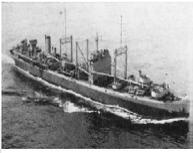

Nitro Blast

The Newsletter of the
USS Nitro (AE-2/AE-23)
Association
Volume 3, Issue 2
September, 2000
Editor: Jim Timmons
Assn. Membership 131

2001 Reunion to be held in Charleston, SC

Keep the Memories Alive



A Trip to the Old South



Mark your calendar for the 2001 USS Nitro Reunion 21 – 24 June, in Charleston, SC. We are in the process of finalizing the details of the events and reunion hotel at this time.

The tentative agenda is as follows. Dates of the events or events themselves are subject to change:

Thursday, 21 June - Reunion meeting room setup. Afternoon Association members check in (Ship's Store open). PM Association Annual business meeting.

Friday, 22 June - Motor coach trip to Patriot's Point Development Authority which contains the Naval and Maritime Museum on the harbor with USS Yorktown, a diesel sub, a FRAM destroyer, a cutter and a restored Vietnam Support Base for a tour. While at Patriot's Point, we are looking at the feasibility of holding our Wreath Laying Ceremony. PM the Association Annual dinner.

Saturday, 23 June – A motor coach tour of the historical Charleston area. PM a final get-together meeting at the hotel.

A request was made of NWS (Naval Weapons Station) Charleston to have our wreath laying ceremony at their facility, and it was declined. No ships are homeported at NWS Charleston and the nature of their ordnance business does not allow them to conduct tours.

Great Lakes Update



Former '92-'95 crew member, Sandraetta Lightfoot, MR2, recently came across the Nitro web site and contacted me to let us know how happy she was to find out about the Nitro Association. Interestingly enough, she is a Recruit Division Commander at Recruit Training Command, Great Lakes.

When I informed her that we were at Great Lakes for graduation and a wreath laying ceremony 23 June, and that the reunion had taken place in Deerfield (about 15 miles from Great Lakes), she said that she definitely would have made some of the reunion events. Probably not all because she has a division of recruits going through boot camp.

It's too bad we didn't know about her being at RTC sooner.



Former Nitro CO located



With the help of former Command Chaplain Deanna Smith, we have been able to locate another former USS Nitro (AE-23) commanding officer. He is CDR David Jennings and lives in Beaufort, SC. He hopes to make the 2001 Charleston reunion.

Nitro Membership Update

USS Nitro (AE-2/AE-23) Association membership continues to grow. Our membership roll now stand at 131. The following shipmates (Nitro tour dates) have signed on as members during the month indicated:

July 2000 – Jon Garland (58-60);

August 2000 – Gary Corley (68-70); Brian Lenihan (71-73)

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 Peiffer
PO Box 1254
Mishawaka, Indiana 46546-1254

2000 Association Dues are \$23.20 (including S/H of Assn. Packet). The packet includes an AE-23 Nitro work jacket patch, and an AE-2 cloisonné cap pin as the dues premium for the 2000 Association dues, quarterly newsletters, membership certificate (for **new** members only), crew members directory and a laminated membership card. Association dues are valid for January 1 thru December 31 of that calendar year.

 *The Nitro Sage* - B. Gregory 

*Two wrongs are only the beginning.
You never really learn to swear until you learn to drive.*

 **The Crows Nest** 

The following is a notice found on the Internet. I contacted the McAlpine's to confirm the information: R. G. McAlpine, 6704 Gateway Drive, Tampa, Florida 33615, is trying to locate the relatives of Jon Paul Travis who served on board Nitro in the 1970s. He was killed in Vietnam and the McAlpines have some items they would like to send to his family.

Anyone with information should contact the address above or send an email to R. G. McAlpine at: mhjtampa@aol.com

Nitro Blast Newsletter

%James Timmons
S37 W27575 Windsong Ridge
Waukesha, WI 53189

Address Correction Requested

The Association has been informed by former AE-2 crew member, Robert "Ron" Thomas (Rockledge, FL), of the passing of a fellow crew member and friend. Carroll Ludwick Hanscom, 80 years young, passed away on 25 March 2000. Both Ron and Carroll served together on the USS Nitro and USS Montpelier during the early 1940s.



A Final Thought



At the end of August, I received an e-mail from an ex-crew member of the USS Mazama (AE-9) wanting to locate information on the ship and crew members. This message was all capital letters. I took it to mean he is desperate to locate a now dying memory.

It is estimated that the World War Two vets are leaving us at the rate of 1000 a day. The few members of the AE-2 who have been present at the last two reunions have been the wild bunch and have been reliving "sea stories" from an endless river of memories.

Have a "sea story" that you would like to have published, then Jim Timmons (stitch@ticon.net) is the man to contact. He's the editor of the "Nitro Blast" and the reunion booklet. These stories are the links to a time now gone.

Veteran's Day 2000

Please contact your local radio and television stations via the telephone or in writing, requesting when you do a Veteran's Day story. Also have them announce that anyone who has served in the military should check the Internet to see if the unit they served with has an Association or reunion.

Fair winds and following seas,
Bob Eberlein, President, 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)**