



Nitro Blast

The Newsletter of the
USS Nitro (AE-2/AE-23)
Association
Volume 4, Issue 3
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Editor: Jim Timmons
Assn. Membership 183

San Diego, Full Speed Ahead !!! *Keep the Memories Alive*



San Diego Reunion Site Chosen



The USS Nitro Association's San Diego Reunion hotel will be the Radisson Harbor View. The hotel is centrally located to all of our activities and is a very attractive property. We have reserved a block of 25 guestrooms for the reunion. Make your reservations between February 10th and May 19th. by calling 800-333-3333 or 619-239-6800. The group rate is listed under **USS Nitro**. You will not be billed until checkout time. The room rate, which includes complementary airport shuttle service, free parking and hotel transportation to San Diego's Gas Lamp Quarter, Little Italy and other local areas, is \$99/per night for either a single or double occupancy.

Our tentative activity line up for the reunion is as follows: **Thursday**, 20 June – Afternoon/early evening - Crew member check in, 7 - 10 PM Annual Association Business Meeting; **Friday**, 21 June – Morning and early afternoon - Tour of San Diego, 7 PM Annual Association Dinner raffle/auction and picture session; **Saturday** AM (approx. 10AM) tour of a Navy ship at Naval Station, San Diego and wreath laying ceremony, Afternoon - two hour San Diego harbor cruise, Evening – members free time for dinner and reminiscing. (Activities, times and places are subject to change.) Please watch the Nitro Association web site and the March newsletter for updated information and activity sign up sheets.

Note: If there is anyone interested in doing some deep sea fishing a day or two before the reunion starts, please contact either Paul Licker or myself.

Two More International Orders

Two more Nitro Gear orders were received and shipped this past quarter to international destinations. We had a person from Canada interested in a Nitro ball cap and an individual living in Japan interested in a Nitro lighter.

Wanted: Reunion Auction Items

Last year we held our first auction of Navy or Nitro specific related items and it was quite a success. The auction raised additional funds for the Nitro Association (and to be quite frank – it has turned out to be a lot of fun and one of the highlights of the reunion). The funds received are either used to offset Association expenses and/or are donated to worthwhile Navy related organizations.

One-half of the money collected from the last reunion was added to funds from previous reunions and donated to the WWII Memorial Fund (see companion article below). We are having another auction at this year's reunion and are soliciting donations from interested members or companies. The items do not have to be expensive. If you would like to donate something for the auction, you may either bring it with you to the reunion or, if you are unable to attend the reunion, send them to Bob Eberlein, Bob Peiffer, myself or (our auctioneer) Paul Licker, 777 Lake Drive, Melbourne, FL 32940-7743.

WWII Memorial Contributions

A contribution of \$300.00, on behalf of our WWII members, was made in November to the WWII Memorial Fund. This donation was sent to the VFW National Headquarters for their matching funds program.

Nitro Membership Update

USS Nitro (AE-2/AE-23) Association membership continues to grow. Our membership roll now stands at 183. The following shipmates (Nitro tour dates) have signed on as members during the month indicated:

January 2002 – Allen Fleming (61-64); David Jennings (87-90); Brooks Lapp (67-70); Daniel Luken (61-64); Russell Sexton (60-64); John Moliere (61-62); Gregory Lybarger (87-90); Manny Carabel (87 – 91); Mark Sikes (74-76);

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

The 2002 membership packet will include a cloisonné pin of the profile of the USS Nitro (AE-23), quarterly newsletters, membership card and certificate (for new members only) and the 2001-02 Crew Member directory. We are also working on one additional “surprise” item for this packet. The dues premiums will not be shipped until sometime in March.

USS Nitro (AE-2) Model

The model of the AE-2 mentioned in an earlier edition of the *Nitro Blast* **will not** be ordered by the Association. There just was not enough interest. Persons interested in purchasing one of these models may contact:

Pacific Front Hobbies	USS NITRO AE-2 1/1250 scale
P.O. Box 2098	Saratoga Model Shipyard -
Roseburg, OR 97470	(SMY 09) NITRO (AE-2)
Tel: (541) 464-8579	\$48.00 plus \$5.00 shipping for total of

A worn piece of rope walks into a bar and asks for a drink.

*"Aren't you a piece of rope?" the barman asks him.
"No, I'm afraid not" was the reply.*



A Final Thought



San Diego, CA here we come! Land of sun and fun. As always our actives are planned with everyone in mind. Of course there will be time for shopping.

A ship board visit has been planned for Saturday at 1000 hours. The Association will need a list of names of ALL members and guest along with some sort of identification as the base security will check the bus upon entering the base. September 11, 2001, has now changed our lives forever. One more check will not spoil our good times.

This year's reunion will have some rather exciting door prizes for the members who attend. Here's a quick list: Photograph of the cast of JAG and one of David James Elliott and Catherine Bell, a photograph of Cuba Gooding, Jr. from the "Men of Honor", men's and women's "Nitro" and "Navy" cologne and perfume gifts sets.

And of course, the now famous, handmade trophies for the youngest, oldest, and traveled the furthest.

Hope to see you all in San Diego in June.

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

PS. One of our sister associations (AE Sailors Assn.) is having their 2002 reunion n Tucson, AZ Oct. 16-20. Further information about their association and reunion may be obtained by visiting their web site:
<http://members.tripod.com/~USSAEASSOCIATION/aeindex.html>

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Address Correction Requested

