



THE BRIGHT PENNY

January 2010

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

HAPPY NEW YEAR 2010

Hope you all had a happy, healthy and safe Holiday Season, and wishing you a great year in 2010! In this issue, I'd like to reflect back on the priorities I set forth in October 2008, and expanded on in the January 2009 newsletter. Those priorities were to expand the Association's membership, greater involvement of our members, the possible addition of regional events, and website enhancements.



Our membership did not increase in 2009 despite the strong efforts of our Membership Committee. However, a review of the Association's paid membership over the years would probably show that paid membership tends to increase significantly in the years that we hold reunions. Our master roster has increased by approximately 50 names, and the contact information should now be more reliable than in past years. Through December 31st, our 2010 paid membership is well ahead of where it was a year ago, and I expect it will end up ahead of where it was in 2008.

The involvement of our membership in the operation of the Association has definitely increased. Beginning with the addition of other officers (Assistant Director, Treasurer, Secretaries and a Historian) and regional Membership Committee Chairmen at our last reunion in Boston, there has been more involvement in Association activities. We still have two vacancies on the Membership Committee, and the ACVA Representative position to fill. The Membership Committee vacancies are in the Northwest and Southwest sectors, and volunteers in these positions are considered staff members. All staff members are involved in planning and coordinating Association activities. The

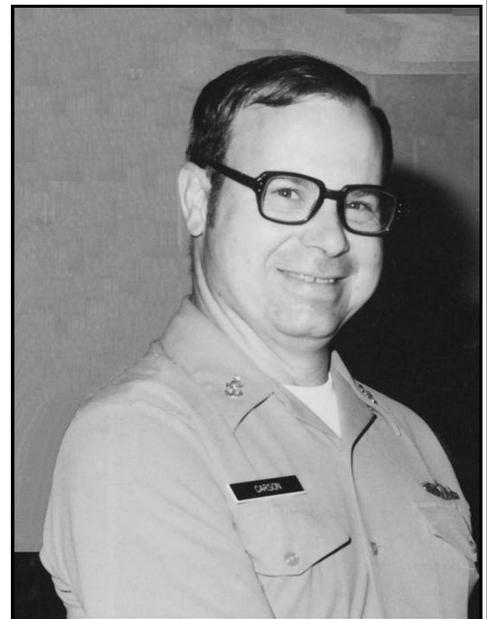
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FCCS (SW) Don Carson was born in Mason, West Virginia in September 1950. He graduated from Pattonville High School in 1968 in St. Ann, Missouri and in 1997 graduated from Eastern New Mexico University, in Portales, New Mexico, where he received a Bachelor of Science Degree in Physics. Don is married to Dr. Karen Zilverberg, PhD and they have two dogs and call Seabrook, Texas their home. Since June of 1997, Don has worked for United Space Alliance in Houston, Texas. United Space Alliance is a joint venture between two companies, Lockheed Martin and Boeing. He teaches astronauts and flight controllers operation and malfunction recovery for the Space Shuttle communication system at NASA, Johnson Space Center.

Before reporting to USS Berkeley, Don completed boot camp and Fire Control A School Phase I and then served aboard USS Jouett (DLG/CG 29) from April 1972 until October 1975. He then reenlisted for advanced schooling in Waukegan, Illinois at the Fire Control Technician Class C School, Naval Training Center (NTC) Great Lakes.

Don reported to his second ship, the USS Berkeley (DDG-15), in the fall of 1976 as an FTG2 fresh out of C School for the MK 47 Mod 11 Gun Fire Control System (GFCS) Computer. The MK 47, an analog computer, was even then a dying technology. It performed all of its computations using gears, resolvers, servos-mechanisms, and circuit boards with the actual resistors, capacitors, and transistors soldered onto those circuit boards. All the inputs were analog coming from the gun director, radar, anemometer, and the ship's compass. He served aboard USS Berkeley for 14 months in 1976 and 1977. Berkeley had just returned to San Diego, California from a deployment to the Western Pacific and was preparing for an overhaul in Bremerton, Washington. During the transition between active sea duty to standing down for overhaul, Berkeley completed training and naval gunfire support exercises. He was transferred before the end of the overhaul period.

In the Spotlight



FCCS Don Carson

After Berkeley, he returned to NTC Great Lakes for shore duty. Don Carson served as an instructor for the Phase I portion of the Class A School. Tours at Basic Electricity and Electronics School in both Great Lakes and San Diego, California followed and led up to sea duty aboard the USS Reasoner FF-1063, in San Diego and USS Lockwood FF-1064, in Long Beach, California.

On board Reasoner, Don Carson earned his Surface Warfare qualification. He went to TAD (Temporary Attached Duty) to the USS Lockwood to assist the ship's crew in achieving their gunnery qualifications. Shortly after departing Lockwood he returned for his second and last shore duty tour at White Sands Missile Range (WSMR) in Las Cruces, New Mexico. This was a Navy Detachment in the middle of an Army testing facility. In the late 1980s and early 1990s, the Navy was testing the Block IV vertical launch version of the Standard Missile (SM). WSMR was his last duty station; Don retired a Senior Chief Petty Officer in the fall of 1993.

USS BERKELEY ASSOCIATION

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Annual Dues: \$20.00

Director: Al Meier

Asst. Director: Dale Johnson

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 Editor & Publisher: Jim Barrett

Webmaster: Jim Barrett

ACVA Representative: Vacant



Al Meier

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ACVA (Adams Class Veterans Association) Representative is our link to that association and its' efforts to make the Charles F. Adams (DDG-2) a museum ship. We also have several members working on our 2010 reunion in Denver. We always welcome more help, so please let us know if you would like to be involved!

The addition of regional events was perceived as another means of growing our membership and bringing Berkeley shipmates together for enjoyable activities. Thus far, only one such event in the Northeast has taken place. These events will require volunteers to come forward with suggestions and a willingness to help coordinate the effort. Please submit any suggestions or questions concerning regional events through the website.

Website enhancements is the area in which we have experienced the most progress. The addition of several features including additional USS Berkeley history, Photos, Cruise Books and War Stories has provided our Association with a website to be proud of. Some of these areas, such as the Cruise Books and Photos, are works in progress, and will be expanded during the year. Jim Barrett has done a great job as our Webmaster, and Don Carson has been working hard scanning the cruise books for inclusion on the website. Another three cruise books or more should be available on line prior to our next reunion. Once again, I'd like to ask for members to submit photos from their days aboard the Berkeley or from our reunions. Digital photos can be submitted to ddg15@ussberkeley.com.

Priorities for 2010 will once again include growth in membership and website enhancements. A new priority for this year is preparing for our 2010 reunion in Denver August 19-22. Much information has already been made available through the website and newsletters, and a choice of available tours will be posted on the website in January, and we invite you to vote for two tours you'd like to see available to reunion participants. Other areas of focus will be assisting ACVA with the John F. Adams museum effort, and adding additional Association events.



**From the
Quarterdeck
By**



CDR Jim Barrett (Ret)

New Rating

Storekeepers and postal clerks are being merged into the new rating of Logistic Specialists. All will take effect during the first quarter of 2010 with all exams for the new rate being completed by March.

Web site

There is a wealth of information on the Links page of our Web site. One is *Naval Customs and Traditions Explained*. Ever wonder what "The devil to pay" or "Sally ship" or "The superstition of Friday" or "Mind your P's and Q's" all mean. You can find out at on the Links page. Strange though; ditty bag is not listed.

Naval History

Are you a naval history buff? A great magazine is available for subscription from the U.S. Naval Institute. I have been a member for many years and with my membership I receive the Naval History magazine issued six times a year. As a member you also have access to the Institutes book store with significant discounts. One year membership is \$49.00. Visit www.usni.org for more info.

The Final... Final Chapter

The Berkeley after the Hellenic Navy decommissioned the ship. Not a series of pleasant pictures compared to the way she looked when turned over in 1992. If you are viewing this newsletter as a pdf, you can click on the link below and it will take you directly to the home page. Select "Photo Gallery" and then "Final Decommissioning". www.ussberkeley.com

Oops!

In October the DDG Ramage, while visiting a Polish port, accidentally fired three rounds from a M240 machine gun hitting a warehouse.

Sort of reminds me of the time in the 1950's when a destroyer moored pier side in Pearl Harbor accidentally fired a 21" MK-15 practice torpedo into the parking lot striking a car

E-mail quarterdeck15@aol.com

**Berkeley History
January**

40 Years Ago, 1970

1-23, Inport Long Beach; **12-17**, COMP-TUEX 5-70; **18-25**, Upkeep Long Beach; **26-31**, POM, TAV.

30 Years Ago, 1980

01-23, Underway Ops in Indian Ocean with USS Kitty Hawk Battle Group; **24-31**, Underway - transit to Subic Bay, R.P. from Indian Ocean.

20 Years Ago, 1990

01-04, Underway as part of Battle Group Foxtrot in company with USS Enterprise, Long Beach, Hewitt, Rathburn, Bagley, Wichita, Mount Hood and Carrier Air Wing Eleven. Entered the Royal Domain of Neptunis Rex; **05-06**, Inport Diego Garcia; **07-19**, Underway; **20-23**, Inport Muscat, Oman; **24-31**, Underway.

10 Years Ago, 2000

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

TAPS - Two Plankowners

Captain William C. Dunham, Operations Officer 1962-64. Captain Dunham passed away 4-10-09 and was buried at Arlington National Cemetery with full military honors.

LCDR Fred L Thibeault, Engineering Officer 1962-65, passed away 9-12-09.

Fair winds and following seas

Ahoy Berkeley Beauties

By Pat Clark



Hello Berkeley Beauties!

My name is Elaine Almeida Landis and I am writing to tell you about my wonderful mother Ruth Pasko Almeida. She is married to my dad,

Francis J. Almeida. My dad served in the Navy from 1956 -1964. He was a MMI or a Machinist Mate 1st Class in the engine room. He also helped build three ships making him a plank owner. The ships were; the USS Berkeley and the USS Sampson. He served on those ships but also served on the USS Blandy.

The story I know is that my dad met my mom through a friend of his who was dating a friend of hers! Well, they hooked up and the rest is history!! My mom was born and raised in Indiana and my dad was a TRUE Bostonian from Massachusetts! Well, love knows no boundaries and so my dad moved to Indiana to marry my mom. What a culture shock it was for him! He is still adjusting almost 45 years later!

Mom and Dad have lived in the same house since 1967 and have raised three children and are currently raising one grandson. Their three children have found different yet rewarding lives and stay very close to their mom and dad. Elaine is married with three daughters and is a 2nd grade teacher. Eddie lives close to Louisville, KY and is a Quality Control Inspector. He has one daughter Laura has one son and is living in Danville, Indiana where she enjoys garage sales and her dog, Max.

Mom graduated from Methodist Nursing School before getting married and is a part-time Registered Nurse at Clarian Health (used to be Methodist Hospital). She has done that for many years and has been able to find that balance between home and work. Nursing is in her blood and I like to think of her as our own personal "Florence Nightingale". She is very dedicated to her patients and truly cares for them. She is a nurse that everyone would like to have care for them.

She is an AVID reader and crafter. She ALWAYS has a book in hand and my dad always makes sure she has a good story. She loves to sew, quilt and

craft. She has made so many special things for her grandchildren. They always say that Grandma can fix anything as long as she has her sewing machine. She and my dad are both very active in their church, Park Chapel Christian Church and have truly made a difference in our community. They are not the ones you see up front, but the ones who keep it all together in the back. They have much to be proud of yet would never take the credit. My dad is retired and is always running errands with and for his grandchildren. Mom will retire in June 2010. I know she is looking SO forward to it, but is also a bit leery. She has been a nurse for so long I know she will miss that part of her life. However, retirement will free her up to read more books, create more quilts and sew, sew, sew! I am extremely proud of my mom and dad and couldn't have picked out a better set of parents myself. They exemplify what family means and their eternal support and guidance are cherished. It is my pleasure to write about them and hope they make it to Denver for the Berkeley Reunion. Thank you and take care!

Till next time,

Pat

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Admiral Jonathan Howe USN (Ret), Commanding Officer of USS Berkeley 1974-75 was the guest speaker at the Adams Class dinner in Jacksonville, Florida on November 6, 2009 honoring all former Adams Class commanding officers.

The Goat Locker



THE NAVY CHIEF

The CHIEF doesn't sleep with a night light. The CHIEF isn't afraid of the dark. The dark is afraid of the CHIEF.

The CHIEF once visited The Virgin Islands. They are now called The Islands.

The CHIEF once counted to infinity . . . Twice!

Superman owns a pair of CHIEF pajamas.

The CHIEF has never paid taxes. He just sends in a blank form and includes a picture of himself.

If the CHIEF is late, then time had damn well better stop.

The CHIEF has the greatest Poker Face ever. He once won the 1982 World Series of Poker despite the fact that he held only a Joker, a 2 of clubs, a 7 of spades, a Monopoly Get-Out-Of-Jail card, and a green number 4 UNO card.

The CHIEF once sold his soul to the devil in exchange for his rugged good looks and unparalleled strength. He then beat up the devil and took back his soul.

When the CHIEF was in middle school, his English teacher assigned an essay: "What is courage?" The CHIEF received an A+ for turning in a blank page with only his name at the top.

The CHIEF actually died four years ago, but the Grim Reaper can't get up the courage to tell him.

The CHIEF clogs the toilet even when he pees.

If the CHIEF ever calls your house, be in! The CHIEF doesn't leave messages; he leaves warnings.

When the Incredible Hulk gets angry, he transforms into the CHIEF.

Bullets dodge the CHIEF.

The CHIEF once took an entire bottle of sleeping pills. They made him blink . . . Once.

The CHIEF never used a question mark in his entire life. He believes that the interrogative tense is a sign of weakness.

Post-9/11 GI Bill

This is a very special military benefit program for members who served in active duty status after Sept. 11, 2001. The benefit pays for tuition, fees, housing and books for the military member and one of the best features of this bill is that the benefit can be transferred to the member's spouse and/or children if eligible.

The Post-9/11 GI Bill is not for everyone but it does apply to members who:

- ◆ Served full-time duty in the Regular components of the Armed Forces or those who served under a call or order to active duty under Title 10 (with few exceptions);
- ◆ Current, former and retired members;
- ◆ Served on or after 11 Sept. 2001;
- ◆ Served a minimum of at least 90 aggregate days;
- ◆ Individuals discharged with a service-connected disability after 30 days;
- ◆ Honorably discharged;
- ◆ Use the benefit for education and training no earlier than 1 Aug. 2009.

Benefits: Provides up to 36 months of education benefits, payable for 15 years following release from active duty. Dependent children are eligible until they reach age 26—no 15 year limitation. The amount of the benefit varies with the amount of active duty service. Less than 36 months the amount payable is reduced from 90% down to 40% on a sliding scale for months served.

Transfer of benefit: To a spouse the member must have served 6 years with a commitment to 10 years. To children only after 10 years of service and agree to 4 more years. The benefit continues even if the child marries. The member retains the authority to revoke the benefit at any time.

One of the best features of this bill compared to the previous GI Bill is the option to transfer benefits to a spouse or children. Previously it was use it or lose it.

Written by a Korean War Sailor

Come gather round me lads and I'll tell you a thing or two, about the way we ran the Navy in nineteen fifty two. When wooden ships and iron men were barely out of sight, I am going to give you some facts just to set the record right.

We wore the ole bell bottoms, with a flat hat on our head, and we always hit the sack at night. We never "went to bed." Our uniforms were worn ashore, and we were mighty proud. Never thought of wearing civvies, in fact they were not allowed.

Now when a ship puts out to sea, I'll tell you son – it hurts when you suddenly notice that half the crew is wearing skirts! And it's hard for me to imagine, a female boatswain's mate, stopping on the Quarterdeck to make sure her stockings are straight.

What happened to the KiYi brush, and the old salt-water bath? Holy stoning decks at night - cause you stirred old Bosn's wrath! We always had our gedunk stand and lots of pogeey bait. And it always took a hitch or two, just to make a rate..

In your seabag all your skivvies, were neatly stopped and rolled. And the blankets on your sack had better have a three-inch fold. Your little ditty bagit's hard to believe just how much it held, and you wouldn't go ashore with pants that hadn't been spiked and belled.

We had scullery maids and succotash and good old S.O.S. And when you felt like topping off - you headed for the mess. Oh we had our belly robbers - but there weren't too many gripes. For the deck apes were never hungry and there were no starving snipes.

Now you never hear of Davey Jones, Shellbacks Or Polliwogs, and you never splice the mainbrace to receive your daily grog. Now you never have to dog a watch or stand the main event. You even tie your lines today - - back in my time they were bent.

We were all two-fisted drinkers and no one thought you sinned, if you staggered back aboard your ship, three sheets to the wind. And with just a couple hours of sleep you regained your usual luster. bright eyed and bushy tailed - you still made morning muster.

Tear Drop Monument - Russian Gift to the United States

Have you heard about this? Surprisingly, most people have not. It received very little media coverage except in the local papers.

The monument, which features a 40 foot steel teardrop suspended within a large bronze-clad tower, is a memorial to the victims of 9/11 and the 1993 World Trade Center bombings.

On September 11, 2006, the 100-foot monument, "To the Struggle Against World Terrorism," was unveiled at a dedication ceremony featuring former President Clinton, Governor Corzine, Senators Menendez and Lautenberg and other dignitaries. The monument was created and donated by artist Zurab Tsereteli and the people of Russia to memorialize the victims of 9/11.



The memorial is the centerpiece of Harbor View Park in Bayonne, New Jersey.

Rocks and shoals have long since gone, and now it's U.C.M.J. THEN the old man handled everything if you should go astray. Now they steer the ships with dials, and I wouldn't be surprised, if some day they sailed the damned things - from the beach computerized.

So when my earthly hitch is over, and the good Lord picks the best, I'll walk right up to HIM and say, "Sir, I have but one request. Let me sail the seas of Heaven in a coat of Navy blue. Like I did so long ago on earth - way back in 1952.