



THE BRIGHT PENNY

April 2008

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

NEW DIRECTOR AT THE HELM

It has been less than four months since assuming the director roll, but it seems like a life time. All in all the transition has been uneventful, rather smooth and most deadlines were met. I must admit that without the help of the members and staff I would have never been able to do this job.

Accomplishments include delivering the 1st and 2nd quarter newsletter, finalizing reunion plans and the ships store continues ordering and shipping product. The Association continues to grow and the members and staff continue their effort in supporting the Adams Class Veterans Association membership drive. And, all crewmembers of Berkeley that we have been able to locate are in the roster. Thanks to Jim Barrett it is now more accurate than it has ever been and now includes over 1,000 names. It also includes accurate e-mail addresses for a significant number of members and is being used to distribute this newsletter and the roster.

Going forward we have greater plans and need volunteers to assist the staff in the following areas:

Anyone interested in the Assistant Director and Treasurer positions should contact me before the bi-annual business meeting in July. I will include your names as candidates for the positions as new business.

Al Meier is the Berkeley Membership Chairman. We have concluded that assigning Association members to smaller pre-assigned areas would benefit our membership drive and growth. I have found it difficult to follow up on all phone calls and e-mail inquiries. Al and I will concentrate on a plan, generic reply forms and offer guidelines and general instruction to the membership committee. The regional concept has been suggested before, but the director was spread too thin and it never got off the ground. We would like to try it again and we will commit to working with the volunteers. The volunteers will also know that they will have the tools to work with and be guaranteed the support of the staff. We would like ten or more volunteers. The prospective new membership candidates should have a computer, a cell phone and be willing to donate about five hours a month. I want to add that this job is fun whether the contact is by phone, e-mail or letter. That personal contact of speaking with a fellow crewmember that served on board your ship will almost always take you on a journey down memory lane. Think about it and call me if you are interested.

Dale Johnson was born in east central Illinois, a farming community Northeast of Champaign where he attended grade school, high school and one year of college before enlisting in the Navy in 1964. He attended basic training in San Diego and Radarman "A" School at Treasure Island, San Francisco, California. Upon completion of "A" School he was assigned to the USS Berkeley where he spent the next three years working in the Combat Information Center, advancing to the rate of Radarman 2/c. Dale's tour of duty on board Berkeley included three deployments to the Western Pacific. He also attended numerous training courses relating to Anti Submarine Warfare, Air Intercept Control and Electronic Counter Measures. Dale completed his last WestPac deployment in December 1968 and was discharged shortly after.

Following his discharge he returned to his roots near Champaign, Illinois. There he returned to school and started working for the Record Club Division of Capitol Records. He did not know it at the time, but his employment with Capitol would be the start of 25 year career in the record business.

Also following his discharge he was reacquainted with Charlene. He knew almost immediately that this was the girl he wanted to spend the rest of his life with. Charlene and Dale grew up together, living about two miles apart and attended grades one through twelve together and one year of college. Dale and Charlene had never dated until after his time in the Navy. They ran into each other at a high school basketball game where both were there to watch a sibling at the hometown event. One year later they married and celebrated their 38th anniversary this past March. They have two children, a son and daughter and four grandchildren. Dale and Charlene's fondest pastime is spending time with the family. Their daughter and son-in-law live across the road and their son and daughter-in-law live only a few miles away. "Dale says his grandkids are in and out of the house regularly. It is our greatest joy. God has blessed us all."

Dale worked for Capitol Records from 1969 to 1974 and PolyGram Records 1974 to 1991. During this time Dale and Charlene lived and worked in Champaign, Illinois; Indianapolis, Indiana; Los Angeles,



Dale Johnson

California; Edison, New Jersey and finally retiring from the music business in Indianapolis.

Dale began his second career in 1992, opening an equipment rental business in Greenwood, Indiana, a suburb of Indianapolis. Together they have continued working in this business for the past fifteen years. "Dale says that running your own business doesn't leave much time for lengthy vacations or time off, but they have enjoyed the RV style of living when time permits." For many years they traveled to a warmer climate during the winter to combine business with pleasure.

"I have countless memories of both careers. The Navy provided me an opportunity to visit many countries, but most of all it is the friendship and lasting relationships experienced that many are not blessed with in a lifetime. Being associated with the USS Berkeley Association is an experience that continues to allow all of us to reunite with the people we learned to love and respect so many years ago. During my second career as Vice President of U.S. Operations for Poly Gram Records I found the same lasting experiences and relationships. I continue to maintain contact with fellow employees, vendors and customers on a regular basis. As for my third career, well that is continuing on track like the other two. Someday I'll have to retire just to do the things I really enjoy, visiting with friends."

USS BERKELEY ASSOCIATION

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Annual Dues: \$20.00

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Asst. Director: Vacant

Bright Penny Editor: Jim Sundahl

Secretary: Pat Clark & Tammy Meier

Treasurer: Dale Johnson

Membership Committee Chairman: Al Meier

Reunion Committee Chairman: OPEN

Ship's Store Manager: Gerald Hansen

Bright Penny Editor: Jim Sundahl

Newsletter Publisher: Jim Barrett

Webmaster: Jim Barrett

ACVA Representative: Dave Meier



Dale Johnson

Berkeley History April

40 Years Ago, 1968

1-8, Inport Long Beach. **9-10**, Local operations. **11**, Dependents Cruise. **12**, Operational Readiness Inspection. **12-22**, Upkeep Long Beach. **22**, Missile load at Seal Beach. **23-30**, Operation Beagle Leash. C.O. is CDR T. M. Ward Jr.

30 Years Ago, 1978

1-30, In overhaul at Puget Sound Naval Shipyard. **6-7**, Lighting-off exercise. **29**, Dock trials. C.O. is CDR J. E. Helmann.

20 Years Ago, 1988

1-8, Inport San Diego. **8-26**, Underway SoCal OpArea for FleetEx/BattleEx. **27-30**, Inport San Diego. C.O. is CDR C. R. Girvin III.

10 Years Ago, 1998

Ex-Berkeley in service with the Hellenic Navy of Greece.

Web site

If you haven't visited our Web site recently you are missing many of the changes and additions. At the bottom of the home page you will find a listing of updates. Some have direct links to the referenced page or subject.

On the history page link to additional history the decorations earned by the ship have been cleaned up and there is a link to a list of the awards and the qualifying dates. Check to see which ones you rate.

A member update page has been added to help us keep current on your profile. And, on the reunion page there is a link to the next reunion information and another link to the hotel. Visit and check it out.

Life is Short

An Editorial by Jim (Sunny) Sundahl



Life is short, so why waste it! We learned that with the passing of Lou, a life cut short while he was enjoying what he was doing. But, Lou didn't waste it; he enjoyed life with what he did and with his sweetheart. I enjoyed working with him and Pat. I still remember him the first time we talked on the phone, I had this feeling he was like my chief and I was still a first class. Fun and fond memories' came flooding in; thanks Lou. He was like a chief or first class you'd want running your division, always wanting his men to do the best and when they did: he rewarded them. For us, staff, it was his thanks and praise that made volunteering fun, even if you had only a small part in something he wanted done. He will be missed, but memories will not be.

This issue is to enlighten you and entice you to get ready to go to the next USS Berkeley reunion. My first one was in Seattle, there I could finally meet face to face with the names behind the e-mails and phone calls, and we had a blast.

So please plan to go, if you can. Start saving now for the "gas cash" you need to get there, if you are driving. Deb and I want to go in our big old motor home but since we live in a big city we have to fill up again (80 gallon tank) before we even get out of town. At 5 to 6 miles to the gallon it may be cheaper to ride a bike. Or more fun to take a train from here to there and back. I wonder if they have crew ships the pry the rivers from here to there. Maybe we could fly but neither of us have wings, yet. We a planning on going but how we get there will be the question, but, we have to make up or minds now, just like you, how and how much. So, Lord willing, we will see you there. Look up old ship mates have them meet you there and we can all have a good time before it's too late. Remember, "Life is Short!"

So, now, as editor, I would like you all to send me your sea stories or life histories so we can use them and let other people read the fun things we all went through while in the Navy, before

they pass on without it being told. I would rather hear stories about what I did while I was alive then have them told when I am in a box or coffee can some place. We should and would have them and an archive of history of our shipmates, that only a few know now, and then you would be a permanent part of the Berkeley's written history.

There are things we forget until we read a story from the past and the lock is removed and the events roll in to our brain. When that happens write it down and send it to us. Unlock someone else's brain. We may be old; but not brain dead. We have so much to remember in our short life that we sometimes just store it away for later, but then it gets lock away because it will be a memory, that we and only we have it, the think tank of our head.. So help this old storekeeper to store your thoughts and history away for future use in the "Bright Penny". I can't be the only one with stories or memories for the newsletter. Yes, I know there are a few that graced our publications but we need more, we are greedy little buggers and love to read funny antidotes and interesting articles, funny or not. Maybe this issue I'll tell you about our stop over at Guam.

My e-mail address again is w0wee@arrrl.net.

Also, a thought for you all, after you read our fine newsletter, if you don't save them, take them and leave them in a lobby or waiting room, maybe some old shipmate will read it and join up with the rest of us. Share our memories with others and strengthen our membership. Hey, 20 bucks a year, for membership is nothing but memories are priceless, remember "Life is Short," and at our age we are short timers walking this earth and this beautiful USA we fought and served for.

Jim (Sunny) Sundahl

Editor

w0wee@arrrl.net

Binnicle List

Rich Cody (65-67) suffered a heart attack at his summer home in Florida on April 2nd. His wife, Anita, reports he is recovering from by-pass surgery and is doing well. Rich, we all wish you a speedy recovery.



Ahoy Berkeley Beauties

By Pat Clark



I've made a new friend among the gals of the Berkeley family. It was noted in the January issue under 'Taps' that Clinton L. Perry, GMCS had passed away. As you all know, I lost Lou last December and have been in a quandary as to exactly how to carry out his request for burial at sea. After receiving the information below from Dianne Perry, it became quite clear as to what I need to do. Dianne asked if I would share the information she sent to me with hopes that others might benefit from it, but first I'd like you to know more about Dianne:

"Clint and I met through a neighbor who lived in back of me. We went together about nine years and were married 5 1/2 years. Our first date, he stood me up because he was a little nervous about our meeting, but we did get together a little time after that. He was a very quiet man but I got him out of that a little during our courtship, which was wonderful.

I grew up in Chicago and eventually moved out to Spring Grove, Illinois and lived there for fourteen years. Clint and I met there and I worked at Grass Lake School where I was a secretary for the superintendent for five years. Before that I worked for Baxter Laboratories as a secretary for eighteen years. I retired when I was 62 years old. I am now almost 67. I have three children from my first husband, Debbie, Rob and Tom. I also have six wonderful and beautiful grandchildren with another one on the way. I am proud to say that I have one great-granddaughter also.

One day my daughter called and said that Clint and I had to come to Adams, Wisconsin to see a piece of property for a summer home that she found. We went and fell in love with the falling down cabin, (which my son Tom, a contractor completely redid and made it really beautiful) that sat on 10 acres of land. For five years Clint and I came up to Adams every weekend. We decided that when Clint finally retired that we would move up to Adams and build our dream home. My son Tom took down the cabin and built us a gorgeous dream home where, unfortunately, we lived for only one year before Clint died.

The love of my life are my animals, two Yorkies, Bear which is a Maltese, a cockatoo, two canaries and three cats. They fill my life with love, attention and devotion. I have deer, turkeys, squirrels and beautiful birds which I feed every day. My greatest joy is sitting on my 14ft x 44ft screen porch watching all of the animals come and eat and play in my yard. Clint loved it here so much that when he got sick he insisted that we put his bed outside on the porch because he said that was where God was. He had a big recliner and a television out there where he would sit and listen to his music, watch his navy movies and read. He would sit and tell my son Tom hours and hours

Burial at Sea - A Naval Tradition

By Dianne Perry

I would like to share a little bit about Clint's burial at sea for all of those wives who aren't sure if they want to do it or not. Clint's burial at sea also had left me with mixed emotions, but it was done so very special and so well that I, nor his family, would never be sorry nor would we have done it any other way. I wasn't on the ship when they buried him, but after I received the letter from the captain of the ship, I knew that I had done the right thing. On November 8th I received this letter from Captain S.A Lott, Commanding Officer of the USS CHOSIN (CG-65). Here are some excerpts from his letter.

Dear Ms, Perry,

Please accept my deepest condolences for the loss of your husband, the late GMCS Clinton L. Perry. It was indeed a great tribute and privilege to commit your husband's remains to the sea in accordance with his wishes.

The burial at sea ceremony took place on the ship's fantail on October 30, at 5:00 pm. with steerageway, and the participating officers and crew were paraded in their Summer White Uniforms. The weather was a comfortable 77 degrees with a gentle breeze. The ship was south of Oahu, Hawaii.

I was the Officer-in-Charge and the ship's Executive Officer was the committal officer. Our ship's Chaplain conducted a Protestant committal. A rifle platoon of seven fired three volleys each, rendering a 21 gun salute. An honor platoon, flag bearer, receptacle bearer, committal assistants, and sound technician were key participants in the service. Please be assured that they all performed their duties with the utmost dignity and military bearing.

I think this letter was beautiful and that Clint would have been both proud and very happy. This was his last wish. Around December 5th, I received a package from the Navy containing the burial American Flag, three rounds of ammunition from the 21 gun salute, a CD video of the whole ceremony and burial which was both beautiful and so well done, a camera with pictures of the ceremony, the location where he was buried and a map showing exactly where he was buried.

I would recommend this procedure to any wife or family of a "navy man" because I could not have ever prepared a funeral so beautiful and so well done, plus I get to watch the video whenever I like. I am having a luncheon on Clint's birthday to honor him for anyone that would like to come, and at that luncheon, I will play the video and give copies to whomever wants one. This way his children will have a lifelong remembrance of this wonderful man.

GMCS Clinton Perry served on Berkeley 1964-67

of nothing but Navy stories. Luckily his last months it was warm outside and he got his wish because that is where he finally died. It was real nice because Clint could sit and visit with us all of the time and still didn't have to go in the house. He would spend hours watching the animals run in the yard and he could be so very happy.

Right now, because of the cold weather I stay in the house pretty much but I have my wonderful son living only five miles away and he comes twice a day to see me and he takes me out to dinner every Wednesday. I do some gardening and I like cutting grass and I put a lot of statues around the yard to make it look nice. I have a good life, sometimes very lonely, but when I get depressed, I go out on the screen porch (yes, even in the winter months) and watch the animals play and think about how happy Clint was out there.

Well that is a short story about my life, in short, if I were rich I would raise hundreds of animals, (the neglected or sick or hurt) every kind and give them a good home and lots of love. . I am glad that my little story on burial at sea helped you and I hope it will help others make up their mind."

Thank you so much for sharing your story and an explanation on Clint's final wishes.

*Till next time,
Pat*



Editor



Publisher



**From the
Quarterdeck
by**



CDR Jim Barrett (Ret)

Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy

MCPON Joe Campa took office in 2006 and in this short time has probably had more impact on the Navy's enlisted people than any of his predecessors. He is coming down hard on the Chief Petty Officers and First Class Petty Officers. He cites that junior enlisted personnel are not getting the necessary career guidance and leadership required to make them better sailors. During a recent interview Campa said, "We have folks out there that are not focused on their sailors the way they should be. This is not acceptable." He has especially come down hard on the Chief's and has ordered them to get out of the Chief's Mess and be more involved with directing First Class Petty Officers in their leadership roles and training.



Adams Class Veterans Association



As most of you know by now there is a mighty ongoing effort to preserve the Charles F. Adams DDG-2 so that it can become a maritime museum in Jacksonville, Florida. This museum will be a celebration of the Adams Class destroyers and a tribute to all of those who served aboard them. Thank you to all who have come forth in our time of need. Your generous contributions have made a difference at this critical juncture for the ACVA.

An important milestone was passed at the end of last month when the Application for Donation was submitted to NAVSEA. Our mission has received considerable support from the local community in Jacksonville and from the State of Florida. The Association is now enrolling volunteers to help restore the Adams to her former glory. Please take the time to peruse our web site:

www.adamsclassddgvets.org

Dave Meier
ACVA/Berkeley Representative
daveddg15@yahoo.com

Oh the memories

Jim (Sunny) Sundahl
Editor

USS Berkeley Shipmates,

I remember when my granddaughter took her first step, her first walk and her first words (thank God it was not a curse word), but you know I don't have a picture or video or tape recording to those moments, so when I die those memories die with me. But the pictures and videos I took of the camping trips, fly-ins, school projects, horsing off, ferry rides and lunch in the Space Needle, in Seattle are still here to look and smiles of the memories. They show the memories, except for the videos, they to are lost memories forever, if I don't get busy and put notes or stories with them, even the videos sometimes need a note attached. So what am I leading up to; is your memories, your pictures of Navy life and your inputting those into a story form, so we can publish them in our Newsletter so they live on for your family and shipmates! So, "Now Hear This" Open the boxes scan some pictures write some stories and send them to us, ASAP.

You should be sending those Sea Stories, Articles of Interest, Navy History or just something stupid (Jokes, no copyrighted art work or cartoons) for our Newsletter the "Bright Penny". They should be here soon so they can be edited and sent to Jim B. for publishing. They should be sent to Jim B. and Dale J. and me in case of a cyber meltdown somewhere.

Those that want their ugly mugs and life history published can submit those, too! Rank or rate doesn't matter, those I met at the last reunion would be interesting retired cops and so forth.. But it is up to the director, editor and publisher if it is published, but submit them anyway so we have them on file, you never know, we need them with pictures, should have one when your in the Navy and now: color or black and white but they should be of high pixels so they can be edited to fit and looking good for all of us to smile at, before we look in the mirror. I use to have a mirror in my officer just above the monitor till I looked at my graduation photo and then at the mirror... don't even look close... uglier then ever I am.

That is all, secure to your closet and follow my orders, NOW! Dismissed.

Happy Sailing...*Jim S. wøwee@arri.net*

Occupation: Sailor

Employer: United States Navy

Somewhere in the insecurity between childhood and manhood we find a fascinating group of humanity known affectionately as "sailors".

They can be found aboard ship, at shore stations, in bars, in heads, on leave, in love and always in debt.

Girls love them, civilians hate them, and the government supports them.

A true sailor bears tattooed arms, a deck of cards, sunglasses, a camera, a portable radio and the latest copy of Playboy.

He has the energy of a turtle, the slyness of a fox, a cunning brain and the sincerity of a liar.

His wants are usually indecent, immoral, fattening or against naval regulations.

He dislikes answering letters, wearing uniforms, his superior officers, navy chow and getting up on time.

Only he can cram into one jumper pocket a little black address book, cigarettes and lighter, a pack of gum, his girl's picture, a comb, a church key, a light-duty chit, ID card and what is left of last months pay.

He enjoys spending his money on girls, poker, girls, booze, girls and the rest foolishly.

A sailor is truly an individual. You can lock him out of your home, but not out of your heart. You can scratch him off your mailing list, but never off of your mind.

So you might as well give up again. He's your home away from home. Your one and only liberty eyed, good-for-nothing bundle of mistakes.

But all of your shattered dreams are insignificant when your sailor docks, runs down the gangway, wraps his arms around you and looks at you with those little beady, bloodshot eyes and says, "Hi, Honey, . . . I'm back."

Reunion 2008

Information needed to complete your reunion plans are on the Web site. If you plan to attend fill in the requested information early so that we can determine the final count of attendees. Cost is \$65 per person and includes all taxes and gratuities for the welcome reception, hospitality room and banquet dinner with music for dancing. Get your hotel reservation in early.

