



# THE BRIGHT PENNY

April 2010

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

## Reunion countdown less than four months

### Reflections

It's hard to believe that in 2012 we will be celebrating the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the USS Berkeley's commissioning. Almost as difficult to believe is that the USS Berkeley has been out of commission (as a U.S. Navy ship) for approximately eighteen years. Our Association has been bringing Navy friends back together for many years now, and our next chance to see those old buddies (and their wonderful mates) will be this summer in the Mile High city. Details on the Denver reunion this August can be found in a separate article in this edition of the newsletter.

An impressive history of the USS Berkeley and her crews is being created by our Association. Our master roster now contains contact information for over a thousand former shipmates. Currently, three of the Berkeley's cruise books are available for viewing on the web site, and another three will be added soon. Jim Barrett is attempting to obtain some of the ship's logs from the Viet Nam era. If successful, they too will be available at our web site in the future. Photo pages at the web site are a work in progress, and we thank those who have made contributions. As we continue to receive and add photos, a more complete reflection of our Berkeley Days is created.

The Charles F. Adams museum effort provides another link to our past. The Adams, DDG-2, will eventually be a floating museum on the Saint Johns River in Jacksonville, Florida. Our Association and a number of Berkeley crew members have contributed to this effort as have several other Adams Class Destroyer associations. Recently, a reception for former Adams Class Commanding Officers, Adams Class crewmen and sponsors was held at the River City Brewing Company near the location where the USS Charles F. Adams will for many years be a link to the past for former Adams Class Destroyer Veterans. Admiral Jonathan Howe USN (Ret), former Berkeley CO from March 1974 through January 1975, was the Guest Speaker. The ACVA (Adams Class Veterans Association) web site is well worth checking out, and there is a link from the "Save C.F. Adams" page on our web site. Hope to see you all at the Denver Reunion. It will be a great time!



Captain Kenneth R. Sydow graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy in 1961. His first tour of duty was as Main Propulsion Assistant in USS WILKINSON (DL-5). In 1963 he attended the U.S. Naval Destroyer School at Newport, Rhode Island, followed by a tour as Weapons Officer in USS HENDERSON (DD-785) from January 1964 through January 1965.

Captain Sydow entered nuclear power training in February 1965, and in April 1966 reported to USS ENTERPRISE (CVN-65), where he served as Repair Division Officer, Reactor Controls Division Officer and Damage Control Assistant. He assumed command of USS ARIKARA (ATF-98) in August 1968. Following fourteen months in command, he served as a member of the Pacific Fleet Naval Nuclear Propulsion Examining Board. Captain Sydow then reported to USS TRUXTUN (CGN-35) and served as Engineer Officer from 1971 to 1975.

From TRUXTUN, Captain Sydow reported to the staff of the Director, Division of Naval Reactors, U.S. Department of Energy, in Washington, D.C. where he served from October 1975 until August 1978. He became the twelfth commanding officer of USS BERKELEY (DDG-15) in February 1979, serving until January 1981. During his tour, the ship participated in the operational testing of the SM-1 Block 6 surface to air missile. Captain Sydow also guided BERKELEY and its crew through a seven month Western Pacific deployment, most of which was spent as a unit of the USS KITTY HAWK (CV-63) Carrier Battle Group, including two and a half months in the Indian Ocean in response to the Iranian hostage crisis.

From BERKELEY, Captain Sydow reported to the staff of Commander Naval Surface Force, US Atlantic Fleet, where he served until December 1982 as Deputy Assistant Chief of Staff for Engineering Readiness and Training, and as Officer-in-Charge of the Atlantic Fleet Naval Surface and Air Forces' Nuclear Propulsion Mobile Training Team. He became the fourth commanding officer of USS SOUTH CAROLINA (CGN-37) in June 1983. During this three year tour, he saw SOUTH CAROLINA through a twelve month complex overhaul and a seven month Mediterranean deployment.

Captain Sydow reported to the Naval War College in Newport RI in August 1986 and graduated in June 1987 with

### In the Spotlight



Captain Kenneth R. Sydow

a Master of Arts degree in National Security and Strategic Studies. Concurrently, he earned a Master of Science degree in Management from Salve Regina College. His final tour of duty was as Commanding Officer of the Fleet Training Center in Norfolk VA, where he served from August 1987 through May 1989, retiring from active duty on 30 June 1989.

Captain Sydow's personal decorations included two awards of the Legion of Merit, the Bronze Star Medal and the Navy Achievement Medal. He was also entitled to wear three awards of the Navy Unit Commendation, the Meritorious Unit Citation and numerous service and campaign medals.

Following his retirement from active duty, Captain Sydow worked for AMSEC LLC in Virginia Beach from 1989 through 2008. During his civilian employment he maintained a close relationship with the US Navy, providing technical assistance to a number of activities, and in particular to the Naval Surface Force, which he served most of his active duty career. He now resides in Williamsburg VA with his wife Jeanette and is active in community endeavors. They also share time with their daughter, son and five grandchildren.

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Al Meier

**Denver Reunion 2010**

Spring is here, and our next reunion in Denver, CO is approaching quickly! Our reunion dates at the Brown Palace/Comfort Inn are August 19-22, 2010. The Brown Palace is a prestigious landmark hotel, and our hospitality room and group events will be held there. A short sky bridge joins the two hotels. The room rates at the Comfort Inn are \$99 per night for a standard room with a queen bed, \$109 per night for a standard room with two double beds, and \$119 per night for a corner room with a king bed. A 14.85% occupancy tax will be added to the room rates. Complimentary breakfast (eggs, bacon/sausage, pancakes/French toast/waffles, fruit, pastries & muffins, cereal, yogurt, coffee and juices) is included. There is a \$20 per day parking charge with in and out privileges. Reunion room prices will be available for an additional three night prior to or following the reunion dates of August 19-21. Please make your reservations for the Comfort Inn (303-296-0400) soon so that additional rooms can be requested if necessary.

Public transportation is available just outside the hotel, and the Denver Intl Airport is 24 miles away. The hotel is in downtown Denver, and is one block from the Sixteenth Street Pedestrian Mall which contains many restaurants, shops and entertainment. The Denver Mint, Colorado Historical Society and State Capital Building are all accessible on the mall bus transportation system or by walking. Other attractions such as the Coors Brewery, Red Rocks Amphitheatre, and the Molly Brown House are within 30 minutes by car. The Association will be scheduling at least two tours, and the Denver Mint and Coors Brewery have been selected by our membership. Some of the other excursions that can be booked from the hotel are to Pikes Peak, the Air Force Academy, and a scenic bus tour of the city.

Registration for the reunion will be available on line by mid-April, and the cost will be \$60 per person. The fee includes the reunion dinner as well as our Friday night Welcome Reception. You will also be able to pre-book the tours that will be offered.



**From the  
Quarterdeck  
By**



*CDR Jim Barrett ( Ret)*

**It's official; DD-214s are now Online.**

The National Personnel Records Center (NPRC) has provided the following website for veterans to gain access to their DD-214s online <http://vetrecs.archives.gov>.

This may be particularly helpful when a veteran needs a copy of his DD-214 for employment purposes. NPRC is working to make it easier for veterans with computers and Internet access to obtain copies of documents from their military files.

Military veterans and the next of kin of deceased former military members may now use a new online military personnel records system to request documents.

**Khaki uniforms approved**

The updated WW-II service dress uniform is going into production. The new uniform will be optional and can be worn in place of the summer white uniform or the service khakis. The most noticeable change in the jacket is the unbelted waist and some minor changes in the pocket shape and the lapels.

Another option is that the cotton shirt can be short or long sleeve and worn with the standard black tie and collar devices. The new uniforms will be available in 2012. Meanwhile, further refinements are being studied before production begins.

**More Arleigh Burke DDG's**

The Navy's five year building plan for 2011 to 2015 includes eight more DDG's. At present there are 57 of the ships in service and seven are in various stages of construction. DDG-112 was supposed to be the last of the class to be built, but with the reduction of the Zumwalt (DDG-1000) Class the Navy requested more Arleigh Burkes. There have been a number of configurations designated as Flight I, II and IIA through the years. Under the Flight IIA program the last two ships were built with a 5"/38 gun. Beginning with DDG-81 the 5"64 replaced the earlier version.

With the different Flight series the ship's have gone through a number of modifications. Beginning with DDG-85 the Phalanx Close in Weapons System (CWIS) was removed. However, the Navy decided to retrofit all Flight IIA ships with at least one CWIS by 2013. Other changes with the Flight IIA ships was that the Towed Array Sonar (TACTAS) was omitted and they also lack Harpoon missile launchers. Beginning with DDG-79 two helicopter hangers were added.

The Arleigh Burkes have definitely proven themselves as a modern fighting ship. There has not been a destroyer building plan like this since WW-II. Only 23 Adams Class DDG's were built for the Navy. The current building plan for the Burkes is 72 ships.

**Berkeley History  
April**

**40 Years Ago, 1970**

**01-07**, Task Group 77.3 Operations Yankee Station; **08-10**, Task Group 77.5, **11-14**, Enroute to Yokosuka; **26-28**, Enroute to Yankee Station TG 77.5; **29-30**, TG 77.5 Ops Yankee Station.

**30 Years Ago, 1980**

**01-03**, U/W SoCal OpAreas—NGFS spotter services, San Clemente Island; **04-06**, Inport San Diego; **07-11**, U/W SoCal OpAreas COMPTUEX 3.80; **12-20**, Inport San Diego; **21-23**, U/W SoCal OpAreas; **24**, Inport Weapons Station, Seal Beach; **24-27**, U/W/ SoCal OpAreas; **28**, Inport Weapons Station, Seal Beach; **29**, U/W SoCal OpAreas; **30**, Inport San Diego.

**20 Years Ago, 1990**

**01-22**, Inport San Diego - leave and upkeep period; **23-24**, U/W SoCal - Dependents cruise; **25-30**, Inport San Diego -Phased Maintenance Availability.

**10 Years Ago, 2000**

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

**TAPS**

In this issue you will note on page 4 the feedback we received regarding the last TAPS column. Your thoughts are important to this newsletter and any feedback on our articles is greatly appreciated. Tell us what you like and don't like.

## Ahoy Berkeley Beauties

By Pat Clark



Now that spring has finally arrived, and I'm sure there are many of you that are happy about this, it only means that summer is just around the corner and that means time for the USS Berkeley Reunion in Denver. I'm excited to know that I'll be able to attend and see my Berkeley family. I'm planning on driving to Denver and bring my sister along with me. It should be a fun road trip and I can't wait. With all the moving, buying new furniture and becoming acquainted with my new community, it's about time for a little R&R. Now I'd like to introduce you to this quarter's Berkeley Beauty, **Charlene Johnson**:

*Hello, my name is Charlene Johnson, wife of Dale Johnson, Radarman 2c. I was born and raised in a farming community about 25 miles north east of Champaign, Illinois. I attended grade school with a class of 14 and high school with a graduating class of 32. Needless to say we all know each other quite well. After high school I attended Illinois Commercial College and graduated with a certificate in Executive Secretarial.*

*Speaking of the small schools, our high school class invites the class ahead and the class behind us, we get together every other year and the attendance is very good. I have been involved with planning the event since the 1<sup>st</sup> one, over 30 years ago.*

*During grade school and high school I was active in 4H, Marching Band, Home Economics, Family outings and travel as time permitted. There was a time I bowled regularly but haven't in past years. Maybe one day when I have time I'll start again. I could always beat Dale.*

*After college I went to work for Sears. As many of you will remember they were a household name called Sears Roebuck and Company. I did my training in Champaign, Illinois. When finish they moved me to a smaller store closer to home in Rantoul, Illinois. I remained there for the next 12 years and during*

*that time I was reacquainted with my soon to be husband, Dale. I grew up with this guy. All those schools I mentioned earlier, he was there, same grade, same age and even college. We never dated until after his discharge from the Navy, but I remember one time during college he needed a ride as he broke his ankle in some type of scuffle, you'll have to talk to him about the rest of that story.*

*Dale and I were reacquainted when we ran into each other at a high school basketball game where both of us were there to watch a sibling at a hometown event. One year later we were married (1970) and recently we celebrated our 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary.*

*We have two children, a son and daughter and four grandchildren. Our fondest pastime is spending time with the family. Our daughter Renee and son-in-law, Kevin and the grand kids McKenzie and Paige live across the street. Our Son Derek his wife Jill and grand kids Cole and Tyler are in the process of building a new house which is just a little over one mile from us. All of the family is in and out of the house regularly. We enjoy their busy schedules.*

*I have two sisters, Mary Lou is 8 years older, lives in Chicago and winters in Scottsdale, Az. and Linda, 8 years younger then me lives in Texas. Dale says Daddy planned it that way so he would not have to add another bedroom to the house. He was conservative.*

*Dale, Derek and I are very much involved in our family rental business. I handle the accounting and assist the guys where ever help is needed.*

*Dale and I both enjoy the Berkeley reunions. Both of us were introduced to the reunion in New Orleans (1998) and have attended each one since. I am looking forward to Denver. Dale and I will be there and hope you are also.*

There are a lot of us that look forward to seeing you and Dale in Denver. Those of you still pondering the decision, just say, 'I'm gonna do it!' See ya there.

Till next time,  
Pat

## The Goat Locker



During a commercial airline flight a Navy Chief was seated next to a young mother with a baby in arms. When her baby began crying during the descent for landing, the mother began nursing her infant as discreetly as possible. The Chief pretended not to notice and, upon debarking, he gallantly offered his assistance to help with the various baby-related articles. When the young mother expressed her gratitude, he responded, "Gosh, that's a good looking baby...and he sure was hungry!" Somewhat embarrassed, the mother explained that her pediatrician said breast feeding would help alleviate the pressure in the baby's ears. The Chief sadly shook his head, and in true sailor fashion exclaimed..... And all these years I've been chewing gum.

### USS Dewey, DDG 105

On March 6, 2010, the USS Dewey, DDG 105, an Arleigh Burke Class guided missile destroyer, was commissioned in Seal Beach, California. I read about the upcoming ceremony but it was too late to get a ticket to the event. I did, however, on Monday, March 1 get a glimpse of the ship.



The Commander is Warren Buller.  
<http://www.dewey.navy.mil/Site%20Pages/CO.aspx>  
[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/USS\\_Dewey\\_\(DDG-105\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/USS_Dewey_(DDG-105))

Submitted by: *Pat Clark*

**January TAPS Feedback**  
**One more testament to the**  
**camaraderie in Berkeley**  
 (slightly edited)

Although I didn't know Bill Dunham, I always heard very complimentary remarks about him as both a gentleman and a naval officer. About Fred, what can I say? Fred was a wonderful confidant, helping me to survive for the two weeks before the arrival of Mike Ricinak. Fred was always upbeat, and a devoted family man. I treasured his friendship, and admired his professional knowledge. The world has lost one of its finest citizens,

Privileged to have shared the wardroom with these two fine naval officers, under the first two CO's: Bill transferred prior to change of command. Fred was swordsman at our wedding back in Long Beach.

I never met Bill, but Fred was a terrific shipmate. I particularly remember how concerned I'd get each Friday night in Long Beach when after a 6+ hour command performance lunch at the Red Witch or O' Club Fred would get into that little VW Beetle, point it south and somehow make it (most of the time) to his home in San Diego for the weekend.

Two very classy guys.  
 "Berkeley Officers"

Capt Dunham preceded my post plankowner tour, but Fred was, for me, a great shipmate and guide for a new department head. A resident of after officers'

country and chief executive of the "big office" called the Log Room next to the cubicle euphemistically referred to as the weapons department office

Very sorry to hear this news. I was also privileged to have served with both of these fine gentlemen.

I feel like two big pieces of my life are gone. Two opposite ends of the naval officer spectrum. Fred was so totally competent and sure of himself and his position—leary of the captain, and respectful, but never afraid. Bill was so bright and competent. My life is better for knowing them.

Thanks for the sad update. Two very very fine men.

Thank you for keeping us informed; I was too young to have known Captain Bill Dunham, but I certainly can be thankful for having had Fred in my early Navy days influence: a sense of deep professional knowledge, and how important it is to have a sense of humor about one's self, and at appropriate times, circumstance. A teacher without self importance.

Thanks for the information. They were great shipmates.

I can remember Fred in particular saying "Gee I'm glad I never went to School" every time I screwed up as the junior Ensign. I learned a lot from both of them

I learned a great deal from both

of them. From Bill, how to survive with a demanding CO. From Fred, which buttons go where on my uniform jacket.

Thank you for informing us of Fred's passing. I did not know Bill Dunham, but I knew Fred as a respected professional, impressive department head and true gentlemen. It was an honor to serve with Fred. While this is a time of sadness at the passing of a shipmate, it was wonderful to see E-mails from other shipmates who reminded me of what a great wardroom BERKELEY had.

It is heartwarming to read how fondly both subjects are remembered. Met Fred and his family in the summer of 1962 at Camden then moved into an apartment with Fred after the family returned to San Diego for the school year. We then shared a stateroom after commissioning until fleeting up to Department Head. Kept in touch and got together several times in San Diego after Fred retired. We always exchanged views and news at Christmas time.

Crossed trails with Bill several times in Hawaii in the late 60's then worked with him when he was skipper of a DesRon 21 unit in the middle 70's. As CSO I dealt with him on a regular basis and will always remember his even going manner and that he kept a good ship.

#### Web site

Photos are starting to come in. We need your help in preserving memories from past cruises. Visit the Photo Memories page and view what we have so far.