

a bottom influence mine in the Northern Gulf. To his credit, the ship was successfully repaired in Dubai, UAE, in time to return home with the RANGER Battle Group. Jim took me on a tour of the ship when they first pulled into Jebel Ali, UAE. I became an instant believer in quality ship design and damage control! The Aegis cruiser is built tough. Phil mentioned that **Craig Langman** was right in the middle of the Mount Pinatubo evacuation effort. In talking with some other people associated with this natural disaster, the role the Navy played was incredible and I'm sure Craig had a lot to do with it. Well done!



Jim Kear, Phil Wisecup, and Craig Langman



Anne, Nathalie, Madeline, Phil, Sarah, and Marie

Phil is enjoying his time back in San Diego. Pictured is his family as they enjoy an afternoon in the Coronado City Park. Anne recently took the kids, Marie (8yrs), Madeline (5yrs), Sarah (4yrs) and Nathalie (1yr) to France to visit their grandparents. Phil expects to be in D.C. in March.

You may have already read in Last Call about the loss of our shipmate, **Terry Hopkins**. Terry died suddenly at his home in Moss Beach on 12 July. A memorial service was held at the Chapel of Chimes on the 17th. Terry was a great Classmate, he was on the swim team and, upon graduation, served the Marine Corps for 5 years with distinction. Terry most recently was the manager of engineering for INJEX Industries. Terry is survived by his wife, Judy, of Moss Beach, and his parents who live in Ocean Pines, Md. Judy is expecting a baby before the end of the year. The family requests that any donations be sent to the Kayla Terry Hopkins Trust Fund, Security Pacific Bank, Half Moon Bay Branch #0791, 42 North Cabrillo Hwy, Half Moon Bay, Calif. 94019, Account number 791007909.

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Membership: 86%

Pres., **Steve Maloney**
Sec'y, **Vince Balderrama**
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The hardest part about writing this column is trying to write a respectable intro. Just trying to get those little wheels clickin' away to come up with some jazzy, snazzy, spiffy little way to lead into the old mail bag is tough. It's not made any easier by the occasional spell of writer's block—something like I'm feeling today. I mean, I've just been sitting here with finger tips resting on the keyboard. That's actually TWO fingers resting on the keyboard. I never had a typing class as you may sometimes reliaze (See? I told you.), I'm just the hunt and peck sort of typist. Anyway, I thought about just letting my mind go free and let my fingers do the walking. You know, a kind of stream of open consciousness writing style. Like . . . hkfaur duhhfruh. But THAT's not very good either. It's not even comprehensible! I guess I better just fess up to my failing and just let the letters speak for themselves . . .

I got a **Kevin "Liddy-Gram"** through the fax machine the other day, along with the "hot" tip to buy Deutsch Marks. Kevin says that's one deal that'll pay off big. I would've loved to have gotten into it, but I just didn't have the spare 200 grand it takes to enter the game, let alone make a killing. About all I could scrape up was \$3.75—I could've gotten more if Michael hadn't heard me shaking the shell out of his Ninja Turtle piggy bank! Aside from the market tip, Kevin had a great idea for those of you whose fathers are vets and you haven't figured out what to get them for Xmas. If your father's like mine, he's a bear to shop for; and besides, one can only buy sooooo many "Chesty" Bulldog decanters. Anyway, it seems Kevin got his idea from an article in *Shipmate*. (Yes, aside from our wives, someone else actually DOES read more than just this column and the Last Call!) The article talked about a Pearl Harbor medal. As with most servicemen in the "Big One," Kevin's dad's DD-214 didn't reflect a thorough listing of awards. It only showed the WWII Victory Medal. Believing his father also rated the Pearl Harbor medal, Kevin began his inquiries. After a few dozen calls he finally reached the right point of contact at NPRC. After submitting his dad's DD-214, he later received word that his dad was entitled to FOUR medals and that they would be shipped to Kevin in a few weeks. For the price of a stamp and a few calls he'll be able to present his dad with a long overdue recognition and momento of his service to his country! What a great gift!! If any of you are interested in obtaining your father's medals like he did, give Kevin a call. He'll be glad to help out. You can drop him a line at 71 Strawberry Hill, Stamford, Conn. 06902, or call him at work, toll free, 1-800-367-4922. I just hope that the folks in records finally sent out the medals and that Kevin has already presented them to his dad. I'd hate for this little blurb to ruin the surprise. "Here, dad, this *Shipmate* column's for you. The checks in the mail from Uncle Sam." Speaking of "check's in the mail," I'm sure **Herb Jensen** has FINALLY mailed you and your compynmates your Class directories, Kevin. So I don't think you need to ask him a THIRD time to send them out! (Can you say, sarcasm and peer pressure? Uh-huh, I knew you could . . . Anybody else not gotten those directories out yet?!) In his closing, Kevin noted that LCDR/Dr. (the Piled Higher and Deeper kind) **Sam Tangredi** is in XO school in Newport and that **Jon Kutler** and his wife are expecting their second child.

Also expecting dash 2 are Sheila and **Doug Diehl**. I saw Doug while on a business trip to the Sauna of the South—Jacksonville, N.C. Doug is still flying

Cobras at MCAS New River. In fact, he is the Weapons Tactics Instructor for MAG-29. Doug was kind enough to set up a chalk talk session for me and some of my engineers with group pilots. During our visit we shot the breeze and he gave me the good news. Of course Doug was among those who had recently gotten back from SWA (That's short for Southwest Asia, for you uninitiated.). As anyone with an overseas control date knows, a cold beer and a Big Mac are not exactly the first priorities on a homecoming checklist and conception is directly related to the distance from flight line to home. Suffice it to say, the Diehls will have a "Homecoming Baby." Doug also noted that his "little" brother, Kurt, was recently selected for Major on the reserve list, so only a few more months remain for Doug to be referred by him as "Sir." But he'll *always* outrank him by virtue of being born first.

There's a new member of the '78 family—Thomas Dean Crowley, Jr. He arrived into the world on 20 July and his parents, Gretchen and **Tom Crowley** couldn't have been happier! By the time this comes out he'll be well into the normal antics of keeping his parents awake through the night and requiring great amounts of their time and attention. That's fine for Tom as it's the perfect conditioning for the demands of his new duties when he reports as XO MISSISSIPPI, but I'm sure Gretchen would prefer some rest. They bought a house in Norfolk and by now should be fully settled.

Not to be outdone in the name your-kid-after-you category is my other roommate, **George Billy**. George and Thelma also named their adopted son after dad. At last count in the Billy clan this makes it George XXXIV—or at least a number IV. Little George (Of course, I mean the younger one! Now knock off the Sandblower cracks . . . I resemble that remark!); anyway, Baby George finally made it into the states after a laboriously lengthy paper push. Crimminy sakes, Peace Treaties have taken less time to ratify than what it took for him to leave the Phillipines! After enduring, earthquakes, floods, typhoons and even a volcano, the rest of this little guy's life is going to be a cakewalk. Of course his sister, Elizabeth, better watch out as I'm sure he'll take no gruff from her as he grows up . . . "Hey lady, I've gone through the worst that Mother Nature could throw at me so I'm not takin' any of this big sister bull! Now GIMME back my woobie!!" . . . We Balderramas had gotten together with the Billys (should that be Billies?) for a BBQ during August and had the pleasure of also seeing Marilyn and **Scott Langdon**. George and his family had been camping at a local park while he attended a conference in Groton and Scott and Marilyn came down from the sub base where Scott is the XO on one of the subs (Sorry Scott, I had a brain dump on the name!).

J. P. McCann, the voice of Naval Academy radio, visited the Sikorsky plant over the Summer. He had dropped in to pick up a helicopter for his squadron. J.P. lives out in California and is a "reservist acting on active duty" with HCS-5 in Point Mugu, California. That is to say, he's really a Ready Room rat who gets more flight time in a year than most people on active duty ever dream about. Of course you know that pay and retirement points are directly proportional to the amount of flight time you get, so J.P. is doing OH-kay in both those categories. While he plays at flying, his wife works fulltime . . . Now this is a concept to which I can heartily embrace!! J.P. is also another veteran of the Sand Box. By Naval doctrine HCS is responsible for strike combat search and rescue, so his squadron was among those activated. He said the flying was fun and the mission is the greatest in the Naval helicopter community! I can agree with that, as it is also the one which is closest to the REAL flying Marine helo pilots do!!

I got a letter from our Class Historian, **Tim Dowd-ling**, up in Westerly, R.I. Tim says he's been getting

quite a few changes of address coming in now and is continuously updating the data base. He's also taken the plunge into entrepreneurship and set a business called Synergetech (It rhymes with energetic.). Aside from targeting consulting work towards companies in manufacturing and healthcare industries, he's also offering performance-based training solutions to business problems. Right now he's selling two products: an interactive videodisc to train nurses on clinical handwashing procedures to control infection, and a software package for hospitals to track and document staff training. So far, he says he's off to such a good start with both these products that he doesn't have the time to chase down consulting jobs. But just for a little "insurance" with those bill payments, he's still working with A&T.

I ran out of pages last month, right in the middle of **Bill Timme's** epic on "Fun 31." Well, as promised, I'll run Part 2 of the saga but this will pretty much blow your entries for the rest of the year, Bill. (Unless, of course, the checks come rolling back into the Balderrama College fund.)

Suzette and Bill Timme—"I finished my detailer tour in Washington, D.C. and am now the XO of CHICAGO, homeported in San Diego. Last year was very busy with completing a Masters in Engineering Management from Catholic University, getting married to Suzette (in between grad courses), running the Marine Corps Marathon and various 10Ks, taking sailing courses, completing Submarine Qualification for Command and taking detailing trips to all the submarine homeports. The biggest plus was that I was able to walk again within a week of the marathon (a great improvement over the previous year!!). Suzette was rehired by the same developer she worked for in D.C. as an assistant property manager, and has become their computer weenie. She has also become involved in the Submarine Officers Wives Club and will be chairman of the silent auction next year."

Jennifer and Sean Donovan—"I am now a radiology resident at Bethesda Naval Hospital. I completed my M.D. at USUHS in 1989 and I will finish my residency in 1994. Eileen (2) and Marie (7 mos)."

Diane and Dave Nix—"I am now working for NALCO Chemical Company in technical sales. I met up with Cindy and **Rich Polek** for Army/Navy last year. I also went to the NCAA Wrestling Tournament in Iowa City, Iowa this year with some ex-shipmates. Anyone interested in the Oklahoma City NCAA tournament next year, I'm going. Final four in Minneapolis too."

Mary and Tony Quatroche—"I am now the XO of WHALE, overworked, underpaid, unappreciated, but I love it. Mary '81 is attached to SubBase, New London, Conn. Supply Department as Fleet Support Officer. Mary holds a masters degree in Administration from Naval Postgraduate School. Both boys are extremely active and keep both of us on our toes. John is doing very well with his hearing problems; words are starting to come, sentences can't be far behind. My long term goals are to be CO of a fast attack submarine, make O-6, then retire and teach high school for the rest of my life. Christopher (3.5) and John (2)."

Debbie and Ron Lovelace—"Have moved to Jacksonville, Fla., for my P-3 squadron department head tour. It looks like this will be a short 18 month tour due to squadron inactivation. We don't know what will happen after that. Stephen and Eric."

Nancy and Dave Eyler—Naval Postgraduate School, will go to XO of a submarine this Fall.

Connie and Mark James—Investment banker in Albany, Ga.

Sharon and Ron McNeal—Transferred to Washington, D.C. for a tour in NavAir.

Kitty and Rich Valenstein—Rich works for Ford; Kitty and Rich started a Real Estate newsletter. Kendall (1).

Catherine and Jim Hughes—United Airline pilot.

Steve Jacoby—United Airline pilot.

I got a quick note from **Mac Hardaway**. Mac's at NAS Barbers Point, Hawaii. He's the Maintenance Officer for VP-22, Navy Airlines of the Pacific. At the time he wrote he was just about to leave for Misawa, Japan, probably to get some rattan, pearls, and stereo equipment, oh yeah and to do some ASW patrolling (You know these P-3 guys!). He added that **John Cohoon** is the XO of HOUSTON (SSN-713) out of Pearl. Debbie, Mac, Wesley (4) and Lindsay (2) had a photo opportunity with Barbara and John and their boys, Andrew (7) and Marshall (5) on Waikiki, complete with Diamond Head in the background. Everyone looks great and the scenery makes all us mainlanders "cammied" with envy. But Mac and John have to get with it. I mean, what's with the "Howie" garb, Mac? You guys live there and you still look like tourists. Just check out a few *Magnum PI* reruns and you'll get the idea. Enough of my Mr. Blackwell impression. Besides you can take the sailor out of the uniform but you can't always take the uniform out of the sailor.



Cohoos and Hardaways at Waikiki

John Newcomb is in the D.C. area. Yes, the only Mid ever to take Wires 1 and 2 in the SAME semester and STILL graduate is now working his scientific magic within the Puzzle Palace (aka, the Pentagon)! Newc runs the Navy's flight hour program in OP-05E. I just wonder if he can set aside a few hundred hours for refresher training and makeup for a *selected* reservist. The last time we spoke I just caught him as he was leaving to move Judy and the rest of the clan out from the West Coast and into their new home. By now, they are all fully settled into the suburban Virginia lifestyle.

This pretty well fills the pages for this month. I'll just wrap this little puppy up and zap it in the fax and then again out in the mail. Keep your turns up . . . As for me—I'm launchin'!!!

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Membership: 93%

Pres., **Mike Finley**

Corr. Sec'y, **Ken Russell**

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After reaching the bottom of the standard "intro filler" bag, I'm fresh out of the usual material I use to build the Skyscraper of Comedy that plunges us all into a kind of "fun-plasma." Darn that luck, huh? I couldn't even find a *Weekly World News* tabloid headlining a story similar to the one about the Fish-Dog-Man-Horse born to a renegade herd of Yeti's near

Duluth. However, Mr. Mailbox's cup runneth over and there's lots of stuff to do. So let's throw on a set of work boots and get right to it.

First of all, blanket apologies to all concerned for the stuff I promised I'd mention last month. Here goes. **Kyle Kaker** activated himself for three months to go on a Rim of the Pacific cruise. He's probably back by now and hopefully reemployed. Kyle if you have any problems with that reservist/employee thing let me know. I got some phone numbers that may come in handy for you. Mary, thanks for the info and the invite. When Vicky and I get a weekend off, we'll be down. Sorry I called so early. For all you 11th Company guys please note, **Geoff McFather's** new address is 2712 Cantwell Road, Virginia Beach, Va. 23456. I think that's it. Sorry guys. I'll try to keep the disaster of papers around my computer down to a minimum so that it doesn't happen again. Vicky's standing behind me waving a Bravo Sierra flag, shouting abusive things at me. You'd swear she wasn't buying into it.

Tom Smith made it from the Red Sea to Philly in 24 hours when he left BIDDLE and took over as XO of the Readiness Center. Tom got his Command Qual while on BIDDLE and also screened for XO. Tom's letter also included info about **Greg Curtiss**, BIDDLE's Supply Officer. Apparently Greg is a living, breathing Standard Form 44 and can obtain ANYTHING in the Navy supply system. Greg, how's about requisitioning a non-aerospace job in the mid-Atlantic states for yours truly? Tom and Greg kept things hoppin' on the ship and set the standard for professionalism and readiness; your basic Seventy-Nine attributes. Now that Tom is in Philly, there's an open invite for a place to crash after the game with those Knights That Say "NIH" (maybe this year we'll turn the Woops into Newts. They'll get better.). Tom's phone number is 215-364-4692. Please give him a call and reserve some floor space early, especially you 7th Sea Dogs. Tom, thanks for the letter, the picture, the mirror/speech child raising tip, and big-time congrats to you for getting your Command Qual at sea.

Al Whiting wrote to me from a Ritzy hotel in London while he was doing his part-time job for Uncle Sugar. Al did part of his active duty in Rota at CMS school where accounting reaches new levels of ridiculous. Doughball also took his end of the year exams. I guess we all can claim our come-uppance because these tests were so hard that Al stared at a question for TWENTY minutes. Finally, Doughball appreciates what most of us normal people went through at school. I still don't know what was so hard about a question like, "Develop a theory of Turbulent Convection." Isn't that a man and wife holding on to each other while flying through a thunderstorm? No wait, that would be "Turbulent Affection." Never mind. Al's trying to rustle up enough bucks to continue with Cambridge's Ph.D. program. Al also needs to hear from us 26th company guys for an updated company letter, so dust off those pens. Al, thanks for the great letter and good luck.

I got a fantastic letter/care package and group photo from the 'Niner bubbas on JFK. **Dennis Reilly** got all the folks together for the picture and everyone sent some news about themselves. I was truly impressed. Dennis was the CAG Paddles for CVW-3 staff and also flew A-7's with VA-46 and VA-72. He's now in Jacksonville transitioning into F/A-18's. When complete, he'll be going to EISENHOWER for his Department Head tour. He and Brenda have three kids, Christopher 6, Laura 4, Steven 3 and one more waiting to make his or her debut. Dennis, Brenda, let us know when the next one arrives. **Gene Miller** finally 'fessed up and admitted to appearing on *48 Hours*. Geno flies F-14's for VF-32, is the squadron AMO, and said the flying over the "Mother of All Restricted Areas" was unique and fatiguing but