

**ADAMS Class Veterans Association, Inc. and**  
**Jacksonville Historic Naval Ship Association**  
**Joint January 2009 Newsletter**

2008 was an incredibly successful year for our effort to establish a Naval Ship Museum in Jacksonville, Florida, utilizing the former USS CHARLES F. ADAMS (DDG-2). Major milestones were met and exceeded relative to our goal of having a memorial to all of the ADAMS Class ships, their crews, Navy veterans, and as well as having an exciting, educational, and financially successful museum that will benefit tourists and local residents, youth, and businesses.

Major accomplishments of 2008 include the submission of our 3-volume, 826 page Ship Donation Application (a summary can be found at [www.adamsclassddgvets.org](http://www.adamsclassddgvets.org)), a “face to face” review of our Ship Donation Application in Washington with the US Navy, several visits to the ADAMS by our people to obtain additional information we needed to put together the plan to turn the ship into a museum, many meetings with local and state officials to firm up support for our effort, a visit to the berth site by the Navy’s chief Ship Donation official, a number of Board meetings, and countless hours of work.

This Newsletter is intended to explain where we are in our efforts to put this DDG on the St Johns River in downtown Jacksonville, what we have been doing recently, what we will expect to do over the next 6 to 12 months, what our finances and fundraising looks like, and what kind of support we are seeing and anticipate.

**1. Key Accomplishments During Last 6 Months (in ‘reverse chronological order’).**

**JAN 3, 2009:** The USS BERKELEY (DDG-15) Association sent a check for \$1,000 to ACVA in support of our effort.

**DEC 11, 2008:** ACVA Board voted unanimously to sign a contract with Environmental Services, Inc. (ESI), of Jacksonville, to begin work on the permits that will be required to berth ADAMS as proposed in our Application. Of note is that ESI is providing 50% of the cost of this project as a “contribution in kind”.

**NOV 17-21:** We were allowed to have a 5-man team from ACVA go to Philly to look for and obtain needed items for the ADAMS. Our team was comprised of Bob Branco, Steve Weber, Craig Bernat, Bill Reinhard and Jim Lappegaard. The team worked through cold weather and snow flurries to locate and secure over 35 pieces of electronics and weapons equipment for future use on the ADAMS Museum.

**NOV 7<sup>th</sup>:** Received \$1,000 from Process Automation & Control, Inc. (which is in addition to previous donations). We have Mr. Larry Bassett to thank for this donation!

**NOV 3<sup>rd</sup>:** JHNSA received a letter from Mr. Charles Baldwin, District Secretary for District II, Florida Department of Transportation, stating that they had completed their review of our proposal to berth the ADAMS in the vicinity of the Acosta Bridge. Mr. Baldwin stated that they could support our proposal. This was a major hurdle for us, as our proposed berth is near the Acosta Bridge, and we needed the authorization from the Florida Department of Transportation for this berth location. This was another great and positive step forward for the ship museum project.

**OCT-NOV:** Efforts were made to obtain 2 significant items that are needed for the ADAMS; the SPS-10 and SPS-40 radar antennas (which are currently missing from ADAMS). In order to obtain these items, we submitted a Material Donation Request to NAVSEA, along with a letter from the Armed Forces Military Museum (AFMM) in Largo, FL stating that ACVA would display these 2 antennas at the AFMM until they were ready to be put back onto the ADAMS. We anticipate that this request will be granted, and when the USS AUSTIN goes to the scrap yard in Texas, the antennas will be off-loaded, and then ACVA will transport the antennas to the AFMM for display.

### **OCT 13, 2008: JACKSONVILLE NAVY BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION**

The beginnings of the Jacksonville Navy Birthday Celebration started on Thursday morning when ACVA Treasurer Craig Bernat picked up JHNSA President Bert Watson in Fairfax, VA. Craig's truck was full of guided missile destroyer shipboard equipment that was being transported to Jacksonville to be put on display for the Navy Birthday Celebration at The Jacksonville Landing.

On Friday, they set up the equipment in a vacant store front (donated to ACVA/JHNSA). In spite of the rain they were able to unload the 3 shipboard SPA-25 radar repeaters and other display equipment. One of the repeaters was then moved to the Jacksonville Historic Naval Ship Association (JHNSA) Navy Birthday Celebration booth tent location near the USS STEVEN W. GROVES (FFG-29). On Saturday morning, Bert and Craig were joined by Wayne Misener and Tim Nightingale to greet the countless visitors who came to see the GROVES and the JHNSA display tent. A radar repeater was placed on the River Walk in front of the JHNSA booth. There was always a crowd of parents and kids around it and those that passed by did so because of the crowds around the radar repeater. The kids were in awe when the top of the radar repeater was opened, showing the inside of the repeater to them. As Craig was showing off the big video game to the kids, the others were handing out the JHNSA information sheets, JHNSA Volunteer forms, and JHNSA donation forms. The visitation line for the GROVES during the weekend was several blocks long and thousands were turned away.

On Sunday, the crowds were very enthusiastic and the long lines for the GROVES tours were long, with several thousand people being turned away. The Jax River Taxi manager is very supportive of the museum plans and would like to land his craft at the mooring pier once the museum is opened. Towards the end of the weekend, one of the coordinators of the Navy Birthday Celebration came by the JHNSA booth and stated that the JHNSA booth was the most popular booth there of the four booths (Naval Order, Navy League, USO and JHNSA).

Overall it was a great weekend. JHNSA got nothing but support from people visiting the booth, and everyone thought it was a great idea to have the USS CHARLES F. ADAMS as a Naval Ship Museum on the waterfront. The superb turnout of people to see the USS GROVES demonstrated the potential interest in a Naval Ship on display in Jacksonville. The Navy Birthday Weekend would be a great annual event.

**SEP-OCT:** The USS SELLERS (DDG-11) Association at their 2008 Reunion voted to donate \$2,000 to the Naval Ship Museum project. At about the same time, the USS GOLDSBOROUGH (DDG-20) Association, at their Reunion, voted to donate \$2,500 to the effort. These donations were crucial in keeping our effort moving forward, and funding needed environmental studies.

**AUGUST 29:** ACVA and JHNSA representatives had a meeting at NAVSEA with Capt Dave Tungett and Mr. Glen Clark which lasted over 4 hours. The discussion created a good path for providing answers to the questions NAVSEA posed on our Donation Application submission. Later in the meeting we discussed Curatorial Plan questions with the Naval Historical Center

Curator, Mr. Mark Wertheimer. We also obtained lists of Naval Historical Center artifacts from all of the ships in the ADAMS Class that are available to us, so we will be able to develop excellent displays to memorialize all 23 ships in the museum. Our revised Donation Application is due to NAVSEA at the end of January 2009. We see no problems in meeting this deadline.

**AUGUST 28:** ACVA/JHNSA leaders visited the USS CHARLES F. ADAMS in Philadelphia to update Donation Application planning ideas before their meeting with NAVSEA PMS 333. Bob Branco, Bert Watson, Jim Aldrich, Pete Mansel, Craig Bernat, and Steve Weber completed another good survey of the ADAMS and a tour of ex-USS EDSON to develop some new display ideas with regard to preparing ADAMS as a museum.

**AUGUST 11:** Captain Dave Tungett, Program Manager for the Navy's Inactive Ships Program met with JHNSA President Bert Watson, Jim Aldrich, and Tom Schodowski in Jacksonville to view the planned berth site for ex-USS CHARLES F. ADAMS DDG-2 on the St. Johns River. In addition to presentations from the ACVA/JHNSA leadership, Capt. Tungett met with representatives from the Mayor of Jacksonville's office, local hotels, and Duval County Schools who highlighted the positive benefits of the ship museum to the community in Jacksonville.

### **JUNE: CNO ENDORSES THE ADAMS CLASS SHIP MUSEUM**

After the CNO's participation in the Battle of Midway Dinner in Jacksonville in June where he met ACVA and JHNSA officers, his staff released the following announcement:

“The ADAMS Class Veterans Association and the Jacksonville Historic Naval Ship Association are truly undertaking a worthwhile cause. The CHARLES F. ADAMS Museum will represent all of the DDGs of this historic class of destroyers. The Museum will be a fitting and dynamic tribute to the many Navy veterans who served on these great ships.” *G. Roughead*

### **JUNE: THE “NEW CHARLIE DEUCE”**

While there certainly is nothing “new” about the 48-year-old ex-USS CHARLES F. ADAMS (DDG-2), the recent paint maintenance provided for the sides of the guided missile destroyer have greatly improved her appearance. She is still moored outboard of ex-USS FORREST SHERMAN (DD-931) and ex-USS EDSON (DD-945) at the Philadelphia Inactive Ships Facility. Photos of the ship are available at [www.adamsclassddgvets.org](http://www.adamsclassddgvets.org)

**JUNE:** ACVA received a major contribution of \$2,500 from DRS Technologies, a defense contractor with headquarters in Parsippany, New Jersey. Not only did the company make the generous donation, but they also offered to assist ACVA with the restoration of the MK 68 gun fire control system onboard ex-USS CHARLES F. ADAMS (DDG-2).

### **JUNE: NAVSEA RESPONSE TO ACVA/JHNSA SHIP DONATION APPLICATION**

On June 20, 2008, NAVSEA responded to the Adams Class Veterans Association and Jacksonville Historical Naval Ship Association, who had jointly submitted on March 31<sup>st</sup> the Ship Donation Application for ex-CHARLES F. ADAMS DDG-2 to be established as a Naval Ship Museum in Jacksonville, Florida. The NAVSEA (PMS 333) Inactive Ships Program Office provided a total of twenty-four questions and comments regarding different parts of the Ship Donation Application. This marks an important stage in the Ship Donation Application process and the beginning of the dialogue between the NAVSEA and the sponsoring groups. The ACVA and JHNSA members who wrote the Ship Donation Application are meeting on a regular basis to develop responses to the NAVSEA questions. At this point, they see no problem in fully answering all the questions by the deadline. The deadline for responding to NAVSEA's Donation Application questions is January 30, 2009.

More detailed information about the ACVA, JHNSA, and the effort to establish the Jacksonville Historic Naval Ship Museum utilizing the former USS CHARLES F. ADAMS as a memorial to all veterans, Navy veterans, and all ships of the ADAMS class can be found at <http://www.adamsclassddgvets.org>

The words of our ADAMS Class Museum article that has appeared in several magazines, “Making the Impossible Happen,” continue to aptly describe our progress. The literal resurrection of the ADAMS Museum project continues to boggle the mind and defy the odds...from the ship’s return to the Navy after being sent at one point for scrapping, to finding “the right home” for ADAMS in Jacksonville, and gaining support from City Council and various agencies and associations. We have collectively positioned ourselves for success. We have worked very hard to get to this point where we no longer have to rely on luck, but rather now have the fate of the ADAMS Museum in our own hands. It is our decision, our choice, our duty, to make this museum, memorial and place of honor a part of Jacksonville and a place to remember and teach many others of the role of this ship, this Class, and this Navy in maintaining the freedom so dearly purchased by our founding fathers with costly installments paid in thousands upon thousands of lives through nearly 250 years of our history. The ex-USS CHARLES F. ADAMS asks only what every sailor throughout time asked of their ship...to bring them home safely. Let us bring her home with grace and appreciation and dedication.

## **2. What is our ACVA Membership and how many ACVA Plankowners do we have.**

We now have 660 ACVA Members, with about 30 who were never in the military but support our efforts. We have 360 ACVA Plankowners. Plankowners are ACVA members who donated \$25 or more to receive an assigned ACVA Plankowner number. Remember we have never asked for dues. We do accept either credit card donations on our web site and/or check donations sent to the ACVA Executive Secretary in the mail. Since the ACVA began our Plankowner Donor program, donations from this source have exceeded \$11,000. That has helped pay for many requirements, allowing us to continue making progress.

## **3. What is our ACVA Ship Rep status? How many do we have and which ships do not have an ACVA Ship Rep?**

We had Ship Representatives assigned from all the ADAMS Class DDG ships to the ACVA, including the 3 from Germany and the 3 from Australia. However, we have lost several Ship Reps due to death or they no longer can help. We need an ACVA Ship Rep for USS Goldsborough (DDG-20). We also need a Ship Rep for the FGS Molders (Germany). Please look at the bottom of this Newsletter for info on the various ADAMS Class Ship associations.

## **4. What ACVA Board positions are not filled?**

We have several open ACVA Board positions and are looking for anyone with any expertise in these areas. Two open positions are Director Fundraising, and Director Public Relations. We could also use help in assisting our Newsletter Director. We definitely would love to have a lawyer or someone with legal experience act as our Legal Associate. To volunteer, send a short resume to Dave Myerly (email : [DaveDDG2@aol.com](mailto:DaveDDG2@aol.com)). If you live in the Jacksonville area, and would like to help the JHNSA, please contact JHNSA President Bert Watson at 202-271-4500.

## **5. What are our future work items?**

Here are the things we will be working on in the next months:

- a. Complete work on preparing answers to NAVSEA's 24 questions, and submit our "revised" Ship Donation Application to NAVSEA no later than 30 JAN 2009. We see no problem in meeting this deadline.
- b. Continue our Fund Raising Campaign in earnest, in accordance with our Fund Raising Plan. We expect support from companies and/or individuals or groups previously identified by Craig Bernat as providing equipment on ADAMS Class Ships in the form of cash and/or "in kind" donations.
- c. We are working to pick up the pace in the areas of Public Relations, Member Communications, and Fundraising.

## **6. What is our financial situation?**

Thus far, we have expended over \$75,000 of "cash" donations and over \$500,000 of "In-Kind" donations. We know that we need approximately \$30,000 to \$50,000 in the months ahead to cover expenses for several required studies, obtaining environmental permits, and hiring a marine engineer to perform specific hull tests. These expenses and projects are a part of completing the NAVSEA application. We currently have sufficient funds to cover the various environmental studies that have just been started. We anticipate future longer-term company contributions and fundraising activities, maybe a golf tournament and other fund raising events, however in the current financial environment we must continue to consider our ACVA Members as our best source for donations. We remain extremely careful about how we spend your donations. All of your ACVA and JHNSA officers, who have donated countless hours of work (through "In Kind donations) on the Application and related work, are all working "pro bono" – we value all of the contributions that have been made, especially during these difficult economic times, and want all donors to be assured that we are "stretching every mile" out of your donations.

## **7. Continued Need for Volunteers**

We have a section on our ACVA web page for people who may be interested in signing up to be an ADAMS Volunteer on the ship to help get it into "museum shape". We will need the help of many volunteers to design, build, and arrange displays to go on or near the ship. The display work might be needed before we have the ship relocated to Jacksonville. We have about 120 volunteers signed up and Tom Crosser is working on the plans to identify those who might best serve our needs as the opportunities occur. Tom will be using a work plan and timeline against the volunteer list of expertise to identify those who would be best to work on what during which times.

## **8. The Need for Continued Donations**

As you can see, our effort has moved a great distance forward, achieving a number of major milestones, and at the same time avoiding "landmines" which could have derailed us. We have come so far, that it is now essential to maintain our forward momentum. Please consider whatever you, as an individual, as a business, as a corporation, can do to assist. We know that these are difficult times for many, and so we can assure you that we will continue to make every expenditure as wisely as we can. But please consider what you can do – contributions can be made on our web site at <http://adamsclassddgvets.org/DONATE.htm> or you can send a check made out to "ACVA, Inc." to:

ACVA Executive Secretary  
c/o Dave Myerly  
5 Bush Road  
Denville, New Jersey 07834-2906

## **9. Major Donors (More than \$1,000 - Company, Group or Individual Donations)**

We are very grateful to all of our major donors and corporate contributors. You can see who these individuals and companies are if you look on the DONORS and MAJOR SUPPORT pages of our ACVA web site. The MAJOR SUPPORT page of the ACVA web site recognizes "Major Donors & Supporters." They are categorized as Companies, Groups and Individuals who have made donations of \$1,000 or more in cash contributions or "in kind" services. Donations can be cumulative and we post the information when donations from one source exceed \$1,000.

### **IN SUMMARY:**

We hope that you have found this Newsletter to be informative, and inspiring! 2009 promises to be another busy and exciting year! We can do this! However, we can only succeed if we all continue to do all that we can to make the wonderful vision of the ADAMS Class Museum sitting in Jacksonville a reality! Please pass this Newsletter on to all your shipmates!

This Newsletter is intended for:

- All ACVA and JHNSA Members
- All ADAMS Class DDG Ship Associations and their Members
- All ACVA Ship Representatives
- ACVA Board and JHNSA Board
- Other interested individuals
- Posting on All Ship Web Sites

## **ADAMS Class Ships – Status of their formal ship associations/groups & Contact Info**

### **1. USS Charles F. Adams (DDG-2)**

Several personal sites for the ship exist, such as <http://www.bozair.com/DDG-2/index.html>, but there is no formal association/group, no association web site, and no President, Vice President, or Webmaster.

ACVA Ship Rep – Jim Bosworth (email : [webmaster@adamsclassddgvets.org](mailto:webmaster@adamsclassddgvets.org))

### **2. USS John King (DDG-3)**

USS JOHN KING Association web site: [www.ussjohnkingassociation.org](http://www.ussjohnkingassociation.org)

President: Ed Garrett, Treasurer/Secretary: Dennis (Jake) Jaegle, Webmaster: Blake Kidney,

ACVA Ship Rep : Harold Matroni (email : [DDG3ENGINEER@embarqmail.com](mailto:DDG3ENGINEER@embarqmail.com)).

### **3. USS Lawrence (DDG-4)**

USS LAWRENCE Association web site: <http://www.ussslawrence.com>

Webmaster: [dguts@ussslawrence.com](mailto:dguts@ussslawrence.com)

ACVA Ship Rep: Roger Raines (email: [roger748@comcast.net](mailto:roger748@comcast.net))

### **4. USS CLAUDE V. RICKETS (DDG-5)**

Association web site: <http://thebignickel.org/>

President: Bob Haner (email: [bobnghaner@yahoo.com](mailto:bobnghaner@yahoo.com))

ACVA Ship Rep: Bob Haner (email: [bobnghaner@yahoo.com](mailto:bobnghaner@yahoo.com))

### **5. USS BARNEY (DDG-6)**

Association web site: <http://www.uss-barney-ddg6.org/>

President: John Van Dusen (email: [john\\_vandusen@earthlink.net](mailto:john_vandusen@earthlink.net))

ACVA Ship Rep: Doug Roth (email: [ddoogier@comcast.net](mailto:ddoogier@comcast.net))

### **6. USS HENRY B. WILSON (DDG-7)**

Association web site: <http://www.usshenrywilsonddg7.com/>  
ACVA Ship Rep – David Walker (email: [salmonboy@kalama.com](mailto:salmonboy@kalama.com))

**7. USS LYNDE McCORMICK (DDG-8)**

Association web site: <http://www.usslyndemccormick.com/>  
ACVA Ship Rep: David Newham (email : [Davidnewham@aol.com](mailto:Davidnewham@aol.com))

**8. USS TOWERS (DDG-9)**

Association web site: <http://64.226.139.28/>  
ACVA Ship Rep: Ray Wong (email: [usstowersddg9@pacbell.net](mailto:usstowersddg9@pacbell.net))

**9. USS SAMPSON (DDG-10)**

Association web site: <http://www.sampsonddg10.org/>  
President - Kirk Anderson (email: [andersonskl@metrocast.net](mailto:andersonskl@metrocast.net))  
ACVA Ship Rep: Dave Brandt (email: [drbrandt@ftc-i.net](mailto:drbrandt@ftc-i.net))

**10. USS SELLERS (DDG-11)**

Association web site: <http://www.usssellers.org>  
President: Delta Hinson (email: [DLH@aol.com](mailto:DLH@aol.com))  
ACVA Ship Rep: Bob Rumney (email: [Grandgufinof@aol.com](mailto:Grandgufinof@aol.com))

**11. USS ROBISON (DDG-12)**

Association web site: <http://www.oldbluejacket.com/robison.htm>  
ACVA Co-Ship Rep: Charles Steenburgh (email: [sailracer@verizon.net](mailto:sailracer@verizon.net))  
ACVA Co-Ship Rep: Chuck Siedschlag (email: [ddg12assn@frontiernet.net](mailto:ddg12assn@frontiernet.net))

**12. USS HOEL (DDG-13)**

Association web site: <http://www.seastory.us/hoel>  
ACVA Ship Rep: Bruce Palmer (email: [nvmustang1@yahoo.com](mailto:nvmustang1@yahoo.com))

**13. USS BUCHANAN (DDG-14)**

Association web site: <http://www.uss-buchanan0ddg14.org>  
ACVA Ship Rep: Dave Malone (email : [malonedave@tds.net](mailto:malonedave@tds.net))

**14. USS BERKELEY (DDG-15)**

Association web site: <http://ussberkeley.com>  
ACVA Ship Rep: Alvin Meier ([alphawhiskey.DDG-15@yahoo.com](mailto:alphawhiskey.DDG-15@yahoo.com))

**15. USS JOSEPH STRAUSS (DDG-16)**

Association web site: <http://www.ussjosephstrauss.org>  
ACVA Ship Rep: Charles Raymond McDonald Jr. (email : [crmj1951@ameritech.net](mailto:crmj1951@ameritech.net))

**16. USS CONYNGHAM (DDG-17)**

Association web site: <http://www.ussconynghamassoc.org>  
ACVA Ship Rep: Dwayne Davis (email: [ddg17sailor@yahoo.com](mailto:ddg17sailor@yahoo.com))

**17. USS SEMMES (DDG-18)**

Association web site: <http://www.semmesddg18.org>  
ACVA Ship Rep: Jack Cistriano (email : [knowhowdrc@aol.com](mailto:knowhowdrc@aol.com))

**18. USS TATTNALL (DDG-19)**

Web site: <http://fivekiller1n0.tripod.com/>  
Another web site: <http://mysite.verizon.net/vzetvm0b/index.html>  
ACVA Ship Rep: David Laws (email : [medicdave@rescueteam.com](mailto:medicdave@rescueteam.com))

**19. USS GOLDSBOROUGH (DDG-20)**

Association web site: <http://www.ussgoldsborough.com>

ACVA Ship Rep – Vacant

**20. USS COCHRANE (DDG-21)**

Association web site: <http://www.usascochrane.com>

ACVA Ship Rep: Ken Keeler (email: [cartoad@televar.com](mailto:cartoad@televar.com))

**21. USS BENJAMIN STODDERT (DDG-22)**

Association web site : <http://www.ddg22.com>

ACVA Ship Rep: Herman Chambers (email [DDG22ETCM@aol.com](mailto:DDG22ETCM@aol.com))

**22. USS RICHARD E. BYRD (DDG-23)**

Association web site : <http://ussrichardebyrd.com>

ACVA Ship Rep: Darrell Winchell (email: [the\\_winchells@hotmail.com](mailto:the_winchells@hotmail.com))

**23. USS WADDELL (DDG-24)**

Association web site: <http://www.usswaddell.com>

President: Theodore G. (Shakey) Kimlingen

ACVA Ship Rep: Theodore G. (Shakey) Kimlingen (email : [tkimlingen@freeporalelectric.com](mailto:tkimlingen@freeporalelectric.com))

**24. FGS LUETJENS**

Association web site: <http://www.z-luetjens.de>

ACVA Ship Rep: Jerry Kuschny (email: [info@D-185.com](mailto:info@D-185.com))

**25. FGS ROMMEL**

Association web site: <http://zerstoerer-rommel.de>

ACVA Ship Rep: Markus Ehresmann (email: [webmaster@zerstoerer-rommel.de](mailto:webmaster@zerstoerer-rommel.de))

**26. FGS MOLDERS**

Association web site: <http://www.d-186.de>

ACVA Ship Rep: Jan Boettcher (email: [jan.boettcher@web.de](mailto:jan.boettcher@web.de))

**27. HMAS PERTH (DDG-38)**

Association web site: <http://www.hmasperth.asn.au>

ACVA Ship Rep: ACVA Ship Rep: Scott Smith (email : [ssmith@legalsuper.com.au](mailto:ssmith@legalsuper.com.au))

**28. HMAS HOBART (DDG-39)**

Association web site: <http://www.hmashobartasswa.com>

ACVA Ship Rep: ACVA Ship Rep: Scott Smith (email : [ssmith@legalsuper.com.au](mailto:ssmith@legalsuper.com.au))

**29. HMAS BRISBANE (DDG-41)**

Association web site: <http://www.hmasbrisbaned41.com>

ACVA Ship Rep: Scott Smith (email: [ssmith@legalsuper.com.au](mailto:ssmith@legalsuper.com.au))

<http://www.adamsclassddgvets.org>

=====End of Newsletter=====