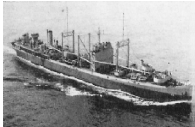


Nitro Blast

The Newsletter of the
USS Nitro (AE-2/AE-23)
Association
Volume 1, Issue 1
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Editor: Jim Timmons

1998 Las Vegas Reunion - A Success

Former shipmates and Guests gather for the 2nd Annual Reunion



Another Port of Call for the crew members of the USS Nitro (AE-2/AE-23). Little damage done; the town will survive.

From 1 to 3 June 1998, former members of the USS Nitro (AE-2/AE-23) met in Las Vegas for the ship's 2nd annual reunion.

Several former shipmates and guests attended this years reunion. While in port, time was spent seeing all that Las Vegas and the surrounding area had to offer and doing the necessary "ship's work".

There was ample time to visit with former shipmates, shipmates from other years and form new friendships, and of course swap "sea stories". Each crew member, attending this years reunion, received a color copy of the ship's patch and photo of both the AE-2 and AE-23.

Now Liberty Call, Liberty Call. Informal group trips were organized to see the laser light shows on Fremont Street in downtown Las Vegas and an all day trip to Laughlin, NV. The remainder of time in port was devoted to individual exploration of the desert area.

Ship's Work, it's never over

Creating the Nitro Association: During discussion of ship's business, it was decided that we should more formally organize our reunion committee into an Association. By vote of those present, the new association will be known as the USS Nitro (AE-2/AE-23) Association. Robert (Bob) Eberlein, who organized both of the first two reunions, was recognized as founder of the Nitro Association.

Other items of Ship's Work: Robert Peiffer, our Web Master and United States Air Force type person, (having been brought up on charges - primarily never having served in the United States Navy) was made an honorary crew member of the USS Nitro (AE-23) because of his outstanding work on the Internet Web site. Now all we have to do is get him on a ship and see how sturdy his "sea-legs" and stomach are.

A letter of appreciation will be sent to Mr. Eric Holmes of Waukesha, WI, for the welcoming banner he prepared for our reunion. His time and artistic talents will be appreciated by all those who view the banner at future reunions..

The final item, attended to by the ship's company, was setting the time and place of our 1999 reunion

Philadelphia, PA in 1999



Reunion plans are now underway to have our next liberty call in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, the week of 25 June 1999.

Since the majority of former Nitro crew members, listed in our database, live east of the Mississippi River, a location in either the Midwest or East Coast seemed appropriate for the next reunion. Cities discussed as possible sites were Chicago, Boston and Philadelphia.

The Philadelphia site was chosen because of its historical significance (Constitution Hall, Liberty Bell, etc.) and proximity to other major attractions. Within easy driving or train distance are: Gettysburg, Washington D. C., Baltimore and Atlantic City, NJ.

An overriding reason to have our next reunion here is the fact that this city is the final berthing place of the USS Nitro (AE-23). She is located at the Reserve Basin in south Philadelphia. Attempts will be made to gain access to the Nitro pier for possibly **a last photo opportunity.**

We have not contracted with a hotel yet and any suggestions from crew

members would be appreciated. Watch for further information on the Nitro Web Site at:

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

and in future editions of this newsletter.

Plan to set this time aside to join your former crew members and guests at our 3rd annual reunion. You won't want to miss it!

USS NITRO (AE-2/AE-23) Association Membership

A membership packet has been developed for those former crew members desiring to become a member of the USS Nitro (AE-2/AE-23) Association. The membership packet consists of a 1998 Reunion Booklet ; a **Charter Membership certificate, for those persons joining the association through 31 December 1998**; a laminated membership card and quarterly newsletter.

The booklet is forty-seven pages in length and contains historical information on both USS Nitro AE-2 and 23 as well as listings of former crew members from the 1940s through the current Nitro's decommissioning in 1995.

Nitro Blast Newsletter

%James Timmons
S37 W27575 Windsong Ridge
Waukesha, WI 53188

Any one desiring to become a member of the USS NITRO (AE-2/AE-23) Association may do so by sending a **check made payable to:**

USS NITRO (AE-2/AE-23) Association
% Mr. Robert Eberlein
12215 Ashland
Granger, Indiana 46530-9654

Charter Membership dues will be \$10.00 pro rated (plus \$2.00 shipping of the membership packet.) for the balance of 1998. Membership dues, renewable annually thereafter, will be \$20.00 and will be effective from 1 January thru 31 December.

Anyone joining after 1 January 1999 will receive a membership packet containing a USS Nitro (AE-2/AE-23) Association membership certificate; a 1998 Reunion Booklet; laminated membership card and quarterly newsletter.

We are going to try to group mailings of membership packets together, so please allow 4 - 6 weeks for delivery.

Crew Member Interest

value your input. If you have any interest in where or when future reunions are to be held, please let us know. If you are at all interested in

becoming involved, we are always looking for volunteers to help in setting up the next reunion; contacting publications about future Nitro reunions and listing our Web site address.

We are also trying to locate as many of our former shipmates as possible. If you know the names and current addresses of former crew member, please pass them along to us so we can contact them.

Sea Stories - You know what I mean. The 1998 reunion booklet contains six pages of cruise stories. These are stories about events that happened to Nitro and/or her crew members. Each year we would like to put new "sea stories" in the reunion booklet.

If anything out of the ordinary happened on one of your cruises, please write down the details and send them to us. Typical entrees should be between 100 and 500 words in length. They may be submitted to our web site or to any of the address listed in this publication.

Any information and/or suggestions may be sent to Bob Eberlein (address previously listed), the Web site (listed previously) or to Jim Timmons (name listed on the return address portion of this newsletter).

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