

That catches up the missing March section. And now . . . the June news. Maryan and **Larry Piano** (2nd) celebrated the arrival of their third child on Christmas Day. Eliza Florence Phaeme, 9lbs. 8 oz., "arrived amidst great thanksgiving, joining older brothers St. John and Nicholas in the Piano household." Congratulations Maryan and Larry.

Congratulations are also in order for Captain select **Tom "Chain" Zelibor** (23rd). Tom picked up his *third* consecutive early promotion and is now a honorary member of the Class of 1973! His ship, JOHN F. KENNEDY, arrived home just in time for Chain to celebrate Easter with Laurie, Tom Jr. (15) and Mike (12). Other Classmates aboard the JFK include **Rich O'Halon** (1st), C.O., VFA-37, and **Dave Solliday** (21st), CSO of CVW-3.

Mikey Hughes (27th) has been selected for LCol. along with: Astyk, Lawrence W., Barilich, Steven F., Brock, George S., Champion, Aron K., Hughes, Michael J., Kerrick, David T., Kruse, John E., Jr., Marriott, Michael A., Medina, Joseph V., Mehalic, Charles J., Miller, Blaise P., McConnell, Gary M., Navarre, Roderic S., Newman, Phillip L., O'Neill, Gordon C., Opel, Craig S., Rector, George E., Jr., Sparks, John E., Jr., Suter, John R., and Weltsch, Michael D.

Bill Beeson (5th) is flying HH-1N helicopters out of NAS Fallon. He is the Navy's NATOPS evaluator for the Huey community. While at Wright-Patterson AFB, Bill spoke with **Rick Daprato** (5th), who resides in the Dayton, Ohio area.

Kay and **Sam Nichols** (14th) live in San Diego along with children Sam IV (1), and Katy (2). Sam is OPS Officer for SubDevGruONE at Ballist Pt. and is responsible for the deep submersibles program. He mentioned that Cartalina and **Frank Drennon** (14th) are also in the local area. Frank is currently the C.O. of PORTSMOUTH.

Nick Karangelan (14th) is the president of the Trident Systems consulting firm in the Washington, D.C. area. **Bill Kneller** (14th) is with Raytheon in Portsmouth, N.H., and **Ray Eckenrode** (14th) is with IBM in Dallas.

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Membership: 79%

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

Shipmates, those hectic days of Summer are here at last. Keep us in mind as you head out on vacation. Postcards from new and unusual (as well as old and normal) places are always welcome!

We received two change of command announcements this last week. The first was from Cynthia **Swartz** whose husband, **John**, assumed command of DALLAS (SSN-700) 18 December 1992 in New London, Conn. Cynthia also mentioned that **Bob Wilde** and **Dan Sigg** attended. The second notification was of **Rich Current** taking command of SEAHORSE (SSN-699) on 30 April in Charleston, S.C. Congratulations!

David Vail wrote with an update from Hawaii:

Flight training Pensacola and Kingsville. First duty VC-1 Hawaii, then instructor at VT-22 Kingsville. Next, VC-10 GTMO, PMTC at Point Mugu and then back to VC-1, Hawaii. My call sign is "Fish."

Mary and I are still living in Hawaii. My next three years are aboard CinCPacFlt Staff as Aviation Training Officer.



David Vail and family with "artifact" at their home

In September I took part in decommissioning VC-1 while serving as Operations Officer, but was able to keep the memory of the Blue Aliis alive by arranging for four A-4s to be on display around the Island.

I've been working with the newly opened Pacific Aerospace Museum in Honolulu by consulting on exhibits, coordinating fly-ins, and by leading an expedition for Pearl Harbor relics. The expedition was a success. My wife found a piece of airframe from a Japanese bomber that had washed ashore from hurricane Iniki.

Check out the 1993 January/February issue of *Naval Aviation News*. My friend, Hank Caruso, put together a nice tribute to VC-1 and the A-4s.

Thanks for the great news and picture of your handsome family.

It's time again for Class elections. In discussing the plan with other Class officers, we decided that the process and time schedule should be similar to our last one. I will be announcing a call for nominations in columns through August. A ballot will be formulated the 1st of September and mailed out by the Alumni Association. The election will close out on 31 October and the results reported in our January 1994 column. As you might recall, there is a six week lead time between writing the column and you reading it (it used to be nearly twice that long!). As a result, a relatively significant delay occurs in collecting names and distributing/counting ballots. There are some significant issues these officers will have to deal with including: the Class gift (next paragraph) and our 20th year Class reunion. We need your help and dedication. Please send your nomination for President, Vice President, Treasurer and Secretary to:

Mr. J. S. Caesar
4737 Longmont Road
Virginia Beach, Va. 23464

Nominations are due by 31 August 1993

Vice President **Owen Thorp** has been spearheading the Class gift project. Recently, I discussed with him the plan and offered to print the letter he intends to send to everyone:

Dear Classmate:

Within the next few days you will receive a phone call from a representative of the Naval Academy Alumni Association concerning the funding project for our Class.

The purpose of the call will be to ask you to consider a gift to support the needs of the Academy that is larger than any gift that you have made in the past.

Prior to our 15th reunion last fall, Keith and I polled Classmates about potential call projects.

Overwhelmingly, we heard that our Class project should be something practical and useful. Our primary interest is the "average" mid—the overlooked individual who may not play a varsity sport or attain a 4.0 QPR.

At a recent get-together, a Classmate, a former "average" mid, was quoted as saying, "When I was a mid, in my spare time (when not studying or on town liberty), I'd either run the perimeter, lift weights, or play basketball."

As a result of these discussions, we decided to finance the improvements in the weight room in Halsey Field House. Procurement and maintenance of equipment as well as refurbishment of the area would be coordinated through the PE Department.

The Halsey Field House Midshipmen Weight Training/Conditioning Facility is in a prominent location on the Yard and gives our Class a "visible" project. Since there is little ground space at the Academy for Class monuments, this project will enable us to dedicate this facility to those who have been lost in the line of duty.

With the current reductions in the defense budget, the Academy is taking its share of hits. While we would like Congress to do more, it probably won't happen in the foreseeable future. If we want the Academy to continue to represent excellence, as it did when we were midshipmen, we Alumni have to get involved in a practical manner.

We need to raise \$100,000 from our Class to renovate this facility. We would like to raise this over the next three years.

That's the pitch. Please consider your time and commitment to this effort. Think of what the Academy has done for you.

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

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Membership: 84%

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

This is getting to be a habit. I seem to be apologizing a lot lately. Just ask Elizabeth. But once more I've goofed with a buddy's wife's name. A "sorry" goes out to **Matt Elias**. It appears that I mistyped his wife's name as Barbara when I should've said Brenda. I hope this did not cause any domestic in-tranquility. I must've been thinking something else . . . my sister's name is Barbara and I was thinking about the last time I heard from her and that she owes me some money . . . and . . .

This month also appears to be "Lost Souls" month as a lot of voices from the past came out of hiding and either put pen to paper or tracked me down, picked up the phone and gave me a call. Yes, that old "Message to Garcia" lesson still seems to pay off . . . Anyway, I've got to be the only Balderrama in the entire state of Connecticut so it probably is a lot easier to find me in the Nutmeg state than it is a Garcia in the land of the sugar cane.

From Mount Pleasant, S.C., **Mark Nault** wrote the first of what he promised to be many notes. Last December Mark finished his XO tour on the boomer **TECUMSEH**. He's still waiting along with a bunch of you to hear from ComBuGod as to when he can put on the silver oak leaves. This is the last go-around for Year Group '78 submariners to be screened for CO. There are many of you in the running for only a few spots so no doubt the results will be painful. Equally painful is the base closure list—especially to those of you with property right close to them. Which is everyone with an assignment at each base. Take it from a guy who after seven years of trying to sell a place by Camp Lejeune and FINALLY has an offer—I sympathize with you!!! (And, thank goodness, they haven't even been trying to close it down!) Mark is currently stashed at SubRon 4 in beautiful Charles-

ton, S.C. He and Ann have been married since November 1978. Another of the longevity couples. Ann is busy completing her Associates Degree in Culinary Arts at Johnson & Wales University (graduates in May '93). She will either continue her studies in pursuit of her B.A. or get right into the Chef Business. Either way Mark will be in gastronomic heaven and tailor hell. They have two great kids, Christopher (10) and Janelle (5 going on 19). Chris is the soccer star and Cub Scout while Janelle keeps on her toes with ballet. Now for the rumors, half-truths and downright straight gouge from Mark—you figure out the difference.

Mark Manthey (as mentioned in previous columns) is XO on DANIEL BOONE. He should have rolled in May at BOONE's Crew Combo prior to decommissioning, and **Matt Leavitt** already left BOONE and was in Norfolk for 6 months at the Staff College. **Dan Smith** is XO of the fast attack BILLFISH, and is due to roll between May and September. **Shawn Taliant** is at the Air Force War College in Alabama, while (also previously reported) **Charlie Sottomayor** was bored chasing druggies in Panama and by now should be in EA-6 land in Washington State. [A quick note from me to **Charlie Sottomayor**—I finally did explain your photo in a subsequent column, *mucho, mas, grande—Adios*. **Paul Pietsch** will leave D.C. and go play Helo Squadron XO soon in San Diego and **Duane LaFont** is still an Intel Guru hidden somewhere in the D.C. area. That's the end of Mark's FIRST letter . . . I look forward for more and everybody's comments on the "purity" of his gouge.

Another one of the great perks of being a military marketing weenie is going to a few of the various military conventions, exhibits and symposia. While at this year's Naval Helicopter Association, I came across **Skip Bayes**, **Glen Ives**, **Art Porcelli**, **John Newcomb** and **Craig Diffie**. For those of you who don't remember, Skip's at the Pentagon, OLA. Glen is now the XO of HSL-48 in Jax. Newk is also at the Pentagon, where he's the flight hour program guru, and Craig is the Supe's Flag Sec. After Craig's tour at Mother B is complete he'll head to Toulon, France, for one of those joint tours. We only ask that he and Libby get a place with plenty of room and a season family pass to *Chez Mouse* at EuroDisney. Art's name is one not previously mentioned in this column. He is one of the few West Coasters who was able to make the JAX NHA fete as C-9s ("Navy Air") were cancelled in a fit of flag "Tailhook-itis" and possible media morning after sickness. Of course, Art was a *real west coaster*, having made it from his slot at either AirPac or CinCPac in Hawaii (Which, I can't really recall.) While at the Navy League Convention in D.C. in April I came across **Joe Alvite**, now with Martin Marietta (after Uncle Sam said they could buy out G.E.) and **Herb Nyberg**, still with General Dynamics Electric Boat, just up the road. **George Billy** was allowed to surface from the bowels of the deep submergence offices at the Pentagon to forage the convention floor for trinkets (of a professionally informative nature only). **John Woodward** was also among the visitors to my booth. Woody is still technically attached to the H-60 Class Desk at NavAir, but was expected to hang out at the OpNav sponsor's desk for a while. **Mike Durnan** was another familiar face. He's also doing penance at the Pentagon but in the Office of the Navy Comptroller. I also saw **Tim McGee**. Tim's time is up as what has often been referred to as a lying, cheating, backstabbing detailer, but then that's redundant. For a while it was rumored that he would be playing with the SEALs. No, not the fish eating kind, but the Ninja Warrior fish eating kind. Well, he decided that wasn't quite the job for someone of our mature standing. Instead he has orders to be the Med weather-guesser in Gaeta, Italy—or as we aviators would put it, the lying, snake-oil selling, dart throwing weather-guesser. But I would again be repeating myself and besides, I

don't want to jeopardize my chances of a crashing at *The Villa* I'm sure he'll hope to rent during his tour. One thing that Tim can say that most detailers can't—the job sure prepared him for his next orders. "Guaranteed three year CONUS tour, in your hometown? SURE, no problem!!! I'll have the orders out today!" . . . or "CAVU weather for flying? Yup, looks great for the WHOLE week! Go ahead and launch 'em, that little disturbance will dissipate by noon, just a little sprinkler. . . ."

I'm going through another stack of Alumni Update sheets. This one is from **Vic Guillory**. This month he completes the Industrial College of the Armed Forces (ICAF) in Washington, D.C. In the Fall he commences the PCO Pipeline in Newport. He's planning to attend the reunion, orders permitting. In the meantime he and Marquita are in residence in Alexandria, Va. **Dave Williams** is currently serving as Officer in Charge of the Antisubmarine Warfare Operations Center (ASWOC) in Sigonella, Sicily. He's got his hands full as the Task Group Commander for Maritime Patrol Aircraft (MPA) Operations in the Adriatic Sea supporting UN interception operations/sanctions against Yugoslavia. With P-3s from the U.S. and Portugal and British Nimrods under his command he reports that "life is busy but good" and that Karen, Joshua (11) and Kyle (6) and he have quarters on base (It's a good deal that came with the job.). Meanwhile, LCdr. **Joseph Lynch** is attending the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College, in Fort Leavenworth, Kan. This June he'll click his

heels three times and finish up the course. **Matt Rausch** is XO of the fast attack GURNARD. Either next month or August he'll transfer to US Space Command in Colorado Springs. He sent a "Hello" from Yokosuka, Japan; Guam; ChinHae, Korea; and Darwin, Australia (WestPac)! While enjoying his Navy supplied world tour, his wife, Sheila, makes the home in Poway, Calif. **James Gafford** was looking for fellow Malvern, Pennsylvanian and Great Valley SHS classmate, **Larry Brotherton**. Larry left after Plebe Year, but if anyone knows his whereabouts, or if you're getting this column, Larry, drop Jim a line. If you don't have his address, give me a buzz. **Rick Small** is currently assigned as the Training Officer with VT-23 at NAS Kingsville, Texas, but the return address calls San Antonio his home.

Charlie Hautau sent greetings from Newport and enclosed a photo of most (not all) of the '78ers at the Naval War College on a cold and blustery New England/Rhode Island day. Besides Charlie, the chilled were **Doug Grau**, **Chris Powers**, **Lee Price**, **Brian Roby**, **Steve Kinney**, **Scott Langdon**, **Dave Jenkins**, **J. D. Oliver**, **John Cohoon**, **Dale Batey**, **Al Baker**, **Kevin Lynch** and **Pete Craig**. Most of them are slumming through War College except **Al Baker**. He's over at the Chaplain's School (instructing??). As for the guys out of uniform (No, not the ones with all the stripes!) . . . "Grinch" works for Sensormatics but in his spare time was Charlie's son's hoops coach this past year. Charlie reported that Kevin has his Bobby Knight routine down to a "T"



'78 at Naval War College



NHA, Jax '93

... chairs and all. Pete is out in town (Newport) and directing the US Sailing Association (Now that's not a quote, just hazy recollection of Hautau's). (Is that enough of a disclaimer, Charlie?) Not available for the photo session, but among the College crowd were **Mike Sadler** and **Joe Leidig**. The Newport gang is trying to get a monthly luncheon underway and recommend fellow '78ers try to get in contact with **John Cohoon** or **Kevin Lynch** for details. They're in the Portsmouth phonebook. As for other trivia, Charlie ran into **Harry B. Harris** at the Newport O'Club. Binkley's in D.C. (working in the N-5 office). Remarried, he'll be attending Georgetown next year for his Ph.D. before going to his P-3 XO/CO tour. **Chris May** was "haze grey" last month on INDEPENDENCE, doing his active duty Reserve time. Chris and Denise live in Washington State with their two kids, Nathan and Jamie. He's working at Washington University doing "engineering" research. Charlie talked to **Case Runolfson**. Case is working in New York as a legal administrator for the Justice Department. He hopes to accept a transfer to the D.C. or San Diego area so he and Bev can see more of each other. (I found my note from seeing them at last year's Marine Corps League show—Bev is a PAO in Quantico.) This April they baptised their son Reid. After Charlie finishes up in June, he, Julie and the kids will be heading out to A-6 land in NAS Oceana. He'll do his XO/CO tour (He's presently slated for VA-34 on WASHINGTON but being a good Navy man adds that, "... We'll see as things are never in concrete, you know."). Further news from Charlie—**Dave Mercer** is CO of SWATSLant. **Dave Buss** is working for SoCom down in Hurlbert Field, Fla. "Big Al" **Koontz**, Dave "Squared" and he screened for A-6 command. Al is slated for VA-115 on INDEPENDENCE. "Merc" was slated for VA-75. Charlie wasn't sure if that's changed or not. **Dave Buss** is also slated for an East Coast command but the details weren't known. In closing Charlie echoed a sentiment that many of us out of shape jocks have often muttered when he said that he's, "... still running (my brain still thinks I'm doing sub-5 minute miles (my body just laughs))." In his case, he really used to run those sub fives and his body probably doesn't laugh as hard as ours (—or cries in pain as much as ours do the morning after a run). See you 25 September and thanks for the drop, Charlie. On target, as usual.

Marilyn and **Scott Langdon** wrote that all is well. All is especially since 14 January when Marilyn gave birth to 6 lbs, 15 oz, Kyle William. Scott graduated from the War College on 10 March. By now he's reported to Omaha for duty that was unspecified.

I got a great letter and package from our Class thespian and playwright **Marcus Fisk**. Since he's the author, I'll just add the quotes and the briefest of editorial cuts:

What's to say? It's been a few years, but I guess it's time to get re-acquainted. Contrary to popular belief I haven't gone the way of Columbus and fallen off the world, but am alive and living (disguised) as the Director of Public Affairs for Jefferson County, Colorado. It is the county immediately west of Denver, right along the front range of the Rockies (the mountains—not the expansion baseball team). My career path (CivLant) has been a spotted one up 'til now, but mostly in the public affairs business. After 10 years living in Virginia I finally landed back in my old home state.

I did 3 years on an LST out of San Diego, followed immediately by 3 years pre-comm and shake-down for HAYLER (DD-997), the last of the SPRUANCE cans, as Navigator. After 6 years at sea I went into recruiting and then got out at the eight-year mark.

I just put on Cdr. USNR due to six super years with Special Boat Unit 20 DET 306 out of Little Creek. I had a ball and got a three-year command tour out of it due to recall for Desert Storm. Yes, boys and girls, you too can play with the SEALs and take these deranged individuals up rivers and follow them around the woods at all hours of the



Four Part Harmony Premiere: Bill Lawrence '51, Marcus Fisk and Paul Galanti '62

night for just three Wheaties box tops and a proof of purchase seal from the company that makes MREs. It was the best six years I have spent with the Navy. If everyone could have had a command tour like mine (lots of "shoot, maneuver and communicate") then the attrition rate would drop to *nada*.

Since leaving the East Coast in September '92, I have been CO of Surface Readiness Unit Lincoln, Neb. Doing pretty well there, too, since not a single Iraqi has made it into Lincoln since I assumed command. Things are so tight in the Reserve command world, that if you want one, you have to be willing to travel at your own expense.

Finally, another big event since leaving the Boat School has been the birth of *Four Part Harmony* (a musical, set during the Viet Nam War, about POWs and their families back home) ... The professional premiere was in November '91 at the Empire Theatre in Richmond, Va. In addition to the 600, black-tie participants we had for the opening of our eight-week run of the show, there were over 40 former "Hanoi Hilton" vets who came to the show ...

One big help on *Four Part Harmony* was Paul Galanti '62. I have enclosed a picture of VAdm. Bill Lawrence '51 (former supe) and Cdr. Paul Galanti '62. I'm the one in the middle.

Doug (my collaborator on the show) and I are working with an Off-Broadway theater company on revisions to *Four Part Harmony*. The next step is to get it into a producer's showcase where the entire world of theater "angels" (backers) and others see the rough version again for the final push to full production.

The other big event was the birth of my first child—a daughter, Chandler, who has, for obvious reason, defied genetic science by being better looking than her father, and she probably has the requisite intelligence to pass "wires" on the first go-around. The question I keep asking myself—"Is she really mine?" All-in-all a super little girl.

That's all the big news I can imagine that might even raise an inkling of excitement. The rest is—mundane to say the least. Anyone flying into Denver for skiing or whatever better look me up. It's worth a free beer. Home address: 275 Zang Street, #2732, Lakewood, Colo. 80228, 303 986-8257; and work: Director of Public Affairs, 100 Jefferson County Parkway, Golden, Colo. 80419-0001; 303 271-8513.

Thanks for the great letter, Marcus. Sorry we played phone tag last year. Good luck on the play!

Thanks to Bob Burrows '79 for calling me from Florida to let me know that **Bart Doroschuk** is living in the Baltimore area, working for BG&E at Calvert Cliffs. Among the other "lost but now found" 11th Company brethren is **Dave Dwyer** (John David Dwyer to some of your memories). Dave called me to let me know he's alive and working for Newport News Shipbuilding as a genuine engineer, doing real slide rule stuff. Dave, Nancy and Ian (3) make their home in Virginia Beach. Dave mentioned that Kathy and **Bob Gillette** are also in the Norfolk area. Bob works for the Norfolk Naval Shipyard. The Gillettes have three kids, Stephanie (13), David (12), and Christopher (I didn't get an age on Chris. If he's like most of us, it'll change to meet the circumstances anyway.). Dave also provided second source confirmation to

Matt Elias' letter of last month which said that **Mike Lewis** is also in the Norfolk area. The rest of my scribble notes are illegible, Dave, so please drop me a line and fill in the gaps.

Well, I've got a huge epistle from **Scott Provov** that will not fit in this month's column. Sorry, Scott. But you know I'll get it in next month. In fact, it's of such a length that it could pretty well take up the entire column—We'll see about that, as I also have a letter from **Lloyd Prince** that needs inclusion. Thanks for all your support these past few months with letters and phone calls, guys. I guess as Homecoming and our reunion draw closer the tempo will pick up too. I'll just consider this the "Green Water" workup. Well, once again I'm outta room, outta time—outta here!! Launchin', Spot 4!

79

Membership: 93%

Pres., **Mike Finley**
Sec'y, **Ken Russell**

6234 Azalea Dr., Quartz Hill, Calif. 93536
(805) 943-7933

Kids, the wind has calmed down to about thirty knots and we're all looking forward to the "dust in your stuff" dry weather that makes this deep green forested depression hole that we call the Antelope Valley, something the prisoners in Mira Loma State Pen can feel pretty darned good about. Those of you in the Ohio area, sorry about that Hefty bag blowing into your neck of the woods. I was trying to detumbleweed the back yard last month when a sixty knot guest ripped the bag right out of my hand. I figure it made Cleveland by nightfall. All this and the Dodgers keep snatching defeat from the jaws of victory more often than not. Well heck, since I'm whining, I might as well also let you all know that we only have one letter for this month so this will be a shorty. That April missed deadline was brutal. Honest guys, I didn't gaff it off. I was on the active duty from hell. All right, that'll be enough griping for one month, let's get on with it, shall we? Oh, one more thing. Anybody see that half-man, half-dog deal in the *Weekly World News*? Even had a picture of Mr. Fido on the cover. He's got the doctors baffled, to be sure, but his new wife wants to know why a fire hydrant has to be installed in the master bath. (It's the "Give" in me that makes me just pour on the coals of comedy.)



Parker and Parker