



# THE BRIGHT PENNY

January — March 2016

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

## Happy New Year!

### Director's Update



Best wishes to you and your families for a happy and healthy 2016! The years just seem to fly by, and our Chicago reunion is fast approaching. Page 3 of this newsletter has some additional information regarding the Crowne-Plaza Northbrook.

The April newsletter will provide information regarding tours. A suggestion has been made that we consider taking in a Chicago Cubs game, and the Cubs will be at home the week of our reunion. The days to consider are Wednesday or Sunday as there is no game scheduled for Thursday, and Friday and Saturday are scheduled for other events. If you are interested, send an email to: [alphawhiskey.ddg15@yahoo.com](mailto:alphawhiskey.ddg15@yahoo.com) and let us know which day you would prefer. The Cubs will play the Cincinnati Reds on Wednesday, and they play the St. Louis Cardinals on Sunday (game times have not yet been listed).

Friday is the day designated for a group tour, and a naval-themed tour would be a popular choice. As we learned from our Jacksonville reunion, having an active naval base nearby does not ensure that a tour can be arranged.

We can definitely use some assistance in attempting to schedule a tour with Great Lakes Naval Station. Suggestions for other possible tours are appreciated.

The Bull Session (one of our most popular events) will be held Thursday night, and we encourage attendees to bring photos, videos, and sea stories to share with the group. Be sure to bring your cameras as well so that we can capture the fun, and add reunion photos to the web site.

Ladies, we will again have events that are geared toward your enjoyment. The Ladies Tea, which will be held on Saturday afternoon, has been very popular. We hope to add at least one other event intended to heighten your enjoyment.

As we enter February, dues renewals are well behind the normal level. If you haven't renewed your membership for 2016, won't you please do so today? April is the time frame for sending copies of the 2016 master roster to our paid members. If you have had any changes in your contact information (address, phone number, email address, etc.), please submit an update through the web site at your

earliest convenience so that our master roster will contain accurate information. We currently have over 1,200 crew members on the master roster.

### Mini Reunion

In June the officers of the wardroom from years 1962-1968 met in Greenwich, Connecticut and were hosted by Captain (SC) Albert "Bud" Schiff (Ret) and his wife Jayne. The gala four-day event included a full day in New York City where the group visited the 9-11 Memorial. Following lunch at the View of the World Terrace Club overlooking ground zero, the group moved on to a river boat cruise around Manhattan Island. The day closed out with pizza at the Schiff home. The next day featured a clambake and was enjoyed immensely by all. Thirty-one former officers, wives and guests attended.

### Navy to Poll Fleet for Input on Eliminating 'Seaman' Title

The Navy's master chief petty officer is preparing to bring ten other master chief petty officers to Washington D.C. to assist in a mission to make ratings and titles more gender-neutral and relevant. In a Feb. 7<sup>th</sup> interview,

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Annual Dues: \$20.00

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Treasurer: Gerald Hansen

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Al Meier

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Sleep amenities and sleep CD with relaxation tips plus quiet zone floors.

All deluxe accommodations include iron, ironing board, complimentary wireless internet, desk, microwave, mini refrigerator, coffee maker, and hair dryers.

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**Dining and entertainment:**

*Willows* - An impressive variety of classic American fare with heartwarming hospitality, open for breakfast, lunch and dinner.

*The Scoreboard* - Drinks and pub menu are offered in our traditional Chicago-style sports bar. Come relax in a casual atmosphere setting whether you are here for business or pleasure.

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MCPON Mike Stevens said he is recruiting ten master chiefs to help him obtain feedback from the fleet on how to best implement the January mandate from Navy Secretary Ray Mabus.

Mabus' order comes as the service awaits approval of its plan to open previously closed jobs in the Navy Special Warfare community -- including the elite [SEALs](#) -- to women. Some titles that might not pass the gender-neutral test include yeoman, fire controlman, hospitalman, and even seaman.

So the master chiefs will be responsible for going out to the fleet to solicit input to find out what sailors think. Stevens said. "I would tell you that what's most important is that these recommendations again come from our sailors in the fleet, that these master chiefs are simply the deliverers of that information."

The review is due to be completed by April 1, 2016, and will provide the Navy the opportunity to do away with archaic or irrelevant job titles in favor of new ones. There are some ratings out there where the title of the rating doesn't necessarily align or match very well with the job that [the sailors] do. It doesn't always have to be about the 'man' or 'men' portion of the title change; it can be a title change because it makes more sense.

Navy ratings have been added, altered or disposed of between 700 and 750 times in the history of the service. A comprehensive review like the current one, however, has not been attempted since the end of World War II.

*Input for this article was taken from a Military.com article titled "Navy to Poll Fleet for Input on Ditching 'Seaman' Title, Among Others".*

**Berkeley History  
January 2016**

50 Year Ago, 1966

01 – 31 Gulf of Tonkin Northern SAR Station

40 Years Ago, 1976

01 – 05 Inport, San Diego

05 – 08 Underway, NGFS Qualification, SCI (TYT)

08 – 15 Inport, San Diego

16 Underway, Sea Trials, SOCAL OP Areas

16 – 26 Inport, San Diego

26 – 28 Underway, MTT, SOCAL OP Areas

28 – 30 Inport, San Diego

30 – 31 Transit to Pearl Harbor, HI, CTG 37.0

30 Years Ago, 1986

01 – 13 Inport, San Diego

14 – 22 Weapons On-load, NGFS

23 – 31 Inport, San Diego

20 Years Ago, 1996

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