



THE BRIGHT PENNY

October 2006

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

ANOTHER GREAT REUNION!

by Jim Sundahl
Staff Editor

As July came to an end and August rolled in, a bunch of old crewmembers and their families traveled from all over the United States to Seattle to see what each other looked like. Well, let's just say we traveled to Seattle for the fun and joy of meeting with other shipmates for our eighth reunion.

The reunion was a great success in my book, but my book has some torn pages. With the fun starting off with an ice breaker on the first night, then a business meeting the next morning with members meeting again Friday night for another ice breaker. Saturday was Election Day and a festive evening with an almost formal night of memories and old time dancing. Sunday, if you stayed, was the farewell breakfast. Also, for other entertainment it was Sea Fair weekend in Seattle with the Blue Angels in town.

Each day as the reunion peaked and ebbed I got to meet many of the old crew from plank owners to the decommissioning crew. Many do not want to know the before and after facts, but it's strange for me to look in the mirror now along side a picture of me from 1970 when I was in Supply Division. There was a cruise book for the time I was on board and I was able to get copies made of the S-Division of that time. I no longer look like that picture of days of old. I had more hair on my face than I now have on my head.

The elections were held on Saturday and if you were as deaf as I am you got elected to various jobs. For me, I got the job as editor of the Bright Penny. Mind you, I am not complaining for it gives me something to do besides spending nights playing games on the old computer. Or, in this case the shiny new one I bought after telling my dear wife I really needed it to be the editor.

Back to the reunion. Tribute was paid where tribute was due in remembrance of the late Ray Bartlett and to his wife Donna for continuing his work after he passed on. She was voted Lifetime Honorary Director and she will now share this honor with former director CDR Jim Barrett, the founder of the Association.

It was discussed that sections be added to "The Bright Penny" like a section to honor the wives of those that serve as Officers in the Association and shipmate's spouses and partners that put up with them during their time in the Navy. Numerous things were discussed but no one cussed or got upset; one of the nicest meetings I have participated in for any association.

To read the by-laws and minutes you need to go to our Web site at <http://www.ussberkeley.com/> and when they are in place you can make comments to the Director.

It appeared that all enjoyed themselves, for my wife and I surely did. Finally meeting some of the members and their wives is priceless to us. The memories will stay with us till dementia sets in.

Here's hoping everyone can be at the next reunion, wherever it may be. Like many we

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NEW DIRECTOR IN THE SPOTLIGHT

GMM1 Louis Clark was born 14 July 1934 in Cecelia, Kentucky and raised in the City of Louisville. His service career began in 1952 by joining the Marine Corps and serving until his discharge in 1955. In 1957 he decided to return to the military service and he selected the Navy because he already had brothers in the Army, Air Force and Marines.

His first assignment was to the Naval Air Station, Hutchinson, Kansas where he served on the Security Force. The base closed eight months later and he was transferred to his first ship, the USS ROCHESTER (CA-124). He was a member of the 5" gun gang and was promoted to third class.

In 1961 he was transferred to the USS PRESTON (DD-795), which was his first destroyer. He only served on board for a short time when he was transferred to Gunners Mate School at Great Lakes, Illinois. His class was the first to graduate from the MK-13 Missile Launcher course.

In 1962 GMM1 Clark was assigned to the USS BERKELEY while she was undergoing completion at the New York Shipbuilding Corporation in Camden, New Jersey. He became a plankowner when the ship was commissioned on 15 December 1962. Following sea trials the ship sailed to Long Beach, California via the Panama Canal. In 1963 the USS Berkeley became the primary missile firing ship demonstration for President John F. Kennedy. During this tour he made one deployment to the Western Pacific.

His next duty came in January 1965 to the Naval Weapons Station in China Lake, California where he was assigned to the Tarter Missile Program. In 1966 the program was transferred to White Sands, New Mexico and he was reassigned to the Missile Fire Control Program in charge of a MK-10 missile launcher and a 3"50 gun mount.

In January 1968 GMM1 Clark was transferred to the USS SCHOFIELD (DEG-3) as a member of the commissioning crew. While on board he made one deployment to the Western Pacific.

Returning to Great Lakes, Illinois in



GMM1 Louis E. Clark (Ret)

1970, he attended Gunners Mate Class B School. Following graduation in May 1971 he received orders to the USS DECATUR (DDG-31) where he was in charge of the MK-13 Missile Launcher.

Following one year aboard the Decatur he received orders to the Naval Weapons Station at Seal Beach, California with duties working on the Tarter-Terrier Program. In 1974 he returned to sea duty aboard the USS JOHN PAUL JONES (DDG-32) where once again he was in charge of the MK-13 Missile Launcher. In February 1975 he left the John Paul Jones and retired on 28 March 1975 following eighteen years of Naval service and three years in the Marine Corps.

"In 1962 I was invited to attend the Decommissioning Ceremony of the USS Berkeley in San Diego. It was a sad event but I am proud that as a former crewmember and plankowner that I was able to attend this special ceremony. For my civilian life, I was married to my wife, Shirley, for 23 years and we have five children and six grandchildren. Following Shirley's death in 1979 I married Pat in 1983. We live in Long Beach, California where I enjoy working in my shop, cooking, keeping in touch with former shipmates and last, but certainly not least, happy to be our Association's new Director."

From the Director:

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for attending the 2006 reunion in Seattle. Pat and I were pleased to see you. I hope you had a wonderful time the three days that we were together.

Also I want to thank you for the support you gave me by voting me in as the next director of the USS Berkeley Association. I know that I have a big job to do and it will be easier to do knowing I have your support.

I also want to thank Jim Barrett for forming the USS Berkeley Association and the late Ray Bartlett who did a great job while he was the director;

and, I can't forget Donna Bartlett who stepped up to the plate to run the association after the passing of her husband. She did a great job. I tried to help her as much as I could and now I will ask you to help me to make the USS Berkeley Association bigger and better.

I will be meeting with Donna Bartlett on 12 September to complete the transfer of the leadership from Ray to me. Dale Johnson, Assistant Director, may be attending this meeting as well to go over the by-laws and make clarifications in regards to the new staff assignments.

Again, Pat and I thank you very much.
Your new director,

Lou Clark

USS BERKELEY ASSOCIATION

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Biennial Dues: \$20.00
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Asst. Director: Dale Johnson
Secretary: Pat Clark & Tammy Meier
Membership Committee Chairman: Al Meier
Reunion Committee Chairman: Lou Clark
Bright Penny Editor: Jim Sundahl
Ship's Store Manager: Gerald Hansen
Webmaster: Dale Johnson
Newsletter Publisher: Jim Barrett



GMM1 Lou Clark (Ret)

USS New York

The fifth of twelve San Antonio Class ships is the USS New York being built using 24 tons of steel salvaged from the Twin Towers destroyed on 11 September 2001. Designated LPD-21, the keel was laid in 2004 at Northrop Grumman Ships Systems' Shipyard in Avondale, Louisiana with launching scheduled for 2007. The ship's motto is 'Never Forget'.



Reunion Color Guard from University of Washington NROTC



L-R, OC David Camp, OC Joshua Frailey – Group Leader, Sgt Justin Taricani, OC Brendon Tower & OC Jeffery Scheidt. Sergeant in Charge, Gunnery Sergeant Anthony D. Hagman (not shown).

Reunion – From Page 1

have to save up for it and hope the rest of you are able to also. It was a fun and enjoyable reunion. As we put this newsletter to bed and you find it is short of what you need, let me know. My e-mail address is jimsundahl@comcast.net and make sure you put Berkeley in the subject line or you will be vapor in cyber. I get a lot of junk mail.

A message from the Director:

As the new Director of the USS Berkeley Association, I'm very pleased to have been nominated and elected by my former crewmembers at our reunion in Seattle on August 5, 2006.

With the help of the new Association Staff and the members, I will do my best to help build this organization into a bigger and better association for former USS Berkeley crewmembers.

I know I have big shoes to fill (Jim Barrett as founder of our association and Ray Bartlett who did a great job carrying on where Jim left off) and I'll do my best to make everyone just as proud of me as you were of them.

I would now like to introduce the new USS Berkeley Staff:

Assistant Director & Webmaster: Dale Johnson, Indiana.

Secretary: Pat Clark & Tammy Meier, California.

Treasurer: Lou Clark, California.

Membership Committee: Al Meier, California; Don Caron, Texas; Roy Englund, Oregon.

Committee Member: Jerry Scott, South Dakota.

Committee Member: Gerald Hansen, Wisconsin.

Committee Member: Rick Shields, Ohio

Reunion Committee Chairperson: Lou Clark.

Reunion Committee - Boston: Duane Ledoux, Massachusetts.

Reunion Committee – Providence, RI: Alan Johnson, Connecticut.

Baltimore and Philadelphia will be covered by me until I find someone to take it over.

Reunion Location Assistants: Pat Clark, California and Tammy Meier, California.

Bright Penny Newsletter Editor: James (Jim) Sundahl, Oregon.

Bright Penny Newsletter Publisher: Jim Barrett, California.

Ship's Store Manager: Gerald Hansen, Wisconsin.

Berkeley Beauties representative: Pat Clark.

New additions to the newsletter will be a column for our 'Berkeley Beauties', those wonderful wives that have supported us through thick and thin. We will be highlighting one of these 'Beauties' and learning more about her. It will also be a column where Pat can keep in touch with the gals in conjunction with the forthcoming 'USS Berkeley Family Cookbook'. And, for those with a funny bone, an 'On the Lighter Side' humor column where I'm sure we'll read some great sea stories.

Go Navy!

Berkeley Beauties

With a new era beginning for the USS Berkeley Association with the election of a new Director and Staff, I'd like to see the Association encompass the wife or significant other of a member as being just as important a part of this Association's success as is the former crewmember. Many of you have 'lived' the Navy life and been there through the thick and thin of it. Many of you that have come to the past reunions in support of a dues-paying member and we are thankful for your interest in being an active participant of the Berkeley Family. For those gals who haven't been to one of the association's reunions over the past 14 years, I'm Pat Clark, the Association's new Director's wife and I'd like to take this

The Final Chapter on DVD

The original documentary was distributed on VHS several years ago. The new DVD release has been digitally remastered with enhanced color, audio and sharpness.

This is truly something to have to reflect back on your days aboard Berkeley, even though you were not on board during her final year of service. The DVD menu has ten chapters to select for viewing. (1) Portland, Oregon visit with underway scenes from San Diego and some very rough seas enroute; (2) The 50th anniversary commemoration of Pearl Harbor in Portland; (3) The final dependents cruise; (4) Scenes of shipboard spaces; (5) The final drydocking; (6) The decommissioning party and reunion; (7) Decomm/Reunion Ensenada Cruise; (8) Final muster of the crew by the C.O.; (9) Decommissioning Ceremony and Transfer to the Hellenic Navy of Greece and (10) H.S. Themistocles departing San Diego for Greece. The DVD runs 1:58.

You can purchase this DVD through the Ship's Store for \$7.00 plus mailing cost of \$1.50. All proceeds go to the treasury.

Newsletter to be available on the Web site

A new page will be added to the Website for this and future newsletters. It can be downloaded in PDF format and printed if you have Adobe Reader.

To save postage expenses this will be the primary method of delivery for those who have computers. After posting on the Web site an e-mail will be sent to all active members advising of the new issue. For those not on the Internet it will continue to be mailed to active members. Keep your e-mail address current with the Association.

Annual Roster

It is anticipated the next annual roster will be distributed to dues paying members in January 2007. If any of your information has changed send an update to the Association mailbox or e-mail to DDGBerk15@charter.net.

TAPS

FTC Louis Crofoot – 21 January 2005. Chief Crofoot served aboard Berkeley 1964-67.

Binnacle List

YN1 Ben Bess – 13 September. Ben underwent a quadruple bypass live, meaning the surgeon did not stop the heart and he never went on a heart/lung machine. Ben's wife Karen will keep the Association apprised of his recovery. A card was sent from the Association.

Humor in Uniform

I joined the Navy to see the world. Now that I have seen it, how do I get out?



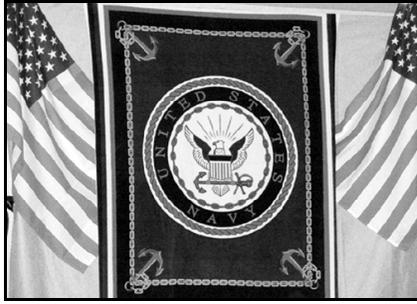
opportunity to express my desire in seeing you at our next reunion to enjoy a few days every couple of years in revisiting those days of the past that are important to these former crew members. I'd like to showcase a member's better half in future issues of the Bright Penny as well. I'm retired from Verizon and enjoy many hobbies and participate in clubs relating to my pastimes. I'm also on the Board of Directors of The Angel Quilt Project which is a group that makes quilts for neo-natal units and children's trauma centers. While I'm at it, I asked many of you at this year's reunion about your interest in participating in a USS Berkeley Family Cookbook and was happy at the response. If you're interested please contact me and I'll tell you all about it and what I'd need from you.

Pat Clark

Reunion Photos



Jean & Duane LeDoux arriving on Amtrak



Pat & Lou Clark conducting Bell Ceremony



Erika, Kim & Michael Stock



Ben Bess, Ed Codispoti & John Fritchey



Jim Barrett presenting Donna Bartlett with a plaque in appreciation for her work and dedication to the Association.



Michael Stock, Al Meier, Alan 'Doc' Johnson, Jim Barrett and Dale Johnson



Donna Bartlett & Color Guard Member



Banquet gathering



Pat Clark, Ron Bravo & Bob McGuire



Donna with son Brent & wife Roxanne and grandson, Jake



Do' in the ol' Chicken Dance



Donna with granddaughter Nicole and son Brent



Seattle Skyline

JOIN US IN 2008



Michael and proud dad Don Thompson



Plankowners: L/R Ben Bess, Ed Codispoti, Harry Kikuyama & Lou Clark. Back row: John Fritchey, Larry Johnson, Thomas Costello, Dale Nielsen & Duane LeDoux



Dale & Charlene Johnson and Al Meier



Business Meeting



Some leisure time in the patio



Jim Sundahl, Lou Clark, Dale Johnson & Jim Barrett



Rick & Verla Shields with Gerry & Francine Hansen



Doreen Scott, Sue & Jim Alley and Jerry Scott



Farewell Breakfast

