

Well, I apologize for being myopic on the East Coast but I'll have to let Dennis do the Westerly report! Many of our group are assuming command these days, we hear of some but not all. If you are one of the fortunate to know someone who we might not have gotten the word on, please pass it on. We'd like to publish the good news.

Take care and stay in touch!

My best to you all, thanks for the continued support. Sincerely, **Dennis**.

77

Membership: 79%

Pres., Maj. **Keith Tibbitts USMC**
Sec'y, Cdr. **Bill Millward USN**
5013 Stone Haven Dr., Annandale, Va. 22003

Shipmates, I start off this month's column with a birth announcement from Colette and **Benny Garcia**! Alejandro Michel was born on 16 October 1992 and weighed in at 7lbs, 13oz. Benny also mentioned that he will finish his Santo Domingo tour in May and after a short briefing period in Washington, D.C., will be the Political Officer at the Guatemala Embassy. Sounds as exciting as the Navy!



The Garcia family

Sam Locklear sent a change of command invitation to the class for his 27 February turnover of **LEFTWICH (DD-984)**. I can't wait for the details, especially considering that the ceremony took place in Hong Kong! Best of luck in your tour, Sam!



Dave Sanders really came through this last week with some Homecoming pictures. If you have some you would like to donate to the cause, please do so! Thanks, Dave.



The Samuels and Sanders



Briganti, Shephard, Sanders, and Lawlor



Cleaver and friend



Tim and Vicki Whited

Keep the cards and letters coming! Until next month, happy trails . . . **Bill**.

78

Membership: 84%

Pres., **Steve Maloney**
Sec'y, **Vince Balderrama**
45 Little Fawn Dr., Shelton, Conn. 06484

Things are starting to get put away in the house. Slowly, but surely, boxes are being emptied, extraneous material discarded and old letters discovered. Here's what I found.

Matt Leavitt wrote this past fall and reported on the "old boomer front." **Mark Manthey** and Matt had been "sharing" duties as XO's of **DANIEL BOONE** (Gold and Blue respectively). I never quite understood how two completely different crews could share a boat . . . By now Matt has been relieved by Brian Reihm '80. Mark will be relieved this May when the ship combines crews. On the home front, Matt's wife, Maria is a research biologist at the Medical University and their three kids are happy, healthy and doing well in the Charleston school system. This May they'll head up to Norfolk, as Matt will be joining the CinCWestLant staff.

I also deeply apologize to **Dave Bruce** for stating last month that I only knew of his whereabouts from the return address on his Christmas card. Well, if I had bothered to clean out these files *before* I moved I would've known that he and Elizabeth are busy raising their three girls, Stephanie (7), Audrey (4) and Sandrine (2) in Virginia Beach. I would've also noted that Dave still hasn't lost his lip and still blows away on his old horn. Instead of playing halftimes at Navy football games he's content to playing trumpet in his orchestra at church. Additionally, I would've remembered that Dave mentioned that **Ron Aasland** is the XO of **TORTUGA** (an LSD homeported in Little Creek). **Mike Durnan** was XO in **GUNSTON HALL**, also an LSD homeported in Little Creek, but by now he's in D.C. **Jay Goree** was the N3 at ComPhibRon 4 but now is at PXO school. **Tom Holman** is also a part of the '78 Gator Club as XO on **LAMOURE COUNTY (LST-1194)**. Finally, Dave mentioned that he is the N5 (Training and Readiness Officer) at ComPhibGru 2.

Many of you have been asking about the 15th reunion. By now you should've received, in an Alumni mailing, a flyer which indicated it will be held on Homecoming Weekend, September 25th & 26th. **John O'Neill** is heading up the Organizing Committee. Over the next few months he will meet with Classmates in the Washington-Annapolis area who will assist in putting together the show. There are 150 rooms reserved at the Holiday Inn in Annapolis. The room rate is \$85.00 per night and reservations should be made before 3 Sept. Get yours in fast as this promises to be a great bash and the rooms are going, even as you read this!! In addition to a great tailgater, there will also be an evening affair. Specifics will be forthcoming in a June mailout and also in this column. If anyone wants to volunteer, drop John a line at 2826 Pennypond Lane, Annapolis, Md. 21401 or give him a call at 410 266-6267.

This is also an election year, as I indicated in a previous column. The specific offices are: President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer and 5 Members-at-Large. The big four are pretty self explanatory. As for the Members-at-Large, they along with the 4 officers, comprise our Class Board of Directors. They also perform other duties as assigned by the Class President. If you're interested in running for a position, call our current Prez, **Jock Maloney** at 609 427-0124. As I also previously mentioned, all a nomination entails is the submission of a written petition indicating 25 members of our Class who support your candidacy. Ballots and more blurbs on the specifics will also be out in June. First, call Jock.

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Manthy and Leavitt in Boomerland



The Kutlers

Vinnie DiGirolamo applied some of that high tech they taught him in Monterey and sent out a Post Holiday Computer Generated Newsletter! 1992 was a busy year for the Vinnie D's. They celebrated a fifth Halloween in the same house, despite five major job changes! That's pretty startling for a guy still on active duty? His secret? He just changes the direction of his commute! That's how the DiGirolamos: Tallie (7, going on 15), Chad (12), David (13½) Diane (29+) and Vinnie (Somewhere this side of the hill) have been able to stay put. After flying the E-6A Mercury (Boeing 707) for 2 years, Vinnie told the detailers he wasn't interested in flying anything else and that anything less than "the best" wouldn't be worth his time. So, they told him, "Go fly a desk." He's headed back to Washington, D.C. to manage all of the E-6A avionics programs and was looking forward to it. Weekends and evenings are once again, all his own!! These days, he keeps busy with a small business he calls "ART WORKS"; designing and selling Tee-shirts and patches to the squadron. It's along way from providing his family a meal ticket but it's a great outlet for the artist within. As for the rest of the family—Diane is a nursing student and ¾ of the way through the degree program. She'll graduate in May and take the boards in July. She hopes to look for a position in the local area or in Annapolis. As a result of her community involvement and good grades, she was nomi-

nated to Nursing's "Who's Who" by her school. But for Diane all is not just work and no play, as Vinnie says her nursing classmates are a blast to be around, and know how to have fun and make academics much more endurable. (Not at all like us old "nose to the grindstone" mids!) As for their kids, David, like Vinnie, is the resident artist, likes "weird things," and is interested in attending the Naval Academy. Chad, however, has the midshipman and Naval aviator attitude—don't sweat the small stuff, no strain, max gain and "wants a career that pays a lot but doesn't require work" (Don't we all?)!. Scotty sounds more the Marine, big ("on track to surpass his brothers in size by the time he reaches 13"), adventuresome and a crack shot! (This summer he scored 2nd place in a rifle shoot of 250 scouts his age!). According to Vinnie, Tallie is by far the loudest and prettiest of the bunch. She reads and spells as well as her brothers and perhaps she'll go to the Naval Academy too.

Vinnie's mentioned that he's kept in touch with Wendy and **Buzz Fink** (who are in Venice, Fla.) and **Kathy Ashley** and **Jim Hughes** (out in San Diego).

I got a lengthy letter from **Matt Elias** (11th Company Scribe) filling me in on the antics of my old Tiger Company. Matt is now at the Pentagon and strangely enough claims to be enjoying it far more than he ever thought he would! (Yeah, he's always been a little off keel.) Barbara and he are living in the Vienna. As for the rest of the company, Matt wrote that . . .

George "I know Sean Connery" **Billy** is the Navy's expert in deep submergence rescue vehicles and works in the Undersea Warfare Branch in the Pentagon. He and Thelma bought a house last year in Fairfax where they live with their two kids, Elizabeth and little George. They're not far from the Eliases. **Kathy**, **Steve Brashear** and their two daughters, Sarah and Laura, are probably still in Colorado where Steve was last reported to be an instructor of American Airlines. **Walt Brown** is a drilling Reservist with the joint staff. He and Diana moved back home to Indiana. Walt left the Navy after a successful first tour and set up his own consulting company. Unfortunately, he was among the Reservists recalled to active duty during Desert Storm for whom the rigors of the active duty job preempted his working on the real "bread and butter" of his families future. So the consultant bit went by the wayside. He's now trying to resurrect the business in Indiana, working with companies who are trying to get business with the government. Matt hears that if the entrepreneurial spirit ever leaves him that Walt has plenty of full time positions offers at his disposal.

Matt ran into **Bart Buechner** while he (Bart) was drilling with the Reserve. It seems "Beep Beep, Black Bart" (as the Firsties used to make him say) is in real life the PAO for the Navy Finance Center in Cleveland. Yup, that's where he, his wife and their daughter call home. Patti and **Rusty Cone** are still living just outside of Dallas with their two children, Bobby and Kristen. **Tom Crowley** left his job as XO of MISSISSIPPI and by now has reported to Washington to work for Naval Reactors. He, Gretchen and their son, T. D. are likely living a short commute from the District. **Marty Drake** is one of the Navy's TQL Master Instructors in Dam Neck, Va. (It sounds a little like "Kung Fu" Master. Now Grasshopper the key to happiness are Demings 14 points.) Marty's been selected for a command tour and will likely get a destroyer or frigate after his current tour ends. Mona and **Prentiss Hall** had their third child and third boy, Ethan. As Marty Drake says, he's the first Hall boy NOT named after a city in Texas (Austin and Cameron being his siblings.). The Halls reside in Florence, Ky. where Prentiss is the Regional Manager for Taco Bell. **John Kurowski** has again gotten out of the Navy. A little detective work on Matt's part revealed that John was the Intel Officer on FORRESTALL before he got out. He did get married and is working in Tallahassee where his wife is the producer for the Florida State University TV Station. **Scott Laser** is

believed to be up in Reading, Penna. working for his dad. After bouncing between Norfolk and Reading for a while, it looks like Kathy, Scott and their two boys, Zach and Jared have settled down. Paula and **Mike Lewis** are now in Norfolk where Mike is teaching tactical oceanography to both the U.S. and foreign navies. His previous tour was a department tour in Hawaii. Paula and Mike have one son, Keith (3). **Gary Lovgren** is still on Yerba Buena Island. He has been working at the Naval Readiness Command in what he considers the best job possible. He is due to leave this June and it's looking like he may be going to either War College, as an instructor, or as Supply Officer at NAS Atlanta. Their years on the island were glorious with the boys able to go to school right on the island. However, next year Andrew, who is going into the sixth grade, would have to commute into San Francisco for school so they are glad to be leaving.

Dean Marzetta was in Alameda where he was OinC of HM-19, the Reserve H-53 Squadron. Matt hasn't been able to track him down but heard that Dean is gone now and has a Reserve desk job in New Orleans. Matt did track down **Ted Plautz**. He found that Ted has left Headquarters Marine Corps. He, Melitza and their two children, Jessica (9) and Michael (4) are in Kansas City where Ted works at the Marine Corps Finance Center. It seems that besides being a "trained killer," Ted also has a financial specialty. Matt recalled Ted had wanted to go intel and put his Chinese Major to use, but the Marines stuck him in finances instead because of a glut of intel candidates (I know what you all are thinking—A glut of intelligence in the Marine Corps?! Seeing as I was there, and "Kwai Chang" Plautz was my First Class roommate, I can attest to that truth of these facts!) Pam and **Scott Rodgers** and their two daughters live outside of Atlanta, where he is flying for American Airlines. Scott is captain flying Fokker 100's out of Chicago.

Jim VanderKamp was still in Jax but not for much longer. Matt received a call from Jim's fiancée, Barbara Greason, who filled him in on the latest. The latest is all good. After Jim left the Navy for the second time, he went back to Eastern Airlines as a captain, until they went under some time later. (Of course there is no correlation to their going belly-up and Jim's return!) Jim stayed busy flying C-9's in the Reserve until he got picked up by Japan Airlines. He was undergoing training in Tokyo at the end of last year. He's supposed to be based in Honolulu. Jim and Barb were scheduled to be married this past December in Jacksonville. (Barb was a DoD school teacher in Japan (kindergarten, Matt recalled) who has been very successful selling real estate in Jax.) We're now awaiting confirmation of the wedding. **Rodger Welch** finally made it back to California after two tours in Jax. Rodger assured Matt that Orange County (MCAS El Toro) is not California. (Could've fooled this old Orange County native!) Rodger is the XO of VMFAT-101, the Marine F-18 RAG, where he remains in a single seat cockpit—just where he wants to be. Rodger's big news—and it is big news—is that he was married to Angela the day after Thanksgiving 1991. Rodger went on cruise the week after getting married and didn't return until February when they moved to California. Rodger was able to confirm **John Kurowski's** recent marriage, having received an invitation but was not able to attend.

Phil Winters, with wife Jennifer and son Christopher, is at NAS Moffet Field, Calif. where he is the OinC of the Reserve P-3 squadron. Phil loves the life of a TAR and his family LOVES the Bay area, especially after the cultural void of Jacksonville. Jennifer has gone back to school for her Master's and Christopher is staying busy racing in local races (What he exactly races was not specified—but hey, it keeps him busy.) **Terray Wood** is also a TAR and is the OPS Officer in a Reserve H-53 Squadron in Alameda, Calif. He and Pam have a great house at an

army base that **Gary Lovgren** says is magnificent, huge and stately. It was built just after the 1906 earthquake. Troll has a bit of a commute to Alameda but it's probably worth it. Matt closed with a pleas for an All Points Bulletin on the whereabouts of some of our lost "fold"—**Bart Doroshuk, John Dwyer, Bob Gillett, and Daryl Wood**. Matt is also looking for addresses on **John Kurowski** and **Dean Marzetta**. Thanks for all the info, Matt, and don't forget to send an update on the company address list to **Tim Dowding**, our Class Historian.

Will Kramer had a lot of news of his own to pass. First of all, he enclosed a copy of a birth announcement on his daughter Mallory Adriana Kramer. Mallory was born 11 April 1992 and is celebrating her first birthday this month. Will had sent me the announcement while I was at school, which I apparently "misplaced." Along with the reminder copy he also sent me absolution and bade me to "go forth and sin no more." With the addition of Mallory, Will and Linda now have three in all (boys, Ben (8) and Andy (3) round out the gang). After almost eight years with GE Aerospace in Pittsfield, Mass., Will took a position with Lockheed Sanders in Program Management with the MK-86 Gun Fire Control System (SWO stuff). The job started January. By now he and family are reunited and living in Merrimack, N.H. In his other life, he's a Reserve Cdr. selectee and drills as part of the Second Fleet staff. His last two periods of active duty have found him onboard the flagship in the Norwegian Sea. Last March, while finishing up exercise Teamwork 92, he flew ashore enroute to the US. He landed at a small airfield in Norway and was directed toward a small waiting room until the next flight arrived. Walking into the waiting room, he found **Frank Hunt** asleep on a couch. Though not having seen Frank in ten years, he recognized him instantly by the very familiar pose—the same recumbent position Frank struck often during First Class cruise. Frank is also a Reservist and at the time was headed out to NASSAU for duty with the embarked TacRon.

One last bit of news comes from the FHTNR. I always include one when I feel I haven't been especially clever. Ever read those things? They make even the ingredients on the back of Tidy Bowl seem exciting! Anyway, this one said that **Craig H. Cowen** is currently aboard the guided missile cruiser HARRY E. YARNELL, homeported in Norfolk. On a closing snippet. **Charlie Dawson** is out of the Navy now. When I last spoke with him he was in Hawaii but was headed to the mainland to get those airlines "tickets" punched and was hoped to be gainfully employed in somebody's friendly skies! I hope you were successful, Charlie.

That wraps it up for this month . . . too much news to catch up on and the FAX machine's calling for the column. Lauchin' Spot Four!

79

Membership: 93%

Pres., **Mike Finley**
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80

Membership: 97%

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In the greatest of Naval Traditions, (ranking right up there with . . . "Don't give up the ship . . . Damn the torpedoes . . . If the mast goes . . .") getting things in at the last minute seems to run in our blood. Some of the Company Reps have come through when there was little or no mail fit to print! So, with the exception of a few notes and photographs, the news for this column comes to you complements of **Mike Browne** of 15th.

Mike's letter started off with some **Greg Ramsay** input from a mini-reunion that took place in Virginia last September. Conveniently enough, a wedding took place that weekend. Or was that the reason for the reunion . . . nevermind. **Mike Freix** was the groom, and is now the Head Systems Test Engineer at GE, working on projects so secret that even he

doesn't know what he's doing. In his spare time, he stays busy in the Reserve at the Space Command in Dahlgren, Va. (More secret projects?) His new bride, Laura, is reported to be "TERRIFIC." She and her family put on a dynamite reception at the Country Club of Fairfax. Mike, Laura, and Matthew have set up home in Woodbridge, Va. Others in attendance were: Greg Ramsay, Bob Cotterell, Jim Houck, Mike Freix, Mike Browne, and Jim Kern.

Lisa and **Mike Grieco** reported in from their new home in Pax River. They even sent in proof that Mike is still bigger than their fast growing son Matt. All is well, and they are ready for company . . .

Debbie and **Tom Bennett** wrote in from Burke, Va., where Tom is working with Booz, Allen. He now works on innovative signal processing technologies, such as speech recognition, image enhancement, neural networks, and high performance antenna systems. And to think that this is the same guy who used to live across the hall! He has been racing in several triathalons, including the first Annapolis Triathlon with **Pete Stanford**. Debbie is busy as usual working with Preschool Ministries, home care, and acting as Wedding Coordinator for her church.



Ramsay, Cotterell, Houck, Freix, Browne and Kern



The Griecos



Ann Marshfield, Debbie Struble, Rick Shultz, Linda Daughtery, Steve and Rachael Struble (l-r, back); Marshfield, the Zerbes, the Webers, John '81 and Christopher Daughtery