



THE BRIGHT PENNY

October - December 2015

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

2016 Chicago Reunion Dates Set!!!

Our next reunion in Chicago will take place Thursday, September 22–Sunday, September 25, 2016. We are currently reviewing a proposal from the Crowne Plaza Northbrook which has offered the best room rates by far, and appear able to meet our needs for reunion activities. We hope to have the hotel arrangements finalized by mid-November. Please check the web site for the latest reunion information.



Once we finalize our hotel arrangements, we will begin planning for our reunion events and tours. We would also like to provide information on Chicago attractions, things to do, and dining. If you have some good suggestions to share with attendees, please send us a note through the web site.

As we look forward to 2016, one of the Association's primary focuses will be on increasing membership to the levels we achieved a few years ago. Our paid membership for 2015 was approximately 45-50% of the 2010 and 2012 levels. Reunion & dues reminder post cards will be sent out in late November. Typically, paid memberships increase in reunion years, and the post card reminders always seem to help.

If you haven't updated your contact information this year, we ask you to please do so at your earliest convenience. This is a great time to update your information so that your ship mates will know how to contact you when their 2016 master roster arrives next spring.

Ex-USS Charles F. Adams (DDG-2) Return to Jacksonville Update

For all of you fine Adams Class DDG Sailors, have a grand time with your yearly reunions!

The JHNSA remains very busy with our ongoing efforts for the return of the ex-USS *Charles F. Adams* (DDG-2) from Philadelphia to Jacksonville.

Here are a few of the many things that have happened to date this year:

1). *CROWDRISE* on-line fundraising has brought in over \$36,000 to assist the JHNSA's efforts to promote and administer the return of the ship.

2). We have hired Joe Snowberger as our CEO and full time contractor to lead and manage the hundreds of details that need to be followed to coordinate the safe return and eventual opening of the **USS Adams Navy Warship Museum**.

3). In March three former USS *Adams* Officers - Chief Engineer Earle Yerger and Engineering Maintenance Officer Jim Donaldson, joined their former CO, Bob Branco (now the ACVA President) to visit the USS *Adams* in Philadelphia to oversee ultrasonic hull testing (UT).

- These men and the contractor the JHNSA hired, made dozens of UT readings along the keel inside the hull.

- We are very pleased to report that the USS *Adams* HY-80 5/8th's inch thick steel hull and main deck are both in fine shape.

- The JHNSA paid for this contractor to conduct the testing and these men did the trip on their own dime (as has been the case for almost every visit we have made to the ship for the past 5 years) - thank you Shipmates!

- Prior to this, Bob Branco had made another trip to the ship to personally test for lead based paint on the USS Adams - none detected!

4). We have selected a private company at the former **Philadelphia Navy Yard** to work for us for the dry docking, preservation and painting of the ship.

5). We have local TV **Channel 4** on board as our official TV broadcast Station and they have been running video clips supporting the *'Return of the Adams'* for months!

6). Our 6 minute video promoting the **USS Adams Navy Warship Museum** effort, won three prominent "Media" awards - see the web site.

7). We conducted our fourth annual **5 K Run for Veterans** on 8 November 2015 along the north bank of the St. Johns River in Downtown Jacksonville. This growing-in-attendance event is attracting over 700 runners, media and volunteers to **The Jacksonville Landing** to support and publicize the return of the ship.

8). We have continued to bring needed ship restoration - items like Damage Control artifacts of the Cold War Era from the display

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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.



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ship USS Barry at the **Washington Navy Yard** - to Jacksonville for storage and eventual placement on the ship.

9). We have a construction bid in hand for the former **Jacksonville Shipyard** pier refurbishment and have commitments from our public utility company, marine engineers, a marine parts company and several other local companies to provide their services to design, build and berth the ship.

- We found the right paint systems we need for the ship's hull and superstructure at a very good price.

- We found 2 replacement guns (barrels only) and are close to locating two sets of MK 32 triple torpedo tubes.

- The interior of the ship is in very good shape - just need a quality field day and painting party for the spaces we want to open for the public.

- We have identified the after most enlisted berthing (Engineering) compartment to accommodate our first overnight guests after restoration.

10). However, most importantly, the City and the **JHNSA** have worked out a lease at \$1 per year for the minimum Navy berth site lease requirement of 10 years one year ago, but when:

- The City selected a developer to sell the former **Jacksonville Shipyards** on 30 April 2015 - that selection changed our lease agreement.

- Negotiations continue between the City and the Developer, *Iguanas, LLC* a company under the owner of the **Jacksonville Jaguars NFL Football Team**.

- The **JHNSA** is regularly meeting with both of these entities and need the new owner's approval to moor the ship at our chosen site.

11). Please remember, there is no free lunch here, we need the new property owner's agreement **and** we have to be able to afford the new

owner's lease at the mooring site.

- This mooring site is the one you see on our web site and is right across the E Bay Street location of the **Maxwell House Coffee Plant**.

- This is a terrific location for a Navy Warship Museum with the memory of the tons of coffee we all used to drink or use for bartering for things.

12). Money is always an immediate need.

- When we get the aforementioned site approvals, we need immediate funds in hand, pledged funds or approved lines of credit to get moving with the dry docking, the tow, and concurrently working on the mooring site downtown.

- Many Adams Class Ship reunion groups have visited our **USS Adams Class Visitor Center at The Jacksonville Landing** and continue to be steady donors to the financial cause.

- The Navy has been very patient with our long time efforts to get the ex-USS *Adams* donated to the **JHNSA & ACVA**, but it takes money and volunteers to complete the ship donation to obtain the ship, dry dock and paint the ship, tow it, and moor it at the former **Jacksonville Ship Yards**.

ACVA and JHNSA says:

The plan is to commemorate ALL 23 US Adams Class ships and those from Germany, Australia and Greece. When we grow the **Adams Class Warship Museum** enough to have a land site (with a building or land based exhibit site), options will be explored to have larger memory spots for all the DDG's.

John

"Bring Home the ADAMS"

John E. O'Neil, Jr.

Executive Director

Jacksonville Historic Naval Ship Association (JHNSA)

www.USSAdams.com

Berkeley History October 2015

50 Year Ago, 1965

Ship's Command History for October 1965 is missing from the files

40 Years Ago, 1975

| | |
|---------|-------------------------|
| 01 – 20 | COMPUTEX 2-76 |
| 03 – 10 | Upkeep, San Diego |
| 11 – 16 | READIEX 2-76 |
| 16 – 31 | Restricted Availability |

30 Years Ago, 1985

| | |
|----------|---------------------|
| 01 – 056 | Upkeep, San Diego |
| 07 | TYT |
| 08 – 10 | EXER SOCAL |
| 11 | ENR San Francisco |
| 12 – 15 | Visit San Francisco |
| 16 – 17 | ENR San Diego |
| 18 – 20 | IFT San Diego |
| 21 – 25 | ISE SOCAL |
| 26 – 27 | IFT San Diego |
| 28 – 31 | MTT (Phase I) |

20 Years Ago, 1995

In service with the Hellenic Navy of Greece as the H.S. Themistokles