

# Nitro Blast

The Newsletter of the  
USS Nitro (AE-2/AE-23)  
Association  
Volume 2, Issue 1  
June/July, 1999  
Editor: Jim Timmons  
Assn. Membership 101



**USS Nitro -**

**Be it Ever so Humble . . .**



Despite the denial of our shipboard visit by the Naval Inactive Ship Maintenance Facility headquarters in Portsmouth, VA., the 3<sup>rd</sup>. USS Nitro Association Reunion was an unqualified success.

The Association met in reunion at the Four Points Hotel, Cherry Hill, NJ., from 21 - 24 June. Approximately 45 former crewmembers plus family members and friends were in attendance for the annual business meeting, wreath laying ceremony and bus tour of historical Philadelphia.



Monday AM, 21 June 1999 - the Reunion committee with help from spouses and the Phil and Donna Wise, started decorating and setting up the meeting room. Monday afternoon - members started checking in and

## What a B-L-A-S-T!!!

*Keep the Memories Alive*

renewing old acquaintances. Monday evening - business meeting, picture taking session, presentation of awards and more friendship making.

Tuesday AM, 22 June 1999 - Caravan to Naval Base in Philadelphia for Wreath Laying Ceremony at USS Nitro (AE-23). 1000, Wreath Laying Ceremony with Honor Guard provided by American Legion Post 281, Glendora, New Jersey (thanks again to Thomas Lowe for arranging this wonderful addition to the ceremony). Tuesday afternoon - fellowship and general "bull session" at Legion Post 281. Tuesday evening - dinner at the Old Country Buffet for all hands wishing to attend (about 65). Sorry for not having the stainless steel mess deck trays or the tables with the raised edging. We will try harder next time.

Wednesday AM, 23 June 1999 - A five-hour guided walking and bus tour of Philadelphia (45 in attendance). Wednesday evening - a general get together to reminisce, take more pictures, watch video tapes of the AE-23 in action, swap addresses, phone numbers and email addresses and say "farewell" till June 2000.

Thursday AM, 24 June 1999 - Set Special Sea and Anchor Detail for departing port. See ya in Chicago!!!



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The following AE-2 crewmembers were present: Delaware Hood, Jim Herron, Dick Steinreich, Lindsay Waters, Bill Lewis, Lee Smith, John Meissner, George Livernois.



The following AE-23 crewmembers were present: Bob Eberlein, Jim Timmons, Harold Odette, Phil Wise, John Holland, Peter Scott, Wayne Callen, Evan Bush, Oscar Santiago, Brian Evans, Christine Crites, Santo Scudero, Michael Raphael, Dick Leipfert, Jay Giuliani, Thomas Lowe, Jerrol Satterfield, Pat Gerrity, Russell Garbutt, John Fisher, George Gregory, Dick Artale, Wallace Carey, Dick Lemon, Sr., John Mahler, James Musumeci, Walter Newsome, Jay Nystrom, Bob Peiffer, Don Skillman, Larry Young, James Balf, Joseph Gentlemen.

**1999 Reunion Business Recap**

Officers elected for the 2000 and 2001 Reunion are:

President/Treasurer - Robert Eberlein

V. P./Secretary - James Timmons,  
Master at Arms - Richard Steinreich  
Board of Trustees - Robert Peiffer  
and Richard Leipfert

USS Nitro Association Bi-Laws presented, approved and adopted as written. Motion for Association to meet annually was properly made, seconded and passed.

Three awards presented at 1999 Reunion: **Oldest AE-2 member present** – Delaware Hood; **Youngest AE-23 member present** – Brian Evans; **Traveled furthest** – Philip Wise.



**Y2K Reunion**



The sight for our 2000 reunion has been chosen. The Nitro Association will meet in reunion from Thursday, 22 June to Sunday, 25 June 2000 in Chicago, Illinois.

Chief among the activities we are planning for this reunion will be a day at Great Lakes Naval Training Center. We are attempting to arrange seating for our group at the Friday, AM graduation and for a wreath laying ceremony, at which the Great Lakes Navy Band will participate.

We will start an immediate search for a convenient hotel to house our reunion attendees and activities. Watch our website and newsletter for further developments.

The 2001 Nitro Reunion is scheduled to take place in Charleston, SC.

### **Nitro Association - thriving!**

USS Nitro (AE-2/AE-23) Association membership continues to

grow. Our membership roll now stands at 101. The following shipmates (Nitro tour dates) have signed on as members during the month indicated:

**December 1998** - Michael Raphael (82-87) Charter Member.

**March 1999** - Ralph Mason (60-64); George Livernois (42-45); Charles Ball (76-80); James Cahill (60-62)

**April 1999** - John Klinefelter (73-75); Timothy Stryker (77-80); Henry Hope (61-63); Roy Rose (59-61); Joseph Oppenheimer (89-92)

**May 1999** - Lee Smith (43-45); Santo Scudero (62-64); Peter Scott (68-69); John Seeland (44-45); John Mahler (59-60); Richard Lemon, Sr. (60-65); Brian Farrell (61-63)

**June 1999** – Ralph Caldwell (62-66); Captain Thomas Howe (70-71); Richard Artale (66-68); Peter John Fisher (64-66); Lindsay Waters (60-61); James Balf (72-73); Evan Bush (68-71); Delaware Hood (43-46); Lawrence Qualey (37-42); Captain Joseph Snyder, Jr. (67-69); John Meissner (44-45); Wayne Callen (67-69)

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\*\*  
(plus \$3.20 for S/H of Assn. Packet)**

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

**REORDER, REORDER** – *The Nitro baseball cap has been such a success that we have reordered an additional 50 caps. They are expected to arrive mid July.*



### **Nitro Gear from the Ship Store**

*Now hear this! Now hear this!* The Ship's Store is now open. We are now taking orders for the USS Nitro Gear listed below. Some of these items have limited availability due to ordering requirements, so please look at the item to see if it has an ordering time limit.

Nitro Ball Caps	\$14.00
Nitro Coffee Mugs	12.00
Nitro Golf Shirts	28.00
Reunion Video Tape	10.00
(available only to 15 August 1999)	
1999 Reunion Booklet	5.00

Shipping charges apply to all items. Any two items may be shipped for \$3.20. Example of shipping charges: 1-2 items = \$3.20 S/H; 3-4 items = \$6.40 S/H, etc.

Mail Order Form & Check to:  
**USS NITRO Association**  
**% Mr. Robert Eberlein**  
**12215 Ashland**  
**Granger, Indiana 46530-9654**

### **Nitro Blast Newsletters**

During the past year, we have sent out newsletters to all of our database members, for whom we have correct address, regardless if they were a member of the Nitro Association or not. This will be the last newsletter sent to non-members.

*If you are a non-member and still wish to receive the Nitro newsletters,*

*please send a check for \$10.00 (for the next 4 quarterly newsletters) to the address listed above.*

The reason for the decision to charge non-members for the newsletter is due to the cost of postage and printing.

### USS Nitro Patches

The picture below is a copy of the Nitro Jacket Patch that was used during the 1960-70s



The multi-colored jacket patch will be part of our 2000 Association dues. Also included as part of the premium for 2000 will be a cloisonné pin with a representation of the AE-2.

As mentioned in earlier newsletters, we are trying to come up with artwork based on the AE-2 and this is our first attempt. The 2000 Association Dues, which includes the \*\*premium, for \$23.20 (\$20.00 for the dues and \$3.20 for S/H). Additional patch and pin sets may be ordered for \$15.00/ea. plus shipping.

### Nitro Regional Coordinators

We are in search of people interested in becoming Regional Coordinators for the Nitro Association. These people would help in the planning of upcoming reunions in their region and also contact local/regional media outlets for placement of reunion notices in local/regional newspapers.

### Association Receives AE-23 Commissioning Pennant

Wayne Misner of Owensville, Missouri, a former AE-23 crewmember, has donated to the Nitro Association what is believed to be the ship's original commissioning pennant. He had this confirmed to him by an old BM1 who was on board Nitro AE-23 at the commissioning. This commissioning pennant represents a significant addition to our growing Association Archive.

On behalf of the USS Nitro Association, I would like to thank Warren for his generous gift. If anyone else has an item of interest they would like to contribute to the Nitro Association Archive, please contact either Bob Eberlein or myself.

### Request for Cruise Stories



We are in need of additional cruise book stories for our 2000 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



*I don't suffer from insanity, I enjoy every minute of it.*

*I'm not a complete idiot, some parts are missing.*



### The Crows Nest



Seeking information on Nils Tage Nelson, went by the name Tage or "Swede". He was a member of the AE-2. Rate was believed to be a yeoman. Age when on board approx. late teens to early 20's. Please contact: Mrs. Carolyn A. Corbin, 2201 Hillcrest Rd., Mobile, AL 36695-3809.

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



The 1999 Reunion is now but fond memories. What a turn out. By now Jim has explained every detail of the reunion so, I will not go over it.

At this time I will mention the three persons who supplied the Association with the wooden trophies and the bell stand and of course the prayer for the wreath ceremony.

The bell stand was made of solid oak by Mr. James J. Niedermeyer, and the three oak and cherry trophies were donated by Mr. Richard Traver. Rev. Edgar Cabello wrote the prayer. All of these gentlemen live in Mishawaka, IN., and I thank them again for their support of the Association.

This year's reunion was more than anyone on the committee ever dreamed of. Its success was due to the large turn out by you the members. We again thank you.

The committee is now planning and making arrangements for the next one to be held in Chicago. It will be here before we know it. Hope we can top this one.

*Fair winds and following seas,*  
Bob Eberlein, Founder & President,  
USS Nitro Association

### 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>



## **Wreath Laying Ceremony, USS Nitro (AE-23)**

### **Assembly of former crew and guests**

(Crew to left of quarterdeck, guest to right of quarterdeck)

### **American Legion Post 281 Honor Guard Entrance**

### **Wreath Entrance**

Robert Eberlein, Founder USS Nitro Association  
George Livernois, AE-2  
George Gregory, AE-23

### **Remarks**

James Timmons, USS Nitro (AE-23) 1968-69

### **Ringling of Eight Bells**

To honor deceased shipmates

### **Prayer**

Written by Reverend Edgar Cabello, Mishawaka, Indiana  
Read by Chaplain, American Legion Post 281

### **Wreath Laying**

Robert Eberlein, Founder, USS Nitro Association

### **Nitro Blast Newsletter**

%James Timmons  
S37 W27575 Windsong Ridge  
Waukesha, WI 53189

*Address Correction Requested*

**The “Navy Hymn”**

Sung by those in attendance

**Playing of Taps**

Douglas Lowe, Bugler