



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

The Big Nickel #26, February 2022

Newsletter In MMD Languages

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A Note from the Newsletter Editor

Apologies to one and all for the way, WAY late publishing of this edition of the newsletter. It was supposed to go out in August, 2021, but due to my laziness and hoping for more information about the 2023 reunion, I let it slide.

2021 DDG-5 Reunion

The 2021 DDG-5 Reunion is now in the history books. It was held in Norfolk, Virginia Thursday, May 6 through Sunday May 9, 2021. It was well attended with approximately 25 shipmates in attendance along with their wives/significant others.

2023 DDG-5 Reunion Planning

At the Crew Meeting on Saturday of the 2021 Reunion, it was voted to hold the 2023 Reunion in Wilmington, North Carolina from Thursday, May 18 to Sunday, May 21. The host hotel has not yet been decided on nor other information so make sure to check the [2023 Reunion page](#) every-so-often for any updates and/or changes.

Executive Director/Vice President/Treasurer



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

Dear Shipmates,

It's been a month since our last reunion. It was a lot of fun with a few challenges. There was never any doubt that we would pull it off regardless of the COVID issues. The hotel did a great job with the manpower that they had available to them. Where they fell short we stepped up. We had a great raffle, and our boat tour of the Norfolk/Portsmouth Port with the Panera bread box lunch was the best tour I had been on. Our banquet food was very good, our Pizza party was fun and we had a lot of laughs in the well-stocked hospitality room.

I owe everyone a big “thank you” for helping and making our reunion one of the best ever. We all made it happen and I enjoyed seeing every one of you. We had some new faces and a lot of senior shipmates. All and all it was a great success. After the bills were paid we are still in the black and ready to finance the 2023 reunion in Wilmington NC. Tim and Bonnie Hackett are going to help with the logistics of our next reunion. That's a big help to me and will make our reunion more fun for everyone. They have some fun things to do in Wilmington and I am looking forward to working with Tim and Bonnie.

So stay well and safe. I look forward to seeing everyone on May 18-21, 2023, with early check in on May 17. SAVE THE DATE AND PASS THE WORD!!

On behalf of Mike, John, and myself, I thank you and appreciate you all.

Glenn Johnson-BT2 64-68

The Amen Corner

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

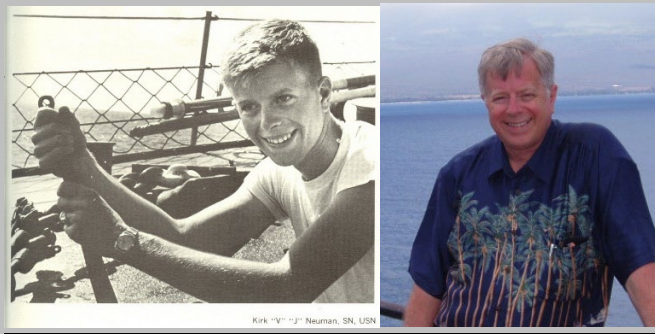
We have received notification of the passing of the following shipmates and family members since the last newsletter:

- Richard P. Trenk (???? - ????), September 6, 2015. You can view his obituary [here](#).
- Robert Thomas McFaddin (???? - ????), September 23, 2021. You can view his obituary [here](#).

- DC3 John Walter Marks (May 1961 - June 1965), February 6, 2021. You can view his obituary [here](#). John and Robert, listed below, were brothers.
- DC2 Robert F. Marks (May 1961 - June 1965), January 30, 2021. You can view his obituary [here](#). Bob and John, listed above, were brothers.
- BT2 Ove J. Hordnes (1970 - September 1973), Unknown date of passing.

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 put together a "good email list" from the registration database table and the Master Crew List (MCL) database table. The MCL 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 have been trying to clean up things, I send out an email a few times during the year to see if the email addresses I have in the registration database are good or not. (In fact, I just sent out such and "email test" this past week). If the email address is "bad" I get a "bounced" email, indicating the email couldn't be delivered because the email address doesn't exist or some other nefarious reason. As of this newsletter there are 106 shipmates registered on the site that now have bad email addresses. 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're reading this, that 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](#). If you know anyone in the list and have a way to contact them, please do so and ask them to contact me to update their email address.

Also, because of this I am 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 [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](#).

I am looking into changing the login process for the website. Since it currently uses portions of software I use for the [Crew Forums](#). Since the Forums haven't been used like I thought they would be and the software I use is now several years out of date, I'm looking at the impact on existing registered users (which you are if you received the newsletter via email). Once I have something worked up, I'll put a link to the new site (which I'm currently calling [Beta2.0.TheBigNickel.Navy](#)) as well as send out an email blast for you to try it out and let me know what you think. Fair warning, the older I get, the slower I get so this will probably take a while so don't hold your breath very long 😊.

As of this newsletter, I haven't made much progress since it's pretty complicated and I'm getting lazier as time goes on.

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:

The Family Registration page has been on the shelf for quite some time. I'm trying out a few things that aren't quite working yet. It's taking a lot more time than I originally planned on, but I keep coming up with new ideas and implementing them takes time. I still hope to have it available sometime in the future so keep an eye out for it in the Login/Registration box on the Home Port page.

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.

A word from the Storekeeper



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

Please note that because of the COVID-19 pandemic, it's been very hard for me to find an embroiderer who is consistently open and as a result it's been very difficult to get shirts ordered and embroidered. I don't have an on-hand stock of shirts available since it is cost prohibitive for me personally. I would have to pay out of pocket for them to have them in stock. So I have to place an order with my embroider at the time you order and have them do the embroidery when they receive the shirt(s). This can take several weeks to complete which is why I will need at least a month advance notice of your order.

Update about embroider as of this newsletter. I've had to find another embroider since the one I found has also closed, yet again due to the increase in COVID-19 cases in our state. As a result, I can't guarantee delivery of any shirts prior to or during the reunion.

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.

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). 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, this are small scale. These are available through the Ship's Store for \$20 plus \$10 shipping.

2023 PRELIMINARY Reunion schedule

(This schedule is subject to change)

Wednesday, May 17, 2023

1430 - 2300: Hospitality room, when manned

1430 - 2300: Check-in, pre-registration, setup

Thursday, May 18, 2023

0800 - 2300: Hospitality room, when manned

0800 - 2300: Check-in, registration and getting reacquainted

1800 - 2100: 2023 Reunion Reception

Friday, May 19, 2023

0800 - 2300: Hospitality room, when manned

0800 - 2300: Check-in and registration (when manned)

0900 - 1600: Tour (TBD)

1900: Pizza Party

Saturday, May 20, 2023

0800 - 2300: Hospitality room, when manned

0800 - 2300: Check-in and registration (when manned)

0800 - 0900: Executive Council meeting

0900 - 1100: 2023 Reunion Crew Meeting

1200: Crew Memorial (Place: TBD)

Crew Liberty

1800 - 2100: 2023 Reunion Dinner (w/raffle)

Sunday, May 21, 2023

0800 - 1200: Hospitality room, when manned

Hospitality room cleanup

2023 Reunion Registration Form

I am waiting for further information from the Reunion Committee about the projected costs of the 2023 Reunion and so am not including the registration form in this newsletter. When costs are solidified, I will update the website with the form and will let you know via an email or through the Facebook DDG-5 group.