

Nitro Blast

The Newsletter of the
USS Nitro (AE-2/AE-23)
Association
Volume 1, Issue 4
March, 1999
Editor: Jim Timmons
Assn. Membership 72

Philadelphia Reunion 3 Months Away !!!

Keep the Memories Alive



Nitro Visit

Update !!



After further discussions with our contact at NAVSEA Philadelphia, we should be able to have more than one group go on board the Nitro. Time of the visit is still TBD.

The Naval Inactive Ship Maintenance Facility provides two escorts for each group. There is a cost associated with this service and we will request that each person desiring to go on board the Nitro contribute \$1.00 towards defraying the cost.

Groups of 50 will go aboard the Nitro main deck and the visits will last approximately 50 minutes each. A wreath laying ceremony is also being planned. Since the Nitro is a block away from the parking lot, we are suggesting a car pool to the base.

Nitro Association - thriving!

USS Nitro (AE-2/AE-23) Association membership continues to grow. Our membership roll now stand at 72. The following shipmates (Nitro tour dates) have signed on as members during the month indicated:

December 1998: Melvin Grimes (44-46); Richard De Fino (76-80); Lyman Whitman (62-66); Edwin Hammerberg (69-71); Wallace Carey (59-61); William Toohey (76-79); William Sitton (59-61); Paul Licker (65-66); Harold Odette (); Jonathan Paulson (90-92);

January, 1999: William Myers (67); Kenneth Marvin (44-45); Brian Powers (71-73).

February, 1999: Patrick Gerrity (70-72); Alan Hallock ();

Anyone desiring to become a member of the USS NITRO Association may do so by sending a **check made payable to:**

USS NITRO Association
% Mr. Robert Eberlein
12215 Ashland
Granger, Indiana 46530-9654

1999 Association Dues \$20.00**

A Nitro baseball caps will be the premium for the 1999 Association Dues. The dues will be for the calendar year of 1999 and will also include quarterly newsletters, membership certificate (for **new** members only) and a laminated membership card.

Nitro Ball Cap - Final Design



The picture below is a copy of the final proof for the Nitro Association Ball Cap.



The caps will have a gray ship and helo profile on a Navy blue background with the letters and hull numbers in gold.

Caps will be available for the Philadelphia reunion or can be shipped to those persons not attending the reunion as the 1999 Association Dues **premium for \$23.00 (\$20.00 for the dues and \$3.00 for S/H). Additional ball caps may be ordered for \$14.00/ea.



Hotel Arrangements



The Four Points Sheraton Hotel, Cherry Hill, N. J. is our 1999 reunion site. The Association has booked a block of (30) rooms for the nights of 21 June thru 23 June. The rate for these rooms is \$85/night and may be reserved for Nitro Reunion attendees by calling the hotel at 800-257-8262 and telling them that you are with the Nitro Reunion and would like to

reserve a room for (x) number of nights.

These rooms may be reserved anytime up to one month prior to our reunion. You may reserve your room by credit card and it will not be charged until time of check out.

AE-2 Pictures

We have been receiving requests for ship's patches and are in the process of obtaining information on ordering them for future reunions. We have been very fortunate to locate the company which has made a number of patches, tee shirts, sweatshirts for the USS Nitro (AE-23) in the past..

All of the artwork that is still on file is of the AE-23, so we can obtain items from them at a reasonable price. We would like to incorporate some AE-2 profiles in designs of our future premiums and are looking for "camera ready" artwork of the AE-2.

If you are in possession of items that you would like to allow us to use, please send them to the return address on this newsletter. We will make every attempt to return the items sent. Please affix a label with your name and address to the back of any items submitted. Your help in this project will be greatly appreciated.

Nitro Blast Newsletter

%James Timmons
S37 W27575 Windsong Ridge
Waukesha, WI 53189

Address Correction Requested

Request for Cruise Stories



We are still in need of additional cruise book stories for our 1999 Reunion booklet. These entrees should be between 100 and 500 words in length. If you would like to contribute, the stories may be sent to the return addressee.

The Nitro Sage - B.

Gregory

The problem with the gene pool is that there is no lifeguard..

Never do card tricks for the group you play poker with.

The Crows Nest

We have had a request from the NTC Bainbridge Association (just now forming) to locate former sailors who spent time in Bainbridge, MD. This could have been basic training, service school command or NAPS. Please contact Paul Fleming, via e-mail at: Sailor6804@aol.com or 2927 Duncan Road, Wilmington, DE 19808-2379

Former 1st. Division crew member John Fisher (64-66) is looking for other crew members from that same

time period. He may be reached via email at: UNRON@webtv.net.

Any persons wishing to find former shipmates may send the requests to either the *Blast* editor or the Web Master's addresses listed below.



A Final Thought



It's been thirty years since I have seen the AE-23 or most of the crew. Where did the time go? Fresh out of high school, Vietnam gearing up, no chance of going to college, draft board beating on the front door, my only choice - the Navy.

Classes on the different ships are overwhelming. The one ship mentioned is the ammunition ship. White decks and bulkheads. I'm sitting in class and wondering, do ammunition ships really have white decks and bulkheads?

When the boot camp company receives their orders for their first duty stations, man did some of those guys end up with some great duty stations. I finally get to check out the holds of the Nitro, now at the ship yards in Baltimore, MD.

There were good times, long hours, great liberty, outstanding shore patrol in Athens, Greece. All and all, I'd do it

again. It will be good to see the other members of my particular crew. June will be here before we know it.

Fair winds and following seas,
Bob Eberlein, Founder, Nitro Assn.

Address Correction Requested

If you are planning on moving and would like to continue to receive the Nitro Blast, please send us your new address so we can get the newsletter to you on the first attempt.



USS Nitro Web Site



The place for frequent updates on the Nitro reunion, association and other related activities:

**[http://ourworld.compuserve.com/
homepages/nalc820/ussnitro.htm](http://ourworld.compuserve.com/homepages/nalc820/ussnitro.htm)**