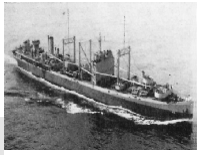


# Nitro Blast

The Newsletter of the  
USS Nitro (AE-2/AE-23)  
Association  
Volume 4, Issue 1  
June/July 2001  
Editor: Jim Timmons  
Assn. Membership 174

## Hospitality, Charleston Style !!!

*Keep the Memories Alive*



**Shipmates, together  
again**



This newsletter is being started on get-away day in Savannah, Georgia. The Charleston reunion was a tremendous success. Over Seventy former crewmembers (41), spouses and guests took part in various activities at this year's reunion. Over sixty people, including former Nitro CO David Jennings, were on hand for the wreath laying ceremony on board USS Yorktown (CV-10). The Naval Sea Cadets from Charleston served as this year's honor guard.

Friday night's Association dinner was highlighted by a special auction of memorabilia (Navy, Nitro or other items of special interest). Thanks to auctioneer Paul Licker and some very generous bids from the audience, over \$200 was raised for the association. Harold Odette was the winner of the raffle for the Naval Historical Foundation book, "Navy". Over \$200 was also raised by the raffle. A portion of the proceeds from the auction and raffle will be sent to the WW2 Memorial in honor of our USS Nitro (AE-2) shipmates.

We had anticipated sixty persons attending the dinner and were pleasantly surprised to have 70 crewmembers and guests in attendance for the dinner. Look for some of pictures from the dinner and activities to appear on the web site and future issues of the newsletter.

### *New Faces*

For about half of the crew member attendees, this was their first reunion. It didn't take long for any of them to feel right at home (just ask Juan Reyes from CT). Juan kept us on our collective toes with his wit, vibrance and



tremendous sense of humor. Anyone who knew Juan, while on board Nitro - like retired chief Yeoman Arnold Carpenter did - said that he hadn't changed a bit.

Thanks, so much Juan, for being such an important part of this year's reunion.

### **2001 Reunion Attendees**

The following is a list of attendees at this year's Charleston, SC reunion: Christine Crites (92-95), Hayden Wiley (68-72), George Demko (61-63), Russell Garbutt (61-64), John Holland (67-69), Lyle Howard (81-83), David Burnette (85-87), Wayne Nicarry (79-81), Harold Odette (59-61), Jerry Satterfield (65-66), John Shuey (65-66), Don Skillman (76-77), Richard Steinreich (42-45), Paul Tressler (71-75), Jim Timmons (68-69), Bob Peiffer (USAF), Wallace Carey (59-61), Juan Reyes (64-66), Lee Smith (43-45), Brian Lenihan (71-73), Robert Eberlein (67-69), James Glass (62-64), George Gregory (63-66), William Lewis (43-44), Paul Licker (65-66), Richard Artale (66-68), Jim Brown (59-61), John Lubera (42-45), Phillip Wise (66-69), Joseph Gentlemen III (77-81), James Cahill (60-62), David Jennings (87-90), John Mahler (59-60), Richard Borkowski (86-91), Gary Corley (68-70), Peter Scott (68-69), Walter "Mike" "Moon" Mullins, Gary Bardelli (68-72), Arnold Carpenter (64-66), Brian Evans (84-87), Jeffrey Marlow (69-71).

### **Next Liberty Call - San Diego, California**

20 - 23 June 2002 is the date for the West Coast reunion of the USS Nitro Association. Ah, summertime on the Left Coast.

West Coast shipmates - *We need your help* in making this reunion a success. Hotels, transportation, activities, catering, etc. still need to be contracted. I will be sending out emails and letters to those of you living anywhere west of the Rockies to solicit your help. We know what needs to be done, all we need are people to make the contacts and do the visits.

### 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 continues to grow. Our membership roll now stands at 174. The following shipmates (Nitro tour dates) have signed on as members during the month indicated:

**March 2001 (contd)** – Ray Tudor (68-71); George Demko (61-63)

**April 2001** - Juan Reyes (64-67); Richard Borkowski (86-91); S. Monroe Aikens (81-82); Maurice McElligott (43-45); Howard Root (64-66); Ed Sullivan (67-71); Mack Pennington (42-45); John Lubera (42-45)

**May 2001** – Arnold Carpenter, Jr. (94-96); Augustine Test (37-43); Robert LeGacy (42-43); Gordon Ahner (71-72);

**June 2001** - Henry Jakubowski (42-46); Gary Bardelli (68-72);

**July 2001** - Garren Wellman (69-71); J Daniel Corcoran (78-81);

 *The Nitro Sage* - B. Gregory 

*Signs of the Time*

*On Maternity Room door: "Push, push, push."*

*In a Non-smoking area: "If we see you smoking, we will assume you are on fire."*

### **The Crows Nest**

It was mentioned at the reunion that Lindsay Waters (Nitro 60-61) passed away earlier this year.

It is also with regret that I inform you of the passing away of Jay Nystrom (Nitro 60-63) on 11 July.

### **A Final Thought**

Another outstanding reunion. The time sure seemed to fly by. Many new faces who will be looked for at the 2002 San Diego reunion.

Strange events happen to and from the reunion. My wife and I stopped in an oriental restaurant, and the fortune cookie said I would meet old friends soon. Our next strange event happen when we decided to stop for gas. Within five minutes, the Timmons and the Satterfields also arrived in the same service station. What a coincidence?

On the way home my wife and I stopped in Charleston, WV and here we met a man from Nitro, WV. After receiving directions, off to Nitro we went. I met the Post Master and the Mayor, Rusty Cast, who gave me the 50 cent tour of the town hall. Out side of his office is a wall with a plaque from the officers and crew of our beloved ship, along with two photos. He was saddened to hear the Nitro was decommissioned.

As Jim, has stated earlier in the news letter, we do need some assistance from our membership with the reunions. If you can give us some assistance, please contact Jim or myself.

### Nitro Blast Newsletter

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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)**