



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

The Big Nickel #10, March, 2013

Next reunion: Washington, D.C, 26-29 July, 2014

From the President

Jim Miller



Contact: the_millers_1977@q.com

Nothing to report.

Vice President

Danny Timm



Contact: dtimm46@yahoo.com

Nothing to report

Treasurer

Michael Margoles



Contact margeotesm@msn.com

Checking: \$25.75

Savings: \$37.38

Secretary

Dan Rogers



The minutes from the 2012 Reunion Crew Meeting can be found on [The Big Nickel website](#).

Executive Director

Carl Slack



Contact: rickettsddg5@yahoo.com

Shipmates,

I'm presently enjoying the sunshine and warm weather on the St Johns River in Florida. There's an interesting fact about a connection between DDG 5 and the St. Johns River. Captain Thomas Fortson, who was the second CO of the ship and CO during the Mixed Manning Demonstration, was the Riverkeeper for the river. He had a great love for the river and worked hard to get it cleaned up and keep it beautiful.

This winter I am staying at Welaka, Florida. Welaka is old time Florida and there is some great fishing, bird watching, and just interesting river trips. If any of you find themselves in the area, stop in I will give you a boat ride.

If Captain Fortson was still with us I'm sure he would be working hard to save the USS Charles F. Adams DDG-2. Read the latest news on the Adams with this newsletter. Progress is being made slowly but surely. The temporary proposal to berth it at the closed shipyard is great news.

The Jacksonville Historical Naval Ship Association (JHNSA) and Adams Class Veterans Association (ACVA) are both nonprofit organizations and donations are tax deductible. It is important that we, the DDG-5 Crew Members Association, continue to show our support for getting the Adams to Jacksonville, Florida. The Adams is the last of that proud class of ships, and can represent DDG5 as well as the other 22 ships in the class. More information, donation forms, and links to both the JHNSA and ACVA sites can be found on TheBigNickel.org website.

Carl Slack FTM1 63-68: Executive Director DDG 5 Crew Members Association

Reunion Coordinator

Carl Slack



Contact: rickettsddg5@yahoo.com

The 2014 Reunion in Washington, DC is taking shape. The primary thing at this time is that the contract for the [Sheraton Crystal City Hotel](http://SheratonCrystalCityHotel.com) has been signed. The hotel is in Arlington, Virginia near the Pentagon and Ronald Reagan National Airport. Its location is readily accessible from the interstate system.

The official Reunion dates are Friday, July 25, 2014 to Tuesday, July 29, 2014. However, the DDG-5 Crew Member Association room rates for the Sheraton are good from Tuesday, July 22 to Thursday, July 31 and you are encouraged to come early and stay late. We are planning on a full slate of events and activities during the reunion, including Washington DC tours, a welcome reception, a dinner and a special event on Monday, July 28 at the Washington Navy Yard aboard the USS Barry. The Barry is a Forest Sherman 900 class and, except for the lack of a missile system, has a lot in common with our ship. We will celebrate 50th anniversary of recommissioning of the USS Biddle DDG-5 to the USS Claude V. Ricketts DDG-5. We will also be celebrating the 50th anniversary of the Mixed Manning Demonstration (July 1964 – December 1965).

Red Bus tours can be caught near the hotel and they allow on and off for most major sights. Using the Red Bus Tours allow everyone to see and spend as much time on what they are interested in. There will be a hospitality room with light snacks and non-alcoholic beverages with a BYOB.

Our tentative plans are to have a welcome reception on Friday night, dinner on Saturday night, and pizza on Sunday night. Everything can be changed, so if anyone has some other ideas or suggestions let's hear from you. We would also appreciate any help I can get from shipmates who live in the DC area. We need help from anyone who might have contacts at the Navy Yard and the Barry. We also need everyone to reach out and find shipmates who served with you. Everyone is allowed to post the reunion information wherever they can; it is every shipmates place to let everyone know about the reunion. I post it at all the websites and magazines I know of. Back when there were fewer reunions the magazines used to have it in several issues. Today most only publish them one time and post it on their website. The Fleet Reserve only allows a member a free posting once a year. If you are a member of the VFW please post the reunion info with them. DDG 5 Crew Members Association, C/O Carl Slack, PO Box 83, Jackson, NH 03846 603-986-4661 RickettsDDG5@yahoo.com www.thebignickel.org. If you want you can use yourself as the contact. I only recommend that if you are prepared to receive contacts from a lot of people, other than shipmates.

As the coordinator I try to make sure that everyone on our crews list is notified of the reunion. I also post reunion notices in those magazines and other associations that will let us do so with no charge. Because of the large number of reunions today the posting only appears in one edition and is than on their web site. Some such as the Fleet Reserve Association (FRA) only allow a posting once a year for a member. I am presently not a member of the VFW so cannot post with them, but I do have someone else do it. Everyone should feel free to post a reunion notice. They can have themselves as a contact or use the association contact information. **Remember do not assume that I have contacted anyone, make the contact yourself, better more than once than never.**

As I write this, the Crew Master List (CML) has 703 names, with 505 email addresses and 20 who receive their newsletter through the postal system. The [Big Nickel website](http://www.thebignickel.org) has 315 crew registered member. That leaves almost 200 who have not registered on the website. Registering on the website is not a requirement, but it is one way to keep track of crew members. Most of the latest additions to the CML have come through the website. I plan on posting a "looking for shipmates" in the off year between reunions in various magazines in an effort to contact those that are not in the CML. Included in this newsletter is a how to go about locating crew members.

Carl Slack FTM1 63-68

Reunion Coordinator DDG 5 Crew Members Association

A word from the Webmaster



Kirk "VJ" Neuman

Captain.Kirk@TheBigNickel.org

TheBigNickel.org or USSClaudeVRicketts.org

What's happening

I haven't done a whole lot to the site since the last newsletter other than updating a few things on the Reunion Scuttlebutt page and putting in a reunion survey form. I would encourage you to fill out the form if you are even thinking about coming to the 2014 reunion. I would also encourage you to update your registration information if you haven't done so recently.

When the 2014 Reunion registration form becomes available later this summer, I hope to have in place on-line registration and payment, via PayPal. This is to help accommodate our MMD shipmates from across the pond as well as all US shipmates.

A word from the Storekeeper



Kirk "VJ" Neuman

Storekeeper@TheBigNickel.org

What's happening

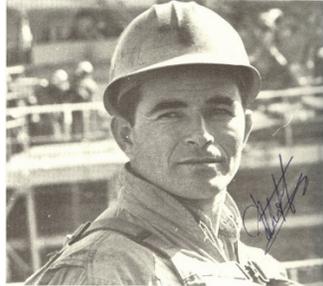
The "new" ships store is now open for business. Items for sale include ships cups, ships hats, ships patches, 2012 reunion challenge coins, polo shirts and denim shirts (long and short sleeve). I'm working on implementing an online ordering and payment system using PayPal to make it easier to order.

The Amen Corner
Chaplain: Wayne Miller
Choicemedtrans@optonline.net

Taps:

We have received notification of the passing of the following shipmates and family members over the past year:

BM1 Demitrios Melitas (MMD: Greek Navy, 1964 - 1965) - August 8, 2012



BT3 Rodney Thurlby (1967 - 1971) - October 12, 2012



Betty Jones, wife of GMG1 Michael Jones (1965 - 1968) - March 1, 2013



Locating Crew Members

On the crews master list we have 700 plus names, with about 200 in the lost status. It is estimated that between 4000 and 5000 shipmates were aboard DDG5 in the course of her time in service. So you can see we are missing quite a few. If everyone would work on adding to our list of know addresses we can narrow the gap. Here are some ways you as shipmates can help do that.

If someone you know is retired from the Navy, here is a procedure to forward a letter to them through the Navy World Wide Locator.

1. Clearly write the name of the service member on the outside of the envelope. Seal the envelope and place appropriate postage on it.
2. Place the letter in another envelope with instructions to Navy Locator to forward to the service member. Include as much identifying information as possible, including full name, rate/rank, service number and or social security number, all duty station know, and everything else that might narrow the search.
3. Include required fee of \$3.50 per name payable to U>S> Treasury by check or money order. If you do not include the fee your letter will be returned. Fees are retained if research is unsuccessful in identifying the service member or a forwarding address.

The navy does not maintain current addresses on service members who have been discharged. However if a person has been discharged in the past year they can forward to the last known address in the service record if available. If a service member is in a retired status, and in receipt of retired pay, and sufficient identifying information provided, mail can be forwarded to current residence address.

Mail request to: Navy World Wide Locator

Navy Personnel Command (PERS-312)
5720 Integrity Drive
Millington, TN 38055-3120

You will receive notification when your letter is forwarded. If they are unable to forward your letter, your letter will be returned. They do not guarantee receipt or provide any further service. If you have any questions you can contact Navy Locator staff at 901-874-3388.

Have patience it takes time. If you are sure someone retired and get your letter back, you can assume one of two things they are deceased or have failed to keep the navy up to date, as required, with their address.

Tin Can Sailors also has a locator service. This is another organization I recommend joining. They will pass your request to their shipmate locator. For each shipmate located you agree to the donation of \$10. Donations are expected for deceased shipmates. Call for more information and to start a search at 877-846-2267.

Remember as with the navy a successful search depends on how much you are able to provide, such as name of ship, years aboard, hometown and state, wife's name, middle initial, etc.

There are other ways to find, a shipmate. Use the computer to search. Post looking for shipmate name on magazines such as FRA, VFW, American Legion and any others you think of.

Brought to you by the DDG 5 Crew Members Association

Executive Director	President	Vice President
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