



Nitro Blast

The Newsletter of the
USS Nitro (AE-2/AE-23)
Association
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Assn. Membership 241

Nashville Notes *Keep the Memories Alive*

Nashville Headquarters

Our 2004 Reunion headquarters will be the Sheraton Music City Hotel, Nashville (www.sheratonmusiccity.com). Located on 23 beautifully landscaped acres and just minutes from the Nashville International Airport, this has to be one of the most impressive hotels we have considered for our reunions.

The recently renovated hotel has all of the amenities our members expect in addition to having an indoor and outdoor pool, health club and lighted tennis court. Each spacious guestroom has a private balcony with spectacular view.

We have reserved a block of 25 rooms for most nights of the reunion. The special guestroom rate for the reunion is \$89/night for either a "king" or "double bedded" rooms, and an occupancy of up to four people per room. Room rates are normally \$209/night. Both smoking and non smoking rooms are available as well as handicap rooms. ***Anyone requiring special assistance should inform the hotel when making reservations.***

Each person will be responsible for making their reservations and may do so by calling the Sheraton national reservation center at 800-325-3535 or by contacting the Sheraton Music City, Nashville directly at 615-885-2200. The Sheraton should be ready to take our reservations by mid November, so please wait until that time to place your reservations.

When placing your reservation for the 2004 reunion, let the reservation clerk know you want to reserve a room for the **USS Nitro Association Reunion** for "x" number of nights. Your credit card will not be charged until you check out and you have up to 24 hours prior to the date of arrival to cancel your reservations.

The hotel will provide complementary transportation to and from the airport as well as discounted breakfast coupons

during our stay. Abundant "complimentary" parking is also available for both cars and RVs.

2004 Reunion Activities

We are in the process of setting up these activities. A reunion activity sheet will be mailed along with the January and March 04 newsletters and will detail the costs of these activities and the association dinner.

Among the activities we are considering will be a lunch time cruise onboard the riverboat General Andrew Jackson, a tour of Nashville, a show at the Grand Ole Opry and much more (if time permits). We are also in contact with the Public Affairs Office at Ft. Campbell to see if we can hold our wreath ceremony on their Army reservation. Watch the future newsletters and the Nitro Association web site for further details.

The timing of our annual Association dinner and the wreath laying are still under discussion. If the 101st. Airborne (Screaming Eagles) of Ft. Campbell are on deployment, we may not be able to visit the base.

Ship Movement from the **James River Reserve Fleet**

Former U.S. Navy ships of the James River Reserve Fleet are now starting to move out, under tow, to salvage yards in England and in the U. S.. Two aging fleet oilers, Canisteo and the Caloosahatchee, were towed to England in early October and another ship is scheduled to leave the Ghost Fleet in late October. A total of thirteen ships are scheduled for movement over the next few months. The Newport News Daily Press URL

<http://www.dailypress.com/news/dp-8621sy0oct07.story>

carried the story and will probably follow future relocation of these ships. Since ships older than the Nitro are among the

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first to be removed from the JRRF, it will be some time before she is placed under tow for the last time.

Late update: A news report over the weekend indicates that the ships towed to England will be coming back because of the amount of asbestos and fuel oil on board. This had been a concern, which was expressed in the Daily Press article.

We still have some copies of the USS Nitro (AE-23) James River videotape. This 1.5 hr. videotape can be purchased for \$ 15.95 (\$12 + \$3.95 S/H).

⇒ Association Ship's Store ⇒

Tip: Here is another use for the UIM (ship's name shoulder patch). Sew one of the UIMs around the arc on the back of your ball cap, that way people will know what ship you served on both coming or going.

A Reminder: Christmas is a short time away and we have a number of new items in the Nitro Ship's Store that would make ideal gifts and stocking-stuffers. Among these are a new Nitro lighter with the profile of the AE-2 on one side and AE-23 on the other, hull number ball caps for both ships, Association coffee mugs, new patches, 9" tall collectible Navy bears (other branches are also available) and much, much more. Check out the web site at:

<http://ourworld.compuserve.com/homepages/nalc820/stores.htm>



None for this quarter.

⚓ 2005 Reunion Update ⚓

So far the results for the 2005 reunion is as follows:

Bahamas Cruise (Carnival Cruise Lines) 25 votes, New Orleans 6 votes, Jacksonville 5 votes, Norfolk 3

If you have any questions about the cruise, which is leading so far, please get in touch with via Email, Pesachenschlomo@aol.com or call me at home in the evening at 321-757-6830.

If you have not yet voted for the location of the 2005 (South) reunion, please take time to fill out and return the reunion questionnaire on the Nitro Assn. web site. Those who have voted previously are not eligible to vote again.

Nitro Membership Update

JULY 2003

USS Nitro (AE-2/AE-23) Association membership continues to grow. Our membership roll now stands at 241. The following shipmates (Nitro tour dates) have signed on as members during the month indicated:

September – Russell Fallon, Jr. (62-66)

◆◆ The Crow's Nest -

◆◆ "The Muster List Project" Update ◆◆

We have had a very nice response to "*The Muster List Project*", so far, and are in the process of purchasing hard copies of the following years: 1963 (John Foley), 1967 (John Holland), 1970 (John Sachs) and 1959 & 60 (Nitro Association), 1965 Officer and Enlisted Muster Lists (Raymond Gillman). Bob Eberlein is in the process of making a copy of the 1968 Diaries and Muster Lists. Thank you, gentlemen, for your generous donations to this project.

We have run into a stumbling block of sorts for the years after 1971. Beginning in 1971 the Navy changed from identifying people by service number to social security number, which is not releasable information. Although the muster lists and diaries for 1971 thru 1975 are retained at the National Archives, the microfilms cannot be purchased. The film must be accessed in person at the Archive's site with hard copies made there with the social security numbers obscured.

The 1976 thru 1995 muster lists; same SSN problem applies, and those files are retained at a different site, the Enlisted Personnel Management Center in New Orleans. Microfilms are not available to the public. EPMC has microfilm, from which they will make an interim hard copy, obscure the SSN and make a final hard copy of what is left.

On these files, the name block is quite narrow, sometimes leaving only enough space for a crewman's last name and perhaps the few first letters of his first name. When the Pyro Assn. purchased these files about 2 years ago, EPMC charged 15 cents a page for a total of about \$870.00. They only requested the muster lists, diaries would be additional, if available at all.

We (the Nitro Assn.) will have to check to see where the Officers files for those years are maintained. Anyone who might know of the location where officer records are being kept from 1976-95, please let us know so we can contact the site.

We would still like to obtain hard copies of the records for 1961, 64 and the Officers and enlisted diaries for 1965, since we already have a copy of the muster lists, from Ray Gillman of the Pyro Assn..

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The approximate cost to make copies of each year's records would be as follows:

Officers Diaries and Muster Lists: Approx. 36 pages per year including a second copy for back up = \$5.40 to \$7.20 per year to obtain the officers diaries and muster lists for the years listed above.

Enlisted Diaries and Muster Lists: Approx. 57 pages per quarter (times 4) including a second copy for back up = \$34.20 to \$45.60 per year to obtain the enlisted diaries for the years listed above.

We would also have to pay for the person's time to make copies from the microfilm and print the back up copies of each year. This cost would be \$15.00 per year. The total cost for the Officer and Enlisted Diaries and Muster Lists would be between approximately \$51.60 and \$67.80 per year for the years listed above.

It is going to be an expensive proposition, to fully document the rosters of the USS Nitro (AE-23) from commissioning to decommissioning, but it doesn't have to be accomplished this year or next. If we can obtain the records for a few years at a time, the project can be completed over a short period of time. So, if you are interested in The Muster List Project, please make your checks payable to the USS Nitro Association and make a notation about the year(s) to be copied. If the costs for a particular year's copies are already covered, we will apply the funds to another year or the general fund. The Association will also record, in the archive book, a list of donors and they year they donated

✂ The Nitro Sage ✂

*A balanced diet is a cookie in each hand.
Thou shalt not weigh more than thy refrigerator.*

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Address Service Requested

"Continuing Service to the Fleet"

JULY 2003

A Final Thought

By the time the newsletter reaches everyone, the Iwo Jima battle group will be home, after long months of being on station, the men and women will be back state-side, safe and sound. I'll bet we all have memories of coming home after the long sea voyages.

In November we will observe another Veteran's Day, for us government personnel, it will be another day off from work. In far off countries, there are military personnel who are manning the watch and look forward to the time they too can come home. For others, their families will mourn the lost of a loved one. On November 11th, take time to remember our departed shipmates.

By the time the New Year's newsletter is published, hopefully we will have all the 2004 reunion arrangements made. For all the members who have not sent me the questionnaire from the last newsletter, please take time to fill in the bottom section for city choices even if you do not plan to attend the reunion. Should a gremlin or gnome have taken your copy of the last newsletter, the questionnaire can be down loaded off the web site under the section "2002 Reunion Questionnaire."

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

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>