



THE BRIGHT PENNY

July—September 2012

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

San Diego Here We Come!!!

This will be the last newsletter before our San Diego reunion this September. The reunion update article appearing in this edition will provide all the important information for the reunion and associated events.



Detailed information is also available at the web site in the Reunion Info sector. If you haven't experienced a USS Berkeley reunion, we strongly recommend joining us in San Diego and experiencing a trip back to your youthful days in the Navy! This is what our Association's mission is all about.

The Association still has a couple of important positions to fill. The open positions are webmaster (Jim Barrett hopes to retire) and ACVA representative. Any interested persons can obtain more information by submitting an email to "Director e-mail" located at the bottom of the Home page at the web site. You can also leave a voice mail at 408-656-3879. I will also be available to discuss these positions at the reunion.

As we sail into the last six months of the year, we will be focusing on finalizing preparations for the San Diego reunion. Once the reunion has passed, planning for 2013 will begin. Most of our efforts over the past few years has been adding cruise books and other history to the web site, and obtaining and making ship's logs available on CD through the Ship's Store. We now need to identify new tasks for 2013 and beyond. Something you would like to see added to the web site or Ship's Store, send us an email outlining your request.

An article regarding our future reunions also appears in this issue. We strongly recommend you read this article, and let us know your preferences.

Rex was commissioned in the Navy in September 1970 through the ROTC program at Ohio State University. After attending the first, and still experimental, class of the Surface Warfare Officer School (SWOS), he reported aboard USS Berkeley (DDG-15) as Gunnery assistant. During this tour the ship deployed twice to Vietnam, once on an emergency basis in 1972. He then reported to USS Barbey (DE-1088) (later redesignated FF), as part of the commissioning crew, and as ship's navigator. Afterward he made a career change and attended the Navy Supply Corps School in Athens Georgia, and his first assignment was as Supply Officer of USS Whipple (FF-1062) 1974-1976. His first overseas assignment was in Seoul, Korea with Naval Forces Korea, as Supply and Logistics plans officer from 1976-1979. Tensions were high on the Korean peninsula at this time, and there were a number of live fire incidents involving naval forces. From there he served as O-I-C of the Navy Material Transportation Office detachment, Bayonne New Jersey 1980-1982. Again heading overseas, he served as logistic plans officer for Navy Section, Joint US Military Mission for Aid to Turkey (JUSMMAT) in Ankara Turkey. This three year extended tour ended in 1985 when he reported to Naval Station New York (the old Brooklyn Navy Yard) as Supply Officer. He also served as the Station's project officer for construction of the new ship's homeport on Staten Island New York. This project encouraged him to extend, and he remained in New York from 1985 until his retirement in 1990. The new station was successfully built, but a Base Realignment and Closure Commission closed it shortly after he retired!

Note that between the Bayonne and Brooklyn assignments that Rex spent 8 years of a 20 year career in the greater New York area.

After the Navy, Rex spent the next 11 years in the software industry, primarily in Quality Control, in the San Diego area.

In the Spotlight



LCDR Rex McCoy

His last job before full retirement was to take over the business operations of his wife's hair salon. With the exception of combat operations, running a small business full of hair stylists was probably the hardest thing he ever did.

Since retirement Rex has engaged in various volunteer activities, including MCAS Miramar's Flying Leatherneck Museum, the local chapter of the Plastic Modeler's Society, and other veteran's programs. He has also completed some historical research on Berkeley's operations during the 1972 Easter Offensive. He has written an article on these operations to be published in *Naval History* magazine. He will present the results of his research at the next ship's reunion in San Diego at a talk after the Saturday morning business meeting.

USS BERKELEY ASSOCIATION

5553 Makati Circle
San Jose, CA 95123
408-656-3879

E Mail: ddg15@ussberkeley.com

Website: www.USSBerkeley.com

Annual Dues: \$20.00

Director: Al Meier

Asst. Director: Dale Johnson

Secretary: Pat Clark & Tammy Meier

Treasurer: Gerald Hansen

Membership Committee Chairman: Al Meier

Regional Chairmen:

Northeast: Duane LeDoux

Southeast: Randy Wilkins

North Central: Larry Norris

South Central: Don Carson

Northwest: Ron Bravo

Southwest: Dr. William Perry

Ship's Store Mgr: Gerald Hansen

Bright Penny Editor & Publisher: Al Meier

Webmaster: Jim Barrett

ACVA Representative: Vacant

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



Al Meier

**San Diego Reunion
Details and Updates**

The San Diego reunion is less than 3 months off, so book your room at the Hilton Harbor Island/ San Diego Airport soon. The reunion dates are September 19 – 23, 2012, and itinerary and tour information is available at the web site. Hotel reservations can be made by calling 619-291-6700, and mention you are a USS Berkeley reunion attendee to receive discounted rates. Parking for those staying at the Hilton are complimentary.

Our reunion events include a tour aboard an active DDG Thursday, and morning and afternoon tours are available. All interested participants need to provide their full name and date of birth to be pre-screened for this event. An option for our lady participants who enjoy quilting is a Mini Quilter's Run on Thursday. Pat Clark has a couple of cars available for those interested, and the stops include Rosie's Calico Cupboard, Eleanor Burns "Quilt in a Day" retail store, lunch at the 55 Yard Line, and concluding with a visit to Starry Night Hollow. Participants will receive a dated Quilter's Charm. This event will run from approximately 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m., and the only cost is your lunch. If interested, please contact Pat at: ult2003d@yahoo.com by August 17th. Thursday night's Bull Session will rekindle Berkeley memories through stories, photos and videos, etc. On Friday, we have a morning tour of Petco Park which is the home of the San Diego Padres major league baseball team. Friday afternoon will feature our Ladies event, a complimentary tea, which will be held in the Chart Room at the Hilton from 2:00 - 4:00 p.m.

(Continued from page 1)

**Weigh In On Our
Future Reunions**

After attending the past seven reunions, I believe it is time to poll our members regarding what factors determine whether or not they attend the biannual reunions. Our attendance has varied from lows in the forties to a high of over a hundred, Our Association is probably now in its' peak years of active participation regarding membership and attendance at reunions and other events. Therefore, a survey has been posted at the web site, and we would sincerely appreciate our former shipmates taking a few minutes to share their preferences. This information will be addressed at our San Diego reunion business meeting in September, and most likely will influence the selection of host cities and the time frame for the 2014 reunion and those that follow.

Our current policy calls for rotating reunions through our six sectors which has two out of every three either on the East Coast or West Coast. This may eliminate some of the more popular areas/cities from the selection process. Should the biannual selection process allow any city, regardless of location, to be on the ballot?

The reunions have been held mainly in the August/September time frame. Although these are good months for favorable weather and travel conditions, are they the best months for maximizing participation by our membership?

Selection of the 2010 and 2012 host cities has been based on the popular vote of our members. The voting is advertised on the web site and in our quarterly newsletters. The voting period lasts approximately three months, and then the next reunion city is made available more than a year in advance. The additional advanced notice allows plenty of time

(Continued from page 1)

**Berkeley History
July**

50 Years Ago, 1962

Berkeley is in Pre-comm status.
Prospective C.O. is CDR Wyatt E. Harper Jr.

40 Years Ago, 1972

- 01 – 07 Linebacker Operation – North Vietnam – Surveillance Ops
- 08 – 10 NGFS – South Vietnam
- 11 – 12 Enroute Subic Bay
- 13 – 18 Inport Subic Bay
- 19 – 20 Enroute Gulf of Tonkin
- 21 – 22 Inport Da Nang
- 21 – 31 NGFS – South Vietnam

30 Years Ago, 1982

- 01 – 16 Dry Dock NR 2 Long Beach Naval Shipyard
- 17 Unlock from Dry Dock NR 2
- 18 – 31 Continue Regular Overhaul at Long Beach Naval shipyard

20 Years Ago, 1992

In July 1992 the Berkeley crew was training members of the Hellenic Navy for the planned transfer of the ship to Greece in September.

(Continued from page2) Reunion Details...

This is a chance for the ladies to mingle and receive some surprises as well. We will hold our Welcome Reception Friday evening when the majority of our attendees have arrived. Discounted tickets for the USS Midway tour are available, and this tour can be taken at your leisure. Saturday starts off with our bi-annual business meeting at 8:00 a.m. A presentation on 1972 Berkeley Ops, which will appear in the August 2012 Naval History magazine, will follow the business meeting. Saturday evening is our gala event, the reunion banquet. Activities will conclude Sunday morning with our Farewell Breakfast at the hotel.

Our Hospitality Suite will be open daily beginning Wednesday afternoon, and running through Saturday afternoon. Much of the ships history (cruise books, ship's logs, etc.) and Ship's Store items will be available in this room, and it is the ideal location to meet up with other attendees.

The deadline to sign up for discounted hotel reservations is August 17th. Payments for the banquet and tours must be received no later than September 3rd. The cost for the banquet and all other hotel activities is \$80 per person. A tour reservation form is available at the web site, and also in this newsletter. Please sign up for the reunion at the website or the form in the April 2012 newsletter. All payments are to be made to the USS Berkeley Association, and mailed to the following address.

USS Berkeley Association
c/o Gerry Hansen
6318 S. 20th Street
Milwaukee, WI 53221

See You in San Diego!!!

(Continued from page2) Weigh in...

to find a hotel and plan the reunion events.

We would also like to know what elements of the reunion are most meaningful to you. The banquet has always been our main focus, but we need to know what other activities you enjoy so that we can continue to strive for a great experience.

The main objectives of the survey are to maximize participation of our members, and to ensure the reunions meet the expectations of all attendees. We added the Bull Session and Ladies Event at the Denver reunion in 2010, and are always looking for possible additions and improvements. Please take some time to share your thoughts with us!

Lifetime Advantages of the VA Loan Program

According to an article on Military.com, a VA Guaranteed Home Loan has many advantages over a conventional loan. The VA loan program provides veterans with a benefit that can be used throughout their lifetime.

- No down payment required for loans up to specific county loan limits
- No maximum loan amount
- No mortgage insurance
- No lender fees or points required
- Refinance to a lower interest rate with an Interest Rate Reduction Refinancing Loan (IRRRL), requiring no appraisal or income verification in most cases

If you have already used your VA loan benefit, you can use it again as many times as you wish for future home purchases or refinances if you have enough remaining VA eligibility. A VA guaranteed home loan may require additional documentation compared to a conventional loan. One important document is your Certificate of Eligibility, and a VA direct lender can obtain this document for you. Approval and closing on a VA loan takes no longer than a conventional loan. In most cases, you can close within 45 days. An IRRRL can close in as little as 30 days. In many cases eligible borrowers will qualify for a VA refinance with little or no equity in their home.

Contact a VA direct lender to learn more about your eligibility for a government backed VA home loan.



Chaplain's Corner

By Chaplain Bill Perry

Can you be Counted on?

During the Civil War, Jeb Stuart could be called their version of a B-2 Stealth Bomber. This gutsy West Point grad had the uncanny ability to infiltrate enemy lines without being detected. He was nicknamed "the eyes of the army" and was unquestionably General Lee's most trusted soldier.

During June, 1862 Stuart was ordered to infiltrate enemy lines and to destroy a large cache of Union weapons and supplies. But, while there, Stuart confiscated secret documents showing the strength and position of other Federal forces.

Stuart exhibited bravery and extraordinary valor, and after each mission would submit his report to Lee, signed "Yours to count on, Jeb Stuart."

In every battle and in every war there are those who can be counted on. Many wear the uniform but only a handful stand out as heroes—those who go beyond the call of duty. And are a rare breed, indeed.

The church produces the same kind of heroes from its battlefields, the become champions who can be counted on.

Every century has those whom the Savior can count on. Francis of Assisi walked away from wealth in order to kiss the hands of lepers. John Knox endured the ridicule of Mary Queen of Scots in his effort to save Scotland. Dietrich Bonhoeffer turned his silent pulpit into a megaphone in Nazi Germany before suffering Hitler's wrath.

It's a frightening world we minister to. The scoreboard rarely shows us in the lead. There's a great temptation to take the easy way out, to slow down, or water down, or calm down.

But, our assignment has never changed: "To fight the good fight, to finish the course, to keep the faith." To be able to say to our Master, "Yours to count on, Lord!"

