

Not too many Classmates left in Charleston. But Dan has heard that **John Bird** is scheduled to be engineer on an SSBN and **Jim Hartigan** has left USS SEAHORSE to teach ROTC at Villanova.

I have received the 1983 *Register of Alumni* and if you need to find someone's current address, please let me know. Also, make sure that you keep the Alumni Association informed of your current address so they can keep this register updated. Many times this is the only guide we have to track you down or to enable us to help you find your roommate.

As good a memory as I have, I still do not recognize everybody's handwriting, so please sign your letters and spell everyone's name legibly. Thanks for the great response, and keep the news coming.

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Pres., Lt. (jg) **Kenneth E. Waldie** USN

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Percent Members: 74 Living Grads: 974

As the Lynch mobs (yes, that does include **Joey** and **Kevin**) gather around my house to find out where the heck the '78 column has been for the last few months, all I can say that my #1 New Year's resolution is to get a column in on time every month. I know how frustrating it is to get your *Shipmate* and see a big blank in the '78 space, but I will persevere.

Starting with ancient history and trying to bring you up to the present, here is the answer to that all important question, "Hey sailor, looking for a good time?" Because if you were, you should have been at Homecoming '82. The Big Blue crushed The Citadel and a good time was had by all, in particularly by about 75-100 all-stars from the Class of '78. If this is any example of the kind of turnout we can expect for our five-year reunion, then we are going to have one heckuva party. Yours truly, El Schmermund, had the festivities this year with a number of riff-raff in attendance including: **John "Face" Casey** (and indeed he was faced), Swiss Family Young starring **John Young**, **Kevin White** (as the brother-in-law), **Maureen White** (as John's sister), and **John Gardner** (as the Beaver). Other all-stars included **Tim Sprague** and his lovely pregnant wife **Anne Marie**. **Glen Wheless** and his wife **Martha**, **Russ Gordon** and his lovely wife (by the way, if I say "his lovely wife," that means I forgot your name — please forgive me), **Tim McGee**, **Shawn Bradley**, **Phil Winters'** wife **Jennifer**, (Phil returned from WESTPAC two weeks later), **Scott Laser**, **Dan Serfass**, **Matt Elias** and a cast of characters stationed in the local area: the **Eckerts**, the **Cones**, the **Kuzmas**, the **Bakers**, the **Huesemans**, the **Osmonds** and the **Jackson Five**.

Matt Elias is a lobster fisherman with VP-10 out of balmy Brunswick, Maine. He sent me a copy of his 11th company newsletter and I've included some info based upon Matt's letter with any updates I can supply: (The quotes are Matt's letter — the parentheses are my footnotes.) "Philip Winters completed his WESTPAC with VP-4 (Hawaii) in November. Jennifer spent the deployment in Bowie, Maryland, (right around the corner from Janet and me), and they had their first child in the end of July. Christopher Philip weighed in at about nine pounds and he is beautiful. There has been a 'rash' of babies late, if you'll excuse the very bad pun. **Patti and Rusty Cone** are now living in Glendale, Maryland, about

five minutes from where **Phil Winters'** folks live. **Rusty** is at the Navy Annex, detailing new J.O.s and department head types to new construction FFGs. **Rusty** and **Patti** are fine, and so is **Robert**, their first son, who is a year old now. The hair may not be as red, but he's a miniature **Rusty** in almost every other way. You'd be amazed to see how domestic **Rusty** has become. It's really impressive. **Patti** has really done a fine job with him.

"**Lori** and **Marty Drake** are living in Eastport where **Marty** commutes to the Academy. They just had their first child, a boy, **Ryan**, the week before Homecoming. **Marty** is teaching 'driver education' as he calls it, beginner's YPs to those of us not so familiar with the Seamanship and Navigation department of the Academy. He's also in charge of the entire sailing program at Navy U, and that is what really keeps him busy. **Marty** has a red pickup that has good old Alabama boy written all over it. **Pam** and **Terry Wood** also had their first child the week before Homecoming, a baby girl, **Sara** (not sure of spelling). They are still in Norfolk where **Terry** is flying RH-53s (he doesn't even know what the R stands for). **Terry** was up in Maine at the end of August for an airshow at NAS Brunswick and we had a great time. I also heard that **Holly** and **Gary Lovgren** had their first child a couple of months back (boy?, girl?) **Gary** was recently accepted to supply school. **Scott Laser** was at Homecoming and it was great to see him. He is in USS SOUTH CAROLINA as MPA. To give you an idea of **Scott's** job, his contemporaries in TEXAS and VIRGINIA are **Tom Crowley** and **John Will**. **Scott** was on the ship in the yard at Homecoming. I really let **Scott** down by going on deployment; he was counting on coming up to Maine to ski this Winter.

"I got a letter from **Kathy** and **Steve Brashear** saying that **Steve** is finishing his tour as an NFO in FB-111s at Pease AFB and is headed back to Air Force flight training to become a pilot. (This info is dated, but it's the latest **Matt** had.) **Diane** and **Walt Brown** and family are supposedly in Singapore, but I have no address or confirmation. **Paula** and **Mike Lewis** are in VP-11 at Brunswick. **Mike** is the Natops Officer there, a very good job in the squadron. **Mike** and **Paula** were headed to Monterey for PG school in mid-January. **Prentiss Hall** is conduct officer at the Academy, and looks great. He must be 20 pounds lighter than when we graduated. He's coaching the JayVee baseball team and playing for them whenever he can. He says he's having a good year at the plate, too. **Prentiss** is living up Route 50 in a development behind **McDonalds**. (How apropos.)

"I talked with **Vince Balderama** for a while and he's doing fine. He's still flying CH-46s and recently completed a 6-month Med cruise. **Tom Crowley** wrote and said he was in TEXAS, but that he may be heading to Bremerton. I also heard from **Tom's** roommate, **George Billy**. He was still in HADDOCK, then but was slated to go to engineers school for about eight weeks. He probably has completed that by now and is off on another tour. **Mike Kreyenhagen** is deployed right now in Bermuda. We both deploy to island paradises, he goes to Bermuda and I go to Iceland. **Mike** is doing great and made Tacco just before they deployed. **Mike** is sort of an intelligence specialist in their squadron." Thanks for all the info, **Mat**.

I also received a letter from **Pat Curtis'** wife, **Gail**, who reported that **Pat** and **Robbie Knight** were attending SWOS department head course in Newport with **Pat** slated as OPS boss in BLAKELEY (FF-1072) and **Robbie** slated as WEPS boss in DEWERT (FFG-45). Both ships are homeported in Charleston. Additionally, **Gail** and **Pat** were blessed with a baby boy, **James Michael**, in

August. **Gail** also mentioned that **Larry Mizak** and his wife **Theresa** are in Atsugi, Japan. Speaking of Japan, **Harry Harris** and his wife **Kathy** cruised through Maryland on their way to **Harry's** new job in Yokosuka, Japan. He's slated to be an admiral's aide. Additional hot poop on 15th Company all-stars includes a call from **Kevin Olsen**. I had mentioned him in October as a student-athlete in Monterey. **Ols** let me know that he had recently torn his achilles tendon in a touch football game and is now in a leg cast. Way to be, Doctor Destructo!

Ols mentioned a number of other '78 stalwarts at PG school including: **Chris Hassler**, **Bill Poole** and his wife, **John Petersen**, **Dennis Popelia** and his wife and two children, **Vance Berry**, **Bill Bonert**, **Jerry Roncolato**, **Steve Painter**, and **Misty** and **Art Athens** and their baby girl. Speaking of Art, **Joe Leidig** and I decided that in all our magnanimity that '78ers who still are USMC 1st lieutenants should feel free to "carry on" in our presence even though we do outrank them. (Can't wait to see the hate mail from that one!) **Joe** is a gouge WEPS prof at USNA.

I also got a note from **Chris "Dr. Dwarf" Nichols** who is serving as OPS boss in USS SUMTER (LST-1181). He's finishing up another MED cruise and by this time is heading to join the student-intellectuals at P.G. school in Monterey. **Chris** mentioned bumping into Cobra jocks **Curtis Perry** and **Randy Duncan** who are off INCHON and SHREVEPORT respectively. **Chris** says **Lebanon** is beautiful this time of year.

I hate to close on such a somber note, but I must regretfully report the tragic death of Classmate **James T. McInerney**, who was killed in a car accident in Jacksonville, Florida, on 21 October 1982. **Jim** was a fellow mean-green 15th Company mate, and was going to fly in to Annapolis for Homecoming the following day. As a matter of fact, I had been waiting for him at National Airport for two hours when I returned home to find out that **Jim** had been killed in a head-on collision the night before. To me, **Jim** was the epitome of the Class of '78: a fun-loving guy, who knew how to have a good time, but who was also a dedicated professional naval officer; a guy who would give his last nickel to a friend. Some people kid me about flying from San Diego to Philly for the '78 Army game, but **Jimmy** actually flew from Meridian, Mississippi, to San Diego just to come to my '79 Army-Navy game party! That's the kind of a friend he was; always there no matter how inconvenient or costly or silly it may have seemed, **Jim** would be there. I don't mean to step on my soapbox, but I honestly believe that all of us can learn a little from **Jim's** death. It may sound morbid, but unfortunately **Jim** isn't the first of our Classmates to pass away, and just as unfortunately he won't be the last one. So when you think about calling that old buddy from your company, or stopping by and saying "hi" on your way to your next duty station — do it dammit! — because life's too short, and you just never know what's in store next. To those of you who knew **Jim**, his parents address is:

Mr. and Mrs. Russell McInerney, 1067A Beach Road, Hampton VA 23664. I'm sure **Jim's** folks would appreciate hearing from some of his old buddies. **Jim** was an A-7 pilot out of JAX who had made well over a hundred carrier landings on the IKE. His squadron mates, as well as company mates **Ben Harris**, **Bill Hanna**, **Aaron Watts**, and myself witnessed **Jim's** funeral on 27 October 1982 at Arlington National Cemetery. **Jim** was more than a Classmate; he was a shipmate, a friend and a brother. **Jim**, you will be sorely missed, but you will never be forgotten.