



DDG-5

The Big Nickel (vol. 6 – September 2011) USS Claude V. Ricketts/Formerly Biddle

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

From The Bridge

President: Glenn Johnson



Contact: GJohn11905@aol.com

Greetings to my shipmates, active military, and veterans.

July 2011

By now we are all enjoying the summer weather and hopefully spending time with our families. It has been a few months since we have had our news letter published. Much has taken place and exciting times are getting closer. As you all know we have the Biddle 50th Birthday Party, AKA DDG 5 Crewmembers' reunion coming up in May of 2012 in Jacksonville FL. Our "Big Nickel" will be 50 years old and I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at that reunion.

Over the past several months I have had the fortunate opportunity to email or speak too many of you. Many of you have visited our website. Our Webmaster is constantly updating it. It is a great place for us to gather when we are miles away from each other. Thank you Shipmate/Webmaster Kirk Neuman! If you haven't visited it lately please do so at TheBignickel.org. It's a great site with many links to fun and interesting stuff. Kirk encourages feedback on things that we think might improve on or make the site more interesting. Feel free to send him an email using his email link on the website.

Last month I had the opportunity to be in a little town south of Toledo, Ohio. I stopped at a McDonalds early in the morning for a cup of coffee and to read the local news paper. Shortly after I arrived, an elderly man looking a little disheveled, wearing a well seasoned Navy ball cap with the ships name USS Mugford DD389 walked in. After watching him for a couple of minutes, I stood up, walked over to him, introduced myself and thanked him for his service. I offered to buy him breakfast and coffee. He calmly said thank you and told me that he comes there every morning. He said the manager always brings him his coffee and he sits there with a couple friends and talks about old times. He said next month he will be 90. I asked him when he served on the Mugford. He

told me that he spent 6 years in the navy and was on the Mugford when we were attacked by the Japanese in Pearl Harbor. He asked me if I had time to talk. I said sure. He asked me if I would go out to his truck and bring in the book that is lying on the front seat. I did just that, and was in for a real education on the war in the Pacific on December 7th 1941 from an eye witness. He never forgot his friends that lost their lives on that day. He showed me pictures of them and would tell me if they survived or not. I was excited and choked up at the same time. We talked for a couple hours. He gave me a DVD that he had made and told me to look at it and that I might see him in couple of shots. Needless to say, I was honored. I had met a real live WW2 Pearl Harbor survivor. His name is Frank E. Duzic-CEM-USN 1939-1945.

I tell this little story to encourage all of us to do what we can for our veterans and our active service men and their families. Maybe just a phone call, a hello, a thank you, or whatever you can do to let them know how much we appreciate them and their sacrifice. When I wear one of my Navy hats people thank me for my service. I feel proud to have served and thank them for thinking of us.

Hope to see you all in May, 2012 in Jacksonville, Florida. Check the website for details and look at the pictures of past reunions. We have a great time. If you know where one of our shipmate resides please give him a call and get him signed up on our crew member's roster.

Best regards to you and your families. God bless and stay well,
Glenn Johnson – President DDG 5 Crew Members Association
352-523-1945 Home
813-786-8958 Cell

Executive Director Carl Slack



Shipmates,

Another summer is drawing to a close. For some this has been a spring and summer of unusually severe weather. Hurricane Irene swept through our part of New Hampshire causing flooding with bridges and roads washed out. Getting around is a little more difficult, but will be back to normal so that the leaf peepers can come and leave their money. As the summer draws to a close we are getting closer to our next reunion. So start planning to come to Jacksonville, FL and get together with fellow shipmates. Hope to see everyone there.

Jacksonville Naval Historic Ship Association (JNHSA) and the Adams Class Veterans Association (ACVA) are planning their third annual event to raise money and awareness for DDG 2 as a museum in Jacksonville. Friday 14 October 2011 is the JHNSA Annual Meeting and Welcome Reception. This will be a fund raising party with live music, heavy hors d'oeuvres. Saturday 15 October 2011 will be the 3rd Annual Gala and Silent Auction "Launching a Legacy". Florida Governor Rick Scott and Jacksonville Mayor Alvin Brown will be the guests of honor. If you are in the area or can make it to the event, attend and show the flag for DDG 5. For up to date information on this event and all the latest information go to our web site TheBigNickel.org. This event is just another step in the work being done to make the Charles F. Adams into a museum in Jacksonville, FL that will represent all of that class of ships and those who sailed on it. It is a slow process but is moving forward with a lot of the ground work being done. A site has been approved for the pier and hopefully they can start to work on it.

For all of the latest information about the association make it a habit to look at TheBignickel.org on a regular basis. For some reason there are some shipmates who have not registered on the web site. Registering on the site allows the association to stay in touch with all of you. So if you have not registered yet, please take a few minutes a do it. There are a lot of great pictures of past reunions and other information about the ship and the association.

This reunion will mark the fiftieth anniversary of the commissioning of DDG 5 as the USS Biddle and we are looking for ways to celebrate this milestone. One idea is to do a challenge coin. A suggestion has been made to do one coin for both the Biddle and CVR. Another would be to have a coin with the Biddle crest on one side, and a bow on shot of the ship on the other with the years 1962-2012. Looking for all and any ideas.

The reunion is being held at the Jacksonville Crowne Plaza. Room rates are \$95.00 per night for a standard city view, \$115.00 per night for a standard river view, and \$155.00 per night for a Jr suite river view. The rates are good for three nights before and after the reunion. Reservations can be made with the Crowne Plaza at 904-398-8800. Make sure you tell them you are with the DDG 5 Crew Members Association. Have them tell you their late arrival and cancel policy.

Carl Slack, Executive Director DDG 5 Crew Members Association
rickettsddg5@yahoo.com

Treasurer

Michael Margoles



Contact margeotesm@msn.com

As of 8/23/2011, the balance of the DDG 5 Association checking is \$907.05,
The opening balance: \$980.64

General Donations	\$175.00
Interest	\$1.41
2012 Hotel Deposit	(-250.00)

Balance as of 8/23/2011 \$67.15 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

If you've visited [The Big Nickel](http://TheBigNickel.org) recently, you may have noticed that I have implemented a login section. If you haven't tried to login, I would strongly encourage you to do so at your earliest convenience and check your registered information for errors and update as necessary. There is a link to the procedure to do this is located near the login section; however I will include it here so you have it more readily available.

The login procedure uses your registered forum username/password. Logging in will allow you to not only view and edit your registered information, it will also allow you to email other registered shipmates. If you have previously registered for the Forums and don't remember your username or password, just click the "**Forgot your password?**" link located just below the Username/Password entries. When you click the link, a page will come up asking you to enter your username or email address. Once entered, an email will then be sent to you with a link to follow to reset your password. The email will also contain the username you registered if you have forgotten it.

If you never registered for the Forums, I have taken the liberty of adding you to the Forum user database. Your username is your first initial + last name + 2011. For example my username would be kneuman2011. I also assigned an arbitrary password which you **must** change by clicking the "**Forgot your password?**" link on the Home Port page.

If you would like to change your username, you will need to contact me with your desired username. You can change your Forum displayed name (the name that others will see), but not your username.

IMPORTANT: If you get an error when attempting to retrieve/reset your password (i.e., "**There are no usernames associated with that email**"), [contact me](#) and I will update your registered information accordingly.

Updating Your Registered Information

Once you have logged in, to view/edit your registered information, go to the Crew Roster page, find your name and click on it. You will be taken to your information edit page. You will notice that I've added some things such as allowing you to indicate up to 3 tours of duty on board the Biddle/Ricketts and a checklist of other DDG-2 class ships you may have served on during your career. Please take some time to look over your personal information and update it or fill in those areas that weren't available in earlier versions of the registration form.

Contacting a Shipmate

You will also notice that I've updated the Crew Roster (the list of shipmates that have registered on the site). You can now do a column sort by clicking on the column header. Also, clicking on a shipmates name will bring up "detailed" information about that shipmate, specifically information about additional on board tours and other DDG-2 class ships he may have served on.

If you are logged in, you will notice an "**Email this shipmate**" link at the top of the detail information. Clicking this will bring up an email form with which you can send the shipmate an email.

Notice! No personal information, including your email address, will ever be displayed in any form unless you indicate otherwise.

Other Issues

There may also be some of you who registered for the Forum, but didn't fill out the site registration form before I caught this problem and fixed it. If you are not listed in the Crew Roster but are registered in the Forum, please [contact me](#). **Do not attempt to fill in the information on the registration page!**

Important (again): Some of you appear to have changed your email address since you registered or never entered one to begin with. If you either don't see your name in the Crew Roster or see an alert indicating no username is associated with the entered address when following the "Forgot your password" link, please [contact me](#) so that we can resolve the situation.

As always, if you have any suggestions for improving the site, questions, or thoughts about the site in general, I would appreciate hearing from you.

Kirk "VJ" Neuman

Webmaster/Designer/Developer/Chief Cook and Bottle Washer

Captain.Kirk@TheBigNickel.org

THE AMEN CORNER

(Chaplain, Wayne Miller)

Contact: Chaplain@TheBigNickel.org

Taps

Let us remember our shipmates who have departed for their last duty station with the Commanding Officer in the sky

BTCM John P "Jack" Reilly 1964-1968 July 5, 2010

FCCM (SW) David E. Bezanson 1986-1988 August 1, 2010

LT Denis Army (Weapons Officer) 1980-1982 May 16, 2000 of ALS

LT William "Bill" Morgan February 6, 2011

Kathleen Truchanowicz December 18, 2006 wife of shipmate Edward Truchanowicz BT3 1965-1967

Binnacle List

Glenn Johnson Recovering from a scooter accident.

We are praying for a speedy recovery

From the Fantail

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

Check out the [Save the Charlie Deuce](#) page on The Big Nickel website.

See You All At the 2012 Reunion

Brought to you by the DDG 5 Crew Members Association

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If receive this by snail mail and 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. Help us save paper and expenses.