

and promotions, and the success enjoyed by so many in our Class. It was always tough to pass on news about one of our number who had passed away. Thanks to all of you who wrote—Classmates, wives, parents, and friends of '76; you made my job enjoyable. Thanks to all of you for your support and encouragement over the years—the class of '76 is truly the best! Keep in touch. **Joe**

77

Membership: 83%

Pres., Maj. **Keith Tibbitts** USMC
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Shipmates, welcome to the New Year! I'm still trying to figure out where 1991 went. I must have been blinded by the windstorm caused by its quick passing! I caught enough though to see Navy BEAT Army! H.S. Batman, they looked pretty darn good . . . during the entire game! Maybe there is hope for 1992. After all, 1991 was a winning season!

I have a ton of mail to get through before this column is through, so rig your combo caps and hang on! The first is from **Dan Hansen** who sends great news about the most recent (summer '91) aviation command screen results for the Helo community. They include: **Zach Henry** (9th) HSL-45; **Bill Vasquez** (2nd) HC-5; **Dan Hansen** (26th) HC-16; **John Vuolo** (12th) HM-15; **Greg Steele** (13th) HS-14; **Frank Pierce** (13th) HS-12; **Bob Magee** (18th) HS-3; **Ted Brown** (16th) HS-5; **Pete Hyers** (16th) HS-5; and **Bob Wilde** (2nd) HS-9.

Out of 28 slots available for '77 we selected 10, which is 28% for our Class. The reason I was able to calculate that percentage is due to my nearly 3 year tour at NPS Monterey in the Space Engineering curriculum, so I guess that makes me a rocket scientist! Since I haven't written in a few years, here's an update. I am currently at Air War College in Maxwell AFB, Montgomery, Ala., along with **Chris (Spud) Spada** (12th). We are the two youngest members of our 250 man Class with the average age of 43+ and a bunch of Air Force Colonels who are as old as the hills and twice as dusty (50+)! It's a good school, though, and is a nice break from working for a living! Before that, I was in HC-6 NAS Norfolk flying H-46's as OinC with 1 Med cruise, 1 Caribbean counter narcotics cruise, and a 3 month workup cruise in DETROIT with the FORRESTAL Battle Group that ended up being canceled the day before we were to deploy for Desert Storm. I found that out by tuning into CNN the night before at 11 p.m., as did the DETROIT CO.

Before HC-6, I was at Monterey, as mentioned above, where I received a Master's in EE with a space engineering "77P" sub-specialty code. I applied a couple of times for NASA mission specialist and intend to apply again in '93, so maybe I'll get a chance to work with Pierre!

For my buds in 26th Co. let them know that Sherri and I now have 4 kids, Jason (17yrs), Bill (13yrs), Matt (9yrs), and Terra (2yrs). The last one snuck up on us but we're glad she's here. Anyone that wants to reach out and say hello, we're at 205-260-8173.

I'm looking forward to being XO/CO down in P-cola next year so if you're in the neighborhood, drop into HC-16. From there, I'll be trying to get a job out at USSpaceCom, in Colorado Springs under the mountain. Well, take care everybody, Dan.

Thanks for the super news, Dan! On a personal note to you, I'm up against a deadline which will require me to FAX the column. I promise to print your beautiful family picture in the March column.

The next person I heard from was **Corky Gardner**, who I also must promise to print a photo in the March column! The photo was taken at his mini-reunion last Spring, and included the following men from "Skate One-Eight" and their associated kin folk: **Doug "Drift" Isleib**; **Duane "Duck" Heugan**; **Rob "Steamer" Creamer**; and, **Shawn "Mo" Morrissey**.

At the time of the reunion, Doug, Rob, and I were with HMX-1 at Quantico. Doug was the Director of the squadron's MV-22 project, Rob was a White House Liaison Officer, and I was a security Officer. Duane is still with BuPers at the Navy Annex and Shawn is between orders as a CO of a salvage ship and orders to England. Also in the D.C. area at the time were: **Sean "OB" O'Brien**, working at the White House; **Tom "Toot" Thomas**, a student at the USMC Command and Staff College; and, **Bob "Bear" Magee**, moving to the area. We took this opportunity together to remember our company-mate, **Gene McCarthy**, who died in a helicopter accident during Desert Storm. Gene was as good a friend as we have ever known. The remembrance of his ready smile, warm heart, and helping hands serve as a constant reminder to us all of his loyal friendship. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family.

This August, I transferred to Camp Hansen, Okinawa for a one year tour. *Semper Fi*—**Corky Gardner**.

Thanks Corky, great news!

From intel sources, **Steve Glesen** has been stationed at MSC in Washington, D.C. since March '91, where he resides with his wife, Cara, and daughter, Megan (1yr). Steve is the Director, Civilian Maritime Recruitment and Retention. He recently completed his XO tour in HALEAKALA (AE-25) which was homeported in Guam. Also, congratulations are in order to **Frank Wagner** who won the Republican 21st District State Delegate seat in Virginia Beach during the November 5th general election!

Finally, it's time for the Fleet Home Town News releases. **Herb Bracewell** earned his Master of Science Degree at Monterey and **Terry Mahoney** was awarded the Navy Commendation Medal for his meritorious service while serving in HSL-33, North Island NAS, Calif. Way to go!

All for this month. I'm still keeping my fingers crossed for some news concerning our 14th reunion. don't forget about our 15th coming up. Recall that 150 rooms have been reserved for the Class at the BWI Holiday Inn. This is a package deal that includes a welcome party Friday afternoon, 2 nights of accommodations and a complimentary brunch on Sunday. The price of the entire package is \$138 (single) or \$148 (double). What an excellent price! Please call 301-859-8400 for reservations. Special or unique reservations can be handled on a case basis. Other activities include: a superb tailgater, planned by **Tom Campbell**; and a outstanding "goodies" package, prepared by **Carl Moore**. All in all, the entire event is looking up! Call Rick at 301-974-8090 or **Tom Campbell** at 301-662-3205 if you are interested in helping out. Also, we really need your help updating your address with the Alumni Association. Just drop a postcard with your latest address to: U.S. Naval Academy Alumni Association, Alumni House, Annapolis, Md. 21402-5068. Just because you receive *Shipmate* doesn't mean that the Alumni Association has your current address. Happy Trails . . . **Bill**.

78

Membership: 86%

Pres., **Steve Maloney**
Sec'y, **Vince Balderrama**
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Where the heck did the year go and who took all that time I had before my column deadline!!!! This year is starting out like a gangbusters, BIZZEE, BIZZEE, BIZZEE, BIZZEE!!!! Scotty, get ready to beam me up 'cause it's sure getting frantic around here!!—So much in fact, that I know I'm just going to get some folks peeved at me as I'll zip through this column and hold back a lot of news for next month! But I KNOW I'll have ALL of you mad at me if I miss the column completely! (So PLEASE Mr. Editor, I resolve this year to get my all my S-tuff in one sock

and have plenty of buffer before my deadline . . . PLEASE, Oh PLEASE squeeze me in the magazine!) [ed. OK, just this one time!] I just hope 1992 turns out to be a better year than last year. The way '91 ended, I'm lucky to just be alive! I don't know about your year so far, but my New Year's baby seemed to arrive with a little something extra in his New Year's diapers . . . I just hope that's NOT an indication of how the year will be . . . Hey, anybody got any Pampers on 'em?!

Speaking of Pampers, last year was a Baby Boom year for '78. With that intro let me put in a correction for my old roommate, **Tom Crowley**, who proceeded to brace me up over a little thing like an "E." Of course, to a new daddy and momma a single letter is a pretty important thing, particularly when it comes to your child's name. Needless to say, the absent "E" should've come at the end of his new son's middle name which would make him, Thomas DEANE Crowley Jr. I hope that now clarifies the issue and means that I can still stay at his house the next time I'm stranded in Norfolk. Of course, I STILL don't know what all the fuss was for anyway, Tom and Gretchen only call him "TD." What about all those other letters you guys are leaving out, Tom?! Another correction note from a previous article—at the Homecoming Tailgater **Sean Coffey** clarified that he is an Assistant U.S. Attorney for New York, NOT a judge. Of course that could happen someday, couldn't it Sean, and can't prosecutors fix tickets, just as well?

To continue with the birth announcements—On 15 September, Laure' and **Mark Ferguson** introduced a new member into the '78 family, Andrew Stephen Ferguson. Laure' and Andrew were at the Homecoming Tailgater holding up their end of the river, each with a bottle in their hand. As for Mark, he was still busy playing Navy, which for him seems more successful these days. The birth announcements said Cdr. Ferguson!! Hey, are you guys sewing on those third full stripes ALREADY?!! (And didn't I just pin on gold oak leaves LAST year?) You were all just getting dangerous as LCDr.s!!

The next birth announcement is from my Youngster year roomie, Capt. **H. Scott Rodgers**. Pam and Scott announced the arrival of a little sister for Kelsey, Allyson Lee, on 6 November. Yes, I did say a little sister, and oh yes, I did say CAPTAIN—of course that's as in an American AIRLINE Captain. I just thought I'd get you active Navy types a little flustered. Disconcerting isn't it?! "H" thinks that he is the first '78 to make Captain. Anyone from the Delta and Northwest contingent of '78 disagree? Anyway, Scott is now flying Fokker 100's based out of Chicago. However, he, Pam and the kids are still living in the Atlanta area. They just moved into a new house they had built in Alpharetta, Ga. It's a BIG house, one you'd expect an airline Captain to possess, with plenty of guest room for pass-throughs, like me. Scott mentioned that **Mark Hoppe** is also a Captain, flying Fokkers. **Dave Balestrieri** might also have gotten a bid as a Captain. In Dave's case, Scott thought that he was on 727s. **Jeff Carpenter** had passed through Atlanta around the beginning of November. He was just finishing up his Department Head tour at PAX River (VQ-3?) and was on his way to the War College. Diane and **John Semcken** also had a boy either in last August or September, Reid Charles.

Before I continue any further let me add a great big Bravo Zulu to **Barney Cramp** and **Ken Eckman** for their outstanding efforts in putting together one of the BEST Homecoming Tailgaters in '78 history!! There was plenty of food (hot and cold stuff), cold drinks (both alcoholic and non-alcoholic) and plenty of Classmates too! What I'd expected to be a fair turn out was almost a mini-reunion as quite a lot of folks seems to be passing through Annapolis. An especially neat touch was the Pinata that Barney's wife made for the kids' entertainment. (Of course I was a

little disappointed that it was only for the kids. And yes, you wiseguys, I could've reached it—They GIVE you a stick!) Great job you guys!! I've submitted the paperwork for a NAM for that effort. (Sorry folks, but my pictures are still in development. There is also too much letter mail to talk much about the Homecoming Game so it'll have to wait for next month.)

Our favorite Sky Pilot and fellow Californian, the very Reverend **Alan "Blues" Baker** sent me an update from his Good-Time Ten Newsletter. He's still in search of **Ken Waldie** and as matter of fact, is still looking for information on the whereabouts of **Jim Herbig** and **John Ehlers**. Brenda and **Larry McCracken** along with their daughter, Brittany Ann, are now living in Orange Park, Fla. Larry is the OpsO with VS-24 at Cecil Field. **Gerry "Kat Man" Kattilius** is living back in the "Burg" (Murraysville, Penna, to be precise). Not only is Gerry a PPG Account Team Leader with Hewlett Packard Computer Systems, but he's heading toward completion of an MBA at Pitt yet still managing to enjoy his family (Karen, and their two kids Daniel and Kimberly). What a juggling act! Al said he received a great letter from **Loren Divers**. "Muff" resigned his commission in '86 and has stayed in Hawaii as a real estate agent and developer. He's also designed a highly marketable computer information service. Alan claimed that Loren's letter indicated that he has gone to enough places and shared adventures to be the James Mitchner of the Class. (So when's the book coming out?) **Steve Petri** is the Officer-in-Charge of a small (about 130 people) detachment of the David Taylor Research Center on Lake Pend Oreille in the Idaho panhandle. That's roughly 100 miles from the Canadian border. His job is submarine acoustic research and large scale modeling. When he wrote he had reported that he, Debbie and their kids seemed to have been sampling every strain of germ and virus in north Idaho. By now we trust they are all in much better health. At my last reading of the last NIH Newsletter their home of Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, had not been placed on the quarantined cities list so it must be much safer to visit them, that is, if anyone should ever get up their way in potato country. As for Alan, he's now back in El Toro after 7 months in Saudi Arabia as the Chaplain for the 4200 Marines of MAG-11. Of course his congregation is much smaller these days—there are a lot more distractions in Southern California—I know how that is, Al. It wasn't until I reached the east coast that realized there was WATER next to those sandy beaches! Yup, too many damn distractions . . . If it hadn't been for that I might've found out about that ocean stuff and not arrived at Bancroft as such an Aqua Rock! While in SWA, you can bet that Al's congregation didn't get too far away from the chapel and "competition from the local churches was non-existent." He did experience one casualty of the war—his 10th company data base—a victim during a SCUD attack to a blackout induced data dump. Al is now feverishly trying to recapture and update the information from everyone in the company. If you haven't gotten your questionnaire back to him, do so ASAP. If this is the first you've heard of it, give him a call. As for his data dump, it's like **Steve Petri** said, " . . . there are only two kinds of people: those who have lost data, and those who are going to." I can relate to that.

Scott Darling is now among the first-time writers to *Shipmate*. It usually takes some momentous occasion or capitulation to a spouses constant harassment as to "Why aren't you ever mentioned?" and "Why don't you tell him about . . . ?" that finally does the trick. In Scott's case it was a great Summer visit with **Bill Cook** and **Jack Hanson** and their families. These three Musketeers (Jack, Bill and Scott) spent their entire Navy nuclear careers together aboard ENTERPRISE. Were it not for the fact that their spouses and up to 27 friends and family were also with them on this Summer excursion, people would be seriously

talking about them. Bill is part owner of a seven-mile square hunting camp in the Adirondacks in upstate New York, complete with cabins, lakes, hiking trails, and NO PHONES. That's where this little respite was. Scott went on to write that **Bill Cook** is the Senior Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) Inspector in upstate New York. (And he still has friends?) **Bill** and **Juliet** have a daughter, **Katie** (2). **Jack Hanson** is the Operations Superintendent at the Palisades Nuclear plant. **Jack**, **Hillary** and their children, **Kelsey** (5) and **John Alex** (2) live in South Haven, Mich. Scott recently became a Vice President and the Western Region General Manager for Quandrex Corporation, a nuclear engineering company. Despite his title, he also has corporate national responsibility for a few maintenance and risk related service areas. This allows him to visit plants all over the U.S. and keep in touch with quite a few of our nuke Classmates. I always thought tracking those guys was a piece of cake, especially at night—just look for the glow. Scott often visits with **Kathy** and **Otto Bulich** and their three kids. They're now in New Orleans where **Otto** is an Engineering Manager for Louisiana Power and Light. He also ran into **Fred Von Ahn** at the Perry Nuclear Plant in Cleveland, Ohio. **Fred** started with General Electric, after leaving the Navy, but a few years back switched over to the utility. Scott especially keeps in touch with **Sietze "Jeff" Rotton**. **Jeff** works for Erin Engineering. **Rita** and he live in Downingtown, Penna. **Jeff's** still in the reserves and is very active in spreading the "Good Navy word" as a Blue and Gold Officer. As for Scott, he and **Anne** recently moved to Los Gatos, Calif. (In case you get lost finding your way to San Jose, you stay there—it's right nearby.) For the last two years they had lived in downtown San Francisco. The advantage to Los Gatos is that he is now about a mile from his office at Quandrex. I guess this means you can walk to work right, Scott? Yeah sure, and you moved just so you wouldn't be near any earthquake epicenters either. After about a year and a half of marriage they expanded their family with the birth of **Hannah June** on 11 October of last year. This makes 4 kids for Scott. His other three, **Christopher**, **Michael**, and **Rachel**, are with their mother (**Dash** 1) back in Huntington, Md. He gets them for the 6 weeks in the Summer and every 8–10 weeks he gets an opportunity to visit them for a weekend. Thanks for the note, Scott. Don't make this first time correspondence be your last.

Well, I'd better get this column into the fax before it's toooo late and my all my previous grovelling and pleading is wasted. This signal's, **Buster, Spot 4!!!**

79

Membership: 93%

Pres., **Mike Finley**
Corr. Sec'y, Lt. **Kenneth Russell USNR**
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Well it finally happened. Yep, **Vicky** and I took our very first ever honest to goodness, planned vacation. How good was it? Well, as I was floating on a water lounge just off the beach from the island of Mayreau (about 20 miles north of Grenada), and a steward from the cruise ship SWAM my Piña Colada out to me, I was asking myself very thought provoking questions like, "Is the *Log* magazine still only a mere 65 cents and will the University of San Francisco's **Koko** the Talking Gorilla and her hubby-to-be, **Ndueme**, enjoy the same marital bliss as say, **Fred** and **Wilma Flintstone**, even if **Ndueme** can't speak in sign language?" It was better than great but like all things, that too did pass and I'm back here in Camelot. Now that the bragging's out of the way, we can

get on with the show and what a show it is because Mr. Mailbox sent a deluge of mail, so let's get cracking.

First off, I have to apologize for last December's meager attempt at comedy (yeah, sure, like all the other attempts have been stellar). Shoot, I didn't even know what kind of aircraft I flew. It's an HH60H, not an 80H. I had to call up the father of my Godson who sells 'em and writes the article for *Brand X* to apologize. Sorry VB, it was one of those "ain't in the spell checker" things. Alright, now let's really get on with it.

If you remember from the last episode, 7th Company rep, **Tom Gehrki** wrote a while back from beautiful Monterey. It seems that because the Corps figured Tom had a photographic memory, he didn't need any refresher courses to get a Master's in Electrical Engineering and would be the ONLY guy in his Class not to get a chance to get up to speed. It only took Tom 8 weeks to convince HQMC that he really couldn't remember that $V = I \times E$. That's what you get for ditching the wires lab and going to CB instead and I think Lance Corporal Benahitz wanted to teach you a valuable lesson. Tom sent a list of Niners presently attending NPS. Here goes: **Mike Butler**, **Bill Corkill**, **Kevin Delaney**, **Ben Fergurgur**, **Dave Frost**, **Bob Graham**, **Mike Hecker**, **Dave Krueger**, **Pete Long**, **Walley Owens**, **Cliff Perkins**, **Brian Phillip**, **Ron Rahall**, **Jack Rickman**, **Hal Robey**, **Mitch Shipley**, **Alex Urrutia**, **Bernie Wawrzlenink** and **Mark Wilsey**. Tom, thanks for the letter. Mike's address is 315 6th St., #3, Wash., D.C. 20003 (sorry about forgetting the address in my note).

Linda and **Al Whiting** have their new address and are primed for 26th Company updates. If you're wondering whether or not Al could use an update, the answer is you betcha. So get a sharp pencil and fire a letter off to Doughball. The new address is 18 Summit Avenue #4, Somerville, Mass. 02143. Al's phone number is 617-776-1817. I spoke to the boy-genius a few weeks ago. He and **Linda** drove the Family Truckster down to Rhode Island last October to visit **Grace** and **Tom Amirault**. Dr. Bizarre and **Grace** have three little folks: twins, **Matthiou** (I know I screwed up the French Canadian spelling) and **Clare** (6) and **Mary** (3). **Grace**, you'll have to write me a nasty-gram and give me the correct spelling. Doughball said that all three young'ns have more energy and intelligence than he remembers seeing from anyone in 26th Company. Obviously must be from **Grace's** genes. Al is trying to convince several of Boston's doctorate program honcho's (MIT, Harvard, BU, BC, etc.) to give him an opportunity to excel. In the mean time, he's looking into using his Merchant Marine license to keep the bucks rolling in. Good luck Al and thanks for the Logs and the letters. C is on its way.

Doug Taggart's better half, **Joan** sent a great letter and news of Doug's doin's since he left NPS. Well, paycheck for Doug seems to me to equal a pretty big dog in heat, because after being made the CO of Oceanographic Unit Four, the Big Adventure designers sent him to the Persian Gulf in January '91 to be stationed on USNS CHAUVENET for a year! That's right. Doug gets back home in January '92. I think I'd rather smash my thumb with a hammer AND throw up on a crowded bus at the same time. Doug and Joan will be off to Rota in March and will hopefully get to see each other a little more. Joan, thanks so much for the letter and info. I hope by the time you read this that you and Doug have had a few romantic dinners in Carmel.

Chuck Gittins sent a letter about his doin's over the last year. In January '91 he left his position as Attorney-Advisor on the Commission on the Bicentennial of the United States Constitution (no wonder why lawyers charge so much, those name tags must cost a fortune) where he worked with former Chief Justice Warren Burger. From there he took a Mr. Toad's Wild Ride to Saudi to do investigations into