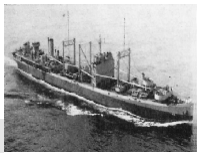


Nitro Blast

The Newsletter of the
USS Nitro (AE-2/AE-23)
Association
Volume 2, Issue 2
September, 1999
Editor: Jim Timmons
Assn. Membership 104

Chicago, Chicago – That Toddlin’ Town !!!

Keep the Memories Alive



**Nitro Association Comes to
the Midwest !!**



Deep dish pizza, Chicago Style hot dogs, “The Magnificent Mile”, the Cubs and White Sox are things that are synonymous with Chicago. However, when you were an 18 year old trying to make it through Recruit Training Command, those items were the furthest things from your mind. When you are a recruit, the eight weeks at Great Lakes seem like eight years.

Arrangements are now underway for our 4th. annual reunion in Chicago. Since the focus of our reunion will be a day at Great Lakes, we are currently looking at hotel sites in the North and Northwest suburbs.

We have contacted the Public Affairs Office of Recruit Training Command about visiting the day of Boot Camp graduation. Several other activities at RTC are being pursued along with having the Great Lakes Naval Band participate in a wreath laying ceremony.

Nitro Association – Non Profit Status Update

Paperwork, paperwork – it’s never done. I’m sure that is the way Bob Peiffer, our resident non-profit organization guru, feels now. We have just completed the paperwork necessary for the IRS to make a determination on our request for non-profit status. Achieving this status will allow the Nitro Association to exempt from certain taxes and possibly make contributions to the Association tax deductible.

One thing is certain, we will not be a tax exempt organization. In order for that to have happened, we would have to have had 90% of our membership serve during wartime (WWI, WWII or Vietnam). Approximately 60% of our membership served during those periods.



Nitro Membership Update

USS Nitro (AE-2/AE-23) Association membership continues to grow. Our membership roll now stand at 104. The following shipmates (Nitro tour dates) have signed on as members during the month indicated:

July 1999 – Charles Smith (59-60)

August 1999 - William McBurnie (67-69); Edward Marino (68-69);



Christmas Presents ???



Question: What do you get for the former crewmember who has everything?

Answer: USS Nitro Gear from the Ship’s Store. The year 2000 membership dues, Coffee mugs, golf shirts, ball caps and a limited number of 1999 reunion booklets are available and make excellent gifts.

The item descriptions and price list follows:

1999 Association Dues: Includes ball cap, membership card, membership certificate (for new members) and quarterly newsletters. Cost is \$23.20 (\$20 + 3.20 S/H)



A rugged, seamless, one size fits all dark Navy ball cap with emblem of the USS Nitro (AE-23) and helicopter in gray with ship's name and hull numbers of both the AE-2 and AE-23 in gold. Cost \$14.00 + S/H.

A classic heavy Navy china coffee mug. This 8 oz WWII "Victory" mug proudly displays the multi-colored USS Nitro (AE-23) patch design on an off white background. Cost is \$12.00 + S/H.

The "official" USS Nitro Association golf shirt is made of 100% pre-shrunk cotton. Gold Association lettering on the Navy golf shirt comes in S, M, L, XL and XXL sizes. The cost is \$28.00 + S/H.

1998 Reunion Booklet – The first Reunion booklet of the Nitro Association is 47 pages in length and contains historical information, crewmember listing, cruise stories and much more. A very limited number of these booklets still remain. The cost is \$5.00 + S/H.

1999 Reunion Booklet – The Philadelphia booklet is 73 pages in length and contains a wealth of ship, command and historical information on the AE-2 and AE-23. It also lists the charter members as well as other former crewmembers and more cruise stories. Cost is \$5.00 + S/H.

2000 Association Dues - Includes Nitro Work jacket patch and AE-2 cloisonné pin, membership card, membership certificate (for new members) and quarterly newsletters. Cost is \$23.20 (\$20 + 3.20 S/H)

S/H charges – 1 item =\$3.20; 2 items =\$5.00; 3-4 items =\$6.40; 5 + items =\$9.60. Send order and **check made payable to:**

USS NITRO Association
% Mr. Robert Eberlein
12215 Ashland
Granger, Indiana 46530-9654

 *The Nitro Sage* - B. Gregory 

*Two wrongs are only the beginning.
Monday is an awful way to spend 1/7th of your life.*

 **The Crows Nest** 

Nitro Blast Newsletter

%James Timmons
S37 W27575 Windsong Ridge
Waukesha, WI 53189

Address Correction Requested

The niece of a former AE-2 crewmember is looking for information about him. Charles Goodwin served on the Nitro during WW2. He was a signalman, on board, but was killed in Norfolk, VA. at the age of 18. Anyone having information about Charles Goodwin is requested to contact Sheila via her email address: saturn3197@yahoo.com

Nitro Blast Correction - In the last edition of the Nitro Blast, Lindsay Waters was incorrectly identified as a member of the AE-2 crew attending the reunion. He was onboard the AE-23 serving as a CWO (Gunner) in 1960-61. Sorry about that Mr. Waters.



A Final Thought



It's hard to believe three months have passed since the reunion. Again it was a really good turn out.

We have been in contact with Great Lakes Naval Base and it appears we will be able to attend the recruit graduation on Friday. This event takes place around 9AM, so it's off to bed early on Thursday.

The wreath ceremony usually takes place at the boat dock or the small cemetery on the hospital side. I had forgotten it was over there. Having the noon meal at the recruit side depends on the amount of recruits going through training at that time.

Visiting a particular school, (gunner, steam propulsion, hospital corpsman, etc) will not take place due to security and safety issues. We are also looking into the possibility of visiting the EM club is now called "The Nitro Club". When the base tour takes place, we will be given an escort.

From time to time I will have to check back and see if there are any changes in the arrangements.

.Fair winds and following seas,

Address Correction Requested

If you are planning on moving and would like to continue to receive the Nitro Blast, please send us your new address so we can get the newsletter to you on the first attempt.



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)