



THE BRIGHT PENNY

April—June 2018

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

Long Beach September 2018!

Director's Update

We hope this spring finds you all healthy and happy! We are now less than 5 months away from an exciting reunion in Long Beach! This is the first reunion in Long Beach in over twenty years, and Long Beach and San Diego hold memories for Berkeley sailors. As a reminder, the reunion dates are September 20 – 23, 2018, and our host hotel and site for all events is the Queen Mary. Additional reunion information is available at the web site, and in recent editions of the Bright Penny newsletter.



Currently the Association is focused on completing pages on the new web site, and on increasing association membership. Our transition to a new web site has been rather long and expensive, but those are the necessary investments in keeping our most valuable asset user-friendly, informative, and interesting. Currently, users interface with the web site should be seamless. Ship's Store purchases and other interfaces should be more user-friendly, but please advise us of any problems you experience.

Association membership has always been the life blood of the Association, and enables us to provide a web site, publish and distribute a quarterly newsletter, conduct biennial reunions at various member-selected host cities across the country, and provide a master roster to members that has over 1,200 Berkeley sailors listed. For a number of years beginning about ten years ago, our membership numbers were in the high two-hundred range, but recently are numbers have dropped significantly. However, reunion attendance has remained at an all-time high. This year, we are at our all-time low of less than 100. We appreciate your comradery the most, and your contributions are greatly appreciated but not the importance of your membership.

Let's get signed up for the Long Beach reunion, and transport back to a time long ago when we served aboard our common bond, the USS Berkeley! Hope to see you this September!

Reflections On Long Beach

While thinking about future association tasks, I thought it might be nice to have some photos of our past days stationed in Long Beach. The idea was to gather

photos of Long Beach and crew members circa 1962 until the ship moved to San Diego.

We can search the internet for photos of the Navy Station, and areas of Long Beach such as Ocean Blvd, the Pike, etc. We can then look at having a booklet printed, and available through the Ship's Store. We could possibly have a preview copy ready for this September's Long Beach reunion.

With today's technology, it is easy to convert old photos into digital copies for delivery to the Association. If you have photos that meet the above referenced criteria, and would be so kind as to share them with the Association, please submit them via the Director e-mail link on the web site's opening screen. If you submit photos of crew members, please try to identify those shown as well as the location and approximate date.

We can also ask the Long Beach newspaper that wrote stories about the Berkeley if we might be able to use the articles in such a booklet (available only to former Berkeley sailors). An ideal photo for a possible center-fold photo would be the ship tied up on the mole, but other suggestions are strongly

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USS BERKELEY ASSOCIATION

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Membership Committee Chairman: Al Meier

Regional Chairmen:

Northeast: Duane LeDoux

Southeast: Randy Wilkins

North Central: Larry Norris

South Central: Vacant

Northwest: Vacant

Southwest: Vacant

Ship's Store Mgr: Gerald Hansen

Bright Penny Editor & Publisher: Al Meier

Webmaster: Jim Barrett

ACVA Representative: Vacant

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



Al Meier

**Berkeley History
 April 2018**

50 Year Ago, 1968

- 01 – 08 Inport Long Beach
- 09 – 10 Local Operations
- 11 Dependents Cruise
- 12 Operational Readiness Inspection
- 13 – 2 Upkeep Long Beach
- 23 – 30 Operation BEAGLE LEASH

40 Years Ago, 1978

- 01 – 3 ROH at Puget Sound Naval Shipyard
- 06 – 7 Light Off Examinations
- 29 Dock Trials

30 Years Ago, 1988

- 01 – 08 Inport, San Diego
- 08 – 2 Underway SOCAL Op Area for FLEETEX/BATTLEX
- 26 – 30 Inport, San Diego

20 Years Ago, 1998

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

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encouraged. If anyone would like to assist on this project, please let us know via the Director e-mail link on the web site.

If the Long Beach ship's history booklet can become a reality, such an undertaking would be a possibility for the San Diego days as well!

2018 Master Rosters

Normally the Association attempts to deliver the current year's master roster to active members in the April time frame. This year, the master roster delivery to active members will occur in late-May so that results of recent postcard mailings can be reflected.

Any 2018 paid member, and anyone renewing dues by late-May will receive the 2018 Master Roster by email or in some instances by U.S. mail. The Excel spreadsheet emailed to those who provide us with good email addresses (and alphawhiskey.ddg15@yahoo.com an allowed sender) is a lot handier for editing and printing.

If you haven't renewed membership for 2018 or recently submitted a personal update, we encourage you to send a current update via the "Quarterdeck" page on the web site. Our annual "Master Rosters" are only delivered to active members, and are not shared with anyone else. The master roster is an asset of the Association, and its' access is limited.

Obituaries



Joseph L. Lockett III

Captain Joseph Lockett passed away in San Marcos, TX on February 24, 2018. He passed away peacefully in his sleep having suffered from Alzheimer's. He served as CO on the USS Berkeley from 1981 to 1983. Our condolences to his wife Sharon, family and friends.

Benjamin Bess

Plank-owner Benjamin Bess (YN1) served aboard the Berkeley from 1962 until 1964. Ben was really looking forward to attending this year's reunion, but unfortunately passed away April 10, 2018 after a long battle with cancer. Our condolences to Ben's wife Karen Ann, family and friends.

Mark Mockler

Former shipmate, OS1 Mark Mockler passed away from a heart attack on March 23, 2018. Our condolences to Mark's family and friends.

Robert V. McGuire

BTCM Robert V. McGuire passed away on July 18, 2017 from unknown causes. We recently received a returned postcard with his date of passing, and no further details. Robert served aboard the Berkeley from 1966 to 1968. Our condolences to his family and friends.