

The Big Nickel Website

Use and Navigation



5/5/62
7/28/64



DDG-5 : The Big Nickel

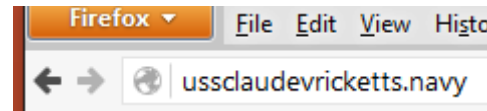
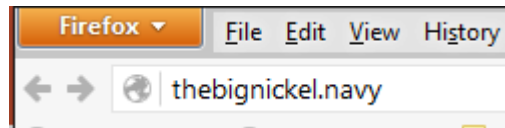


7/28/64
10/31/89

[Home Port](#) [The Cruise Books](#) [The Crew](#) [The Reunions](#) [Ship History](#) [Links](#) [DDG-5 Association](#) [Save The Charlie Deuce](#) [Contact About](#)

Accessing the site on the Internet

- You can use the browser of your choice: MS IE, Firefox, Opera, Chrome, etc. I am unable to test every browser out there, so if you use one that doesn't work, let me know and I'll investigate.
- In the address bar, enter <http://thebignickel.navy> or <http://ussclaudevricketts.navy>



- Entering either address will take you to the site. The USSClaudeVRicketts.Navy is a redirect to TheBigNickel.Navy.

The Home Port Page

- Unless you have another page bookmarked as **TheBigNickel.Navy**, you will be taken to the Home Port page
- At the top of the Home Port page, under the heading, is the **Site Navigation Menu** bar
 - Hovering over some of the **Site Navigation Menu** buttons will result in a drop down of additional Navigation buttons related to the top-level button
- On the right side of the Home Port page are the **Quick Access Navigation Buttons**
- On the left side of the Home Port page is the quick link to the DDG-5 Facebook group and the site login box

The Home Page (Home Port)

Navigation Menu

Facebook
Quick Access

Login Box

The screenshot shows the home page of the DDG-5 website. At the top, there are three main sections: the USS Biddle logo with dates 5/5/62 and 7/28/64, a central image of the ship DDG-5 with the title "DDG-5 : The Big Nickel", and the USS Claude V. Ricketts logo with dates 7/28/64 and 10/31/89. Below these is a navigation menu with buttons for Home Port, Cruise Books, The Crew, The Reunions, Ship History, Links, DDG-5 Association, Save the Charlie Deuce, and Contact About. A central area features buttons for Ship Videos, Current State Of The Adams, and Registered Members with Bad Email Addresses. A countdown timer for the 2016 Reunion is set for 9 days, 3 hours, 18 minutes, and 36 seconds. A welcome message is displayed in a box. Below the message are two portraits: Captain Nicolas Biddle (1750-1778) and Admiral Claude V. Ricketts (1906-1964). A registration and login section includes a "How To Check/Update Your Registration Info" button, a "Not Registered? Register Here" link, and a login box with fields for Username and Password. A "Forgot your password?" link is also present. On the right side, a vertical "Quick Access Navigation" menu contains buttons for Last Site Update (1 February 2016), 2015 Reunion Scuttlebutt, 2014 Reunion Updates, The Crew Roster, Crew Forum, DDG-5 Ships Store, and A photographic tribute to Carl. At the bottom, there is a copyright notice (2008-2016), a disclaimer, and a link to the DDG-5 Crew Members Association.

Quick Access
Navigation

If you served on board when she was either the USS Biddle (May 5, 1962 - July 28, 1964) or the USS Claude V. Ricketts (July 28, 1964 - October 31, 1989) please take time to [register](#). After you register you'll be able to sign in to the [The Big Nickel Forums](#) where you can reminisce with other shipmates, spin sea stories, and post any pictures you may have of your time on board. A list of all registered shipmates is maintained in the [Crew Roster](#); and a special tribute to the crew who participated in the [NATO Mixed Manned Demonstration](#) between June, 1964 and December, 1965.

Copyright The Big Nickel 2008 - 2016

This site is a work in progress. Comments about content, or the lack thereof, are appreciated and encouraged. If you have ideas or thoughts about things you'd like to or would rather not see here, please let me know.

[The DDG-5 Crew Members Association is a 501\(c\)3 non-profit organization, and all donations are tax deductible](#)

[Kirk "VJ" Neuman, Site Webmaster/Owner](#)

The Navigation Menu Bar



- Hovering over certain top-level buttons will result in a drop down button selection



The Quick Action Menu Buttons



- Clicking on a Quick Action button will take you to that page

Login Section

Shipmates currently online:
0 Guests, 0 Users

How To
Check/Update Your
Registration Info

Not Registered? [Register Here](#)

Otherwise Login

Username:

Password:

Login

[Forgot your password?](#)

- Enter your username/password that you submitted when you registered on the site
- If you haven't yet registered, click the **Register here** link to be taken to the Registration page
- If you've forgotten either your username and/or password, click the **Forgot your password?** link to retrieve them. You will need the email address you submitted when you registered.
- If your email is different, contact Captain.Kirk@TheBigNickel.Navy

Login Section (2)

Shipmates currently online:
1 Guest, 0 Users

[How To Check/Update Your Registration Info](#)

Not Registered? [Register Here](#)

Otherwise Login

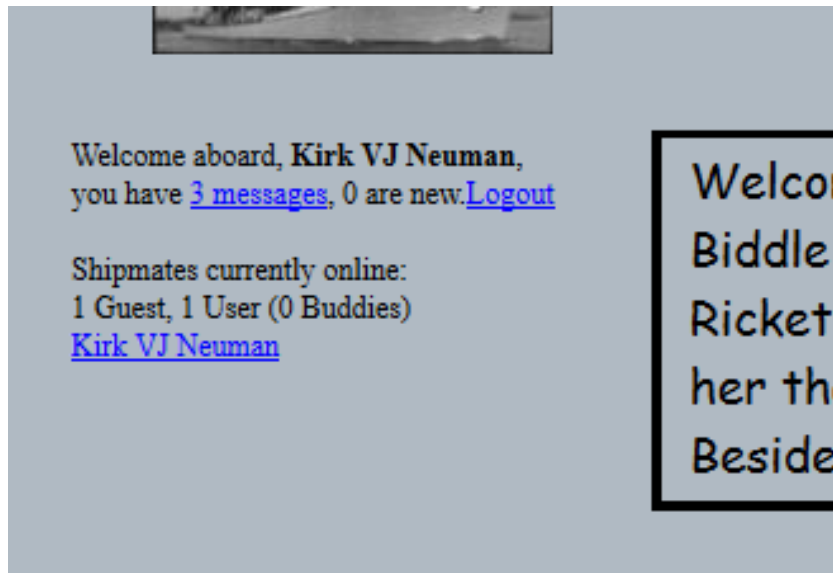
Username:

Password:

[Forgot your password?](#)

- Once you enter your username/password, click the *Login* button

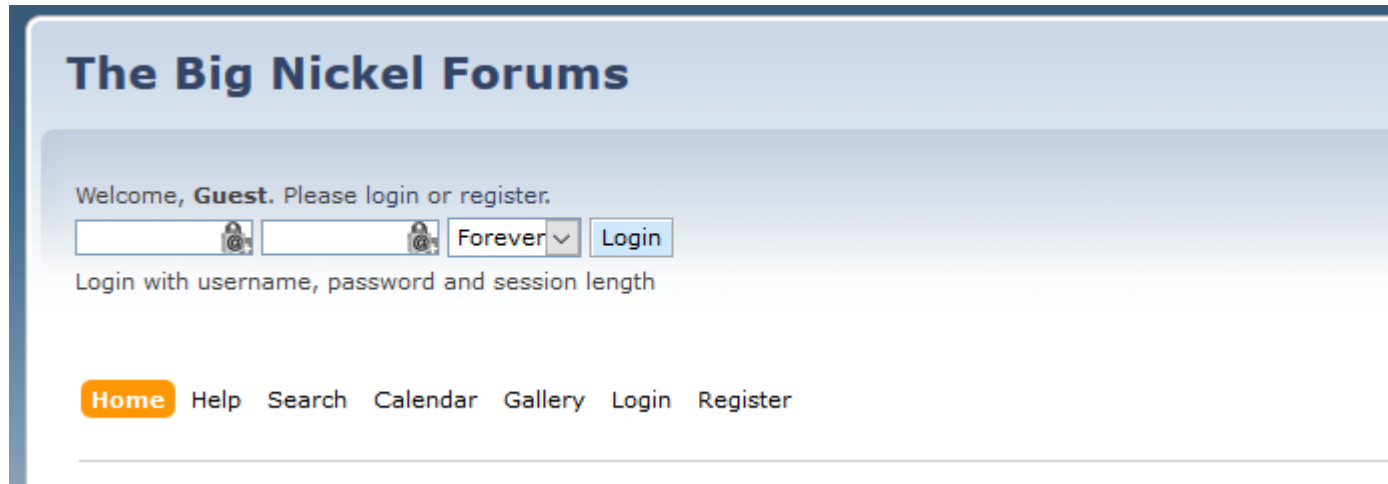
Login Section (3)



- When you are logged in you should see something similar to this

Login Section (4)

- You can also log in from *The Big Nickel Forums*
- Click the Crew Forums Quick Action Button or
- Hover over the Crew Navigation Menu button and select Crew Forum in the drop down



The Big Nickel Forums

Welcome, **Guest**. Please login or register.

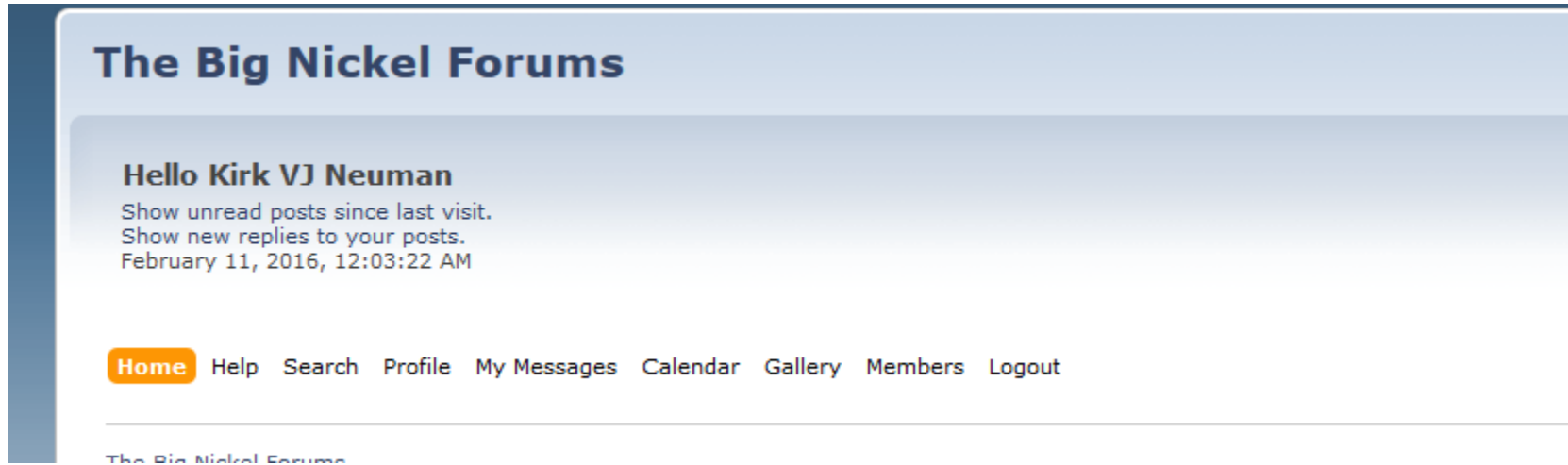
Forever

Login with username, password and session length

[Home](#) [Help](#) [Search](#) [Calendar](#) [Gallery](#) [Login](#) [Register](#)

The screenshot shows the login interface for 'The Big Nickel Forums'. It features a header with the site name, a welcome message for a guest user, and a login form with fields for username, password, session length (set to 'Forever'), and a 'Login' button. Below the form is a navigation menu with links for Home, Help, Search, Calendar, Gallery, Login, and Register.

Login Section (5)



The Big Nickel Forums

Hello Kirk VJ Neuman
Show unread posts since last visit.
Show new replies to your posts.
February 11, 2016, 12:03:22 AM

[Home](#) [Help](#) [Search](#) [Profile](#) [My Messages](#) [Calendar](#) [Gallery](#) [Members](#) [Logout](#)

The Big Nickel Forums

Forgotten Password

- This is the page that is displayed when you click the ***Forgot your password?*** on the Home Port page
- Enter either your username or the email address you entered when you registered

Welcome, **Guest**. Please login or register.

Forever

Login with username, password and session length

[Home](#) [Help](#) [Search](#) [Calendar](#) [Gallery](#) [Login](#) [Register](#)

The Big Nickel Forums

Authentication Reminder

If you've forgotten your login details, don't worry, they can be retrieved. To start this process please enter your username or email address below.

Username/Email:

SMF 2.0.11 | SMF © 2015, Simple Machines
XHTML RSS WAP2

Forgotten Password (2)

- Close up of the forgotten password window

Authentication Reminder

If you've forgotten your login details, don't worry, they can be retrieved. To start this process please enter your username or email address below.

Username/Email:

Continue

Registration Page (Top)

The Big Nickel Crewmember Registration

(If you have spam blockers enabled, please make sure you authorize Captain.Kirk@thebignickel.navy prior to registering)

Yellow : required

Blue : optional, but recommended

This section contains your name and discharge or retirement date. If you are still active, leave the discharge/retirement box empty and so indicate with the checkbox.

Your Name	First: <input type="text"/>	MI: <input type="text"/>	Last: <input type="text"/>	Suffix: <input type="text"/>
Discharge/Retirement Date:	- Month - <input type="text"/> - Year - <input type="text"/>			
Still On Active Duty:	<input type="checkbox"/>			

This section contains your on board duty tour(s) information. Up to three tours may be entered.

If you served more than three tours on board, please contact the [Webmaster](#) with the additional information.

	1st Tour	2nd Tour	3rd Tour
Tour Dates:	- Month - <input type="text"/> - Year - <input type="text"/>	- Month - <input type="text"/> - Year - <input type="text"/>	- Month - <input type="text"/> - Year - <input type="text"/>
	to	to	to
	- Month - <input type="text"/> - Year - <input type="text"/>	- Month - <input type="text"/> - Year - <input type="text"/>	- Month - <input type="text"/> - Year - <input type="text"/>
Rank/Rate: (i.e., Capt, LCDR, RD2, BM1, SN, etc.) (Highest rank or rate during each tour)	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Division(s) (i.e., B, E, 1st, OI)	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

Registration Page (Middle 1)

This section is intended for the NATO Mixed Manning Demonstration crew. If you served onboard between June 1964 and December 1965 or any portion thereof then you are considered part of the MMD.

If you were a member of the MMD crew and your name is not included in the [Mixed Manning](#) pages, please notify the [Webmaster](#) and, if possible, include a photograph of yourself during your time on board.

NATO Mixed Manned Crew? (Jun '64 to Dec '65)?	Yes: <input type="radio"/> No: <input checked="" type="radio"/>
Country:	United States <input type="text"/>

If you served on any other DDG-2 class ships, please check any you served on (note that USS Biddle/USS Claude V. Ricketts has already been checked for you):












- USS Charles F. Adams DDG-2
- USS John King DDG-3
- USS Lawrence DDG-4
- USS Biddle/USS Claude V. Ricketts DDG-5
- USS Barney DDG-6
- USS Henry B. Wilson DDG-7
- USS Lynde McCormick DDG-8
- USS Towers DDG-9

- USS Sampson DDG-10
- USS Sellers DDG-11
- USS Robison DDG-12
- USS Hoel DDG-13
- USS Buchanan DDG-14
- USS Berkeley DDG-15
- USS Joseph Strauss DDG-16
- USS Conyngham DDG-17

- USS Semmes DDG-18
- USS Tattnell DDG-19
- USS Goldsborough DDG-20
- USS Cochrane DDG-21
- USS Benjamin Staddert DDG-22
- USS Richard E. Byrd DDG-23
- USS Waddell DDG-24

Registration (Middle 2)

The following information is kept in strict confidentiality.

Your Date of Birth:	- Month - ▾	- Day - ▾	- Year - ▾
Email address:	<input type="text"/> 		
Spouse/SO Name:	First: <input type="text"/> 	MI: <input type="text"/> 	Last: <input type="text"/> 
Spouse/SO Date of Birth:	- Month - ▾	- Day - ▾	- Year - ▾
Address 1:	<input type="text"/> 		
Address 2:	<input type="text"/> 		
City:	<input type="text"/> 		
State (if not US, enter country):	<input type="text"/> 		
Zip/postal code:	<input type="text"/> 		
Home phone:	<input type="text"/> 		
Cell phone:	<input type="text"/> 		

Registration (Bottom)

Your username/password will automatically register you for The Big Nickel Forums, allow you to modify your information and allow you to contact other shipmates through the site.

Username (minimum 8 characters):	<input type="text"/>
Password (minimum 6 characters):	<input type="password"/>

Enter any comments you'd like to make about your time on board.
Currently there is a limit of 800 characters for your comments.

You have 800 characters remaining for your description...



Submit Reset

The Crew Roster

The Crews of DDG-5 USS Biddle/USS Claude V. Ricketts DDG-5

Below are the names of the men that, together, made up the crews of the USS Biddle and USS Claude V. Ricketts during her 27 year career. The names below represent those who have registered on this site and do not comprise the whole of the men who served on board the DDG-5 during her career. It is estimated that at least 4000 men served on board the DDG-5 during her lifetime. If you were a crew member of either the Biddle or the Ricketts and you have not yet done so, you can register [here](#).

Last Name	First Name	Last Tour	Division	Rank/Rate	MMD Crew?	Country	Comment	Deceased?
Acosta	Carlos	March 1977 To June 1979	Supply	SK3	No	US	Started out in Deck along with Angel Mendez, Ruben Barcelo, Carrico, Aguilar. Went to Supply Div, after making SN with SKC Pullen, SK1 McDaniel, SK1 (LCDR) Joe Sarimento	
Adams	Michael	November 1973 To June 1977	B	BT 2	No	US	I had a great time on the Claude V. Ricketts three Med Cruises, a Ship Yard Overhaul, Battle Refresher Training in GITMO, Belknap rescue, Transited the Suez Cannel, crossed the Equator and was privileged to served with the best. "My Shipmates".	
Alexander	George	February 1965 To July 1967	E	Em3	Yes	US	I came on board to replace one of the Turks Feb 65. best move I've made. Came off Shanandoa AD 26 and wanted to travel!!! Great move. Made good friends, would love to hear from anyone from MMD.	
Allison	Gregory	July 1962 To November 1964	R	RM3	Yes	US	Was an honor serving on the USS Biddle/Claude V. Ricketts. Placed her into commission both times and was in the Cuban crises too. Was blessed to serve under my skipper and friend	
Amundson	Mark	June 1976 To September 1979	E	IC2	No	US		
Anderson	Ted	February 1970 To February 1971	E	ICFN	No	US	My time was short because I asked for and recieved a humanitarian transfer to WestPac. I served aboard the USS Ticonderoga CVS 14 and made IC2. I most remember our trip down to the caribbean and to Gitmo on a training cruise after our stay at the ship	
armstrong	rex	January 1962 To November 1966	M	MM1	Yes	US	looking to meet up with old shipmates	
Armstrong	David	March 1985 To June 1988	AS	STG1	No	US		
Ash	John	May 1980 To June 1984	ASW	LT	No	US		
Babin	James	December 1967 To March 1971	OC	RM1	No	US	Great ship, great crew and great memories!	



Shipmate Detailed Not Logged In

Below are the names of the men that, together, made up the crews of the USS Biddle and USS Claude V. Ricketts during her 27 year career. The names below represent those who have registered on this site and do not comprise the whole of the men who served on board the DDG-5 during her career. It is estimated that at least 4000 served on board the DDG-5 during her lifetime. If you were a crew member of either the Biddle or the Ricketts and you have not yet done so, you can register [here](#).

Name	Knox Brown
Retirement/Discharge Date	October 1984
Tour 1 Dates	January 1978 - January 1980
Tour 1 Rank/Rate	MM3
Tour 1 Division	M
Tour 2 Dates	March 1981 - July 1981
Tour 2 Rank/Rate	MM2
Tour 2 Division	A
NATO Mixed Manned Crew	No
Comment	Picked up the Ricketts in Philadelphia Naval Shipyard Dry Dock #2 on 1/2/1978. Sailed on her through the gulf in '79 and with StaNavForLant until my EAOS in 7/81. I have one of your missing cruise books. One of my grandsons has signed up for JRNROTC because of my career that was cut short in '84. Maybe someday he'll join me at a reunion.

[« Return To The Crew Roster](#)

Shipmate Detail Logged In

Below are the names of the men that, together, made up the crews of the USS Biddle and USS Claude V. Ricketts during her 27 year career. The names below represent those who have registered on this site and do not comprise the whole of the men who served on board the DDG-5 during her career. It is estimated that at least 4000 men served on board the DDG-5 during her lifetime. If you were a crew member of either the Biddle or the Ricketts and you have not yet done so, you can register [here](#).

Email this shipmate	
Name	Knox Brown
Retirement/Discharge Date	October 1984
Tour 1 Dates	January 1978 - January 1980
Tour 1 Rank/Rate	MM3
Tour 1 Division	M
Tour 2 Dates	March 1981 - July 1981
Tour 2 Rank/Rate	MM2
Tour 2 Division	A
NATO Mixed Manned Crew	No
Comment	Picked up the Ricketts in Philadelphia Naval Shipyard Dry Dock #2 on 1/2/1978. Sailed on her through the gulf in '79 and with StaNavForLant until my EAOS in 7/81. I have one of your missing cruise books. One of my grandsons has signed up for JRNROTC because of my career that was cut short in '84. Maybe someday he'll join me at a reunion.

[« Return To The Crew Roster](#)

Email Window

- This is the email window displayed when clicking on a shipmate's name
- Your email address is displayed, the shipmates address is not

✉ Send Email

Recipient's name: Knox Brown

Your email address: kvjneuman@charter.net
Note this will be visible to the recipient.

Email Subject:

Message:

Send

The Big Nickel Forums

- Access the Crew Forums by selecting **The Crew** from the **Navigation Menu Bar** or from the **Quick Action Buttons** on the right
- Once in the forums, you may read any post and post (if you are logged in)
- To return to the **Home Port** page, click on the Home Port link in the upper right

The Crew Forums

The Big Nickel Forums

Home Port

Hello Kirk VJ Neuman
Show unread posts since last visit.
Show new replies to your posts.
April 26, 2016, 02:46:41 AM

Please read [The Big Nickel News and Updates](#) for specifics about forum updates.

News:

[Home](#) [Help](#) [Search](#) [Profile](#) [My Messages](#) [Calendar](#) [Gallery](#) [Members](#) [Logout](#)

The Big Nickel Forums

Reunion Scuttlebutt		Unread Posts	
	2016 Reunion Information about the 2016 DDG-5 Reunion in Jacksonville, Florida	5 Posts 3 Topics	Last post by Rodney D Click in Re: 60 on April 15, 2016, 02:46:49 PM
	2014 Reunion Information and posts pertaining to the 2014 Reunion to be held in Washington DC, July 26-29 (dates approximate).	3 Posts 3 Topics	Last post by CaptainKirk in DDG-5 Commemoration Plaq... on January 13, 2014, 09:45:39 PM
	2012 Reunion News and views about the upcoming 2012 DDG-5 reunion in Jacksonville, Florida, May 3 thru May 6	3 Posts 2 Topics	Last post by jpwillisnitz in Re: For Various/Boring R... on May 01, 2012, 07:11:34 AM

DDG-5 Crew Members Association (Members Only)		Unread Posts	
	2012 Crew Meeting Comments If you have things you'd like to have discussed at the 2012 Reunion Crew Meeting, please put them here. I will make sure they are raised at the meeting.	0 Posts 0 Topics	
	Association Comments If you have comments about the DDG-5 Crew Members Association, please post them here.	0 Posts 0 Topics	

The Big Nickel News and Updates		Unread Posts	
	The Forums News and update information specifically about The Big Nickel Forums.	9 Posts 4 Topics	Last post by CaptainKirk in Re: Gallery update on February 21, 2015, 03:36:18 AM

The Crewmate Finder

- Access The Crewmate Finder by hovering over The Crew on the Navigation Menu bar and selecting Crewmate Finder (Beta)
- Enter a zip code, a search radius in miles and then Submit

Enter your zip code into the following table, enter the distance in miles that you want to search and hit **Submit**. You will get a listing of crew member names, their city, state and zip code that reside within the range you selected. The distances are approximate to within a few miles. I am working on allowing you to email those crew members that come up, but that won't be available for a while yet.

5 digit zipcode	55124
Search radius	50

Submit

Reset

Crewmate Finder Results

- Once displayed and if you are logged in, you can click on a shipmates name to send email as described earlier

[Back to Crew Mate Finder Beta Page](#)

Number of registered US crew members: 476

Shipmate	First Tour	City	State	Zip code	Distance (miles)
Kirk VJ Neuman	July 1964 - March 1968	Apple Valley	MN	55124	0
Daniel Rogers	Oct 1968 - Oct 1969	Lakeville	MN	55044	6
Dan Heesch	Mar 1977 - Sept 1980	Saint Paul	MN	55107	14
John Steen	January 1984 - October 1986	Hastings	MN	55033	17
Ron Featherston	January 1977 - August 1979	Victoria	MN	55386	24
Jim Miller	Fall 1971 - Feb 1973	Blaine	MN	55434	29

DDG-5 CMA 501(c)(3) Status

- The DDG-5 Crew Members Association is now a non-profit, 501(c)(3) organization
- This means that any donations made to the DDG-5 CMA are tax deductible
- Since The Big Nickel website supports the DDG-5 Crew Members Association, I have made available a page with donation buttons available

DDG-5 CMA Donation Page

501(c)(3) Status

The DDG-5 Crew Members Association has been granted a 501(c)(3), non-profit organization status by the IRS. This means, among other things, that any donations you make towards the Association are now tax deductible.

This designation **DOES NOT** apply to TheBigNickel website and any donations you may make towards the site are not tax deductible.

To make a donation towards the DDG-5 Crew Members Association, click on one of the following forms. The form on the left is to be printed and then filled out by hand and sent in with your check/money order. The form on the right is to be filled out using Adobe Reader/Acrobat and sent in with your check/money order.

**Donation Form
Print and fill**

Use this form to print, fill out by hand and mail with your donation

**Donation Form
Fill and print**

Use this form to fill out on-line, print and mail with your donation

DDG-5 CMA Donation Form

DDG-5 Crew Members Association

Donation Form

Donor Information:

Name _____

Address _____

City, St, Zip _____

Phone 1 | Phone 2 _____

Email _____

Donation Information

Donation _____

Cash Check

I wish my donation to remain anonymous.

Signature _____

Make checks payable to: DDG-5 Crew Members Association

Send to: DDG-5 Crew Members Association

c/o Michael Margeotes

49 Columbia Blvd.

E Stroudsburg, PA 18302

DDG-5 Ship's Store

- The Ship's Store page presents those DDG-5 items that are available for sale
- The Ship's Store inventory includes:
 - Denim Shirts
 - Polo Shirts
 - Hats
 - Cups
 - Ship's Patches
 - Challenge Coins
 - Ship's History

Ship's Store Page (Top)

DDG-5 Association Ship's Store

Order Form

(External Order Items)

(Adobe PDF Reader required)

(If you have problems with the on-line interactive form, download the form and use Adobe Reader to open it on your desktop/laptop/tablet/whatever it is you may be using. Fill it out, save it and send a copy along with your check/money order via snail mail, or send a copy via email to Storekeeper@TheBigNickel.Navy if you are paying via PayPal.)

Coffee Cups: \$8



Hats (one size fits all): \$16



Challenge Coin: \$12



Front

Back

Photo Coffee Cups: \$10



Flag Billed Hat: \$20

(Ricketts only)



Ship's Patches: \$10



Polo Shirt (Blue)

Order with or without pocket. See Order Form for latest prices.



Make checks out to:
DDG-5 Crew Members Association

Ship's Store Page (Bottom)

Polo Shirt (Blue)

Order with or without pocket. See [Order Form](#) for latest prices.



Denim Shirts

Short Sleeve Long Sleeve

See [Order Form](#) for latest prices.



Shirts come with ship name, DDG-5 and ship silhouette over the right pocket. Monograms are available on the right side of the shirt up to 4 lines.

If you have any questions or problems, please contact the [Ship's Storekeeper](#).

Make checks out to:
DDG-5 Crew Members Association

Send orders to:

DDG-5 Ship's Store
c/o Kirk Neuman
141 Strese Lane
Apple Valley, MN
55124-9337

If you are an non-US MMD shipmate please use PayPal for payment. Please use this page for currency conversion and additional PayPal fee. Once your order is processed and shipped, I will notify you of the total cost (order + shipping).

**DDG-5 Ship's Store
PayPal Payment**

Ship's Store Ordering

- Open the Ship's Store Order Form at the top of the page
- The order form is in PDF format so you will need (at least) Adobe Reader
- Fill in the quantity of the item(s) you are ordering
- The total cost will be filled in automatically along with order total and shipping costs
- Note that shipping costs are for US only and are actually variable, depending on the type and amount of items being ordered

Ship's Store Ordering (continued)

- Payment can be made by check, money order or via PayPal
- Payments by check or money order should be sent to the address on the Ship's Store page
- Payments made via PayPal will require an additional fee, determined by clicking the link, **Please use this page for currency conversion and additional PayPal fee** found near the mailto address

Ship's Store Mailing Address

Make checks out to:

DDG-5 Crew Members Association

Send orders to:

DDG-5 Ship's Store

c/o Kirk Neuman

141 Strese Lane

Apple Valley, MN

55124-9337

If you are an non-US MMD shipmate please use
PayPal for payment. Please use this page for
currency conversion and additional PayPal fee.

Once your order is processed and shipped, I will
notify you of the total cost (order + shipping).

**DDG-5 Ship's Store
PayPal Payment**