



THE BRIGHT PENNY

January 2007

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

HAPPY NEW YEAR

As another year comes to a close, I look back on it with memories of the new Berkeley shipmates and their wives and families that I've met. I was fortunate to be selected by all of you to assume the role of Director and promise to do the best I can to fill the shoes of my predecessors. I want to wish all of you a healthy and prosperous new year.

In 2007 I hope to see our Association grow with the help of our new Membership Committee. Al Meier heads up this committee and I'm sure his team members will do their best to contact former shipmates and hopefully have them join the USS Berkeley Association. It is important to me to see the efforts put forth by Jim Barrett in establishing the USS Berkeley Association and Ray Bartlett's commitment to the Association are carried on.

Well, the 4th Quarter edition of the Bright Penny was a real winner in my book. Our newsletter editor and publisher did a great job on it. I would like to encourage all of you to participate in submitting stories for inclusion in the newsletter. The new column for the Berkeley wives; 'Berkeley Beauties' has been a hit from the response Pat has received regarding it.

I would like to thank the following new members for joining our Berkeley family:

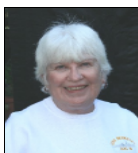
Larry Adamson, CO
Ronald Bravo, OR
Kerry Cripe, WA
Roy Englund, OR
Michael Stock, CA

Dues reminder cards were mailed out December 1st and I'm hoping all will respond by January 31st so that I can update the roster, which will now be divided into three sections. These sections are Active Members (have current dues-paying status), In-Active Members (those that have not paid dues for the upcoming year or those we need to contact regarding the possibility of becoming Association members) and, Taps.

Our plans to change the website to include the Bright Penny Newsletter and the Ship's Store are coming along. The new Crew Member's Roster should be updated to the site by mid February. Also, the location of our 2008 reunion will be announced in our 2nd quarter edition of the Bright Penny due out April 1.

Lou

Ahoy Berkeley Beauties!



First, let me wish each of you a wonderful new year. I would also like to thank those of you who commented on how much you like 'our' new column in the Bright Penny. I'm working on how to set up our USS Berkeley Family Cookbook and want to thank those of you that have given me useful input regarding the cover and cookbook contents. I'm hoping to have the recipe-submission guidelines out by e-mail soon, as well as in the next edition of the Bright Penny. Anyone interested in participating can e-mail me at pat_lilipad_clark@charter.net. As stated in the last issue, I will be featuring one of our Berkeley wives/significant other in the column, so now I'd like to introduce Francine: I'm Francine Hansen, wife of Gerald (Gerry)

SKIPPER IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Captain Dennis O'Meara hails from Stoneham and Andover, Massachusetts and graduated from the United States Naval Academy with a Bachelor of Science degree in Marine Engineering in 1982. In his initial sea tour, he served in a variety of billets in USS BERKELEY (DDG 15) including Auxiliaries Officer, Fire Control Officer and Combat Information Center Officer.

In 1989, Captain O'Meara reported to USS GOLDSBOROUGH (DDG 20) as Engineer Officer, deploying in 1990 to the Western Pacific and Indian Oceans. After Iraq invaded Kuwait on 2 August 1990, GOLDSBOROUGH participated in the early stages of Operation DESERT SHIELD and was the first U.S. warship to intercept and divert an Iraqi merchant vessel attempting to circumvent United Nations Security Council sanctions imposed on Iraq.

In June 1993, after earning a Master of Arts degree in National Security and Strategy Studies at the Naval War College, Captain O'Meara reported to the Situation Centre, International Military Staff at Headquarters, North Atlantic Treaty Organization, Brussels, Belgium where he served as a watch officer.

From 1995 to 1997 he served as Executive Officer in USS LABOON (DDG 58). While deployed to the Arabian Gulf in 1996, LABOON became the first Arleigh Burke-class guided missile destroyer to fire Tomahawk missiles in anger, launching a total of 13 missiles over a two-day period supporting Operation DESERT STRIKE.

From 1998 to 1999, Captain O'Meara served in a variety of billets including Fleet Distribution Officer on the staff of Commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet and Chief Staff Officer on the staffs of Commander, Destroyer Squadron FIVE and Commander, Destroyer Squadron THIRTY-ONE.

Commanding USS PAUL HAMILTON (DDG 60) from 2000 to 2001, Captain O'Meara deployed to the Arabian Gulf as part of the USS ABRAHAM LINCOLN Battle Group and conducted a variety of missions including Maritime Interception Operations and, following the attack on USS COLE (DDG 67),



Captain Dennis J. O'Meara

force protection escort to vessels transiting in and out of the Arabian Gulf through the Strait of Hormuz.

In March 2002 Captain O'Meara reported to Commander, U.S. Naval Forces Central Command / Commander, U.S. Fifth Fleet in Bahrain for duty as Deputy Director of Operations where he participated in the detailed planning and execution of Operations ENDURING FREEDOM and IRAQI FREEDOM.

From June 2003 through April 2006 Captain O'Meara served on the OPNAV staff as the NAVCENT Branch Head at DEEP BLUE. Following the unsuccessful April 2004 terrorist attacks against Iraq's two North Arabian Gulf oil terminals, Captain O'Meara's team at DEEP BLUE worked to support reinforcement of the point defense of both terminals. Additionally, they provided Commander, U.S. Naval Forces Central Command direct support in Maritime Security Operations, Counter-IED, Counter-Piracy and Expanded Maritime Interception Operations.

Captain O'Meara assumed command of MPSRON 3 on 31 May 2006.

Captain O'Meara's personal awards include the Legion of Merit (2 awards), Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal (2 awards) and the Navy Commendation Medal (4 awards).

Hansen (67-72 FTM2) the new Ship's Store Manager. We look forward to devoting some of our basement to stocking items, which we know members of the Berkeley family will want to purchase as they fondly remember their Navy days on the ship.

Gerry and I met in 1966 on a "Blind date" when three nursing school classmates and I met him and his FT school classmates from Great Lakes at a Milwaukee USO dance. It was a "love connection" and we have been a couple for over 40 years through Navy and civilian times to his current planned retirement from Rockwell Automation in 2007 after 33 years.

We were separated for Gerry's first two years on the Berkeley while I finished

Nursing school, and married while the ship was in the yards in 1969. Mike Wallace, Gerry's shipmate and friend, was our Best Man before we lost him for 30 years. He reappeared when he contacted us about the USS Berkeley Association in 2000 and we were able to reestablish our friendship and meet at three reunions so far.

As a new Navy wife transplanted to Long Beach from Wisconsin, I found a new family in Gerry's shipmates and their spouses. We partied at 902 Gaviota in Long Beach during 1969-1972 when the ship was in port, and we wives supported each other as we remained in Long Beach during the West Pac cruises and waited for the mailman to bring our

Continued on page 2 – Beauties

USS BERKELEY ASSOCIATION

2050 Nipomo Avenue
Long Beach, CA 90815-3521
562-453-6513

E Mail: DDGBerk15@charter.net (new)

Website: www.USSBerkeley.com

Annual Dues: \$20.00

Director: Lou Clark

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



CMM1 Lou Clark (Ret)

Berkeley History December

40 Years Ago, 1966

12 Sep – 15 December Test Phase CNO Project D/S 368. Underway Monday to Friday for missile test firings at Pacific Missile Range; **15**, entered the Long Beach Naval Shipyard for instrumentation removal. CDR William R. Smedberg IV is the C.O.

30 Years Ago, 1976

1-13, December underway SoCal OpArea as plane guard for USS Constellation (CV-64); **14-31**, inport San Diego. CDR Clifford F. Homan is the C.O.

20 Years Ago, 1986

1-4, December underway; **4-10**, inport Hong Kong; **11-12**, underway; **12-29**, inport Subic Bay, R.P.; **30-31**, underway. CDR Richard K. Farrell is the C.O.

10 Years Ago, 1996

Ex-Berkeley in service with the Hellenic Navy of Greece

Beauties

batches of long awaited letters from our sailors.

I saw the world through Gerry's five cruises; in his letters, and the pictures and movies he brought back of Hong Kong, Bangkok, Subic Bay, Japan, etc. We had the best stereo set-ups you could buy in the Philippines, and all of my family had china sets and pearls from Japan. David, our oldest son, was born during the 1970 cruise. We attribute his love for surfing to his early exposure to California beaches and the water. He's a Great Lakes surfer, graphic designer, and Tiki carver. He and I visited the ship many Sunday evenings to see Daddy on weekend duty but we always got the chipped beef for dinner, never the steak and lobster.

After the ship's emergency departure for West Pac in 1972 we began planning our return to civilian life. I returned to Milwaukee, set up a home, acquired a hospital job in Mother/Baby Nursing, and awaited Gerry's discharge from the ship in mid cruise after seven plus years. In 1973 we had a second son, Eric, who is now a Structural Engineer with a PhD. Our two sons are married and we currently have "Grand cats" to spoil.

I am still working part time in the same job and find joy in helping new parents learn to care for their newborn babies. My hobbies include handicrafts such as knitting, crocheting, cross-stitch, hiking and snowshoeing.

We have been fortunate to have been able to attend the past four reunions and relive the good times on the Berkeley with members of Fox Division and other shipmates from the 1967-1972 era and also making new friends like Lou and Pat, Tammy and many others. I look forward to participating in the ship's cookbook and making more raffle prizes for future reunions. Gerry hopes for increased participation in the Association by other FT's and even greater attendance at the next reunion in 2008.

Till next time Pat Clark

From the Editor:



The last few months we had our reunion, Veteran's Day, Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Years and the citizens of America spoke out that they wanted a change by their vote. I hope and pray that you all had safe

holidays and if you traveled you made it home safe. The New Year will bring a great new direction for the "Bright Penny" and the great job all the staff is putting in to keep it interesting and soon electronics so all can see it. Director Lou is getting things in place and it seems all things are running smoothly. As for me, I just can sit back and punch keys and see the wonders of science put this together.

We have new sections where Jim Barrett keeps us informed on current events in the Navy world, Lou provides us direction, Pat shows us the Berkeley Beauties and Dale works at the Web Site. Plans include having a section for the Spotlight on a staff member. Soon we'll have highlights of crewmembers, not just officers, but also enlisted. Other work in the background, like running the Ship's Stores and all the junk that organizations' have to have done will also be part of this newsletter when needed. We hope others step up and help us keep this organization going and fun as it has been so far.

Remember to pray, if you pray, for our troops and sailors in harms way. Give them your support, as we didn't have a choice, we served then as they serve now. Write them letters of support find web sites that support the troops and e-mail them. Let's not forget or ignore them. We'll be sitting beside them at the Veteran's Administration Medical Center's and at veteran outings so let us thank them for their service. A comment on the music on the Berkeley Web Site by me: If there is not an on/off button it bugs me, but to others it may not. I use my computer for hearing music, TV, radio, DVD's and training. Since it is hard to isolate noise from web sites without an on/off buttons I don't hang around them much. I am profoundly deaf and use a FM hearing aid system attached to my computer. That way I can travel around the house and listen to the news, music or whatever. But when I am working on the computer I listen to different things so if I can't mute a page I need information from, I get a little ticked. So I need your input on this. As we, about 40% of the USA, spoke in November you can speak now.

Sunny Jim Sundahl

E-mail: jimsundahl@comcast.net (remember to put Berkeley in the subject line or your e-mail is vaporized).

Young Friend of the Berkeley

While at the reunion in Seattle this past August, Pat and I went over to the Boeing Flight Museum where we discovered that the Blue Angeles were doing a practice run for the Sea Fair events to be held that weekend. We moseyed on over to the fence to see the takeoffs. There was a pickup truck backed up to the fence and a Washington couple were seated in the bed and when they saw Pat with her cane, they offered her a lawn chair. While waiting we struck up a conversation that led around to the fact that Kim & Joe Gorder's son Dakota is not your regular run-of-the-mill six year old (now seven). Dakota's not interested in the things



From the Quarterdeck by



CDR Jim Barrett (Ret)

This will be a regular column in the newsletter to share current events on what is happening in the Navy today and to give members a view of some of the changes being experienced in the fleet.

If you joined the Navy today

Upon entering boot camp your E-1 base pay would be \$1,203.90 per month. After four months E-1 base pay increases to \$1,301.40. Assuming sea duty, an additional \$50.00 per month is paid. Also, there is a monthly clothing allowance of \$32.70. If married, the E-1 would draw an additional \$250.00 family separation allowance while deployed and would also receive basic allowance for housing (BAH) for his dependent(s) i.e. for the San Diego area \$1,555. It is conceivable that a deployed married E-1 could receive a total monthly pay package of \$3,189.10.

The initial seabag (male E-1) is now \$1,174.65 with the most expensive item being the P-coat, which is \$131.80. My initial seabag in 1950 cost \$87.00 including the P-coat and my base pay was \$75.00 a month.

Beginning in 2007 the GI education benefit increases to \$38,700.

Guided Missile Class Destroyers

During the 1960's 23 Adams Class DDG's were built for the U.S. Navy. Except for the Charles F. Adams (DDG-2), a tentative museum ship, all have been sold, scrapped or sunk as targets.

The current DDG building plan for 57 Arleigh Burke class ships is nearing completion and all but two have been named, the most recent is DDG-106 for VADM James Stockdale, senior POW during the Vietnam War. Only one of the new DDG's carries the same name of a former Adams Class ship and that is the USS Sampson (DDG-102).

The next generation, previously listed as the DD (x) Class, has been named the DDG-1000 Zumwalt Class after the former Chief of Naval Operations.

Navy Reserve Mobilization

The Chief of Navy Reserve announced they expect to mobilize 9,300 sailors during the next twelve months. That figure means one in three available reservists, not counting the 38,000 who have already been mobilized, will be called up during 2007 for deployments ranging from six months to more than one year.

E-mail: Quarterdeck15@aol.com

The Final Chapter DVD

The DVD is now in the ship's store. To obtain a copy send a check in the amount of \$8.50, which includes shipping, made out to the USS Berkeley Association and mail to the address in the newsletter masthead.

you'd find in most six year olds. He and his dad spend a lot of time at the Flight Museum and he's overwhelmed with NAVY ships of all types. We enjoyed their company and the story of their son so much that I offered to send Dakota a Berkeley ball cap and a Berkeley photo. Joe said his son is thrilled with the hat and picture. Each night the ball cap goes on one side of his bed and the photo on the other. He sent us the picture and you can tell by the look on his face that he's quite proud. Dakota's never been on a Destroyer and I told Joe to take him over to Bremerton to tour the Turner Joy. Like Alan 'Doc' Johnson made so clear to us at our Association meeting, we need to let our young people understand what we stand for. I'm proud to have made a new friend in Dakota. Pat and I never did get to the museum.