

Nitro Blast

The Newsletter of the
USS Nitro (AE-2/AE-23)
Association
Volume 4, Issue 2
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Editor: Jim Timmons
Assn. Membership 174

Look Out Southern California ???

Keep the Memories Alive



San Diego Reunion

Non-Update



To date, we have not had an overwhelming response from our West Coast shipmates to my request for assistance in helping set up the 2002 Nitro Reunion in San Diego. I have sent communications to approximately 60 former Nitro crew members living from the Canadian boarder south to Texas and from the Rocky Mountains to the West Coast and have thus far received no replies.

I am not writing this to single out our West Coast shipmates, but to put all former Nitro crew members and Association members on notice. In order to have a truly successful reunion anywhere in the U. S., we need help from people who live in the region where the reunion is to be held. This can be as simple as making phone calls or sending emails to line up activities or as involved as making hotel visits.

If setting up reunions were the only thing that the Executive Board of the Association did, there would be no problem - but it's not. With the Association membership continuing to increase, the workload or volume of work expands and we are seeing areas, like the reunion, where we can use some help.

Anyone who would like to help for either the San Diego or Providence, RI., 2003 reunion, please contact Jim Timmons or Bob Eberlein.

USS Nitro (AE-23) Artifacts Located

In a reply letter from SecNav's Office and emails with the Curator of the Hampton Roads Naval Museum,



concerning the location of various items that were taken off of USS Nitro (AE-23) during her decommissioning, we have located the following:

1. Naval historical Center houses the builder's plaque.
2. Ship's wheel is at the Naval Historical Center.
3. Ship's bell in on the bow of USS Wisconsin in Norfolk



We are in the process of locating an official copy of the AE-23's decommissioning ceremony video tape. More information to follow.

Not the Same Navy Your Father Served In

Excerpt from: Armed Forces News, 17 Aug 01

Effective October 1, third class petty officers assigned to a ship who have four or more years in the Navy will be authorized berthing ashore if they have their commanding officer's permission. . . .The Navy's eventual goal is to move all unmarried sailors ashore while in their home port, said the spokesperson.

Nitro Gear Gone International

We have shipped our first international order (ball cap, work jacket patch and UIM) to Mr. Joe Minuti of Middlesex, England. Joe and his brother visited the Nitro and Suribachi, at anchorage, frequently in the late '60s and early '70s, when he lived in Birzebbuga, Malta. He was back in Malta visiting his brother a couple of years ago and said that Borda's bar, just off of the boat landing, is still there and doing business as usual.

Nitro Membership Update

Anyone desiring to become a member of the USS NITRO Association may do so by sending a **check made payable for \$23.95** to:

USS NITRO Association
% Mr. Robert Peiffer
PO Box 1254
Mishawaka, Indiana 46546-1254

USS Nitro (AE-2/AE-23) Association membership roll now stands at 174.

 *The Nitro Sage* - B. Gregory 

New computer virus: Prozac virus -- Screws up your RAM but your processor doesn't care.

The Crows Nest



We have located the manufacturer and a possible source for a metal cast model of the USS Nitro (AE-2).

According to the manufacturer, it is approximately 4.5 - 5" in length, and is very detailed.

At this time, we are trying to determine the number of people interested in purchasing these models. Depending

on the quantity purchased, we anticipate your cost would be approximately \$50 + S/H. Delivery would be late Spring or Summer, 2002. This model is of limited production and if there is sufficient interest an order will be placed – NO EXTRAS WILL BE PURCHASED.

If interested, please send an email to Jim Timmons at stitch@ticon.net indicating the number of models you would like to purchase. You will be notified of the exact price when it is determined. Please do not send any money at this time.

A Final Thought

On July 11 when the evening roll call for the USS Nitro in the Great Beyond was held and the name Nystrom, Jay was called, he answered "present". The same evening when the 86th. Division, Company C was called and the name Eberlein, Robert G. was called, he answered present. He was my dad.

Members - our enlistment here on this earth has a beginning and an end unknown to us all.

I started the reunions while we are still young at heart. There were some good times on board Nitro and some not so good. Our reunions are a way of living the good ones over and over again. New sea stories are to be heard every time new members are present. So, let's plan to try to contact other crew members and get together for old time sake.

If there is anyone out there who would like to help the officers in their continuing efforts for the newsletter or the reunions, please by all means let us know. Jim and Bob have been updating the Web site so it's one of the most informative on the Net. Jim has been the foundation of the newsletter and it has all "meat" no fillers. I have seen several other Associations' newsletters and there is a lot of fillers in theirs.

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Address Correction Requested



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)