



THE BRIGHT PENNY

October 2008

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

Another great reunion!

From the Director

As the autumn colors return to New England, we can reflect back on another very successful and most enjoyable reunion in Boston. Eighty plus were in attendance July 31st through August 3rd for our reunion at the Sheraton Braintree Hotel. Photos included in this edition of the newsletter will hopefully convey the good time had by all.

At our business meeting on Saturday, new officers were elected with Al Meier as Director, Dale Johnson as Assistant Director, Gerry Hansen as Treasurer, and Pat Clark and Tammy Meier as Secretaries. Four members volunteered for the Membership Committee with Duane LeDoux heading up efforts in the Northeast, Randy Wilkins in the Southeast, Larry Norris in the North Central, and Don Carson in the South Central regions. We still need volunteers to head up the Northwest and Southwest regions, along with people to assist efforts in the six different regions. Please contact Al Meier or a member of the committee if you are interested. We are also happy to announce that Don Carson volunteered to be the USS Berkeley Historian, and we hope to elaborate on his role in a future newsletter.

As we look forward, I hope to see a substantial growth in our membership along with greater involvement of crew members who served onboard from the mid-seventies through the ship's decommissioning in 1992. I believe this is important if we are to see our Association remain robust for years to come. Enlisting the participation of more members to serve on committees, lend technical expertise for website enhancements, and assist the Association in other areas is a priority that would be extremely beneficial to the Association's growth and success. Regional events during the two-year gap between reunions, and Web site enhancements are other areas we should explore. I will elaborate further on these topics in the next newsletter.

Our next reunion is to be held in the South Central region in 2010. The four cities nominated at the reunion as possible locations are San Antonio, Houston, Denver and New Orleans. Please visit our Web site at www.ussberkeley.com and vote for your selection by accessing the link at the bottom of the main page. All votes must be submitted by

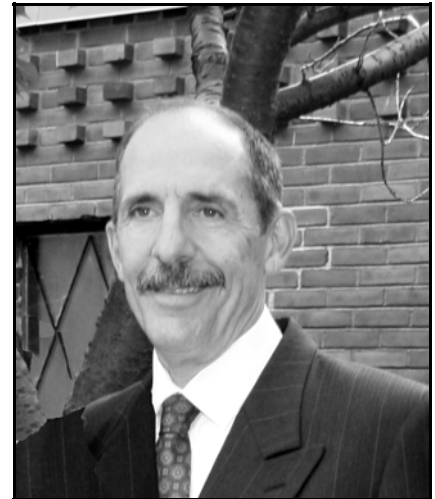
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The Helm Passed to Al Meier

Al Meier was born in San Francisco, CA where he lived until the completion of 3rd grade. His family then moved about 20 miles south to San Mateo where he completed grade school and high school prior to enlisting in the Navy in July 1964 at the age of seventeen. He attended basic training in San Diego, and Radarman "A" school at Treasure Island in San Francisco. Upon completion of "A" School he reported to the USS Newell, (DER 322), and left for his first WestPac Cruise the day he reported onboard. Shortly before the ship was to return to Pearl Harbor, Al was transferred to the station hospital in Sasebo, Japan for surgery to remove a benign bone tumor. Al spent three months in Sasebo prior to heading back to California to report to his next duty station, the USS Berkeley. After an extended 24 hour stay at Treasure Island, Al was sent to Pearl Harbor to await the Berkeley which would not arrive for another month (the ship and crew were participating in the Coral Sea Celebration down under). Al reported aboard the Berkeley in May 1966, and worked in Combat Information Center advancing to the rate of Radarman 3/C. Al made one more Westpac cruise aboard the Berkeley prior to being discharged the day before his twenty-first birthday in November 1967.

Following his discharge, Al returned to San Mateo, and began his career working in the RF/Microwave electronics field. He also began taking courses at the College of San Mateo. After a year, Al began attending the College of San Mateo full-time, and graduated with an AA degree in Electronics Technology. He then transferred to San Francisco State University where he later graduated with a BA degree in Industrial Arts.

Al's career, which continued while attending San Francisco State, has primarily been in the defense electronics sector where he still works today. There have been a few deviations over the years including six years as a manufacturing engineer for a telecom equipment (radios used to build cellular networks)



manufacturer, and a couple years in the travel industry as a part-owner of a cruise only travel agency, and working for an online travel network. Al has worked as a technician, manufacturing supervisor and program manager for Watkins-Johnson Company and Condor Systems (now part of ITT Defense Systems).

It was at Watkins-Johnson Company where Al met his wife Tammy in 1990. Al and Tammy married in 1996, and have a twenty-two year old son, Josh, who is a student at San Jose State University.

Al has always preferred the outdoors, and enjoys snow skiing, hiking, sailing, and softball. Al retired from competitive softball in 2001 after more than twenty-five years, but still skis and hikes as often as possible. The great thing about living in the Bay Area is that he can ski one day and sail the next.

Al joined the USS Berkeley Association in 1998, and he and Tammy have attended the past six reunions. They have also been active in the Association, and have been on the reunion committee for both the Branson and Boston reunions as well as working on the membership committee. "The Association has enabled us to rekindle old friendships as well as begin many new ones, and we look forward to attending future reunions and staying in touch with our many Berkeley friends!"

USS BERKELEY ASSOCIATION

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Annual Dues: \$20.00

Director: Al Meier

Asst. Director: Dale Johnson

Bright Penny Editor: Jim Sundahl

Secretary: Pat Clark & Tammy Meier

Treasurer: Gerald Hansen

Membership Committee Chairman: Al Meier

Regional Chairmen

Northeast: Duane LeDoux

Southeast: Randy Wilkins

North Central: Larry Norris

South Central: Don Carson

Northwest: Vacant

Southwest: Vacant

Ship's Store Mgr: Gerald Hansen

Bright Penny Editor: Jim Sundahl

Newsletter Publisher: Jim Barrett

Webmaster: Jim Barrett

ACVA Representative: Vacant



Al Meier

Editorial by Jim (Sunny) Sundahl



Welcome to the new change of command, change of the guard and new members, I look forward to working with you all. Thanks to Jim Barrett, all officers and shipmates have a direct

link to me from our Web site, so you can send me stories, stories and more stories.... hint, hint, hint, and more hints.

Are you all back from the reunion, yet? Silly question, but some like to travel, it's in our blood after being in the Navy or it's in some of us. I would love to travel around the States and see what we fought for and many died for and are dying for today.

So much for a fun and cheery editorial, but with the 9/11 anniversary I have been bummed, we are not getting attacked here but we are losing many of our fellow shipmates and comrades overseas. I don't watch the news much or even listen to it.

Get out and vote. I don't watch the candidates, but read their past, and their record. Being an Alaskan and having an Alaskan in the fray kind a caught me off guard, but like the rest I will read her past and decide from that. I vote every election and it's no one's business which way I vote, so where am I heading. Well maties just get out and vote for whom you want leading our country. While in the Navy I voted every year whether at sea or on shore duty. I only missed voting when the ballots didn't get to me in time. Oregon has mail in voting so it is easy to vote here, still I wait till the last minute to get them to the ballot box, fearing something important comes up on local or national candidates, and I don't help vote in a crook. So let's all vote and see what happens.

So, now the fun and silly stuff, while on my first ship I got a letter from the draft board telling me to report to my draft board in my home town. I had been on active duty for about one year. I went to my chief and asked what do I do; he said have fun with it. So, I wrote the in big red letters for them to buzz-off and mailed it back. You would think with a fleet post office address they would get the hint in the first place, and receiving a letter with fleet post office return address and free war zone postage would wake them up. I never heard from them again and never ended up in jail so I believe they got the hint.

I really hope you had fun in Boston and had your own tea party, welcome back home for those that are home and happy trails to those still running around the planet earth.

Life is a Beach Chair,
Jim Sundahl

Departing Director Dale Johnson



I would like to thank all the staff members and the countless Association members that helped in many ways during the last year. Serving as your director would have never been possible without the superb dedication and leadership of the every staff member. I cannot express the respect I have for every one of them. I've used this phrase before but it bears repeating, these guys and gals take their job as seriously as a responsible employee would take his job or employment that supports him and his family. My short tenure was only one little cog in the wheel. The direction of the Association was cast in concrete by all the former leaders, staff member and crew members. No one person could and can do this job by himself. Thanks to everyone for your contributions.

I couldn't feel better about your new director, Al Meier. Lots have happened already since the Boston reunion as Al is busy planning the course. Trust me; the Association is in excellent hands. I have been blessed and so have you. Al's leadership is already being displayed as he has been diligent about concentrating on increasing membership and working directly with the membership committee. The Association is in good hands and I look forward to assisting wherever I can.

As your assistant director I will remain available to assist you and Al in any way he chooses. Good luck to all and keep me on your email lists. Dale

From the Director

(Continued from page 1)

November 30th. Once the city is selected, our reunion committee can begin making plans. I would also welcome any suggestions you may have as to how we may enhance future reunions to add to participants' enjoyment and encourage even more interaction. By adding more features to our reunion itineraries, people can participate in as many or as few activities as they choose. Please forward your suggestions to alphawhiskey.ddg15@yahoo.com.

**Berkeley History
October**

40 Years Ago, 1968

1-8, Assigned TU 77.1.2; **9-10**, Enroute Subic Bay; **11-18**, Inport Subic Bay; **19-20**, Enroute TU 77.1.2; **21-29**, Assigned TU 77.1.2; **30-31**, Enroute Subic Bay.

30 Years Ago, 1978

1-6, Underway SoCal (Local Ops); **7-15**, Inport San Diego (upkeep) ; **16-17**, Underway SoCal (Local Ops); **18-20**, Underway SoCal (NGFS Quals); **21-29**, Inport San Diego; **30-31**, Underway SoCal (Local Ops).

20 Years Ago, 1988

1-8, Inport Sydney, Australia; **8-10**, Underway; **10-17**, Inport Bell Bay, Tasmania, Australia; **17-31**, Underway; **31-2**, Nov Inport Pearl Harbor, Hawaii.

10 Years Ago, 1998

Ex-Berkeley in service with the Hellenic Navy of Greece



H.S. THEMISTOKLES (DDG-221)

Ahoy Berkeley Beauties!

by Pat Clark



No trouble deciding where to start this edition's story: Reunion 2008! In my opinion we had a great turnout and a most successful reunion. I want to begin by thanking Duane MMCS and Jean Ledoux of Billerica, MA for taking the time in early 2007 to take a tour of the prospective hotel, Sheraton Braintree Hotel, just south of Boston. Although I arrived a couple of days early to help with getting ready for the weekend, the Dale Johnson's, Al Meier's and the Jack 'BJ' Bjerke's had arrived and met to work on the weekend's events.

Of course, I was so happy to see so many of you Berkeley Beauties in attendance. It was nice to meet those of you that I've not met at previous reunions as well as seeing so many of our 'regulars'. Isn't this a great photo?



I was extremely happy and proud that Lou's daughter Carrie Clark, her husband Peter Strugatz, children Clark and Walker Hamilton and Natasha Strugatz from New York were able to attend. Although Carrie lived through the years Lou was in the NAVY, it was nice that she could see what he truly loved, the USS Berkeley Association and its members.

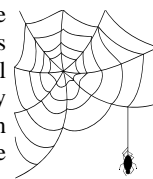
The 2-Bell Ceremony was difficult to go through but our new Director, Al Meier and my grandson Clark Hamilton did a great job in remembering the Berkeley members who, as Lou liked to refer, 'have gone on to that great-gray destroyer in the sky'. Walker and Natasha can't wait till the next reunion to help Tammy do the raffle. I hope you all have found the paperweight useful and the lobster found a place in your kitchen or became a new addition to the grandkids toy box! Just a little thank you from the Association for standing by your man!

And last but certainly not least by any means, thanks again to all the work Tammy has done at these reunions since 1998 in the handling of selling the raffle ticket sales and making everyone feel welcome. I know she will make a great Association's first lady.

Next issue I'll introduce you to Karen Bess whose husband Benjamin Bess is a plankowner 1962-64 YN1, X Div.

From the Webmaster

Our Web site has gone through a number of changes over the past few months. All hands should visit periodically and note the updates listed on the home page. Some have direct links to the new pages.



Awards and the dates earned by the ship are listed under the History Page. Unsure if you qualified for a medal or ribbon; the criteria for each award is listed. The Navy may soon be coming out with a medal for the current Combat Action Ribbon.

Most staff members may now receive E-mail via a link on the Association Page. Another addition in the Roster section is a Memorial Page for members who have since passed on. Also, all past newsletters are available in pdf format and can be downloaded and printed.

Future plans call for a photo section that will display pictures submitted by the members. Dig through your archives now and send them to me via U.S. Mail and they will be returned after scanning. Contact me via the Web site and I will provide mailing instructions. Information furnished with the pictures should include the names of the people and the date and place. Do not write on the back of the pictures because it causes indentations that will show up when scanned. Also planned is a list of links to other Navy Web sites of interest.

Jim Barrett

TAPS



RADM William R. Smedberg passed away on 8 July 2008. A memorial service was held on 12 July in Pointe Vedra, FL and interment will be in Arlington National Cemetery on 14 October. RADM Smedberg served as the third Commanding Officer of Berkeley (1966-67)

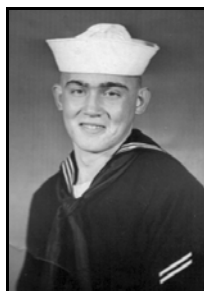
2008 Reunion Photos

All pictures taken at the reunion are still available from the photographer. Colored prints are available at \$18 each for 8x10, \$8 each or 2/\$14 for 5x7 and \$4 each or 4 for \$12 for 4x6. Group pictures with text are 8x10 only. Add \$2 for shipping.

Also available is a CD with all of the couples pictures for \$30. This CD plus all of the group pictures is \$50. Price of CD's includes shipping.

Contact Jody Gagnan:
PricePerfect@comcast.net or Tele: 508-833-2388

TAPS - Plankowner



My father **Kenneth O. Strate** served on the USS Berkeley from 1962 to 1964. I just wanted to let you know he passed away September 21st. I know he was very proud to have been in the Navy.

If you remember him please let me know; any stories you may have would be comforting.

Thanks,

Anna Strate



**USS Berkeley Reunion
August 2008
Boston, Massachusetts**

Joe & Rosemarie Novelline and Paul & Sandy Pimentel hosted a reunion of the officers and their wives in Falmouth, MA the same weekend as the ship's reunion. A fabulous dinner of chowder and lobster was enjoyed by all on Friday evening. Earlier in the day Joe took several out on Narragansett Sound in his 40' boat and in the afternoon the group toured Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution and one of their ships. On Saturday everyone joined up with the ship's reunion and banquet dinner. *Photos by Jack Cane*

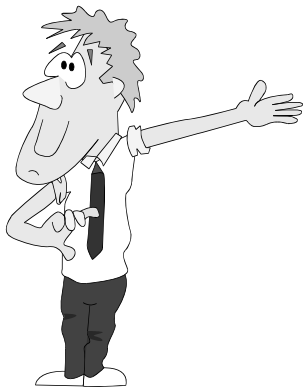
Mini-Reunion of the officers and wives of the sixties



Front Row L-R: Phyllis & Norm Wight, Rose & Bill Abbuehl, Capt. Dennis O'Meara and Donna (80's), Jack & Sally Cane, Paul Downey, Jayne & Bud Schiff.
Second Row: Chuck & Judith McKenna, Ann Dobesh, Ann Fogerty, Elaine Barrett, Sandy Pimentel, Frank & Barbara Bennett, Ron & Helen Farris.
Back Row: Mary Lou & Tim French, Leslie & Gordon Monteath, Bill Fogerty, Jim Barrett, Paul Pimentel, Joe & Rosemarie Novelline, Todd & Sharon Frazier .



The many faces in the crowd during Reunion 2008



Charlene & Dale Johnson



Tammy & Al Meier



Ann & Bill Fogerty



Judith & John Bjerke



Donna & Dennis O'Meara



Francine & Gerald Hansen



Robert & Joyce Landis



Sandy & Paul Pimentel



Stephanie & James Ferrell



Helen & Ron Farris



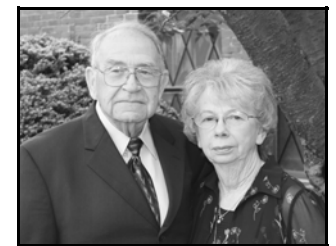
Mary Lou & Tim French



Alan (Doc) Johnson & Darrell Delamont



Phyllis & Norman Wight



Jerry & Mary Hudson



Melvin (Woody) & Ginger Newell



Elaine & Jim Barrett



Arnold & Helen Codispoti



Pat Clark

The photos illustrated represent about one-half the number of people who attended and participated in the photo opportunity.



Richard David Ramsey



Don & Karen Carson



Larry & Sandra Norris



Janice & Robert Bagshaw



Jim & Joyce Wagner



Jill & Curtis Fritsch III



Two-Bell Ceremony for shipmates that have passed on since 2006



John & Judith Bjerke and Joyce & Robert Landis



USS Berkeley Reunion
Plankowners
August 2008 ~ Boston, Massachusetts

Bob Davis, Duane Ledoux, Melvin (Woody) Newell, Joe Novelline, Jim Wagner, Arnold Codispoti, Bob Bagshaw, Don Costello & Dale Nielsen.



Natasha Strugats, Walker Hamilton, Pat Clark, Clark Hamilton & Peter Strugatz.
Back row: Carrie Clark.



Keynote Speaker - Capt. Dennis O'Meara, USN



One of many drawing prizes won at the reunion

