



USS Claude V. Ricketts / (formerly) USS Biddle DDG-5

The Big Nickel #28, August 2023

Newsletter In MMD Languages

Unfortunately the “translator” in MS Word isn’t currently working so I’m unable to provide the newsletter in the languages of the MMD. Once this has been corrected, I’ll do the translations and get them posted through the website.

Dutch: [Raadpleeg de webpagina](#) voor de nieuwsbrief in uw taal.

Germany: Für den Newsletter in Ihrer Sprache, [überprüfen Sie bitte die Webseite](#).

Greece: Για το ενημερωτικό δελτίο στη γλώσσα σας, [ανατρέξτε στην ιστοσελίδα](#).

Italy: Per la newsletter nella tua lingua, [controlla la pagina web](#).

Turkey: Dilinizdeki bülten için [lütfen web sayfasını kontrol edin](#).

2023 DDG-5 Reunion Wrapup

The 2023 Reunion wrapped up in Jacksonville, Florida on Sunday, May 21st. There were approximately 40 attendees at the reunion, including shipmates and their wives. The attendance wasn’t up to par with the previous reunions and hopefully this will be rectified at the next and following reunions, although we’re all getting older. The next reunion will be held next year (2024) though the actual dates and location haven’t been fully decided as of this newsletter. You can reach the 2023 Reunion wrap up page by clicking [here](#), or by going to the website home page, clicking The Reunions navigation button and selecting the 2023 Reunion from the drop-down.

2024 DDG-5 Reunion Planning

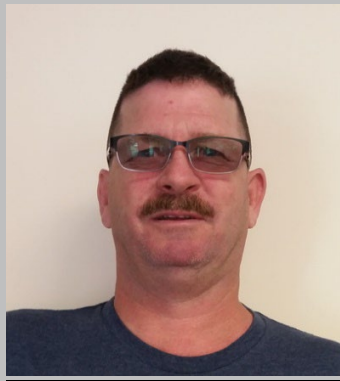
At the Crew Meeting on Saturday of the 2023 Reunion, it was voted to hold the next reunion in 2024 to adjust the year to coincide with the 60th anniversary of the renaming of our ship from USS Biddle to USS Claude V. Ricketts. A discussion was held about the location of the reunion and two locations were selected; Long Island, New York, put forth by John Cubells or Patriots

Point near Charleston, South Carolina, put forth by David Marshall. John will investigate costs of lodging and potential tours for Long Island and David will do the same for Patriots Point.

The after receiving quotes from various hotels in Patriots Point and Long Island, the Executive Council has decided to hold next year's reunion in Long Island. The host hotel will be The East Wind hotel in Wading River, New York. Further information is included below from John Cubells.

The 2024 Registration form and schedule will be released soon on the website, so check back often. News of the released information will also be posted on the DDG-5 Facebook page.

President



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

Dear Shipmates,

Hoping this newsletter finds you all well. Our 2023 reunion was held in Jacksonville Fl. in May. Highlights included a day trip to St. Augustine and tours onboard the USS Orlick DD-886. The banquet and Chinese Auction were a success, and a great time was had by all in attendance.

In our Crew meeting, it was voted to return to holding reunions on even years. This allows us to celebrate the 60th Anniversaries of the commissioning of the USS Claude V. Ricketts (28 July 1964) as well as the Mixed Manning Demonstration (June 1964 – December 1965). Two possible locations for the 2024 Reunion were chosen: Patriots Point, South Carolina and Long Island, New York.

After receiving proposals for each, the Executive Council has chosen the 2024 reunion to be held at the [East Wind Hotel](#) in Wading River, Long Island, New York from Sunday, July 28 thru Friday, August 2. The East Wind Long Island is located 60 miles east of Manhattan on 26 lush acres of vineyards with Shoppes within walking distance. All rooms will be \$179 per night for these dates. The hotel is accessible by three airports: JFK, LaGuardia (NYC), and Islip-MacArthur (30 minutes from hotel).

Many local attractions are a short drive from the hotel including wineries, casino, beaches and many more.

The availability of a day trip into NYC and the USS Intrepid with lunch in the city is being planned. Admission to the USS Intrepid is free with a valid Veteran's ID. Pricing for this trip is being negotiated and will follow.

The DDG-5 Banquet and Chinese Auction will be Thursday evening, August 1. If you are planning on attending the reunion, please bring something for the auction.

There is still much work to be done to finalize the details and further 2024 Reunion updates will be published on the [website](#) and in future newsletters, emails, and on the [DDG-5 Facebook Group](#).

Finally I would like to thank Dave Marshall (75-79) and his family for researching Patriots Point.

Hoping to see everyone in 2024.

Fair Winds and Following Seas,
John Cubells (85-89)

The Amen Corner

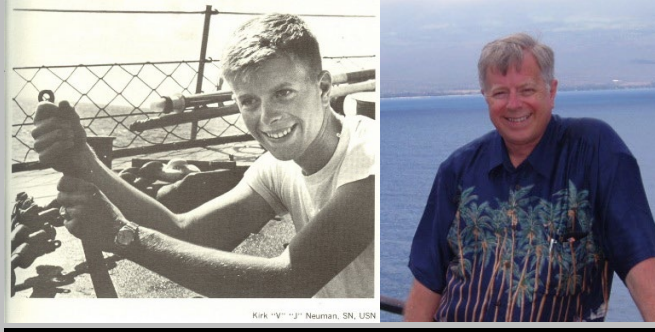
BM3 Wayne Miller (65 – 68): Choicemedtrans@optonline.net

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

- Curtis Richard (Rickey) Mallette (1977 - 1978), August 20, 2014. You can view his obituary [here](#).
- BTFN Timothy Louis Mallette (1977 - 1978), October 1, 2022. You can view his obituary [here](#).
- SM3 Bil Heath (1972 - 1974), November 28, 2022. You can view his obituary [here](#).
- FC1 John Adams (1980s), January 9, 2023. You can view his obituary [here](#).
- FTM2 Richard A. Joy (1975 during the rescue of the Belknap), March 2, 2023. You can view his obituary [here](#).
- STG3 Christopher Lee "Chris" Chamness (June 1983 - October 1985), May 16, 2020. You can view his obituary [here](#).

If you have further information on any of the above or know of any other shipmate who has passed or information about any shipmate in the Taps List, please contact me [here](#).

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:

I am continuously working on 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 am also continuing to keep updated a "good email list" from the registration database table by sending out aperiodic emails to all registered email addresses in the current good email list. If I should receive a “bounced” reply, indicating that the email address is not active, I will place that email address in the bad email list, remove it from the good list, and update the bad email list which can be found on the home page of the website by clicking the red button on the right side of the page. You should check this list every so often to see if you’re listed. If you are, [contact me](#) ASAP with your updated/changed email address and I’ll update the database.

In addition, if you’re reading this from the informational posting in the Facebook group about the publication of this newsletter and if you have not yet [registered on the website](#), I would encourage you to do so. It is easy to do and the specific personal information you enter will be kept private except for on board information, which will be displayed in the [DDG-5 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 the bar and are no longer with us. I’ve indicated these shipmates on the Crew Roster with a cyan colored background in the Crew Roster.

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.

A word from the Storekeeper



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

John Cubells and I have collaborated on getting shirts and hats embroidered. John has an embroider he uses on Long Island, and we now have set up with them to embroider shirts (denim and polo) and hats. As such prices on shirts have been somewhat reduced and long-sleeved shirts (both denim and polo) are now special order only. You can see the new prices on the updated Order Form.

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

Due to increases in postal rates and packaging, I have had to increase the shipping costs to \$15 for orders under \$50 and \$20 for orders over \$50.

Also, I now take credit cards for orders. You still need to fill out the order form and send that to me (either via email or snail-mail). Currently I accept Visa, Mastercard, Discover and American Express. 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 small scale. These are available through the Ship's Store for \$20 plus \$10 shipping.