



USS Claude V. Ricketts/ex Biddle DDG 5 The Big Nickel (vol. 5), October, 2010

Next reunion: Jacksonville, FL, 3-6 May 2012

From The Bridge

President: Glenn Johnson



Contact: GJohn11905@aol.com

Dear Shipmates and Families,

Time flies when we are having fun. Hopefully this article finds all of you in good health and enjoying life. It seems like a long time since our last reunion which was in May of this year. Visiting the website, TheBigNickel.org, brings back a lot of memories of that event. Kirk has done a great job of putting up pictures of all of us. If you haven't had a chance to visit the site please do at your earliest convenience.

I am sure many of us are bracing for the winter months that are just around the corner. Let's all hope for a mild winter and an early spring. If you ever get bored and are stuck in the house, you may want to take a few minutes to drop an email to one of your old shipmates. It is good to stay in touch and we enjoy hearing from you.

Stay well, enjoy the upcoming holidays and we will be in touch.

Best regards to you and your families.

Glenn Johnson-President DDG-5 Crew Members Association
352-523-1945 Home
813-786-8958 Cell

Executive Director Carl Slack



Contact: RickettsDDG5@yahoo.com

Shipmates,

As I type this I'm on my way to winter in Florida and will stop in Jacksonville and check on the current status of the effort. Every Saturday in December will be DDG 5 day with coffee and donuts so stop on by and see what has been done so far. Start planning for our next reunion May 2012 in Jacksonville, FL. Hope to see everyone there.

For some great pictures of the 2010 reunion, go to [The Big Nickel](#) website and look under the link for 2010 reunion. When you are at the website, take time to fill out the reunion survey. Also, if you have not registered on the website please do so. That is how we can keep track of everyone. Make it a habit to check the site on a regular basis for all the latest news.

If for whatever reason you cannot make a reunion and wish to express your views or concerns about the DDG-5 Crew Members Association, email them to [me](#) or send them to DDG 5 Crew Members Association C/O Carl Slack, PO Box 83 Jackson, NH 03846-0083.

It is important that all crew members take the time to check out [The Big Nickel](#) website and to register. Registration on the site is our way of making sure we keep all crew members informed and up to date about our Association. Make it a habit to occasionally look for any new information. Newsletters are published twice a year and the website is constantly being updated. We have the best ships website thanks to all the hard work of our webmaster Kirk Neuman.

Saving the USS Charles F Adams DDG-2

A ship's museum store/visitor center has opened in Jacksonville that serves to establish a presence for the local team working on saving the last of the Adams-Class ship hulls for a permanent memorial in downtown Jacksonville for the purpose of representing the 23 ships in the class, and to honor all those who served in them. The store carries military style ball caps representing all the services, tee shirts, coins, decals and other assorted items. Artifacts from the ships of the class include AN/SPA-25 radar repeaters, 5-inch gun fire control equipment, missile launcher control equipment, and various other equipment representative of the communication systems used on board. The presence of the store is already creating a considerable amount of excitement within the community. Future plans include establishing online capabilities through the Adams-Class Veterans Association official website at <http://www.adamsclassddgvets.org/>. Anyone traveling through the Northeast Florida area is invited to visit the store and see what is being done to achieve the goal of saving this ship from scrapping.

All shipmates should take the time to look at [Adams Class Veterans Association \(ACVA\)](#) website and to join that group. The Adams as a museum ship in Jacksonville will represent every DDG, including DDG 5. The Adams as a museum is now in a critical part of their effort to make it a permanent museum in Jacksonville, FL.

They are now in a classical “Catch 22” position. They need to raise funds to prove to the Navy that they can make the project work in order for the Navy to give them final approval and the ship. But until the Navy does that, the ACVA is finding it very difficult to obtain large donations from major corporations. Here is where all the individuals who ever served on an Adams Class Ship can help. You can find out about the latest status and how you can contribute to saving the “Charlie Deuce” by visiting [The Adams Class Museum](#), a joint website by the Jacksonville Historic Naval Ship Association (JHNSA) and the Adams Class Museum.

As part of the effort to save the Adams, the DDG-5 Association Executive Council has authorized the support of the JHNSA/ACVA efforts by sponsoring Hull Plate #5 in honor of the USS Claude V. Ricketts and the USS Biddle as part of the JHNSA/ACVA Hull Restoration Fundraiser. The cost of the sponsorship of each hull plate is \$2500. The Executive Council is asking that you, our shipmates, contribute towards the purchase of our Hull Plate.

If you wish to make a donation towards this goal, please go to the [Save The Charlie Deuce](#) page on The Big Nickel website, print and fill out the DDG-5 Hull Donation Form and send it along with your check to Mike Margeotes (address is on the form). Your contribution will be recorded and then held in escrow in a special account until we reach the goal of \$2500 at which point the funds and donation records will be forwarded to the JHNSA/ACVA. If you wish to charge your donation to your credit card, a link is provided to the [ACVA](#) page for that. Please make sure that you also send in a Hull Plate #5 donation form if you do use a credit card so that your name can be recorded by Mike..

A plaque, made from actual DDG-2 hull plates being replaced when the ship goes into dry dock, will recognize our association for our contributions and, at a later time, all contributors will be recognized in a yet to be determined manner. A list of current DDG 5 Shipmate donors is maintained and viewable on the [Save The Charlie Deuce](#) page. The donors list and the goal "thermometer" on the website will be updated weekly with our progress. Once we have enough for hull plate #5, we will continue to accept donations to sponsor a second hull plate and any number that we can sponsor after that.

Thank you for your support in this fund drive.

Carl Slack (Executive Director)
Glenn Johnson (President)
Danny Timm (Vice President)
Jerry Kaufman (Secretary)
Michael Margeotes (Treasurer/Historian)
Kirk Neuman (Webmaster)

The 2010 Reunion in Norfolk, VA

The 2010 Ship's reunion held in Norfolk, Virginia April 28 to May 2 was well attended. There were 58 shipmates in attendance for most of the three days, representing DDG 5 shipmates from commissioning as the USS Biddle to decommissioning as the USS Claude V. Ricketts.



Wednesday was pre-check-in and setup day. Thursday was actual check-in day when the majority of those attending the full reunion arrived. Thursday evening we held a pizza party and had a drawing for prizes. Howard Williams (10/65 – 4/68) won 1st prize and Tom Wuebkenberg (10/63-11/65) won 2nd prize. Lots of pizza was eaten and even more sea stories were told and fun was had by all.

On Friday we enjoyed a great tour of Norfolk (which isn't the same Norfolk many of us remember) and the USS Wisconsin BB 64, which is permanently moored at Nauticus and the Hampton Roads Naval Museum. We conducted the Crewmate Memorial near the Wisconsin, remembering those shipmates and family members who had passed away since the previous reunion. After the memorial, we re-boarded the bus for a short ride to the Norfolk Naval Station mess hall, where



we had a nice lunch and then took a bus tour of the base.



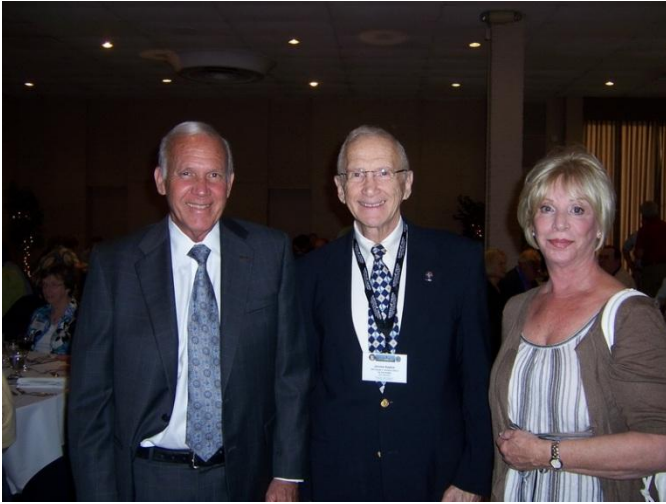
Friday evening we had a reception which was very well attended. But then again, what would you expect from a bunch of swabbies on liberty.

Saturday morning the Reunion Crew Meeting was held. Thirty officers and crew attended the meeting, including Captain Jerry Rapkin (1969 – 1971) and Captain Thomas Sheridan (1980 – 1982). Details of the meeting



can be found in the minutes posted on [The Big Nickel website](#) (you will need [Adobe Reader](#) to load and read the minutes). A summary of the minutes can be found below in Jerry Kaufman's report.

Saturday evening was the concluding dinner. Ninety-four shipmates and their wives and guests attended the dinner. Our honored guests were James Ricketts, son of Admiral Claude V. Ricketts and his wife Jean (pictured on the left with Capt. Rapkin between Mr. and Mrs. Ricketts). Also in attendance were Captains Jerry Rapkin (1969 – 1971), Robert Powers (1974 – 1976) and Thomas Sheridan (1980 – 1982).



There were four Ship's Commanding Officers at the reunion at



one time or another during the three day event. Captains Rapkin and Sheridan attended the entire reunion while Captain Joseph King attended the reception Friday evening and Captain Robert Powers attended the dinner Saturday evening. Captains Sheridan, Powers and Rapkin are pictured here.

At dinner Saturday evening, we had 94 crew members and their wives and guests in attendance. After dinner we held the raffle for many items contributed by shipmates. A major raffle item was the DDG ship's model from [BaD Ship Models](#). Captain Jerry Rapkin was the winner of the kit. He will have a great winter project. Captain Thomas Sheridan won the honor of maintaining the ship's flag until the [2012 reunion](#), which will be held in Jacksonville, Florida.

After the raffle, we had a photo session where the various crews posed as well as photos of all shipmates in attendance. You can find these and many other pictures taken at the reunion on The Big Nickel website under the [2010 Reunion](#) page. While there, please take time to fill out the 2010 Reunion survey if you attended the reunion. Your inputs will help make the 2012 reunion even better.

You can see these and many more reunion photos by going to [The Big Nickel 2010 Reunion page](#) on the web site.

Secretary Jerry Kaufman



Contact jershir1@yahoo.com

The minutes from the 2010 Crews Meeting at the Norfolk Reunion have been posted on The Big Nickel under the 2010 Reunion/Saturday. In summary the following items were discussed and approved at the meeting:

1. DDG 5 Association dues will be incorporated into reunion registration fees and have voluntary dues which members may send in if they don't attend a reunion rather than having a set annual dues fee payable by all Association members.
2. The 2012 reunion will be held in Jacksonville, Florida from May 3 to May 6 at the Crown Plaza Hotel.
3. Election of DDG-5 Memory officers:
 - President: Glenn Johnson (1964 – 1968)
 - Vice President : Danny Timm (1965 – 1968)
 - Secretary : Jerry Kaufman (1962 – 1963)
 - Treasurer : Michael Margeotes (1965 – 1970)
4. Volunteer officers:
 - Chaplain – Wayne Miller (1965 – 1968)
 - Master At Arms – Chuck Ketteringham (1962 – 1964)
 - Newsletter Editor – Carl Slack (1963 – 1968) (another volunteer is requested)
 - Storekeeper – Glenn Johnson (another volunteer is requested)
 - Reunion Coordinator – Carl Slack

Treasurers Report

Michael Margeotes



Contact margeotesm@msn.com

As of 9/23/2010, the balance of the DDG 5 Association checking is \$980.64.
 The opening balance: \$274.34

Hull Plate Donations	\$170.00 (early donations already forwarded to JHNSA/ACVA)
General Donations	\$200.00
Cash from 50/50	\$245.00
Sale History Books	\$91.00
Interest	\$0.30

Balance as of 9/23/2010 \$66.93 in the savings account

Storekeeper

Glenn Johnson

Contact: Storekeeper@TheBigNickel.org

The DDG 5 Association has a stock of shirts, hats, cups and other items for sale. The store owns all of its stock and income from the sale of inventory is used to increase the stock, with excess profits being turned over to the treasurer. You can access the Ships Store by going to <http://thebignickel.org/ShipsStore.html>. Simply open the Order Form (you'll need to have Adobe Reader), print it out, select what you want, fill in the information you want for a monogram and send the form along with your check or money order to Glenn Johnson at the address given on the form.

A word from the Webmaster

Kirk "VJ" Neuman



Contact: Captain.Kirk@thebignickel.org

Greetings shipmates! As I write this, 237 shipmates have registered on The Big Nickel. If you know of any shipmates that haven't yet registered, please ask them to do so. Registering commits you to nothing other than making my day that yet another shipmate has found the [Home Port](#) of the USS Biddle/USS Claude V Ricketts DDG-5

I've made some minor changes to the site since the last newsletter. I've created a Facebook group dedicated to the USS Biddle/Claude V. Ricketts and those of you with Facebook accounts are encouraged to join. You can get to the group by clicking on the **Find us on Facebook** icon on the [Home Port](#) page of the site. I have also created two separate Taps pages, one for crewmates and another for family members. There is also a 2012 Reunion page that has very preliminary scuttlebutt about where and when as well as a daily countdown (this only to bug those of you who can't wait for the next reunion☺).

I am slowly (make that glacially) working on The Big Nickel 2.0 which will have changes in the navigation menus, site and forum registration (I'm working on combining them), the ability to edit/modify your registered information, and general page changes throughout. As I've said before, I welcome any and all comments, both positive and negative, and any ideas for improvement or changes to the site.

The embodiment of the site that you currently visit has evolved from something I initially threw together over a couple of months back in 2008 to what you see today. Although most of my career was in software engineering, I'm not a professional web designer or developer, which should be readily apparent. I've come to realize (I actually knew it all along) that creating a great website takes a lot of time and knowledge. The former, time, is something that I have loads of since I'm now retired, but on the flip-side, my time is taken up by other things besides the web site (as defined by my wife, my family, my lawn, my house, my ...). The second, knowledge, is something that I'm gathering over time by reading lots of technical books and taking on-line courses, then trying to implement what I've learned into TBN 2.0. The end result is that I can't give you a projected date on when TBN 2.0 will be released, although I'm hoping that things will be ready before the 2012

reunion. Some of the improvements will probably “sneak” into the existing site at some point, but more than likely won’t be readily apparent.

On an ending note, I strongly urge you to visit the [Save The Charlie Deuce](#) page and give serious thought to donating towards the procurement of Hull Plate #5. Carl has more fully described this fund drive earlier in this newsletter so I won’t go through it again. However, I have to say that at this time, after nearly a year of the drive, I’m embarrassed that DDG-5 crew members haven’t stepped up and helped make the procurement of Hull Plate #5 a reality. I realize that economic times are tough, but if everybody registered on the site (and who hasn’t already donated) donated only \$10, we would more than reach our goal of \$2500. Enough said.

(Captain) Kirk “VJ” Neuman
Webmaster, [The Big Nickel](#)

THE AMEN CORNER

(Chaplain, Wayne Miller)

Contact: Chaplain@TheBigNickel.org

As of this date, we have received no news of any shipmate or family member passing.

From the Fantail

Remember do all you can to save the Charles F. Adams DDG 2

Every Saturday from 1000 to 1800 in December 2010 are DDG 5 days with donuts and coffee at the Adams Class Museum located in Jacksonville Landing. So if you are in the area drop in and say hello.

See You All At the 2012 Reunion

Set the special sea detail

Make ready DDG 2 - Destination final Homeport Jacksonville, FL

Brought to you by the DDG 5 Crew Members Association

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If you have an email address please contact any member of the Executive Council so that in the future, the newsletter can be emailed to you rather than snail mailed.

