



USS Claude V. Ricketts / (formerly) USS Biddle DDG-5 The Big Nickel #21, April 2019

Newsletter Editor Note

Looking for a new Newsletter Editor. If anyone is interested in taking on the job, please contact me [here](#).

2020 DDG-5 Reunion

With the news last December that the U.S. Navy will not be handing over the Charles F. Adams to the JHNSA and since at the 2018 Reunion Crew Meeting it was voted on to have the 2020 Reunion in Norfolk/Virginia Beach if the Adams wasn't going to be in Jacksonville by a date to be determined, the 2020 reunion will now be in Norfolk/Virginia Beach.

The Reunion will be held from May 7 through May 9, 2020 at the Holiday Inn Virginia Beach – Norfolk. Contracts and event planning are being finalized and more information will be available later this year. Hotel reservations can be made beginning in May.

Executive Director/Vice President



BT2 Glenn Johnson (64 – 68): gjohn11905@gmail.com

Dear Shipmates,

I hope everyone that resides in the North is finally thawing out. It was a brutal winter for many of you and I am sure you are looking forward to milder temperatures.

Our ships reunion with will be held in Norfolk, Virginia on May 7-9, 2020. You will be able to check in early on the 6th and check out on the 10th. Soon, I will receive a direct link to the hotel for you to use when making your reservation next month. Kirk will post it on the website, and I can put it on the FB page.

I am currently working on some fun tours that will be different from any tours we have done in the past, We will visit the USS Wisconsin, take a boat ride on the Victory Rover, etc. Lots to do during our short stay in Norfolk.

We have managed to keep our cost the same for the past 10 years. In an effort to keep our reunion affordable, I have contacted people in Norfolk that are use to doing reunions for the Navy. We will get the best deal possible however you will notice that the cost has increased by about 15%. We also will be able to subsidize some of our expenses with \$\$ that we have in our treasury. So please join us in making this the best reunion ever.

If you have any questions, concerns, or special needs that you can't get resolved, feel free to notify me via email GJohn11905@gmail.com or call me at 813-786-8958.

So, mark your calendar, call old shipmate and encourage them to come, and I look forward to seeing everyone in May 2020!

Thank you all for all your support.

Glenn Johnson Exec. Director-DDG5 Crew Members Assoc.
Served on the Biddle/Ricketts 64-68 BT2

President



ET3 John Cubells (85 – 88): 63jcubells@gmail.com

Vice President

Jim Miller resigned as Vice President in early March 2019.

Ship's Treasurer



BT2 Glenn Johnson (64 – 68): gjohn11905@gmail.com

Current Association Account Balance:

The Amen Corner

BM3 Wayne Miller (65 – 68): Choicemedtrans@optonline.net

We have received notification of the passing of the following shipmates and family members since the last newsletter:

- LTJG Laurence (Larry) Keith Paddock, Missile Office (7/63 – 7/64), December 5, 2018.

If you have further information on any of the above, please contact me [here](#).

A Message For The Association Ladies

“Hello” to all the Navy wives out there! The next reunion is just a little over a year away so sit down with your sailors and mark your calendars to begin planning! The wives enjoy doing lunch dates and excursions or simply relaxing and sunning/reading by the pool, while their men go to meetings (or just hang out and reminisce)! The activities which all are welcome to attend during the reunion have been really enjoyable too (last year we went on a great tour)!

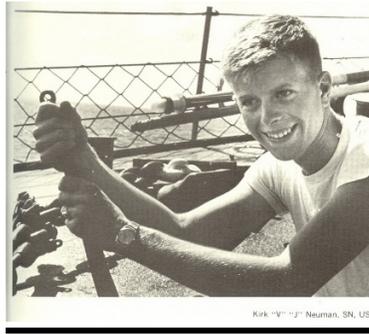
I am a “two-reunion vet” and have enjoyed meeting the other wives and getting to know them! The reunion’s Saturday evening dinner has proven to be a really great time and the silent auction is getting better each year (and SO much fun)! Stacy and John Cubells and Michael and I have already started collecting wonderful items to donate to the auction!

...PLUS! ‘Now hear this’ ** NEWS FLASH! ** Michael is obtaining another Native American Star quilt to donate again at the next reunion dinner auction! That in itself makes attending the reunion a MUST!

Hope to see y’all there!

Betsy Cheney (Michael’s First Mate)

A Word from the Webmaster



1964



2013

RD2 Kirk "VJ" Neuman (7/64 - 3/68): Captain.Kirk@TheBigNickel.Navy
TheBigNickel.Navy – USSClaudeVRicketts.Navy

Shipmate Information Database Update:

Since its inception in late 2008, and of this newsletter, 511 shipmates have registered on [The Big Nickel website](http://TheBigNickel.Navy). I'm continuously working cleaning-up and updating the Crew Registration database and have removed several data entries that weren't consistent or were duplicated across various tables in the database. I'm also continuing to try to put together a "good email list" from the registration database table and the Master Crew List database table. The Master Crew List is an Excel spreadsheet of some 700+ shipmates who served on board the DDG-5 that was put together by Carl Slack over the years based on information from various other Navy and veteran websites that DDG-5 shipmates registered on at one time or another. Not all names in the MCL are in the site registration database and not all names in the database are in the MCL.

Because I've been trying to clean up things, I send out an email a couple of times during the year to see if the email addresses I have in the registration database are good or not (not meaning I get a bounced email indicating I have a bad address). As of this newsletter there are 69 shipmates registered on the site that now have bad email addresses (i.e., I am unable to contact them via email). I've added a button to the home port page of the site that lists those shipmates with bad email addresses and I'd appreciate it if you would take a few minutes to make sure your name isn't there. If it is, please [contact me](#) with your updated email address and I'll update the database. [Click here to view the list of "bad email" names.](#)

Also, because of this I'm asking that you log into the site and check/update your information and/or ensure that your registration information is still there and up-to-date. Instructions for doing this are on the website home page, accessible by clicking on the red button titled "**How To Check/Update Your Registration Info.**"

In addition, if you have not yet [registered on the website](#), I would encourage you to do that. It is easy to do and the information you enter will be kept private except for on board information, which will be displayed in the Crew Roster. If you are already registered and log in to the website, you will be able to email other registered shipmates via the Crew Roster as well as being kept up-to-date on activities for the DDG-5 Crew Members Association. If you have questions or problems registering, please [contact me](#).

Deceased Shipmates:

Since the inception of website, several shipmates who did register on the site have passed on. I've indicated these shipmates on the Crew Roster with a cyan colored background.

Even if a shipmate has not registered on the website, or passed away before its inception, I attempt to maintain a Taps page for both crewmembers and family members of those who served on board during the ship's lifetime. There are several names listed for which I have very limited information. If you see someone in the list that you have information about, please [contact me](#) so I can attempt to update their information.

Family Registration:

The Family Registration page has been on the shelf for quite some time. I'm trying out a few things that aren't quite working yet. It's taking a lot more time than I originally planned on, but I keep coming up with new ideas and implementing them takes time. I still hope to have it available sometime in the future to keep an eye out for it in the Login/Registration box on the Home Port page.

It is my wish with the Family Registration to maintain contact with those family members of deceased shipmates who would like to continue to receive information about the DDG-5 Crew Members Association. This is not to say that family members of living shipmates can't register. They are certainly welcome too if they would like.

DDG-5 Ladies Auxiliary:

At the 2016 Reunion, Jo`An Brown, wife of Charlie Brown (RD1, 64 – 67), put together a list of names, addresses, phone numbers and email addresses of those women who attended the reunion with their husbands. Jo`An typed up the list when she got home and sent it out to all the women on the list. This gave me the idea of having a DDG-5 Ladies Auxiliary site connected to The Big Nickel website.

I've put together a minimal set of pages for a DDG-5 Ladies Auxiliary [which can be found here](#). The pages can also now be gotten to from The Big Nickel Home Port page.

There isn't much there right now other than a registration page and a registered member display page (where you'll find my wife's information). If you're Lady would like to register, she's welcome to try it. Her information will be stored in the LA database and I'll make sure not to erase it. Note that there are still some things that don't work quite right and I hope to get them fixed in the near future.

If your Lady thinks something like this would be a good idea, [please let me know](#) and I'll continue working on it. Also, you or they can include ideas of things to include on the site and I'll see about including them.

Note that the Ladies Auxiliary Registration would be somewhat redundant to the Family Registration mentioned above and I'd look at somehow combining/connecting the two registrations.

UPDATE: I haven't heard much interest in the Ladies Auxiliary page and thus haven't done much with it. I may be having something more substantial at the next reunion for the DDG-5 Ladies to look at.

A word from the Storekeeper



RD2 Kirk "VJ" Neuman (64 – 67): Storekeeper@TheBigNickel.Navy

The [DDG-5 ships store](#) is open for business. Items for sale include ships cups, ships hats, ships patches, challenge coins, polo shirts and denim shirts (long and short sleeve). I've implemented a new order form that you can now fill out on-line with buttons at the bottom to save and/or print the form. I've also updated the order

form to include the use of credit card purchases. Currently I accept Visa, Mastercard, Discover and American Express.

A note for the 2020 Reunion. Assuming I make the reunion (not sure at the time of this newsletter) I'll be flying into Norfolk and I won't be bringing a bunch of stock for sale at the Reunion. I will have some samples of shirts and other items, depending on how much I can pack. You'll have to fill out an order form at the Reunion and I will fill your orders when I return home after the Reunion.

If you want, you can pre-order items for delivery at the reunion. I will fill those orders and have them shipped (if I can't pack them in my suitcase) to the hotel prior to my departure to Norfolk. I did briefly consider shipping ship's store items I have in stock but decided shipping costs both ways would be way too prohibitive.

Due to increases in postal rates, I've had to increase the shipping costs to \$10 for orders under \$50 and \$15 for orders over \$50.

Also, I now take credit card orders. You still need to fill out the order form and send that to me (either via email or snail-mail). I haven't gotten to the point of on-line ordering, though I'm dallying with how to do that.

At the 2016 Reunion, I picked up some ship models from the Adams Museum at a discounted cost. Warning, these are pretty small scale. These are available through the Ship's Store for \$20 plus \$10 shipping.

