

A group got together at Phil Schlaepfer's wedding in June at Whidbey Island Naval Air Station. Shown is a picture which unfortunately did not reproduce were **Phil Nelson, Dennis Haines, Joe Christofferson, Phil Schlaepfer, Klinton Kingsman and Glenn Bacon**. Phil Nelson is an F-14 NFO assigned to VF-124 as an instructor. Joe is an F-14 pilot with VF-2. Phil Schlaepfer is the Admiral's flag lieutenant at Whidbey Island.

**John Sill, Dave Bullard, Chris Diller and Tom Aldern** are all stationed at VF-124 NAS Miramar. **Bob Thompson and Glenn McCormick** are both deployed aboard USS RANGER. **Rick Hammonds** is stationed at Miramar at the Navy Fighter Weapons School. **Joe Camacho and Monty Parker** are both stationed somewhere in Washington (DC) and **John Nelson** is at postgraduate school in Monterey, working on his space systems degree. **Julius Caesar** has left USS KENNEDY and has entered civilian life somewhere. **Thom McKee** is now working for Flight Systems Incorporated in San Diego.

Merry Christmas to all, and send me a Christmas card.

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**Percent Members: 74 Living Grads: 963**

Well, I know you'll all be completely shocked and dumbfounded by seeing three straight columns in *Shipmate*, but I guess I'm just on a roll. I've still got some old news from the Summer, but I'll basically be able to bring you up-to-date with this column. Here we go . . .

A note from Gina and **Steve Ferree** said that they had been extended in Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania, at SPCC until the Spring of '84. Steve is pork choppin' it and gets to travel to various shipyards now and again, while Gina has been named head of cost accounting for PA at Blue Shield. Way To Go!

A letter from **Dean Engelhardt** from down Virginia Beach way (though he's stationed at E.O.D. school at Indian Head) including some hot skinny on some 19th company buds. **Fred Lucci** married the former Suzie Krammer this past June in Wheeling, West Virginia. Fred turned in his water wings, completed NFO training, and is now based out of Moffett in a P-3 squadron. Rumor has it Fred plans to have Suzie support him as soon as she passes the California bar exam. Having had some experience at this, I know how difficult it is to pass the California Bar . . . or the New Jersey Bar, or Harry's Bar & Grill or . . . Anyway, staggering right along, Dean also mentioned that **Tim Coffee** was due to deploy out of Norfolk, leaving his wife Mary and two boys behind. Tim went to Driver Training Institute to learn how to fly the "Big Rigs" — HM-53s, and now is doing his part for the Big Blue overseas — either that or he's flying a traffic helo over the Beltway for Eyewitness News. **Jim Bland** is also out of Norfolk serving on a LOS ANGELES-class sub, and **Tom Eldridge** is also in nautical Norfolk, serving as an Admiral's aide. Dean reports that he and Tom served in SAGINAW together with Tom now considering nuke power and Dean switching to navy diver. Dean hopes to complete EOD school in November and get orders to Fort Story, Virginia, so that he and his wife Sue can homestead in the Va. Beach area. Dean also asked the whereabouts of **Rich Schiefer**, formerly assigned to a sub out of Groton, and **Mike Spencer**, who had been flying '46s with the

Marines out of N.C. Any word on these two, please let us know.

A note from Camille and **Barry Smith** brings us an update on the '78 baby boom. Barry Roland Smith, Jr., all 10 lbs. and 3 ozs. of him, was born 8 August 1983. Barry is presently in Houston acting as a contract administrator for work at beautiful Diego Garcia. Other proud parents include Barbara and **John Rogitz**, who celebrated the birth of their new son John Mark born in Lakeside, California, and Maura and **John Hancock** who also have a new son, Johnathan Grant. The Smiths also report that **Mike "Pepe LePew" Durnan** is now, how do you Americans say, "Teaching zee studies at zee Academie de Marina," or loosely translated, Mike is teaching at the French Naval Academy in Brest, France. I've got a great comeback for that, but never mind . . . Anyway the Smiths also bumped into **Al Jacquith** and his wife in Herndon, Virginia. And that's the latest and the greatest for now.

I've got more info, but time and the fact that I'm two weeks past deadline preclude me from writing much more or submitting any photos; so stay tuned next month for more excitement. **LATE NEWS:** Homecoming was fabulous! We had over 300 people at the tailgater, and 220 at the reunion dinner that night. Special kudos to **Mo Tose** for financial wizardry, Laura and **Chris Burgin** for an outstanding tailgater, and two wonderful people (who shall remain nameless) for setting up the dinner. Everything was Great!

**Final Note:** With all the craziness going on in the world, let's sit back and thank our lucky stars for what we've got, and particularly for those Classmates who are spending the holiday season away from family. Let's do all we can to support those guys who won't be able to get home, as well as those waiting at home for them. I'm sure most of us have spent one or more Christmas seasons away from home, and it ain't a helluva lot of fun. So how about making a few phone calls or dropping a few letters. It can really make a difference. To all of you, have a Happy Hanukkah, Merry Christmas, a joyous holiday season and a very Happy 1984!

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**Percent Members: 88 Living Grads 910**

Merry Christmas or Happy Hanukkah . . .

I trust that you all know which phrase captures the season's mood for you. Let's remember all those that are far away from the ones they love in the line of duty, especially those '79ers in Beirut. This is certainly a good time of the year to reflect on all for which we have to be thankful. Hope that most of you can see the family you haven't had a chance to see lately. We are going to Minnesota to visit my family. It will be my first Christmas at home in two years.

**David Morriss** wrote a Beirut update letter. David is on the USS Iwo JIMA as the supporting arms coordinator for Amphibious Squadron Eight. He came to this job a year ago after serving aboard USS BOWEN. Although not relishing two sea tours in a row, he is enjoying their presence

in the world's hot spot. As the supporting arms coordinator, David is responsible for the artillery, naval gunfire, and close air support for the Marines aboard Iwo JIMA. He really enjoyed having the opportunity to do the things we actually train for in a real combat situation. David had only exemplary words for the Marines serving in Lebanon. He believes in what they are doing because it is obvious that the government there would fold if we pulled out. David also talked of the strong feelings shown when the first Marines were killed. It really emphasizes to all that these are not games these people are playing.

**Chris Price** was seen by Dave in the area but he did not mention in what capacity. **Frank Scholley** has really got his own arsenal over there. He is the OIC of the Seal Team. As such, he has his own personal yacht, SEAFOX, equipped with all those wonderful options no pleasure craft should be without. They include M-60s, 50 cal's, LAAWs, C-4, and other unmentionable goodies. The 25-foot boat is quite an impressive sight with its shark's teeth bow. **Charlie Firreno** is over the land flying his UH-1. **Jack Stumbourg** is a busy gunnery officer in USS VIRGINIA.

**Jeff Klingensmith** and his wife Clair are the proud parents of a baby boy born on September 23rd. His name is Kurt Michael. Now some of you may be wondering about my transition (or lack thereof) from big boats to little boys. Ah, but there is a link that I will now divulge. While his wife was in the toil of labor, Jeff was glancing at a television showing the CBS evening news with Dan Blather. What do you think he saw there but the stoic young Naval officer **Jack** (land action star-board) **Stumbourg**. I tell ya, those '79ers are everywhere!

**Bob Smout** was in BELKNAP also as a gunnery officer. **Chris "Crash" Wenz** is the ASWO in USS PHARRIS. **Andy Hagelin** is aboard USS JOSEPH HEWES. **Jon Jacques** and **Dan Kritikos** were the folks that David relieved. They were in FAIRFAX COUNTY. In the continuing saga of 'it's a small Navy, Charlie Brown.' David's roomie from U of Navy, **Spence Williams**, will be replacing him. **Jack Lyons** is an OIC from a FLTCORGRU (spook) Det on an unnamed destroyer. **Jack** 'I'm not a Marine' **Williams** is the naviguesser in USS CONYNGHAM. **Mike King** and **Roy Kompier** are flying H-46s. Lest I forget, **Ray Kutch** is doing same. Thank you so much for a very interesting and enjoyable letter, David.

**Fred Aalbue** is stationed in Gulfport, at the Naval Construction Training Center. I guess it is an advanced program for diggers and fillers. He is thinking of going out the door in eighty-four and going back to school for his master's. **Bruce "Sonny" Reichart** is heading for Truk Island with his wife Eileen. Join the Navy and see the world! **Dana Martinez** should be stationed in beautiful Lakehurst, New Jersey. He is off the turnpike with wife Lisa. And in the 'how are you so lucky dept' **Debbie** and **Ted Williamson** bribed someone to get stationed at Georgia Tech. He is getting his master's, and his parents are so happy that he finally went to college. And fiasco city is where you'll find **Steve** 'It was just a small firefight' **Walsh**. He is still doing his best to start WWII as Recon Man ta da!

From sunny Camp Lejeune this is your faithful correspondent signing off. Merry Christmas to all and to all a good night! Larry K.

Merry Christmas . . .  
. . . Happy New Year