



THE BRIGHT PENNY

July 2010

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

Reunion 2010 just a month away

Denver Reunion

Our next reunion is now less than two months away, and deadlines are quickly approaching. If you plan to attend or believe you may be attending, we urge you to call 303-296-0400 and make your room reservations at the Downtown Denver Comfort Inn. July 19th is the deadline to reserve rooms at our special reunion rate, and this will also be the deadline for registering for the reunion. Please mail your payment for the reunion (\$60 per person) to the USS Berkeley Association, C/O Gerry Hansen, 6318 S. 20th Street, Milwaukee, WI 53221 no later than August 7th to ensure receipt before Gerry departs for the reunion.



The dates for the Denver reunion are August 19-22, 2010. The Welcome Reception will be held Friday evening from 5-7 PM, and the Banquet will be Saturday evening beginning at 5 PM. Other activities will be taking place beginning Thursday afternoon. There is some confusion regarding the Coors Brewery tour. A cost was previously listed in a newsletter article, but we accidentally left the cost off the registration form at the web site. A per person charge of \$10 will be collected to help offset the bus charges. This fee can be paid in advance or at the reunion. The tour is Friday morning, and the bus departs the hotel at 9 AM. We also attempted to include a free tour of the Denver Mint, but as of this writing, the Mint will be closed to the public for annual inventory during our reunion. There is a slight possibility the inventory dates may change, and if so, we will inform attendees via the web site and when you arrive for the reunion. More details regarding the reunion can be found at the web site. You can also email Al Meier at alphawhiskey.ddg15@yahoo.com or call 408-656-3879 with questions or requests for more information.

In the Spotlight



BTCS (SW) Darrel Williams

BTCS (SW) Darrel Williams was born in Perham, Minnesota in March 1948. He graduated from Pelican Rapids High School in 1966.

He joined the Navy in August 1967 (after being prodded by the Draft Board) reporting to the Recruit Training Center, Great Lakes in December. Upon completion of Recruit Training he reported to his first ship the USS Guadalcanal LPH-7, homeported at Norfolk, VA. While serving aboard Guadalcanal the ship recovered the Apollo 9 Manned Space Flight Capsule and Astronauts after an Atlantic splash down in March 1969. After a short exodus from the Navy in Nov. 71 he re-enlisted in Feb. 1972 and reported to BT "B" school in Philadelphia, PA. His next assignment was the USS Oriskany CVA-34 homeported at Alameda, CA (Aug 72 - Nov 73). After six years of sea duty Darrel (Willie) was assigned to Fleet Maintenance Assistance Group also in Alameda, CA from Nov. 74 until Dec. 75. He then served aboard USS Preble DDG-46 homeported at Pearl Harbor, HI (Jan 76 - Jan 78) and in February 1978 he reported aboard the USS Dixon AS-37 homeported at San Diego, CA as a Chief Petty Officer. It was during this tour that he met and married his wife Kathleen in September 1980.

Chief Petty Officer Williams reported on board the USS Berkeley in October 1980. While on Berkeley he was Work Group Supervisor of EBO1 (#1 Fire Room) and EB-14 (Oil & Water Test Lab). During his tour of duty on Berkeley the ship completed WestPac 1981, went through a shipyard overhaul in Long Beach, CA and numerous local-ops, qualifications and exercises. He earned his (SW) designation while aboard Berkeley.

Chief Williams departed Berkeley in October 1983 and his next assign-

ment was SIMA, San Diego for his second tour of Shore Duty. His last set of orders were issued in May 1986 to the USS Schofield FFG-3 home ported in San Diego, CA. He retired in June 1988 as a Senior Chief Petty Officer.

Following Darrel's naval career he worked for a short period as a boiler operator for Civil Service at Naval Station San Diego and then Camp Pendleton. In January 1990 he was hired at the University of California San Diego as a Systems Operator at the Central Utility Plant and in Building Maintenance. He retired from UCSD in June 2006 and never looked back, only looking ahead to the next "road trip". Enjoying RVing, especially in the summer months to North Dakota and Minnesota where the grandkids are and life is a lot slower.

Darrel and his wife Kathleen reside in San Diego, California; have one son and two granddaughters.

From the Quarterdeck By



CDR Jim Barrett (Ret)



Ship's Logs are now available in the Ship's Store

Berkeley made seven deployments during the Vietnam war and we now have four of the deployment logs from that era. The logs are on separate CD's for each deployment beginning with the day of departure until the day of return. They are copies of the original handwritten pages and are in Adobe PDF format. With Adobe Reader you can peruse the pages and print a page or

pages if desired. The logs can be purchased through the ship's store for \$13.00 each including shipping, except for 1964, which is \$15.00. This is a chance for you to go back and review events that took place while deployed. We expect this to be a popular item in the ship's store.

The Association paid a service in Washington, DC to scan the logs and the 1964 deployment was the longest at just over eight months with 750 pages and is on two disks. Thus, the difference in price for 1964 log. This expense has been incorporated into the price of the CD's. It took a while to get the four logs declassified for copying and we still have three cruises remaining to be cleared.

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY
FORM 1001-101 (Rev. 1-64) (Previously NAFFR 714)

DECK LOG BOOK

OF THE

U.S.S. BERKELEY

DDG-15

Attached to: 000, 1, 000 Division,
000000 Squadron,
00000 Flotilla,
00000 Fleet,
00000 Naval District,

Commencing 0000, 1, 0000, 1968
at LONG BEACH, CALIFORNIA
and ending 0000, 31, 0000, 1968
at 0000, 00, 0000

Approved by: [Signature] Commanding
T. H. 000, JR., CAPT, U.S. NAVY

TO BE FORWARDED DIRECT TO THE BUREAU OF NAVAL PERSONNEL AT THE END OF EACH MONTH

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Annual Dues: \$20.00

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Asst. Director: Dale Johnson

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Treasurer: Gerald Hansen

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Al Meier

LIBERTY CALL!

Those sweet words of yester year raised our spirits, and provided some time for relaxation and fun. Those words were especially gratifying after a prolonged period at sea and when visiting a new or favorite port. Now let's just substitute reunion for liberty call and Denver for that new port, and see if we can't recapture the enthusiasm we had when the words "Liberty Call" blared out over the intercom system! As the saying goes "You don't stop having fun because you grow old, you grow old because you stop having fun."

I was recently contacted by a gentleman who coordinates the reunions for the USS John Paul Jones and the USS Hull, who was checking with other associations that are planning reunions for later this year. He was interested in information regarding our expected attendance relative to past reunions, and also our Associations membership. Not to my surprise, other associations are experiencing very few early signups for their recent reunions. We are just now beginning to see an increase in room reservations at the Downtown Denver Comfort Inn. With the Denver reunion just over six weeks away, I strongly encourage you to make your reservations soon to ensure a room at our discounted rates and to be part of the festivities.

The reunion itinerary can be found on the web site by selecting the "Reunion Info" tab, scroll down to "Next Reunion", and then scroll down to the "Itinerary". Since we still have time to enhance your experience, let me know what additions we can make. I have thought about a Bull Session for the guys, and I

believe Pat Clark recommends a tea party at the historic Brown Palace (where we'll be holding all reunion events). Ladies, what do you say! Send me an email at alphawhiskey.ddg15@yahoo.com and let me know.

And while we're on the subject of liberty call and reunions, it's not too early to start thinking about the BIG 50! That's like in 50th anniversary of the USS Berkeley commissioning, and there will be a big celebration! We will once again select a list of three potential host cities for the 2012 reunion which is to be held in the South West region. How appropriate it is that cities such as Long Beach and San Diego, where the ship was home ported for many years, can be possibilities. The cities will be announced at the reunion banquet, and voting will commence around early September. Another thing I would like you to consider is the time frame for the 2012 reunion. All our recent reunions have been held in August or September. What works best for you? You can let us know when you vote online (or send me a note) for the reunion city.

Now "Hear this", this old radarman is getting excited as we set a final course for our next port of call, and our ETA (estimated time of arrival for the uninformed) is 1200 on August 19, 2010! All sections are granted Liberty.



Big Mo', Little Berk' 1978
Photo by BM2 Mike Wyngaert

**Berkeley History
July****40 Years Ago, 1970**

01-12, NGFS RVN, attached to CTU 70.8.9; **12-15**, enroute to Bangkok; **15-19**, visit Bangkok; **20-23**, enroute to Subic Bay; **23-26**, upkeep Subic Bay; **27-31**, enroute to CONUS.

30 Years Ago, 1980

01-06, Inport NavSta San Diego; **07-08**, inport San Diego - Fast Cruise; **09-10**, SoCal OpArea; **10**, inport Weapons Station, Seal Beach; **10-11**, SoCal OpArea; **12-13**, inport San Diego; **14**, SoCal OpArea; **15-16**, NGFS spotter services, San Clemente Island; **17-18**, SoCal OpArea; **19-20**, inport San Diego; **21-25**, SoCal OpArea; **26-31**, inport San Diego.

20 Years Ago, 1990

01-02, inport San Diego; **03**, SoCal midshipmen training; **04-08**, inport San Diego; **09-10**, SoCal midshipmen training; **11-12**, inport San Diego; **13-23**, SoCal OpArea - law enforcement operations; **23**, inport San Diego; **24-27**, SoCal OpArea - all comers at sea training; **29-31**, inport San Diego - upkeep period.

10 Years Ago, 2000

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

TAPS

RMC John T. Franz, May 25, 2010. Chief Franz served aboard Berkeley 1964-67.

GMG1 Carl J. Conway, October 28, 2009. GMG1 Conway served aboard Berkeley 1983-85

CDR Robert J Cepek, son of Capt. Robert J. Cepek (Ret) has been selected for promotion to Captain. Both are USNA graduates. Capt. Cepek served as ASW Officer in Berkeley 1964-66.