



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

The Big Nickel #20, December 2018

Newsletter Editor Note

Effective with the March, 2018 Newsletter, the Newsletter will only be available electronically, either via email or on the website through the [Newsletter page](#). Printing and snail mailing is too cost prohibitive. If you know of a shipmate that isn't registered on the website or has a bad registered email address (see below), please let them know that the Newsletter is available through the website.

I need to apologize for this newsletter being way, WAY late. I had some health issues before and after the reunion and my sense of urgency and enthusiasm to getting the newsletter out by June failed miserably.

2018 DDG-5 Reunion

The 2018 DDG-5 Crew Members Association Reunion sailed over the horizon on Sunday, May 6, 2018. It was great time with lots of camaraderie amongst shipmates and their wives. As in 2016, the DoubleTree by Hilton Jacksonville Riverfront was our host hotel and once again the hotel and its staff were exceptional.



[The DoubleTree by Hilton Jacksonville Riverfront](#)

We were able to move into our Hospitality Room Wednesday afternoon (5/5) to begin setup. We began early check-in for those who showed up early. We were fortunate to have 2 non-US Mixed Manning Demonstration (MMD) shipmates join us at this reunion, Patrick "Spider" Raines, Royal Navy, and Dieter Wutke, Federal German Navy.

Thursday was check-in day when most of those attending arrived. Old and new friendships were established.

Thursday evening was our reunion reception with hors d'oeuvres and a cash bar.

Friday was Tour 1 day

We had 2 tours, one on Friday to EverBank Stadium, the home of the Jacksonville Jaguars NFL team. The other tour was on Saturday to the Budweiser Brewery where the Budweiser Clydesdales were on display.

Saturday morning, we held our biennial Crew Meeting where officers were elected and decisions made as to where and when the 2020 Reunion would be held. John Cubells was re-elected as President, Jim Miller was elected Vice President, Mike Cheney was re-elected Secretary, and Glenn Johnson was elected Treasurer.

The 2020 Reunion dates and place were decided to be Jacksonville predicated on the fact that the Adams would be in Jacksonville. If not, then the reunion would take place in Norfolk/Virginia Beach, Virginia.

There was also a presentation on The Big Nickel website Saturday afternoon.

Saturday evening, we had our biennial dinner and raffle.

Major alert!

We just received notification that the U.S. Navy has reversed course and will no longer donate the Charles F. Adams DDG-2 to the Jacksonville History Naval Ship Association (JHNSA) and that it will instead, be scrapped.

The notification posted on the USS Adams Museum Facebook page stated the following:

"Unfortunately, the United States Navy has reversed course and determined the ex USS Adams will not be donated to the Jacksonville Historic Naval Ship Association ("JHNSA") as a museum in Jacksonville, but instead will be scrapped. This decision is counter to the Navy's recommendation in 2014 that the ex USS Adams be released to the JHNSA for donation. We wish to thank Congressman Rutherford, Senators Rubio and Nelson, Governor Scott, and all the City officials for their efforts with the Secretary of the Navy to have the ex USS Adams brought to Jacksonville. Although disappointed by this development, the JHNSA will continue to pursue bringing a Navy warship to downtown Jacksonville."

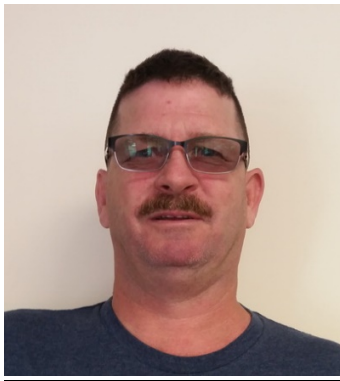
As a result, the 2020 Reunion will most likely be held in Norfolk/Virginia Beach, Virginia. The final decision will be made by the DDG-5 Crew Members Association Executive Council in January 2019 and you will be notified via email and information posted on the website.

Executive Director/Vice President



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

President



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

Shipmates,

We had great time at the 2018 Reunion in Jacksonville. Always meet new people and to see many familiar faces. I need to Thank Kirk and Glenn for all the hard work and planning that it takes to hold these. Thank you to everyone you donated items to our raffles and to all that bought tickets. Special thanks to Betsy and Stacy and the rest of our Ladies who helped set up. Looking forward to seeing everyone & the Adam's in 2020.

John Cubells
President DDG-5 Crew members Association

Vice President



HM2 Jim Miller (71 – 73): the_millers_1977@q.com

This year's reunion in Jacksonville Florida was a wonderful experience. This was my second reunion, having attended my first in 2012. This year I was able to bring my wife Carla and we were welcomed with open arms and made to feel right at home. The ladies of our reunions are very good at making new wives and significant others feel welcome. If ever former crew members worry they won't know anyone, they should not be concerned, five minutes after you arrive you'll know everyone. I look forward to seeing new faces at our next reunion in 2020.

Sincerely,
Jim (Doc) Miller
Vice President DDG-5

P.S. Fair Winds and Calm Seas to All!

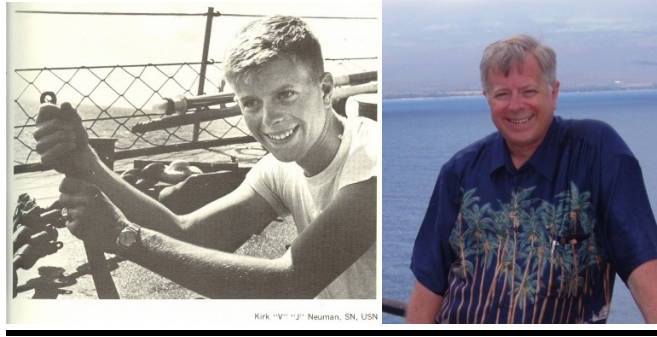
Ship's Treasurer



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

Current Association Account Balance:

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:

I'm still in the process of putting together a Family Registration form for the website specifically for family members of DDG-5 shipmates to register. I will probably make it available in the next month or so. If you have family members who might like to register on the site, let them know and keep an eye out for the form.

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](#). 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.

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

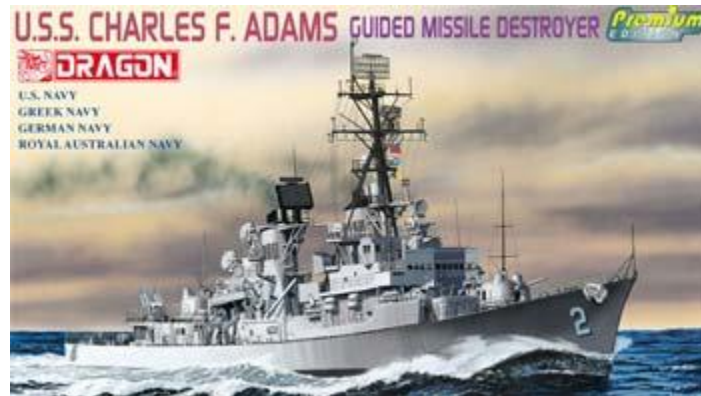
The [DDG-5 ships store](#) is open for business. Items for sale include ships cups, ships hats, ships patches, challenge coins, polo shirts and denim shirts (long and short sleeve). I've implemented a new order form that you can now fill out on-line with buttons at the bottom to save and/or print the 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 2018 Reunion. My wife and I will be flying to the reunion in 2018. 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 (particularly going through Atlanta). 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 in my suitcase) 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.

At the 2016 Reunion, I picked up some ship models from the Adams Museum at a discounted cost. These are available through the Ship's Store for \$20 plus \$6 shipping.



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:

- BTFA Gary William Smith (1967 - 1968), September 12, 2016. You can view Gary's obituary [here](#).
- Lt. Elmo R. Zumwalt III (1968 - 1969), August 13, 1988.
- BM3 Colin Marsh, Royal Navy (1964 - 1965) MMD, 2010.
- BT2 Edward John Truchanowicz (1965 - 1967), August 17, 2018. You can view Ed's obituary [here](#).
- GMM3 Michael Quentin Schmidt (1965 - 1967), September 17, 2018. You can view Mike's obituary [here](#) and more information about Mike's life [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.