officer in charge finally said, "enough is enough, stop sending us ice cream". The supply ship reconfirmed that we had indeed accepted the Kitty Hawk's ice cream and like a good supply ship, they kept right on sending it. The USS Kitty Hawk had a compliment of 5,000 men and had refused their *entire shipment* of ice cream. We had accepted receipt of the *entire shipment*. We were receiving a shipment of ice cream that was intended for a crew nearly fifteen times our size!

### Merging ratings

Approximately 20 ratings will be merged over the next few years by eliminating some and expanding others. New technology, reduced ship crew size and a shortage of sailors among other considerations are influencing the decisions. Not long ago the BT rate was merged with the MM rate because of the conversion to gas turbine plants.

The Signalman/Quartermaster seesaw is about to happen again. The two rates were merged in 1948, but separated again in 1956. Plans are to merge the two again in 2001.

A similar history exists between the Hull Technicians and Damage Controlman ratings. They were split into two ratings in 1971 and are now under study to combine them once again. The merger would help solve a serious sea-shore imbalance in the two ratings. DC's serve mostly at sea and HT's serve mostly ashore.

The EW rating will be merged into the CTT rate. Both rates have similar missions for intelligence gathering. The EW maintenance responsibilities will be absorbed by the ET's.

On 4 November a CNO message announced that the Radioman (RM) rate would change to Information Systems Technologists (IT) effective immediately.

Chief of Naval Personnel says that "acceleration of new technologies in telecommunications and information systems disciplines revealed the need for a new rating name that best reflects skills and roles of sailors in that rating."

The current RM rating badge will remain the same. Do we still call them "Sparks?" Probably not since CW is no longer a RM/IT requirement.

When it was all over, there was ice cream in the freezers, the reefers, the sinks and the showers. Any place that was either cold, or had some sort of a drain, had one or more five-gallon boxes of ice cream in it.

Then the seas got worse, again. The main deck was secured, again. We were taking water amidships, again. The only way forward or aft was through the mess deck. You could not move through the ship without being handed a Styrofoam cup full of ice cream and a plastic spoon with which to eat it. The showers were not usable until we had eaten all that damn ice cream. You couldn't even shave or brush your teeth. To this day, in public gatherings, I eat ice cream out of sheer politeness. I cannot enjoy it. Even in the Indian Ocean, during monsoon season, the statement "too much of a good thing" still has meaning. I will always hate the Sh...y Kitty for that. *Scott Wyatt served aboard 1981-83.*

**A fresh Sea Tale is needed for the next issue. Put your literary talent together and send an interesting story that you would like to share with the members.**

### Hawaiian Vacation

If you are on active duty, a reservist or retired, one of the best bennies left is the Hale Koa Hotel on the island of Oahu. The hotel is located on the beach at Waikiki on the Fort De Russy complex. You can make reservations up to a year in advance and the daily rates are far less than the local city hotels and are exempt from local taxes. Prices are based on pay grade and the desired view. Eligible personnel may also sponsor guests at their room rate.

The hotel has all the amenities and entertainment you would expect in Hawaii and the dining facilities are quite reasonable. On site is a PX, a car rental agency and the hotel parking lot is across the street. ID card verification controls all activities and events.

*Editor note:* Last July I stayed at the hotel with a moderate view room for \$85 per night based on my grade of O-5. The same room for E-6 to O-3 is \$75 and for E-5 and below it is \$63 per night. Rates may have changed but you can learn more by visiting their Web site at [www.halekoa.com](http://www.halekoa.com) or call 1-800-367-6027.

### Active duty promotions

**Sam Tangredi to Captain** 1 Aug 99. Captain Tangredi is a Senior Military Fellow at the Institute for National Security Studies, National Defense University, Ft. McNair, Washington D.C. (Ops Officer 1988-90).

**Reid Senter to Captain** 1 December 99. Captain Senter is the Dept. Head for Systems Design & Engineering, Space and Warfare Systems Command, San Diego, CA. (X.O., 1991-92).

**David Nosal to Lieutenant Commander** 1 August 99. LCDR Nosal is Executive Officer of the USS Guardian (MCM5) homeported in Sasebo, Japan. (DCA/MPA 1990-92).

**William Parkhurst II to Lieutenant Commander** 1 August 99. LCDR Parkhurst is the Exercise Officer for COMDESRON 50 in Bahrain. (CICO 1989-92).

**Keith Moore, Lieutenant Commander (Selectee).** LT Moore is the Operations Officer of the USS Oldendorf (DD-972), homeported in San Diego, CA.

### Interesting Web sites

If you are a CPO this site is for you.

[www.goatlocker.org/wwwboard/index.htm](http://www.goatlocker.org/wwwboard/index.htm)

**Reunions:** With your browser do a search with **USS Reunion**. It will come up with over 3,500 listings and links to thousands more.

**Ship Photos:** A good source for Navy ship photos: [www.navsources.org/archives/home.html](http://www.navsources.org/archives/home.html).

### Interesting Reading

**Circle William** by Captain Bill Harlow, USN (Ret). A story mixed with suspense and humor about two brothers, one the C.O. of a DDG and the other a White House spokesman. Hardback ISBN 0-684-85039-7. You can review excerpts of the first two chapters at: [www.circlewilliam.com](http://www.circlewilliam.com)