



THE BRIGHT PENNY

October - December 2011

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

SET SAIL FOR SAN DIEGO

From the Helm

It's hard to believe another winter is nearing, and the Holiday Season isn't far off. I'd like to look at some of our accomplishments thus far in 2011, and look at some of our objectives for 2012.



The Association has continued to expand the USS Berkeley history on our web site with the addition of more cruise books, Ship's Logs and a new video history page. Jim Barrett has updated the software for the web site, and is always looking at other ways to enhance its' features.

Our master roster continued to grow in 2011, and our 2012 reunion in San Diego will hopefully bring other former shipmates in contact with the Association. Attempts were made during the year to improve the accuracy of information presented on the master roster. If any of your contact information (especially home and email addresses) has changed, please send us an update through the "Member Updates" tab. If you're not sure, please send an update so that we know the information is still valid. The annual master roster sent to our paid membership is a valuable Association asset, and aids members in contacting old friends.

Our Association Historian has done a great job scanning and preparing our cruise books for addition to the web site. In 2012, we hope to complete the addition of all known cruise books that we have access to.

As we look toward goals for 2012, our primary objective is to hold a special reunion in San Diego next September. Information regarding this reunion has been published in the past couple of newsletters, and will be included in our next three newsletters. Please see the article in this newsletter, and check the web site for additional information.

Other goals for 2012 include completing our tasks of adding cruise books and ship's logs, improving the validity of master roster information, expanding our quarterly newsletters, and adding more photos on the web page. We have had limited success with the master roster and adding more photos, and we need your help to make progress in these areas.

Our quarterly newsletter could use an infusion of some additional articles. Ideally we could publish a larger newsletter with more articles about our ship, former crew members, ACVA updates, veteran affairs, etc. We are

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Captain French was commissioned Ensign, USN upon graduating Vanderbilt University in June, 1967. In July he reported aboard USS Berkeley in Subic Bay and sailed for Vietnam the same day. He served initially as "B" Division officer, then as Main Propulsion Assistant. After two years in Berkeley, he attended Destroyer School in Newport, RI for six months, and then reported to the pre-commissioning detail for Francis Hammond (DE 1067) as chief engineer. He served in Francis Hammond from the ship's commissioning until mid-1972.

From 1972 to 1973, Captain French commanded USS Asheville (PG 84), home-ported in Guam and deployed to Vietnam. He next attended US Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, CA, graduating in 1976 with a master's degree in Systems Technology. He was assigned next as Flag Secretary to Commander Naval Surface Group Western Pacific (CTF 73) in Subic Bay.

Captain French attended the US Naval Staff Course in Newport, RI as the US representative in a class of two dozen naval officers from foreign countries. Following graduation, he reported to the pre-commissioning detail for Harry W Hill (DD 986). He served as Executive Officer upon the ship's commissioning. In 1981 he reported to Commander Destroyer Squadron 5 where he served as Chief Staff Officer.

Assignment to OPNAV was next. There, Captain French served in the ASW Directorate as program director for the SURTASS (surveillance towed array) and T-AGOS, the array towing and support vessel. The program achieved Initial Operating Capability (IOC) during his tenure, and deployed with great success soon thereafter.

Captain French assumed command of USS Curts (FFG 38) in July 1985. Curts was assigned to DESRON 31, the Pacific Fleet ASW Squadron for most of French's two years in command. During that time, Curts and other DESRON 31 ships detected and tracked for weeks several Soviet submarines in the Pacific. At the end of his tour, Curts operated with USS

In the Spotlight



Captain Timothy French

Missouri Battle Group Sierra in the North Arabian Sea.

COMNAVSURFPAC Training and Readiness officer was Captain French's next assignment in 1987, followed by duty as Chief of Staff for Commander Sixth Fleet ASW Forces in Naples, Italy.

His final assignment was Commander Military Sealift Atlantic, where he was responsible for the day-to-day operation of about 55 ships and the health, welfare, and training of nearly three thousand crew, officers, and staff. He retired in 1994. Among the medals he received are two awards of the Legion of Merit and two Meritorious Service Medals.

After his retirement, Captain French was CEO of an international ship-management company that operated and maintained commercial cargo ships and supported their crews. He retired fully in 2007 but remains an active supporter of veterans and our nation through The American Legion.

Captain French has two daughters and four grandchildren. His wife, Mary Lou Bozeman-French, is also a US Navy retiree. They live in Pennsylvania's Pocono Mountains.

San Diego Reunion Update

We are now inside the one-year buoy as we head for our September 2012 San Diego reunion. Much of the planning is in progress, and the web site will be the best source for most shipmates to keep up with the latest reunion info. Dates and times for our events have been announced, and the planning of our Thursday and Friday tours is in process. The plan is to have a DDG tour on Thursday, and the USS Midway tour on Friday. We are still considering the possibility of adding a third tour.

A USS Berkeley Hilton Hotel web link is now available at the web site. This web link can be used to register for a room, and also to find out information

about the hotel. Simply click on the Reunions Info tab, then click on "Next Reunion in San Diego", and then "Some of the activities available in San Diego". You can also call the hotel at 619-291-6700 and identify yourself as a USS Berkeley reunion attendee. We expect a big turnout for this reunion and you encouraged you to register early to guarantee a discounted rate.

The reunion banquet cost will be posted in the near future, and this also covers attendance at all other reunion events except the tours which will be priced separately. All payments will be submitted to our Treasurer Gerry Hansen.

If you have any questions, please contact Al Meier through the web site or call 408-656-3879.

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Al Meier

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constantly looking for additional people to feature in our "In the Spotlight" and "Berkeley Beauties" columns. Let us know if you would like to be included in one of these articles or might be interested in contributing articles for future newsletters.

It would be great to see photos that attendees have taken at our reunions added to the web site. If you have some good photos in digital format, please attach them to an email and submit it to Al Meier or Jim Barrett through the web site. You've seen this request a number of times in the past, and even though I see many people taking pictures at the reunions, we have been unsuccessful in our effort to obtain copies to share with the Association. Just one or two photos from each attendee would greatly enhance our Reunions section on the web site.

These are some of the goals we will work toward next year, and we are always receptive to other additions and improvements we can make to the Association, our web site, and our master roster.

The Goat Locker



Entertainment on liberty took many forms, mostly depending on the coast and opportunity. One incident which became tradition was at a Navy-Army football game. In early sailing years, livestock would travel on ships, providing the crew the fresh milk, meats, and eggs, as well as serving as ships' mascots. One pet, a goat named El Cid (meaning Chief) was the mascot aboard the USS New York. When its crew attended the fourth Navy-Army football game in 1893, they took El Cid to the game, which resulted in the West Pointers losing. El Cid (The Chief) was offered shore duty at Annapolis and became the Navy's mascot. This is believed to be the source of the old Navy term, "Goat Locker".

REVEILLE!!

All hands heave out and trice up! The smoking lamp is lit! Liberty will commence following submission of sea tales to the Bright Penny.

As the editor I receive numerous newsletters from other destroyers and I have to admit many of their products are quite impressive. I see newsletters from other DDG's that are 8 to 12 pages long. Why? Because they have crew participation. They submit sea stories and write letters to the staff and they get published. They have mini-reunions and submit articles and photos. Their crews have a lot of interest in their ship and make that interest known.

So! Why are we not having this with the Berkeley? At the reunions I hear some great stories, but they stay in the hospitality room. Some are quite funny and they really should be shared with shipmates not present.

One of the best sea tales we ever received was from EWSA Scott Wyatt (1981-83). Go to the Web site a view the June 1999 newsletter. In the December 1999 issue he submitted "The Rest of the Story." Both are a must read. Superbly written stories, he will keep you laughing to the end. We need more Scott Wyatt's and I know you are out there. Put your literary talent to work and share your time on Berkeley with the rest of your shipmates.

Send articles to: quarterdeck15@aol.com

**Berkeley History
October**

50 Years Ago, 1961

In pre-commissioning status at the Philadelphia Naval Shipyard. Prospective Commanding Officer is CDR Wyatt E. Harper, Jr.

40 Years Ago, 1971

01-17, Inport Long Beach-Post-deployment standown and upkeep; **18-31**, Tender availability. CDR Jerry Dickman is the Commanding Officer.

30 Years Ago, July 1981

01-20, Inport San Diego, leave and upkeep; **22-22**, Underway, local ops; **23-29**, Inport San Diego, upkeep; **30**, Underway, SoCal and pre-InSurv engineering trials; **31**, Inport San Diego. CDR Joseph L. Lockett III is the Commanding Officer.

20 Years Ago, July 1991

01-06, Inport San Diego; **07-11**, Underway transit to San Francisco; **12-17**, Inport San Francisco for Fleet Week; **18-20**, Inport Alameda; **21-23**, Underway in transit to San Diego. Mmobile Training Team Phase III. **26-31**, Inport San Diego. CDR Fred J. Mallgrave III is the Commanding Officer.

10 Years Ago, 2001

Ex-Berkeley in service with the Hellenic Navy of Greece.

**Chaplain's
Corner**



By Chaplain Bill Perry

OFFICERS AND CPO DINNING-IN GRACE

A dinning-in is a formal dinner given by a unit or organization. It may honor a departing member or welcome a new one. The primary elements of a dinning-in are: A formal setting, a fine meal, the camaraderie of the members of the mess, traditional toasts to the President and the Military Service and the attendance of honored guest. There are two officers of the mess. The President and the Vice President affectionately called Mr. or Madam Vice. As the music stops, the Colors posted and the National Anthem played, the President will rap for attention and announce Gentlemen/Ladies, the Grace. The Chaplain will then come forward and ask that all stand and will say Grace. Upon completion, all members will be seated and at the sound of the gavel begin eating the meal.

Dr. William Perry, Chaplain

**From the
Quarterdeck
By**



CDR Jim Barrett (Ret)



The Arleigh Burke DDG's

The newest of the Burke Class DDG's was placed in commission at NAS Key West, Florida on October 1st. USS Spruance (DDG-111) is the 61st ship of the class and named in honor of Admiral Raymond Spruance whose legacy is his leadership at the Battle of Midway during World War II. Spruance will be homeported in San Diego. The current building plan calls for 72 ships and the Navy plans to keep each destroyer in service for at least 35 years by conducting upgrades.

USS IOWA (BB-61)

The last of the four Iowa Class battleships has finally found a home. The ship's final berth will be at the Port of Los Angeles in San Pedro, California. IOWA has been donated to the Pacific Battleship Center as a floating museum. The USS IOWA was decommissioned in 1990 a year after an explosion in its Number 2 16-inch turret killed 47 sailors. Since then the ship has been with the mothballed fleet in Suisun Bay, California.

U.S. 2nd Fleet Disestablished

The Navy's U.S. 2nd Fleet, the east coast equivalent of the former west coast 1st Fleet, was disestablished on 30 Sept after 65 years of existence. Following WW-II the U.S. 8th Fleet was created and renamed 2nd Fleet in 1950.

Some old history (It got easier later on)

The Lucky Bag. The so-called Lucky Bag was really a huge locker in which articles lost aboard ship were deposited. Once a month these articles were produced and handed back to their respective owners. But there was a catch to it...each lucky recipient of a lost article was then given three strokes from the cat-o-nine tails to teach him not to lose anything again.

