



# Nitro Blast

The Newsletter of the  
USS Nitro (AE-2/AE-23)  
Association  
Volume 6, Issue 4  
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Editor: Jim Timmons  
Assn. Membership 257

## Army/Navy in Two Months

*Keep the Memories Alive*



### Activity Deadline Reminder



***An Important Update!!!:*** Attendance at the Nashville reunion is far ahead of where we thought it would be for this early in the sign-up. We have a large number of people already registered at the Sheraton Music City and for both the Friday, June 18<sup>th</sup>'s General Jackson riverboat cruise/ Nashville tour and our visit to Ft. Campbell on Saturday. If you haven't made your reservations at the hotel or paid for the activities yet, please do so as soon as possible. Do not wait till the May 15<sup>th</sup> deadline to sign up because space on the General Jackson/Nashville tour are filling up fast and we want to make sure that everyone who wants to go on the riverboat cruise can. We must to let the tour company know how many people we will need buses for and have started making deposits for the travel arrangements.

We have already reserved space, on the Gen. Jackson/ Nashville trip, for the 50+ people who have paid their activity fees and they will be seated as a block for lunch and one of the shows. As we receive additional activity payments from other attendees, we will attempt to have them seated in a block also; however, we can not guarantee that they will be seated with the first group.

The deadline for making your reservation for the Friday tour is May 15<sup>th</sup> but do not wait. It may be possible to obtain spaces for the Gen. Jackson/Nashville trip after May 15<sup>th</sup>; however, it will be on a "space available" basis. If we have additional people who sign-up after the cutoff date, our tour company will have to check with the General Jackson to see about availability and let us know. If there is space available, we can accept the reservation but you and your guest may not be able to sit with our "reserved"

group or may have lunch with the other buffet serving. The General Jackson will have two buffets and shows that day (an early buffet/show and a late buffet/show). If the General Jackson is "sold out", you will be notified. **Again, we must receive your payment for the General Jackson/Nashville trip As Soon As Possible.**

If you are interested in this activity and have not yet done so, please fill out the sign up sheet attached to this newsletter.

All of our reunion activities will either take place or originate from our 2004 Reunion headquarters at the Sheraton Music City Hotel, Nashville. If you haven't reserved your room at the Sheraton, you may do so by calling their national reservation center at 800-325-3535 or by contacting the hotel directly at 615-885-2200. More information about the Sheraton Music City may be found on their web site at: [www.sheratonmusiccity.com](http://www.sheratonmusiccity.com)

When placing your reservation for the 17 - 20 June 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.

Our guestroom rate for the reunion is \$89/night for either a "king" or "double bedded" rooms, and occupancy of up to four people per room. Smoking and non-smoking rooms are available. ***Anyone requiring special assistance should inform the hotel when making reservations.***

The special rate for our group will be honored two days prior to and after the reunion (space available). So if there are other sights you would like to see while in Nashville,

you might want to consider extending your stay at the Sheraton Music City Hotel. ***The cutoff date for our group rate is May 18<sup>th</sup>, so please make your reservations by then to assure yourself of this rate.***



### **Auction Items Wanted**



Again this year, we will hold our Annual Raffle and Auction after the Association dinner on Friday night. Please feel free to bring any items you feel would be appropriate (military or non-military related) for auction to the reunion. Auction items need not be expensive. Half of the proceeds, up to \$500, from the raffle/ auction will be donated to a charity at Ft. Campbell.



### **2004 Reunion Attendees**



As of the publication date, the following former Nitro crew members have registered for the reunion already:

Dennis Johnston, George Gregroy, John Mahler, Howard Root, Dominick Berardi, William Lewis, Richard Leipfert, John Holland, Harold Odette, Frank Motyka, Phil Wise, Jim Timmons, Frank Gauthier IV, Kenneth Marvin, Mark Sikes, Raymond Smith, Richard Artale, Jim Caithamer (AE-21), Ed Cantrell, Gary Corley, Harold Dodd, Jerrol Satterfield, Ron Webb, Russell Garbutt, Juan Reyes, Wallace Carey, Bob Peiffer, Lee Smith, Bob Eberlein, Chuck Clarke (AE-25) and Hayden Wiley.



### **Association Ship's Store**



***A Reminder:*** Check our web site for a fantastic selection of Nitro Gear, including copies of the James River Reserve Fleet video tape::

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



**\*\*TAPS\*\***



We are saddened to inform you of the following deaths of our former shipmates:

Captain Warren Hall, first CO of AE-23, (59-60), passed away June 28, 2003.

MMFN Scott Maxey, AE-23 (86-89), passed away December 30, 2003.

BM2 William McBurnie, AE-23 (67-69), passed away March 6, 2004.



### **The Crow's Nest**



John Cooper, whose father Ens. Francis Cooper was on the USS Nitro (AE-2) 40-42, would like to talk anyone who might have known his father. He is going to make available to the Association a number of documents pertaining to the time his father was on the Nitro.

If any former AE-2 crew members knew Ens. Cooper while on board Nitro, please contact John at - [jfcooper1@verizon.net](mailto:jfcooper1@verizon.net) or by phone at - 603-823-5817



### **2005 Reunion Update**



Arrangements are in the process of being made for the USS Nitro Association's cruise to the Bahamas from 16 to 19 June 2005. **Mark Sikes** of JetSet Cruise & Travel, 6625 County Road 26, Mound, MN. 55364 (who is an active member of the Nitro Association and has offered to help in coordinating the trip with the cruise line) just informed us of the pricing for the cruise. Inside cabins in category 4A are \$462.51 per person and Outside cabins in category 6A are \$497.51 per person. These prices are inclusive of all port taxes, meals and entertainment on the ship, but do not include airfare to Florida.

We will have additional information about the cruise at the Nashville Reunion, on the web site and in the newsletter shortly there after. If you have any questions, in the meantime about the cruise or would like to place a \$50 deposit on a cabin, please contact, Mark, at JetSet Curise and Travel via email: [jetsetcruise@aol.com](mailto:jetsetcruise@aol.com) or call him toll free at 866-201-2752 or 763-479-6477, fax number is 763-479-6498.

Mark and the staff at JetSet will happy to help members make any travel arrangements they might require.

### **Five Year Award Pins**



As of this writing, the following people have been members of the Nitro Association for 5 years and will receive their "star" pins at the reunion or by mail if unable to attend the reunion:

Bobby Anderson, Richard Artale, Gary Attean, Gary Corley; James Glass, Alan Hallock, Kenneth Kmiec, Robert Knoll, Brian Lenihan, Alan Mansfield, Ralph Mason and Thomas Smith.

### **Nitro Membership Update**

USS Nitro (AE-2/AE-23) Association membership continues to grow. Our membership roll (cumulative total from '98 to present) now stands at 257. The following shipmates (Nitro tour dates) have signed on as members during the month indicated:

**January** - Harold Dodd (71-72); Russell Erikson (70-72)

**March** - Donald Hupp (67-69); Mary Smith-Sapp (Asso. Member); John Cannon (85-89)

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

**2004 Association Dues are \$23.95(including S/H of Assn. Packet).** The packet includes an Association stainless steel travel mug as the dues premium for the 2004 Association dues, quarterly newsletters, membership certificate (for **new** members only), crew members directory and a laminated membership card.

There are also Associated Membership dues available for spouses of former or deceased USS Nitro (AE-2/AE-23) crew members, children of former or deceased crew members or for any former U. S. Navy personnel having an interest in or desire to join the USS Nitro Association. This classification would allow those members to receive a membership certificate & card and 4 quarterly newsletters each year (**dues premiums and crew member directory will not be included in this classification**). The cost of the Associate Membership will be \$14.00 (\$12.50 dues + \$1.50 S/H) per calendar year.

 **The Nitro Sage** 

~ Life Lessons ~

*I've learned that one good turn gets most of the blankets.  
I've learned that no matter how much I care, some people  
are just  
jackasses.  
I've learned that whatever hits the fan will not be evenly  
distributed.*



### A Final Thought



Spring has sprung, warmer weather and flowers are making their presence known. In a couple of months, we will gather to relive the good times of our youth and to remember those who we served with.

Just like the seafarers of old, life is an uncharted sea to be lived one day at a time. The good times will be the best ports-of-call and the bad, the storms that arise without warning. So fellow members, let's live the best ports-of-call to the fullest.

As you read through the quarterly newsletters and when you read the names in the *TAPS* section, if you know the name, let's hope you have good memories connected with them. It's sad to hear a member who made one or two reunions, has passed away. But, it's good to hear that this group of wonderful persons left a positive impression on them.

*Fair winds and following seas,*  
Bob Eberlein, Founder, USS Nitro Association.



### 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)

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