



USS Claude V. Ricketts / (formerly) USS Biddle DDG-5 The Big Nickel #17, May 2017

2018 DDG-5 Reunion Planning

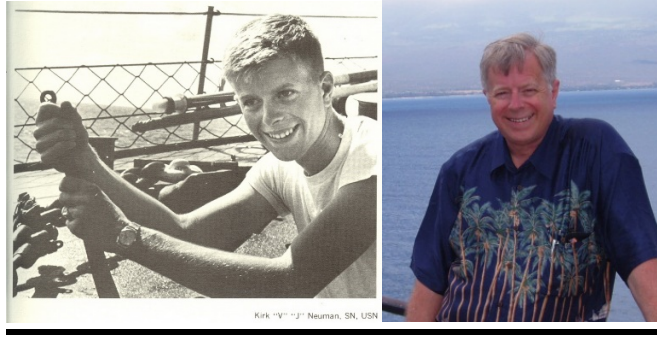
Plans for the 2018 Reunion of the DDG-5 Crew Members Association are underway. Glenn Johnson is in contact with the [DoubleTree by Hilton Riverfront Jacksonville](#) to have our contract with the hotel wrapped up early. The 2018 Reunion is being planned for Thursday May 3 – Sunday May 6, 2018. Other than the usual reception, pizza party and dinner, nothing has been set yet so if you would like to make recommendations for a Friday tour, please contact the Reunion Committee (currently consisting of Glenn Johnson and Kirk Neuman).



[The DoubleTree by Hilton Jacksonville Riverfront](#)

If you have any questions about the 2018 Reunion or would like to volunteer (I know, something a Sailor NEVER does), don't hesitate to contact the [Reunion Committee](#).

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, nearly 500 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 continue 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 from information from various other Navy and veteran websites that DDG-5 shipmates registered on at one time or another.

Because I've been trying to clean up things, I have sent out an email or two to see if the email addresses I have are good or not (not meaning I get a bounced email indicating I have a bad address). 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.**"

Some of you receiving this email have not registered on the website, for one reason or another, and may wonder where we got your email address from. As mentioned above, over the years our late Association Executive Director, Carl Slack, FTM1, 1963 - 1968, gathered emails from various websites where you "reported on board" and left your name and email. He built a spreadsheet with as much information about you that he could find. The end result is something that I call the Master Crew List (MCL). The MCL has some 725 shipmates listed. I have combined both the MCL and those registered on the website into the mailing list used to send out this newsletter.

In addition, if you have not yet [registered on the website](http://TheBigNickel.Navy), 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](#).

Presently, I have a "bad email list" consisting of shipmates we've either lost contact with or never actually contacted over the years. I will be updating the "bad email list" on the website in an attempt to regain contact with those we've lost. If you are in contact with shipmates, I would ask that you see if their email address is in the "bad email list" and have them contact [me](#) with their latest, up-to-date information.

I encourage you to check/update your registration information if you have not done so recently. Simply click the BRB (Big Red Button) on the [Home Port](#) page for instructions on how to do this. I am asking you to do this because there are some of you who have changed your email address since you registered. As always, if you have questions or problems you can [contact me](#).

Regardless if you are registered on the site or not, you will still receive this newsletter (if the email address I have for you is up-to-date) based off the Master Crew List (a list of shipmate information Carl Slack put together over the years based off information you filled in on other ship registration sites) and the Crew Roster information I have from your registration.

Family Registration:

I'm contemplating putting up a Family Registration form on the website for family members of DDG-5 shipmates to register. Since the inception of website, several shipmates who did register have passed on. I've indicated these shipmates on the Crew Roster. It is my wish with the Family Registration to maintain contact with those family members of deceased shipmates who 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.

Crew Phonebook:

At the 2016 Reunion Crew Meeting, it was decided to attempt to put together a DDG-5 Crew Phone Book. Putting together the phone book will take some time since I need to process registered shipmate information for bad (i.e., no longer accurate) information such as email address(s), physical address and phone number(s).

The information that will be available in the phone book is as follows:

- Your first name, middle initial, last name, suffix
- Your spouse/significant other first and last name
- Your address
- Your city
- Your state/country (country if you were a member of the MMD otherwise US is assumed)
- Your zip code/country code
- Your home and/or mobile phone number(s)
- Your last rank/rate when you left the ship
- Your division(s) you were in while on the ship
- Your e-mail address
- The year of your last paid DDG-5 Crew Members Association dues (note that dues are only paid when you attend a reunion)

This information is gathered from The Big Nickel website registration that you (may have) filled out at one time or another. As a result, it is imperative that you check your current information and update it as necessary to have your correct information in the phone book.

The initial thought was to print the phone book and then mail it to everyone who might want one. Unfortunately, it's been determined that this would be cost prohibitive for both printing and snail mailing. As a result, I will be putting a PDF copy of the book here on the website for you to download and print (if you want a hardcopy) at your convince.

However, due to privacy concerns since the book will contain your personal information (address, phone number(s), e-mail address), I can't ethically make it publicly available for download and you will need to request a special password from me to access it. I will include a "mailto" link to me so that you can request the password when I have the phone book ready for prime time.

Note that you are asked to provide this personal information when you register on the website, however the information is kept in a database that is only accessible by me and members of the DDG-5 Executive Council (you can see who those members are by going the Association Officers page on the website).

I will be sending out a special e-mail to all the shipmates who have registered on the website to make sure your e-mail address is reachable (i.e., the e-mail address in the registration database is good) to see who I need to personally contact (phone, snail mail, Internet search) to have you update your information.

IMPORTANT!!! If you don't want your information put into the Crew Phone Book, please notify me and I will make sure you aren't included. However, you may still have access to the book.

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. 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 put together a minimal set of pages for a proposed DDG-5 Ladies Auxiliary, [which can be found here](#). 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). Also, some of the processing isn't complete yet so things aren't fully operational and I'll ask that you NOT attempt to do anything other than just view the pages.

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.

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.

A note for the 2018 Reunion. My wife and I will be flying to the reunion in 2018 rather than driving as we've done in the past. We discussed things after our drive down for the 2016 reunion and we both decided that doing that drive again in 2 years wasn't something that we would be looking forward to. As a result, I won't be bringing a bunch of stock for sale at the 2018 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 we return home after the reunion.

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

I've also had to raise the shipping costs since postal shipping rates have gone up some over the past few years.

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:

- BT2 William (Bill) Turner (September 1965 - September 1968), January 7, 2017. You can view his obituary [here](#).
- BM3 William "Bill" R. Kilbride (1981 - 1985), January 16, 2017. You can view his obituary [here](#).

Shipmate Sea Stories

This is a new section of the newsletter dedicated to DDG-5 shipmates sharing sea stories and remembrances of their time on board that they wish to share. If you have a sea story to share or would like to reminisce about your time on board the DDG-5 and would like it included in the next newsletter, write it up and send it to [The Newsletter Editor](#) and I'll make sure it's included.

Submitted by Patrick "Spider" Raines, Royal Navy member of the Mixed Manning Demonstration, June 1964 to December 1965.

Sincere apologies to all my esteemed "CVR" shipmates if I have previously posted this "sea story", but I believe that it is worth another airing.

We were in San Juan for a few days R&R.

I was ashore with Mickey Scarfe & Dom Ruiz, a native of San Juan. Dom had agreed to take us to a bar off Luna(r) Street that he could recommend. A bar that he knew from his days growing up in San Juan.

We duly arrived and he introduced us to the old lady running the bar for the afternoon shift. Dom then left to visit his family and left us to it. A few other sailors drifted in and out but we stuck it out and had a pretty good "dinner time sesh". DTS in Royal Navy speak.

We were well into the afternoon when as can happen in the Caribbean, the heavens opened. I mean, it was serious rain, which rapidly filled up an inner courtyard with a blocked drain in the middle. As the water rose, it threatened to flood into the bar itself. Mickey & I decided to help out. So, off shoes & socks, roll up white uniform bell bottoms and wade in.

After five minutes or so of raunging around with a pole and plunger, big whoosh and lots of gurgling & the flood disappeared. Back to the bar to continue the DTS, with white fronts and bell bottoms in need of a good dhobey. So, after the DTS it was back on board for a "bath & dhobey", change into clean uniform, chow & back ashore. This time with two American oppos, Ron Beckett & Henry Coulon. After

a couple of bars, we were back in the bar we had left earlier. By now the old lady's son was in charge. The old lady was there and told her son that "they are the two limeys that unblocked the drain". He came over to our table with a bottle of 161 Don Q Puerto Rican rum. The drinks were on him along with other items of entertainment! Yet another great run ashore while serving on board "CVR". Next stop New Orleans! Take care shipmates, "Up spirits, stand fast the Holy Ghost". See you at the 2018 Reunion in Jacksonville.

Pat "Spider" Raines, FN, RN, MMD, USS "Claude V Ricketts", 1964/65.

Bring Home the Adams Updates



[The Jacksonville Historic Naval Ship Association \(JHNSA\)](#) is hard at work in their efforts to bring the USS Charles F. Adams DDG-2 to Jacksonville, FL as a museum ship. They continue to maintain the Adams Class Museum in downtown Jacksonville at the Jacksonville Landing. If you find yourself in Jacksonville, stop by and say hello.

Below is the April, 2017 Adams Museum Newsletter:

Much has happened towards acquiring the USS Charles F. Adams (DDG-2) from the U. S. Navy, bringing her home to Downtown Jacksonville and establishing Florida's Naval Warship Museum! Here are some of the hot issues we are working through in an effort to get her home this spring/summer:

When we acquire the ship from the Navy, she will undergo a brief dry dock period to ready her hull and underwater exposure for the tow and her life as a Navy Warship Museum. Additionally, she will receive a make-over of her external structures and be freshly painted for her trip home. The potential dry dock date for March 7 did not mature. We are on hot-stand-by for a late April or May opportunity with a target of getting her towed to Jacksonville in June 2017. Global events have kept the shipyard busy with Navy ship transition work, but it has not stopped our crew from pressing forward.

Our current landlord, The City of Jacksonville, has just recently chosen the Jacksonville Jaguars' owner, Shad Khan's investment company, Iguana Investments to develop the Shipyards Property, a part of which will be the site of the USS Adams Museum. Once Iguana Investments and the City come to a full agreement, Jacksonville Historic Naval Ship Association (JHNSA) will finalize its partnership with our new landlord and coordinate the activities to build the future home of the USS Adams Museum. Iguana Investments plan embraced the concept of welcoming the ADAMS as their first tenant, while not pledging any specific financial support or sponsorship.

JHNSA continues to refine the budget and engage sponsors, partners and supporters. The buzz about the ADAMS being close as ever to coming home is bringing new sponsors and supporters to our family! Now is the time to become a member, make a donation, volunteer or discuss a partnership/sponsorship to BRING HOME THE ADAMS. We need YOU to push this project over the goal line...please get involved today!

Visit our website to get involved now and be part of this historical movement! USSAdams.com

The Adams is in rough shape after nearly 25 years and will need lots of help to get back to her former glory.



Below are photographs showing the existing Shipyards Downtown Jacksonville (left) and an artist's rendition of the USS Adams DDG-2 moored amidst the redeveloped shipyards (right).



Donations

To donate to either the DDG-5 Crew Members Association and/or to The Big Nickel Website, [go to the Home Port page](#) on the website, click on the Donate button and make your donation selection.