



THE BRIGHT PENNY

April - June 2013

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

2014 Reunion in Jacksonville!

When the voting ended, it was Jacksonville, Florida by a considerable margin. Jacksonville's 76 points led Savannah (48), Nashville (34), Memphis (14) and Atlanta (7) in order. Thanks to all who participated in the voting!



Jacksonville is an excellent choice which offers a variety of Navy attractions including Mayport Naval Station, Naval Air Station Jacksonville and Kings Bay, the DDG Museum and hopefully the Charles F. Adams DDG-2. Future updates on the progress of moving the Adams to Jacksonville as a museum ship will be provided by our ACVA Representative Rex McCoy.

Per popular request, future reunions will be scheduled in the September/October 2014 time frame. Preliminary planning has commenced, and we intend to publish the host hotel and reunion dates in the July Bright Penny newsletter. This information will also be available on our web site as soon as it becomes known.

Support Your Association

Our Association depends on annual dues to fund and enhance the web site, print and deliver master rosters, etc. Thus far, 2013 dues received are far below average, and we would greatly appreciate your support.

I joined the Navy on April 4, 1989, and attended boot camp and MM "A" School training at Great Lakes, IL. I remember standing outside the chow hall and the wind must have been blowing about 40 mph and snowing. It was the coldest day that I have ever experienced in my life and I remember thinking, "What in the world have I done and when is it going to end?" Being from Texas it is always warm and sun shining in April, with showers now and then and this was my first trip ever to leave the State of Texas.

After, boot camp and MM "A" School I was granted one week of leave and then catch up with the USS Berkeley DDG-15 that was currently on a Westpac deployment in the Philippines. In December 1989, I took off from Dallas and flew to San Diego, then Hawaii, Guam and finally landing at Clark Air Force Base, Republic of the Philippines.

A bus was waiting to take me down to Subic Bay, so I could wait on the arrival of the USS Berkeley that was still at sea. Needless to say, I have never ridden on a bumpier and scary ride down to the base. Remember, I am just a boy from Texas and this is my second trip out of Texas and I'm thinking again, "What have I gotten myself into?"

Now I have arrived at the Naval Base in Subic Bay and while I am waiting on the Berkeley's arrival I decide to go out on the town and see what it is about. Boy, was I overwhelmed. I never had seen a Jeepney, chicken feet and monkey on a stick. It looked totally nasty and I didn't partake in any of the "fine cuisine." The next day I woke up and I'm not feeling so hot and I think maybe I ate something that is not agreeing with

In the Spotlight



MM3 Stevens

my stomach. My poor belly is in excruciating pain. To make a long story short, I go to the emergency room on base, and my appendix is about to rupture. So the Chief Surgeon of the base tells me, "We are taking you to surgery now, because if your appendix ruptures you can die." Now my mind is running about 1000 mph for not only am I in a foreign country, but now I'm going into surgery for the first time in my life! Everything went well in surgery so now I am on light duty.

Finally, the USS Berkeley arrives and I report onboard and meet my LPO MM1 Nicholson and I am assigned to engine room #2. We set sail out of

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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

**From the Quarterdeck
By CDR Jim Barrett (Ret)**

Get your hands out of your pockets!

My father was a crusty old mustang officer who was all navy. As a young lad I would be walking with him and he would yell at me, "Get your hands out of your pockets!" Confused as to why he would say that left me bewildered until I entered the Navy nearly a decade later.

In boot camp I learned that is was a regulation established because it detracted from military bearing. When it was established I do not know, but my father joined the Navy one hundred years ago in 1912, so the ruling must have been around for a while.

As a sailor I recall putting my hands in my peacoat pockets in the cold winters of Japan and having the shore patrol yell, "Get your hands out of your pockets!" The Navy's defense for this ruling is that we issued you gloves, so use them. It was an item easily lost on liberty. I wonder how many bars in Japan have a stash of gloves under the counter?

I am writing this because in the December issue of Navy Times there was an article just on this subject. An Army sergeant posted a petition to the White House website to get the ruling changed. To get the White House staff to review the petition 25,000 signatures must be posted within 30 days. As of November 21st the petition was 22,453 signatures away from the December 14 deadline. From all appearances it seems best for now to keep your hands out of your pockets and look for those gloves stashed in the back of your locker.

(Continued from page 1)

Subic Bay to Thailand, Muscat Oman, Singapore, Hawaii and finally arriving back in our home port of San Diego, in April 1990. While I was onboard the USS Berkeley we set sail to Portland and Astoria, Oregon and attended the Rose Festival. Oregon was a nice place to visit, but it rained and rained almost every day.

My first watch on board I am training to become a messenger and shine bright work, paint, and paint, shine more bright work and wax our passage way. I am thinking there has to be a better job than this, so I qualify for Throttleman. This is the job that I enjoyed the most, because I can hear #2 Boiler Room telling me to slow down on opening the valves, because I am fixing to pull them off-line. Eventually, I am qualified for all the duties in engine room #2 and I am the only MM3 top watch qualified in the engine room. After going on sea trials and training the Greeks, I attend the decommissioning of the USS Berkeley in August 1992.

At this time I had to make a decision to either exit the Navy or re-enlist for six years. Due to cutbacks of the Department of Navy's budget they were not offering me any bonus money. So after, pondering over my decision I decided to pack everything up and head back home to Texas.

It is a pleasure and honor to be the editor and publisher of the Bright Penny newsletter and I am looking forward to your comments and suggestions. You can contact me at wjstevens@earthlink.net or 903-880-7240 with your comments and suggestions.

**Berkeley History
April 2013**

50 Years Ago, 1963

Final Acceptance Trials for new ship.

40 Years Ago, 1973

In Drydock, PSNS

30 Years Ago, 1983

01-20 Overhaul LBNSY

21 Underway, Sea Trial

22 Return to Homeport, San Diego

23-24 Inport San Diego

25-29 Underway SOCAL

30 Inport San Diego

Ahoy Berkeley Beauties

By Pat Clark



Passing of a Plank Owner

I attended services for Dale A. Nielsen (ICC, R Div, 62/66) on Fri, Mar 22 at Ft Rosecrans in San

Diego. Dale passed away on Dec 21, 2012. Although my husband Lou and Dale were “BFF’s”, I’d never met either of Dale’s children. Dale’s daughter Michiko, her husband, son and daughter live in the Los Angeles area. His son David, wife and baby daughter were there from Virginia. Dale’s wife was Japanese and there were several family members from Tokyo attending the service. It was a beautiful balmy day in San Diego with breezes causing the palm trees’ fronds to wave gently; it was a day Dale would have loved. I will miss Dale and his stories, but know that he and Lou are probably rehashing those old sea stories as I write this.

Below are some pictures from Dale's service.



Ahoy Berkeley Beauties!

Spring is upon us and it is a time for renewal. So far I’ve kept my NY’s resolutions, more or less J! I’m looking forward to seeing the trees bloom and bulbs pop up. I know Spring is having a hard time making a presence in many places.

Hey! What a great memento of our 2012 San Diego Reunion . . . the memories album was fantastic and I’m glad I had my camera so I could contribute to it. I think AI should seek out this or any other reunion photographer that offers this service.

The past couple of months I’ve been participating in a clinical trial for Glaucoma. I’m sure many of you are experiencing this issue with your eyes. I’m glad I’m retired and have the time to participate as I have Glaucoma in one eye and Macro-degeneration in the other. The thought of going blind is not going to be a condition of my future as long as I have anything to say about it. Can’t sew unless I can C! LOL!! I, however, discovered (Cont. on page 4)

Charles F. Adams Update

As you know there is only one Adams class DDG still afloat, and that is Charles F Adams (DDG-2) herself. She is awaiting disposition in the Philadelphia Naval Shipyard. There is an effort to save her, and have her renovated and installed as a museum ship in Jacksonville Florida. The effort is being coordinated on the veteran side by the Adams Class Veterans Association. They work closely with the Jacksonville Historic Naval Ship Association. The ACVA and the JHNSA have identified a temporary berthing area in Jacksonville for Adams that will save \$5 million in initial museum costs. The final site is to be near the Acosta Bridge. The temporary site is where the old Jacksonville Shipyard used to be.

In addition there was a boost to the project when the IBM Smarter Cities Challenge issued its Jacksonville report. It supported the ship museum project as a sustainable project that can make use of under-utilized property and may help revitalize downtown as a significant draw. That will encourage local support.

There is a joint reunion of Adams/Tatnall/Waddell 14-18 April in Jacksonville at the Crowne Plaza Hotel. And in case you need a new handle, the ACVA calls all of us who served in an Adams Class, Charlie Duece veterans. Has a nice ring to it.

As of this writing there are 36 Berkeley veterans who have joined the ACVA. If you have any interest in saving the last remaining Adams hull, check out the website <http://www.adamsclassddgvets.org>, and join the ACVA.

Web Site Upgrade

Our web pages have been updated to display the multimedia content on all modern browsers and devices. This provides a quality experience when using Internet explorer, Firefox, Chrome, Opera and Safari as well as accessing the site with Apple products (such as the iPhone, iPad and iPod) and Android phones.

Continued Berkeley Beauty Article

I was not on the placebo as I had a terrible reaction causing intense inflammation and photosynthesis. But all is back to normal now.

I mentioned last issue that Kimberly Rado from Starry Night Hollow would be speaking at my Crazy Quilters quilt guild. I presented her with the photo she took of Ruth Almeida, Sharon Frazier, Judy Bjerke & me in front of her shop in Encinitas, Starry Night Hollow. She was excited to receive the photo and is going to frame and put it up in her shop! Berkeley Beauties will be long remembered in Encinitas, Ca!! Speaking of Kim, she gave me this recipe and I promised a few of you that I would e-mail it to you. Promises are good but better if you actually follow through LOL! So here is the recipe for Anna's Starry Night Hollow Martini:

Ingredients – 2 parts Grnadine, 2-1/2 parts Cream, 1 part Vodka, 1 part Galliano, 1/2 part Cointreau & 1/2 part Curacao. In a shaker, combine all ingredients with ice and shake vigorously. Strain into a martini glass and garnish with a little cream for a heavenly appearance and yummy flavor. Enjoy!

This month let's get to know William (Steve) Stevens', MM3, 89-92 and his wife Miriam. I'm sure you all will remember their son Thomas as he was of great help to Tammy and me:



My name is Miriam Stevens and I grew up in Mexicali, Mexico. After high school graduation, I went to college at Profesor Rafael Ramirez and I earned my teaching degree. I taught high school history for 10 years in Tijuana, Mexico.

I met William Stevens in December 1990 in Tijuana, Mexico and married him in San Diego on December 11, 1992. After, he left the Berkeley we packed up our belongings and headed to Texas. I found a job at a fabrication place and William was working and going to college.

My husband was paralyzed in Aug. 1995 and I thought my world had ended, but he overcame the struggles and life is great. We have been married for 20 years and we have one son named Thomas who is eight years old. He is the biggest joy in our lives and he is growing up so fast.

Thank you Miriam and I'm sure we will all benefit by you being a Berkeley Beauty. We are so very proud of your husband William (Steve) and know he will be a true asset to the USS Berkeley Association as being the new editor of the Bright Penny Newsletter!

Till next time,

Pat

Adams Class Destroyer Group Cruise

The USS Henry B. Wilson (DDG-7) association has sent an invitation out to all ships in the Adams Class to join them on an 11-day Panama Canal cruise April 17, 2014 onboard the Coral Princess. We are invited as individuals or a group. They have used cruises for reunions in the past with great success. Additional cruise information is available on their web site at www.usshenrywilsonddg7.com.

Interested individuals should contact Penney Marks at pemarks@centurylink.net or 520-841-3272 as soon as possible. It only takes a \$100 deposit per person due by July 2013 to hold a cabin. The deposit is fully refundable should your plans change before the final payment due on February 1, 2014.

The Princess Cruise Line will give each active or retired military person a \$100 credit to thank them for their service.

In The News

The Navy will deploy a laser weapon on board the amphibious transport dock Ponce early next year. This will be the first such deployment of the Laser Weapons System since it completed test shoots last summer aboard the destroyer Dewey. This is an effort to deploy a low-cost, high-energy weapon that is effective against potential threats such as enemy drones, fast attack boats and what is referred to as small boat swarm attacks.

The Iraq war has cost 190,000 lives and 2.2 trillion dollars according to Navy Insider. The Costs of War report which was released ahead of the 10th anniversary of the war on March 20 said that the financial calculation included substantial costs to care for wounded U. S. veterans. More than seventy percent of those who died of direct war violence were civilians. U. S. casualties included 4,488 U. S. military members and at least 3,400 U. S. contractors.

The above news bits were found at the Military.com website, and are brief summaries of articles appearing on the web site.