



THE BRIGHT PENNY

January - March 2013

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

Welcome 2013!

Despite the end of the Mayan calendar and Doomsday predictions, we made it to 2013! I wish all of you and your families a healthy and happy year.



2012 was a good year for the Association, and we look forward to a prosperous 2013. The Berkeley's 50th anniversary was celebrated at our San Diego reunion last September, and a great time was had by the large turnout. We saw the master roster continue to grow, and the paid membership remained constant. Our web site continues to evolve thanks to the contributions of Jim Barrett and some of our members. We also saw many shipmates cast their votes for the 2014 reunion which will take place in the Southeast sector.

2013 will be a year of transition with regard to the Association's web master and newsletter editor and publisher. Our plan is to transition the web master responsibilities from Jim Barrett to myself as Jim settles into a more relaxing retirement. I will transfer the newsletter editor & publisher responsibilities to William Stevens, and this should be completed sometime later this year. Rex McCoy volunteered for the Berkeley ACVA Representative position, and will do a great job keeping us current on the effort to move the Charles F. Adams (DDG-2) to Jacksonville, FL as a museum ship.

We will continue to focus on some of the goals set forth at the beginning of last year, primarily in expanding our quarterly newsletters and adding to the master roster. We will need some volunteers for our "In the Spotlight" and "Berkeley Beauties" articles.

You can contact Al Meier at alphawhiskey.ddg15@yahoo.com

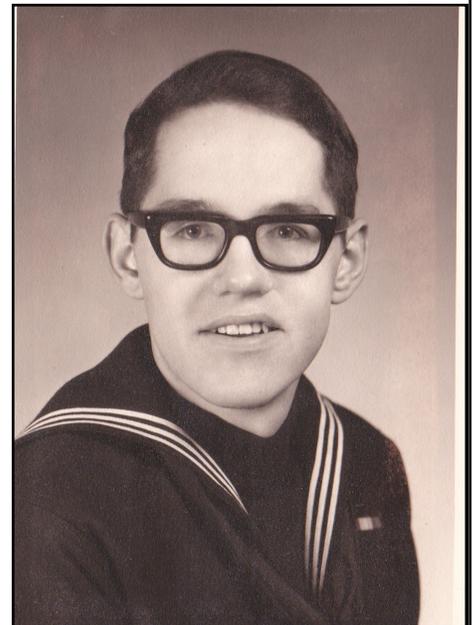
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Don joined the Navy on June 12, 1969, and received boot camp and FTA1 training in Great Lakes, IL. He trained in Great Lakes through May, 1970. Then got married and was off to Mare Island, California for a AN/SPG51C Missile Fire Control Radar class. Don reported to the Berkeley in December of 1970 dressed in whites, and was told to get changed into his oldest dungarees and head to the shaft alley to change an amplidyne motor generator set by FTM1 Monger. "Whew and wow, what a way to start a career on the ole Berk!!" For the first two weeks he thought she had two (2) fore and aft passageways!!! So started his "ed-u-machation" as an FT.

Don stood watches on the Bridge updating the tote board, general quarters at the manual designation station on the signal bridge, special sea detail was engine order telegraph ("a trip to do that in fog entering Long Beach harbor when you can't even see the pointy end of the front of the ship !!!!") as well as training on the missile radar. FTM1 Sholley said Don could learn quickly with mild pain or slowly and it would be a long time before he could stand watches in Missile radar - Don choose pain. Electronic targets on the console and Sholley's hand SLAPPING HIS HEAD on the appropriate side when he strayed off the target, he learned REAL fast that way! Thanks to James Fannin and Frank Lund (as well as ole Long legs, Jud Huggins) for their input to his education as well!

Don took fleet-wide testing in February 1971, and was rated in May 1971 - "a shiny new, wet behind the ears 2nd Class that knew very, very little." Both FTM1 James Monger and FTM1 Frank Sholley were instrumental in Don's troubleshooting training, and diagnosis of the entire system's problems down to the component level on a printed circuit

In the Spotlight



FTM3 Simmons

board. They taught him well and he still makes his living with those skills at 61 years young!! Both Chiefs Bond and Schiefier were an inspiration being "the kind of men that kept us all in line and learning." On his first cruise Don spent GQ in the after gun mount armory loading shells and powder into the elevators that fed the mount.

Don remembers Chief Schiefier helping jury rig a missile radar with a desmoking blower to get it up and functional when no spare parts could be found. "We posted a watch for the physical revolutions made while tracking to see that we didn't pull the extension cord out of the wall powering the blower from the 110VAC outlet, and we were up and running." Don remembers a fracas in 1972 - at a Friday AM quarters, the orders were

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Newsletter Distribution: To dues current members via e-mail in pdf form and to non-e-mail members via U.S. Mail.



Al Meier

**Berkeley History
January**

50 Years Ago, 1963

01 – 31 Fitting Out in Philadelphia Naval Shipyard

40 Years Ago, 1973

01 – 05 In port Long Beach
05 – 08 Transit to Bremerton, WA
08 Commencement of extensive overhaul
12 Enter Drydock #6, Puget Sound Naval Shipyard
12 – 31 In Dry-dock PSNS

30 Years Ago, 1983

01 – 31 Ship approaching end of Extensive Overhaul Long Beach Naval Shipyard

20 Years Ago, 1993

In service with the Hellenic Navy of Greece, and named the H.S. Themistokles.

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regarding “In the Spotlight” articles, and the same address can be used for forwarding “Berkeley Beauties” inquiries to Pat Clark. We would still appreciate articles about your days on the Berkeley, and this can be a one-time article or ongoing column.

Our master roster increased from 1,146 to 1,175 names during 2012, and a goal of exceeding 1,200 by the end of this year is a 2013 goal. If you moved or changed your email address or other contact information in the past year or two, please submit an update so that we can provide your shipmates with valid contact information. If you have contact with a former shipmate who is not on the master roster, encourage them to submit their contact information. Our master roster is one of our most important assets.

Planning for our 2014 reunion in the Southeast sector will begin in the next few months. Voting for the host city is in progress and will run through January 31, 2013. You can cast your vote through the web site or by sending an email to me at the email address listed above. You can also leave a voice mail message at 408-656-3879 So far, Jacksonville is in the lead followed by Savannah and Nashville. The host city will be listed on the web site in February and appear in the April newsletter. Over fifty people have cast votes so far, please let us know your preference!

**USS Berkeley Association
2013 Master Roster**

Our master roster will be delivered to active members in April, and all shipmates that have paid 2013 dues will receive a copy. If you have any changes in your contact or shipboard information, please submit an update through the web site so that we may ensure the accuracy of this important document.

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“get your uniforms on board – we leave at 3pm!!!” “We scavenged whole bays of down equipment from a sister ship with those boys hoppin mad at us. Whatever was in that letter the Weapons Officer had scarred that guy white!” We were going to a REAL WAR, and we all knew it!!!” Don made E-6 (FTM1) that trip, putting on the crow’s third chevron in Subic Bay with Capt. Dalrymple. Don says “Wow was that a “dumb move!!!” For a little more pay, LOTS more work and responsibility!!!” He was Leading P.O. after a year. “What a great bunch of guys to lead!!! Many fond memories of them “Gitten ‘er Done” when I asked.” He remembers overhaul in Bremerton, Washington where summer was one single day of the year!!!

Finally, Don remembers his last missile shoot off California in 1975. “Holding a small orange target drone through a turn that everyone said I lost, yet I heard the missile strike the drone! - Wow were the Chiefs pissed, both whining that I screwed it up. I was so VERY happy to see the BIG streak of white missile paint almost full length of the drone as they pulled it aboard!”

Don left the Berkeley in San Diego in June of 1975. He then attended Junior College and received an Associates Degree in Electronics. It was then on to Pt. Loma Navy Radio Lab to train dolphins to carry “objects to place on ship bottoms.” He then did some MK 47 torpedo documents, and then spent 18 years at Hewlett Packard in Colorado Springs, CO rising to R&D Lab Engineer. He later received a Computer Science Degree in 1987, and is presently working in Northern Colorado, between Denver and Cheyenne, WY for various Technology companies in temp jobs. Don hopes to work another 5 years.

Don is married with six kids, and an excess of 12 grandkids. “That was my goal, a Dad, a wife and a home. Thanks to you all for your service and helping this happen in a peaceful country! Any of my old shipmates are welcome to stop by for a meal and a bunk. Maybe we can go catch a few brook trout! I have a cabin in the mountains off grid. Elk, moose, deer and turkey to keep me busy, as well as Civil War re-enactments during the past 12 years, both locally and back east.”

Ahoy Berkeley Beauties

By Pat Clark



LOSS OF PLANK OWNER

I was advised on Wed., Jan. 2, 2013, by the daughter of Dale Nielsen, ICC, 1962-66, that he passed away on Fri, Dec. 21, 2012. Cause of death was due to a stroke following a brain aneurism. These ailments were brought on by his diagnosis of Melanoma that had attacked his brain. Services for Dale will be held on Fri., Mar. 22, 2013, 1:00 pm at Fort Rosecrans Cemetery in San Diego. Delay in services is to allow his physician son to clear his patient calendar and the family didn't want to have services during the holidays. This photo of Dale was taken in San Diego during a visit to the USS Midway in the year 2006.



Ahoy Berkeley Beauties!

My, oh my, where did 2012 go? I hope 2013 goes by a little slower. I've made some new year's resolutions and I'm really going to try and keep them (fingers X'd) You'd think at my age I could make and keep a commitment (LOL!!) Those of you that went on the 'mini quilt run' during the San Diego Reunion I promised a picture of the aprons that you all helped

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The Berkeley's Raid Into Brandon Bay

There is now an original work of art depicting Berkeley in action. It is a 24"x48" oil painting of Berkeley's daylight raid into Brandon Bay (Vung Pfu Diem), North Vietnam, on 8 May 1972. The time is about 1530, just after Berkeley turned port to 090°.

The artist is Richard Derossett. He is the official artist for the Museum of the Pacific War in Fredricksburg, TX, and for the Veteran's Museum of San Diego. He is a Navy veteran, and also a former merchant marine captain. He has meticulous attention to detail, but also captures the spirit of the event. I worked closely with Richard to try to get the details right, and any errors are mine alone. Richard also conducted his own research with the many contacts he has developed over the years. For examples of his work see: <http://richardderossett.com/>.

No painting can exactly capture a photographic image of what happened in a given event, nor should it. For example, to show the A-7E's that were in the raid they had to fit into the 24"x48" format, and are somewhat out of position. But the painting is technically accurate, and captures the reality of what it meant to be there that day. The emotional impact is overwhelming.

The painting will be professionally scanned in late January. A low resolution image will be posted on the Berkeley Association website shortly thereafter.

It is possible for us to create prints of the painting in various media (photo paper, canvas, etc.) at a reduced size of say 12"x24". These could be sold in our ship's store.

All of the profits would go to benefit the Association. If you think you may be interested in such a print, let me know at rmcco@cox.net. If you have experience with this type of online/art sales, also let me know of any helpful tips you may have.

The painting was commissioned to permanently preserve Berkeley's history at a crucial time in her career, as well as honor those who served in her. And perhaps we can also benefit the ship's Association as well.

Yours Aye, Rex McCoy

The Adams Class DDG In Context

The Adams class DDG was America's best general purpose destroyer during the Cold War. There, I've said it. Now, how do I defend that assertion?

First, the US didn't have many classes of general purpose DD's during that period. There were only the Gearing/Sumner FRAM DD's, the Forest Sherman DD's, the Charles F. Adams DDG's, and the Spruance/Kidd class.

The other destroyer types during the period were the DLG's and the DE's (later FF's). The DLG's essentially were designed to be carrier escorts, with emphasis on anti-air warfare. The DE/FF Knox, and later Perry classes were ASW platforms. Both types of course performed many other duties, primarily due to a lack of general purpose destroyers, and not because they were well suited to the jobs. The crews deserve kudos for performing so well under the circumstances.

So how did the Adams class stack up against the other GP destroyers? The FRAM DD's were clearly obsolescent. They performed magnificently as gunships during the Vietnam War, but had limited ASW capability, and almost no AAW capacity. The Forest Sherman's were also gunships, with an improved ASW suite, but little in the way of AAW.

The Spruance/Kidd DD/DDG's that followed the Adams class performed yeoman's service, but the design was not up to the evolving challenge. The Spruance's were designed for ASW, but then the primary opponent, the Soviet Union, went and changed the rules. Rather than just building subs, they created a shore-based naval air arm loaded with long-range missiles. And they created a surface fleet whose every square inch of deck space was occupied with a gun or missile launcher. Remember the Kynda's and Kashin's? The Spruance's were clearly outclassed, though at least the four Kidd's had an AAW capability. It wasn't worth keeping them in service for as long as they could have been. The US Navy's response was the successful Ticonderoga cruisers, and the Arleigh Burke DDG's.

In the meantime, the only general purpose tin can that could hold its own in all warfare areas was the Adams class. Of course the class became increasingly obsolescent as the Cold War went on.

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me pick out the fabric for when we went to Rosie's Quilt Shop.



This is my granddaughter Ashley and Gr8-granddaughter Maddison modeling my creations! I gave them cookbooks with pictures of my granddaughter when she was 3 making cookies in my kitchen and Madison baking in 2012 at the age of 3. What fun to share between the generations! I know Grandpa Lou Clark is smiling down on them. Here in Laguna Woods Village we have access to over 200 clubs. I belong to the Crazy Quilters Guild. This month the ladies from 'Starry Night Hollow' will be giving us a presentation by them. I'm so excited, as this was a stop on our 'mini quilt run'.



I'm happy to know that we are again going to have a Berkeley Beauty featured in the newsletter. This first newsletter of 2013 is featuring Karen Zilverberg, wife of Don Carson, FTG2, 1976-77:

I grew up in Minnesota. After high school graduation, I entered the USMC and I served for 2-years. I began working on my higher education after the USMC, part time, and I worked on a job full time. I always worked and I worked in an office. I finally got my doctorate 30-years after high school graduation. What an event that was.

I raised five older special-needs adopted children that came out of Children's Protective Services in Houston, Texas. Raising older children was a colossal challenge because they were already formed when I adopted them. I learned much from this experience with the children. My first husband was gone shortly after the adoptions; therefore, I raised them.

I met Don Carson in 1997 at my place of employment, which was for a contractor company at the Johnson Space center in Houston, Texas. We married in 1998. We currently live in Seabrook, Texas with our two dogs.

Since I left the Johnson Space center in 1999, I have done some light trading and quite a bit of independent research. I began the research because I was informed I would not live and I was not satisfied with that prognosis. I have nicely overcome the bout of two kinds of cancer. Today, I continue to participate in groups that specialize in home remedies and holistic ways. My notes are currently being used on four continents. My opinion on the subject is that it is a whole lot easier to eradicate degenerative conditions than what we are led to believe.

Don retired when the space center ended the manned shuttle program. It has been quite a change in lifestyle and for the better. It is wonderful having Don home. I am looking forward to a sweet rest of our lives. Don is a great husband and my true love.

My personal interests and hobbies include swimming, walking, bicycling, gardening, Hatha Yoga, knitting, embroidery, sewing, tatting, reading, music, movies, travel, camping, sightseeing, current events, computer use, HTML editing, and international cooking.

I currently belong to the Slovenian Women of America and The Graduates Club, formerly the MBA Company. I believe in Christianity.

Thanks Karen! Sounds like you have a very full and happy life!
Till next time, **Pat**

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But the class made it from the early 1960's to see the fall of the Berlin wall. And six of the class served honorably with allied navies, Australia and Germany. Four of the US ships also continued service in the Royal Hellenic Navy, including *Berkeley*, which became HS *Themistocles*. There was none better. And if you want to argue the point with me, we can do it over a beer at the next reunion!

Save the Charles F. Adams

There is only one Adams class destroyer that has not been sunk or turned into razor blades. That is Charles F. Adams (DDG-2) herself. She was decommissioned in 1990, and is currently on "museum hold" in Philadelphia. The Jacksonville Historic Naval Ship Association (JHNSA) has proposed bringing Adams to Jacksonville Florida to serve as a museum ship. The Adams Class Veterans Association (ACVA) and the USS Berkeley Association both support that worthy goal. This is the last chance to preserve this significant ship class, and also to preserve an important part of our personal memories.

Please show your support by joining ACVA.

Go to: www.adamsclassddgvets.org/ for details. And when you join me as a fellow member, please let me know. I'm at rmcco@cox.net

Rex McCoy
1970-1972

Reunion Banquet Memory Books

Former Berkeley crew members who attended the San Diego reunion in September will be receiving memory books of the reunion banquet. We originally thought the books would be delivered in the early November time frame. Our memory books most likely will be delivered in February. If you do not receive your copy by early March, please contact Al Meier via the web site or leave a message at 408-656-3879.



Chaplain's Corner

By

Chaplain Bill Perry

What are the Odds?

I'm forever amazed at the odds of probability on what we believe, teach and do. The underdog victories of David vs. Goliath, Gideon and his 300, Moses against Pharaoh—these all underscore how God's people have never been your odd's on favorites to win.

Amidst impossible natural odds, our Father supernaturally overrules all odds.

But none of His otherwise over-the-top deeds can match the incalculable odds of His master plan of salvation. That, above all else, takes the cake; the details defy the possibilities. Here's what I mean:

- In 700 BC, Micah prophesied that the Savior would be born in Bethlehem. But, what are the odds? Most bets would have the Messiah birthed in Jerusalem, the home of royalty, the Temple and Jewish history. But, setting that aside, there were about 200 different cities and towns in Israel during Christ's lifetime, any of which Micah could have chosen. So let's say the odds were one chance in 200.
- In 1000 BC, David said the Savior would be betrayed by a friend. What are the odds? Pretty simple really. Either He would be or He wouldn't. Odds: one in two.
- In 600 BC, Zechariah said the Savior would be betrayed for 30 pieces of silver. What are the odds? Judas could have set the price at any amount, but he chose to demean Christ by accepting the going rate for a damaged slave. Conservative odds: one in 50.
- In 1000 BC, the Psalmist described in detail the then-unknown method of execution to be used on the Savior. What are the odds? Very conservative odds: one in 100.
- In 700 BC, Isaiah prophesied the Savior would be born of a virgin. What are the odds?

Now, the likelihood of all of these events happening as prophesied requires that we multiply each of the probabilities with the others to determine the true odds. In other words; $200 \times 2 \times 50 \times 100 =$ one chance in

2,000,000. And we still haven't factored in that little matter of the virgin birth. But wait; there are hundreds more just like these. All of which sets our faith completely apart from all others.

But God's degree of difficulty didn't stop there. He brought it into ministry too.

What are the odds that Tertullian, a self indulgent pagan and favorite patron of the Roman nightclubs, would convert to Christianity and ultimately become its brightest voice and strongest defender? He chastised the tolerant church for permitting the very sins he had repented of in paganism.

What are the odds that Martin Luther, who graduated 37th in a class of 53 students, would create a church-shattering reformation by nailing 95 topics of conversation to a church door in Wittenberg?

What are the odds that John Knox who, more than once, was burned in effigy - at a church, no less - would rock Scotland with his preaching, becoming Mary Queen of Scot's worst nightmare?

What are the odds that broken hearted Soren Kierkegaard, whose fiancé married another because of his fear of commitment, would be the one to demand that his heartless church take a "leap of faith"?

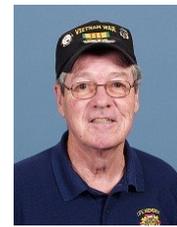
What are the odds that Dietrich Bonhoeffer, a pacifist Lutheran pastor, would break ranks with other pastors and defiantly speak out against the atrocities in Nazi-crazy Germany?

What are the odds that Charles Simeon would survive his first pastorate at Holy Trinity Church at Cambridge University? Church members boycotted because he taught that they were sinners in need of a Savior. Students protested by shouting obscenities during worship. Faculty slandered him. Yet he continued for 54 years. And when God called him home, all classes were suspended and all shops were closed as the city ringed the school to mourn the loss of their beloved pastor.

It's possible you feel the odds are against your work too. If so, you're in good company and right on schedule.

Dues Reminder

2013 USS Berkeley Association dues are now due. Please send your \$20 payment to USS Berkeley Assoc., c/o Gerry Hansen, 6318 S. 20th St, Milwaukee, WI 53221



Robert "Bob" O'Donnell

Veterans Outreach Manager

Sokolove Law

Asbestos

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Hello to the Veteran Outreach community, I'm writing today to share answers to 3 questions I hear most often when I'm visiting veteran posts:

1. What are the most common sources of asbestos exposure?

Occupational exposure to asbestos is one of the most common causes of mesothelioma and other asbestos-related diseases. The majority of people who become ill from asbestos have been exposed on a regular basis, in the course of their employment. In addition, asbestos was used in a variety of products throughout all branches of the US military. Approximately 33% of mesothelioma cases have been shown to involve US Navy or shipyard exposures.

2. How do I file a mesothelioma lawsuit and are there time limits to file?

There are strict limits on the time you have to file a mesothelioma claim. Different states have different laws. If the time runs out, you will not be able to file a claim, ever. The best way to learn about your specific legal rights is to contact a Sokolove attorney. Our legal staff can be a great source of relief and support – and as always speaking with us is at no-cost to you. We offer free, no-obligation case evaluations everyday.

3. Will this impact my VA benefits? Filing an asbestos claim does not impact your VA benefits. As a veteran, you may still seek assistance of the U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs. In addition to filing a mesothelioma lawsuit against the product manufacturer responsible for asbestos exposure, veterans who develop mesothelioma are able to seek disability compensation and health care coverage through the VA, for their service related exposure.

I've zeroed in on these three questions because I hear them so often. If you have additional questions, please know you can call me at 800-706-5029 or email me and I will be at your service. I will make every effort to answer them rapidly and thoroughly.