



THE BRIGHT PENNY

January - March 2015

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

Happy New Year!

Quarterly Update

As we look back on 2014, it was a successful year for the Association. We held a reunion, and saw our master roster increase. As we get underway in 2015, we are generating plans for the new year and beyond.



Our reunion in Jacksonville last September had a strong turnout and was very enjoyable! This was our second consecutive reunion with a strong turnout, and we look forward to seeing even more people attend the next reunion in the fall of 2016. Please see our 2016 Reunion article in this edition for more information, and don't forget to vote for the host city.

Thanks to the efforts of members, the number of names on the master roster continues to increase. Some members have also used Facebook to spread the word, and this undoubtedly has resulted in some former shipmates becoming aware of our Association.

Our efforts will soon begin to focus on the 2016 reunion, but in the meantime we should take some time to enlist more contributors for our newsletters. It has been one of my goals, since Jim Barrett retired as our editor and publisher, to continue to

produce a quality newsletter. We need some volunteers for our "In the Spotlight" and "Berkeley Beauties" articles. We can also use articles about Navy related experiences, Naval history, today's Navy, etc. The USS Conyngham (DDG-17) puts out a great newsletter called "The Privateer", and it is a good example of what our newsletter could evolve into. To view the Privateer, go to:

<http://www.usseconynghamassoc.org/CFiles/201307PRIVATEERntro.pdf>

This can only be accomplished with your assistance, so please consider being a contributor.

When our focus does shift to the 2016 reunion in the North Central sector, we could use some help identifying potential host hotels, possible group tours, etc. Our goal is to provide the best possible setting and activities for an ideal reunion. We will hold some planning calls beginning in March, and members are invited to participate on the March call. The conference call line and number will be published on the web site soon.

A member provided a copy of the 1974 cruise book for scanning, and it will be added to the collection on the web site. We are still searching for copies of the 1968, 1979-80, and 1988 cruise books. If you have a copy you would be willing to loan the Association for scanning, we would be extremely grateful.

In The Spot Light Lieutenant Eugene Chicoine



was born in Sioux City, Iowa in 1931. His mother died at birth and he spent time in a Catholic orphanage before being reunited with his father.

He dropped out of high school at age 17 and joined the Navy. After boot camp in San Diego in 1948 he received orders to the USS Fresno (CL-121) in Norfolk VA. He started out as Quartermaster striker, and then transferred to the ship's Combat Information Center. Following a Med cruise he was ordered to Radman School in Norfolk, Virginia.

In 1949 he reported to the Fleet Training Center in Norfolk and conducted underway training of Japanese, German and Danish ships that were being turned over to their navies. Next he was ordered to the USS Strong (DD 758), which was being re-commissioned. The ship was sent to Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, conducted a Med cruise and tours in the North Atlantic on the DEW line testing refueling methods up by the Arctic Circle. Korea was

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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.

**Ship's History
January 2015**

50 Year Ago, 1965

The January 1965 ship's history is missing from the file.

40 Years Ago, 1975

- 01 – 08 Inport Subic Bay, R.P.
- 06 Change of Command
- 08 – 28 Enroute San Diego, CA
- 18 Outchop 7th Fleet
- 28 – 31 Inport San Diego
- 31 Change of Command

30 Years Ago, 1985

- 01 – 25 SRA San Diego
- 26 – 31 UPK San Diego

20 Years Ago, 1994

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

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heating up and the ship was ordered to Wonsan Harbor as an assignment while provisioning out of Japan.

Upon returning to Norfolk in 1952 he transferred to the USS Chauncey (DD 667) and returned to Korea for a second assignment in Wonsan Harbor. His next orders took him to Istanbul, Turkey for two years where he rode Turkish ships and taught radar through an interpreter at their Naval Academy, while at the same time learning the Turkish language. During this tour he was promoted to Chief Radarman.

In 1956 he was transferred to Ground Control Approach School in Kansas and later took over the GCA Unit at Buckley Field in Denver, where he married his wife, Gay. Shortly after that he was transferred to Sand Point in Seattle to run their GCA Unit. As a collateral duty, he was also head of the Underwater Search and Rescue team. Next he received orders to attend the Naval Tactical Data System School in Vallejo and while there was commissioned as an LDO Ensign and sent to Officer Candidate School in Rhode Island.

Back to sea duty in 1964 his next orders were to join the pre-commissioning crew of the USS BERKELEY (DDG-15). He helped commission the Berkeley as Assistant CIC Officer and took her through Underway Training, through the Panama Canal and on to her new home port in San Diego. Berkeley's first deployment was to the Far East, so once again it was old home week in Hong Kong, Japan and other ports. The

ship was on its way home via Australia when it got the word to turn around and proceed to Vietnam. On arrival, Berkeley was assigned to the Seventh Fleet and her first station was in the Tonkin Gulf where the ship was when the war started. The Ticonderoga was to the South and the Maddox and the Turner Joy were north. The Berkeley's CIC was taking the carriers aircraft and vectoring them to the ships up North. LT. Chicoine was CIC Officer and the Air Intercept Controller at this time. When the ship returned home in 1964 he was assigned Shore Patrol Officer in San Diego.

Fleet Anti-Warfare Training Center in San Diego was his next assignment. Upon reporting for duty he was immediately ordered back to the Seventh Fleet with updates to their NTDS. One of the updates was to Red Crown, the USS Chicago (CG-11), which was on the far North Station. They were short of AIC's so he remained on board for additional time controlling aircraft. When returning to FAAWTC he performed underway training on NTDS on ships including the Oriskany, Ranger and Kitty Hawk. In port he was teaching students NTDS/AIC

His wife had a heart attack about the same time orders came in for assignment as Operations Officer on a new destroyer. He was unable to extend his shore duty so in 1969 he retired after 21 years of service.

As a civilian he went to work for Unisys as an Engineer and stayed with them for 20 years. He did major design work on The Marine Air Traffic Control System (MATCALS) and the Digital

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2016 Reunion Host City

Voting for the 2016 reunion's host city has been extended through February 14th. Currently, Chicago has a slim lead over Milwaukee, and Rapid City, South Dakota is close behind in 3rd place. We had hoped to close voting in January in order to announce the winning city in this newsletter. However, since the voting is so close, we decided to provide an opportunity for more ship mates to cast votes for their preferred host city.

The winning city will be posted on the web site shortly after the close of voting. The next host city will also be announced in the April newsletter. We will then begin a search for the host hotel, and determine the reunion dates. The reunion will most likely be held in the September/October time frame, and will run Thursday through Sunday.

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Voice Response Systems. His last assignment before retiring was building a ten million dollar Material Handling System with six million dollars of automation. He was both Program Manager and Project Engineer. Material Handling Magazine voted it the best in the US.

He retired as a Research Scientist at the age of 60 and resides with his wife, Jacque, in Burnsville, Minnesota.

The Combat Action Ribbon

While searching the Medals of America magazine several months ago, I noticed that some T-shirts for Navy Vietnam veterans displayed a fourth ribbon in addition to the Vietnam Service, Vietnam Campaign, and National Defense ribbons. That fourth ribbon is the

Combat Action ribbon (there is not a medal for this award), and it is for members of the Navy, Marines, and Coast Guard (when operating under the control of the Navy) in the grade of Captain (or Colonel in the Marine Corps) and below who have actively participated in ground or surface combat. Information regarding qualifications and dates for earning this ribbon are listed on our web site. This information can be found by clicking on the History tab, then History & Awards. Those who were in combat action on board the Berkeley between March 14, 1966 and October 11, 1972 should be eligible for the ribbon.

2015 Dues Reminder

Many past Association supporters have yet to renew their memberships for 2015. While our master roster has continued to grow in recent years, our membership numbers have dwindled. Please consider supporting the USS Berkeley Association. You can send dues payments to Gerry Hansen at the following address:

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

Checks or money orders in the amount of \$20 should be made out to the USS Berkeley Association. We thank you for your support!

New Surface Warfare Strategy

In a new strategic approach the Navy plans to distribute more weapons and offensive firepower throughout its' surface fleet. At their January Surface Navy Association National Symposium in Arlington, Virginia, senior leaders said this plan is designed to address a fast-changing global threat environment.

The goal is to up-gun as many existing platforms as they can to achieve more lethality according to Vice Adm. Thomas Rowden, commander of Naval Surface Forces. The new strategy is aimed at upgrading existing weapons and adding weapons to a wide array of platforms including destroyers, cruisers, amphibians, carriers, and the Littoral Combat Ship variant called the Small Surface Combatant.

The first thing that needs to be done is to look at the weapons which currently exist, and see what modifications can be made to increase their offensive punch. Rowden said the Navy plans to acquire a new, offensive long-range anti-surface weapon that will put the U.S. Navy surface forces back on the positive side of the range equation with respect to potential adversaries. The Navy is already working on either developing or acquiring a new offensive long-range weapon for the LCS and the Small Surface Combatant. In addition, the Navy is interested in new offensive weaponry options for destroyers and other platforms. **"We need to think of this weapon as something we can back fit throughout the DDG fleet".**

The Navy is looking at a Raytheon-engineered extended-range variant of the Griffin missile that triples the range of the weapon and adds infrared imaging guidance technology. The existing Griffin missile uses GPS and laser guidance technology. The new variant now being tested allows infrared technology to work in tandem with laser designation.

Beyond individual missiles, the new overall strategy is aimed at distributing new, existing, and upgraded weaponry across the fleet to hold potential adversaries at risk and give fleet commanders more offensive combat options. "It is about taking the budget that we have and making everything that floats more lethal," Rear Adm. Peter Fanta, director of the surface warfare division, said.

Information for this article was taken from "Navy Unveils New Surface Warfare Strategy" article which was received from Military.com