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# Nitro Blast

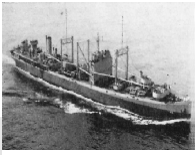
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The Newsletter of the  
USS Nitro (AE-2/AE-23)  
Association  
Volume 2, Issue 3  
December, 1999  
Editor: Jim Timmons  
Assn. Membership 109

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## Happy Holidays !!!

*Keep the Memories Alive*



**Nitro Association Reunion  
Headquarters! !** 

We have finalized arrangements with the Embassy Suites hotel in Deerfield, IL., to serve as our headquarters for the 2000 reunion. A block of 35 rooms has been reserved for our members. The cost of the rooms is \$84 per night for a King Suite and \$99 per night for a Double bed Suite. Rooms should be reserved by the individual member attending the reunion. You may make your reservations through either the Embassy Suites "toll free" number 1-800-EMBASSY or directly with the hotel at 847-945-4500. **Tell the reservation clerk that you are reserving rooms for the Nitro Reunion for "x" number of nights.** These room rates will be held for our members until June 1. **Don't wait to place your reservation till the last minute.** You may reserve a room by credit card and it will not be charged until you check out.

This facility was chosen because of the amenities (indoor heated pool, whirlpool and sauna; exercise room; tropical atmosphere, etc), its proximity to Great Lakes (for our visit on Friday, 23 June), other local attractions and transportation to the City. Each room is a two room (master bed room and living room) suite complete with wet bar and microwave, two televisions and sofa bed in living room for additional sleeping capacity. There is a complimentary breakfast each morning and a manager's reception (choice of beverage and munchies) each evening. We are planning on having a buffet dinner at the Embassy Suites on Friday evening.

Tentatively the Nitro Association business meeting will be on Thursday evening, graduation at Great Lakes Boot camp and wreath laying ceremony on Friday. The buffet dinner will be Friday night and an activity during the day on Saturday and a farewell get-together Saturday evening. Details and cost of the buffet, the June meeting agenda and listing of activities will be sent out with the



March newsletter. Watch the Nitro Association web site for details as they develop:

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

### **A Personal Letter to the USS Nitro (AE-2)**

The words flowed from my pen so very easy I would guess that many a young sailor had much affection for the ships that carried them over many seas.

*I think about her quite often – some nights I even dream about her. I remember how she took care of me during the war. She would always welcome me back when I left her. For short periods of time – and she knew that I always looked forward to seeing her again.*

*Coming back to her - -sometimes in the late hours of the day – when she came into my view I felt a security – a sense of protection. When I finally left her in the Pacific, I was glad that I was going home in one piece – but I left her with a sense of sadness – and I along with many others will remember her for taking such good care of me.*

*She was my kind of gal: -  
The USS Nitro AE-2*

*Fondly,  
James Herron, EM1/C (WWII)*



## Former AE-23 COs Located



Captains Joseph M. Snyder, Jr., Commanding Officer, USS Nitro (AE-23) from August 1967 to February 1969 and Thomas Howe, Commanding Officer, USS Nitro (AE-23) from April 1970 to August 1971 have been located and have joined the Nitro Association this Summer. Captain Snyder resides in Coupeville, WA and Captain Howe resides in Gaithersburg, MD. Both were very happy to hear about the Association and hope to make future reunions

## Nitro Membership Update

USS Nitro (AE-2/AE-23) Association membership continues to grow. Our membership roll now stand at 109. The following shipmates (Nitro tour dates) have signed on as members during the month indicated:

**September 1999** – Frank Richutti (); Art Samuels (02-74)

**October 1999** – William Kohlruss (1-74)

**January 2000** – Allyn Mansfield (); Michael Pizzolo (78-80);



## Year 2000 Premiums



Above are the two items that will be shipped as the 2000 membership dues premiums. The AE-2 cloisonné pin is a 1" oval with the ship's profile and wording in Gold on a Navy and White background. The AE-23 work jacket patch is a 4.5" diameter multi colored patch that was sold on the Nitro in the 60s and 70s.

2000 dues are \$20.00 and \$3.20 for S/H. The AE-2 pin is a limited number order and may not be ordered again.

## Nitro Blast Newsletter

%James Timmons  
S37 W27575 Windsong Ridge  
Waukesha, WI 53189

*Address Correction Requested*

In addition to the membership card (certificate and card for new members), we are including with the dues a copy of the 1999 Nitro crew member's directory (for new members). This is a listing of approximately 200 former crewmembers. The directory will be updated each quarter and a new directory will be included with the September newsletter. This directory is for Association members ONLY!

*The Nitro Sage* - B. Gregory

*Did you hear about the Buddhist who refused his dentist's novocaine during root canal work? He wanted to transcend dental medication.*



## The Crows Nest



Recent USS Nitro AE-23 movements have been announced to many of our members who have email addresses. To keep the rest of you informed, the ship that we visited in Philadelphia may be soon moved to the Navy's James River Facility in Portsmouth, VA. We have a contact person at NAVSEA, Philadelphia, with whom we are in touch to keep informed of her disposition.

*From Glenn Whitehouse:* I am looking for the my real grandfather that I never met. I am doing this as a genealogy research project. His name is Paul Knox Farris and he served on the USS Nitro somewhere around 1925-1929. I have a photo with him and another man on the ship named Karl Gaines. Any information should be sent to Glenn at [spike11@bonduel.tds.net](mailto:spike11@bonduel.tds.net)

We need an accurate count of those wishing to attend the Great Lakes graduation as well as for the buses being hired for travel to and from North Chicago. Send us a note or email indicating the number who will be in your party.



### **A Final Thought**



As I drive around the area where I live, I observe homes decorated with multi colored lights and decorations of the season. On occasion, Holiday specials, time tested video's of Charlie Brown and the gang, Rudolph the red-nosed reindeer, Frosty the snow man, etc. can be seen on TV.

Parties to attend or hold, gifts to purchase, wrap, and hide until the time of giving. Indulging in eating and drinking, then wishing you did not.

The Salvation Army bell ringers can be heard at the malls and busy people locations. The Marine Reserve have containers to collect Toys-for-Tots and local TV stations request used coats to be cleaned by a local dry cleaner, then distributed to needy families.

As we say good-bye to the old year, century, and millennium, let's take a moment to remember the true meaning of the Holidays. Let's not forget those who still man-the-watch as we did so long ago.

Best wishes from the Association Officers and their families, and hope to see you in Chicago in 2000.

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

### **Year 2000 Dues Reminder**

Dues payment for the Year 2000 are now due. In order for you to be listed as an active member, continue to receive the Nitro Blast and the Crewmember Directory, we must receive your dues during the month of January, 2000.

The dues packet, described earlier, will be shipped to you as soon as we receive the premiums. The anticipated ship date is in March. The cost of this year's dues is still \$20.00 plus \$3.20 for S/H. Please make your check payable to the:

USS Nitro Association  
% Robert Eberlein  
12215 Ashland  
Granger, IN 46530-9654

### **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/>

