

lication. Please use a non-smearing type marker and ensure ink is dry before stacking them.

Thanks for the editorial, however, I receive some great photos that never reached print due to some of the aforementioned discrepancies.



The Lovasz family

Stephanie and **John Lovasz** (27) are the first contributors this month in response to our February column:

I last wrote to *Shipmate* regarding the arrival of our twins 2½ years ago. James and Bitsy are in the middle of the "terrible two's" and are doing justice to that term! Our newest arrival, Christina Marie, was born 2 October.

Jerry Willett (27) called recently from his home in Cincinnati. He is still with Egghead Software and doing quite well. **Bob Miller** (27), meanwhile, is still with ARINC in Annapolis. It is hard to comprehend that my old roommate has a son starting high school while we have three little ones in diapers! Sara and **John Stamos** (27) mentioned that they too have added a baby girl to their family.

I have terminated my work with Balfour and have rejoined Bird-Johnson, the supplier of controllable pitch propellers for all those gas turbine powered naval vessels. My position as field operations manager allows me to maintain direct contact with both field reps and the fleet. I've been able to visit the **BURKE** Class destroyers under construction at both Bath and Ingalls. Good luck to you all.

**Mark Benson** (12), aboard **AMERICA** with Carrier Airwing One, takes exception to the uniqueness of **Kevin McNamara** (31) and **Stan O'Conner** (12) as X.O.s of sister squadrons on **INDEPENDENCE**. He and **John McClain** (22) are X.O.s of VFA-82 and VFA-86 respectively. Other '76ers in the airwing include **Steve Ewell** (10), X.O. of the EA-6Bs, **Rick Nielinger** (6), C.O. of the F-14s and **Gary Stark** (34), X.O. of the H-3s aboard. "That's got to be some type of 76er record." I don't know, Mark, so I will leave it up to the readership to top CVW-1. Now how about one of you guys sending us a picture . . .

**Tim Farrell** (27) writes that **Derwood Curtis** (27) has taken command of **WAINWRIGHT**. The change of command ceremony took place in Athens, Greece. Tim also had occasion to see **Dave DeFord** (26) while both visited Balboa Naval Hospital for some routine medical care. Dave is a P-3 pilot currently stationed at the Fleet Combat Training Center Pacific.

**Joe Bouchard** (29) has taken command of **OL-DENDORF** (DD-972), homeported in San Diego.

**Calvin Langford** (7) wraps this column up with a short note from that dull, gray facility on the Hudson

called the United States Military Academy. He is an assistant professor instructing Firsties in the finer points of mechanical designs. Calvin, Janice, Cindy (14) and Scott (11) find the land of green and gray quite interesting. As one of only six Navy officers assigned to USMA, Calvin finds himself with a heightened interest in Navy sports teams. Beat Army, everyone, and congratulations to all the newest '76 Skippers out there! Enjoy that well deserved Memorial Day weekend. **Dennis**.

## 77

Membership: 79%

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

Shipmates. I hope that the weather in your part of the world allows you to read this column while swinging in a hammock or sitting on a grassy knoll. Sit back and enjoy because we have some great information to put out!

First the shipmate news. **Dan McCarthy** has been assigned as the Special Assistant for Legal and Legislative Affairs to the Secretary of the Navy. Dan mentioned that the job is exciting and should be a tremendous experience. Hopefully, by the time this is printed we will have a permanently assigned Secretary!

**Dennis Simon's** wife, Patty, wrote highlighting the details of his new command in **BLUEFISH** (SSN-675). The change of command was on 11 December and was described as being beautiful, although it was also a cold and windy day. Congratulations! P.S. Patty, I'm sorry for dropping the ball in entering this information sooner.

Another Classmate in command is **John Kearney**, who recently took on the challenges of the Naval Reserve Center, Staten Island, N.Y. The 20 December change of command event was reported by John's company mate, **Wayne Vanderschuere**.

As for Wayne, he recently moved his wife, Terry, and two sons, Matthew and Joshua, to 42 Benford Dr., Princeton Junction, N.J. 08550; 609 799-3425. Wayne is still working at Con Edison and keeps the lights burning bright in greater New York! Thanks for the great news, Wayne!

**Rand Lebouvier** '78 asked if I would include a note on his whereabouts in our Class column. From what I understand, he has had difficulty getting information printed next door. Anyway, I'm not sure if the reason I witnessed him drinking a lot of beer at our tent during homecoming was because he had helped one of our Classmates as the surface warfare executive officer detailer at BuPers or if it was because someone was trying to butter him up! In any event, it was a win-win situation; everyone went away happy! When not working the telephone with a constituent, Rand can usually be found working on someone to join the Washington, D.C., chapter of the Surface Navy Association!

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 in columns through August, a call for nominations. A ballot will be formulated the 1st of September and mailed out by the Alumni Association. The election will closed out by 31 October and the results printed in the January 1994 column. As you might recall, there is a six week lead time between writing the column and it being printed (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 (see below) and our 20th year Class reunion. We need your help and dedica-

tion. 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

Our 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:

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—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.

Etc. Sincerely, Owen Thorp

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**.

## 78

Membership: 84%

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

Okay, okay, not only am I in the dog house, but it looks as though I am also building a second story onto it. (This would go quite nicely with the extra guest quarters, exercise room, and custom wine cellar I've managed to add over the past few years.) Yup, I'm pond scum, whale dung, and that really goooey grimy sludge you could never quite get out of the bilges . . . The reason for all this self-flagellation? Well, those of you who read March's column probably noticed a few of my more memorable spelling blunders, both in the same paragraph. Not only had I misspelled the word "likely" as "liekly" (well, it SOUNDED right!), but even worse, I left an "r" out of the spelling of **Tom Crowley's** wife's name, so that Gretchen (her real name) became "Getchen." THAT was an error of monumental



proportions as Tom was not only my roommate for half our boat school days but I was the best man at their wedding!!! Looks as though I've drawn that "best man" bit into serious question with my literary *faux pas*. I don't even have the guts to check my disc to see if it was my goof or the editor's (NO, Wes and Dave, I'm not trying to pin the blame on you so don't clarify the record!). [Ed. OK.] With my track record I'm sure it was old fumble fingers and not the *Shipmate* staff! Yeah, I do have a spell check, but I used to think real men don't need spell checks! Guess I'd better realize that columnists DO need them or else a friend or their spouse may be offended in the future and draw that manhood into serious question . . . Yeeowwwwww. I've just finished writing Gretchen a thousand times on the blackboard and hope that bit of penance and this apologetic correction will grant me readmission into the Crowley residence and out of my dog house. What say you, Tom, T.D. and GRETCHEN? (I promise it will never happen again . . .)

I'm starting to get those Alumni Update information sheets from those of you who filled out the side reserved for "Notes for the Class Secretary." Here are the ones received so far:

Linda and **Charles "Spence" Witten** are living in Annapolis. Spence is currently assigned as an Operational Team member at the National Military Command Center at the Pentagon. Susan and **John Casey** are also living in Annapolis where John is a Physics Prof at USNA. Unlike Spence, John only has to commute to Chauvenet Hall (or is it Michaelson? I keep forgetting, after all I was asleep or "lost" most of the time.). It's not all Newton's Laws for Casey as he also has the collateral duty as the Officer Rep for the Men's Volleyball Team. Among the last of the Annapolis crowd are Macushla and **Paul Wiedorn** and their three children, Ian (almost 7) Patrick (almost 5) and their daughter, Arras (2). Last fall they moved from VA Beach to Annapolis where Paul is an instructor in the Department of Naval Architecture, Ocean and Marine Engineering.

Karen and **Andy Karakos** are back in Washington, D.C. Andy is a plank owner and former Commanding Officer of SCOUT (MCM-8). Andy's back in the Pentagon and assigned again with BuPers, this time as the Head, Officer Professional Development (PERS-213). **Brad Baylor** is living in Lexington Park, Md. Last June Brad completed Test Pilot School (and survived the "You'll Be Sorry" graduation bash!) with Class 101. He's currently the Department Head, Mission Systems, at Force Warfare, Naval Air Warfare Center - Aircraft Division, Pax River. Carol and **Steve Sutton** live in Alexandria, Va. Steve is not only one of 21st Company's but probably one of the last bachelors of the Class to "bite-the-dust." Steve was married over Labor Day weekend last year to the former Carol Gnapp. It's a story book courtship, as they knew each other as children and met again in September 1991 through their parents, who've been best friends for fifty years. In fact, Steve's father was best man at Carol's parents' wedding and Carol's father was best man at Steve's folks' wedding. You guys follow that? If not, programs are available. Steve's currently working as Chief of Staff for one of the freshman Congressmen: a Republican from Massachusetts, Peter Torkildsen. (Yes, he did say a Republican from Massachusetts! They're a rare species.) Steve and Carol just purchased a home in Alexandria, near Mount Vernon and would love to hear from any Classmates. Their home number is 703 660-9089 and Steve's work is 202 225-8020.

Laine and **Greg Atchison** are living in Virginia Beach. After not having written anything to *Shipmate* and the Class Secretary in the 15 years since we bailed out of Annapolis Greg found the writing bug overwhelming. Of course, he admits that being at the Air War College with the Air Force has made writing his love, his life, his everything—The sight of empty paper on the info sheet (For the lines, he gave thanks)



Carol and Steve Sutton

compelled him to spread ink on it. Greg reports that the only other '78 dude in the class at Maxwell AFB is **Jerry Swartz**. Jerry's forsaken the P-3 and Greg the A-6 in an effort to become masters of time, space, dimension and all things under the realm of Joint Warfare. He says that lurking among the Air Force elite is quite a cultural experience. As he puts it,

... they're not quite like the Navy, ya know. It's all rather interesting actually and the Air Force runs a good program. Tomorrow, we're all off to run around some region of the world. I'm doing Germany, Belgium and England for 2 weeks. Jerry is headed to South America, I think. All part of our studies. Other than Jerry, my only recent contact with guys in the Class was back in the Summer while I was still doing A-6's at Oceana. **Dave Mercer** and **Charlie Hautau** had just screened for A-6 Command, a pretty noteworthy accomplishment. Dave was skipper of the Strike Weapons School at the time and headed for his CO/XO stint with VA-35 (where I've done 2 tours); Charlie is on your list of MIA's. As of July, he was Ops O of VA-42 at Oceana, but last we spoke, he was headed up to Newport for the Naval War College. Maybe you all can track him on that trail and I hope I'm not blowing his cover. He has also just been married. Back in April, I ran into **Steve Dowell** at the Norfolk NEX. He and 3 other '78, 6th Co. dudes were all living in the same neighborhood in Norfolk. **Larry Price** was Supply Corps'ing on the new GEORGE WASHINGTON. **Dan Serfass** was driving the big rigs as a SWO and **Sam Grodek** is an EDO. Steve was still driving pipes around underwater as a submariner and said all of the above were doing well. Well, no need to ramble on. Just thought I'd cover what I knew about a few Classmates. I must say, 15 years goes fast, but it has been an adventure - at times, far more adventure than I ever wanted. No complaints though. I hope all is well with everybody.

Thanks for the gouge, Greg. I must say, if we have to send everyone to the Air War College to get them to write then I say crank out the orders!!! Laine will have to make sure there's plenty of blank sheets of paper laying around your house (with pre-addressed envelopes to me) to preclude our having to wait another 15 years for the next bit of news. That's it for the Alumni Update sheets. For those of you who haven't yet filled them out and mailed them in, as the Nike commercials say—**Just Do It!** And don't forget to take advantage of the section to jot a few notes to yours truly.

I also got a letter from **Warren Driggers**, a former member of 33rd Company. Warren resigned from the Academy in October 1975 and finished college at Montana State. He joined the Marine Corps in December 1978 (OOORAH!) and is currently serving as the Operations Officer at Marine Barracks, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. He doesn't admit to knowing or working for Jack Nicholson but would love to run into Demi Moore (me too!). Warren is trying to track down **Rick Dubberly's** address. Dubes, Warren tried

to get in touch with you when he went through Norfolk on his way down to GITMO but you had already detached. Warren's due to PCS in June. Until then Rick or any other Classmates who'd like to say hello, can reach him at the following address: Maj. Warren Driggers, USMC PSC 1401, FPO AE 09596-0038.

I know I had a photo of **John Kutler** and family in last month's column but I forgot to mention a few details. So here goes—Jon left his old firm of Wasserstein Perella and founded his own company called Quarterdeck Investment Partners. His company pools money together to buy troubled defense aerospace firms in order to turn them around. These days it's definitely a buyer's market out there, but it's that "turning them around" aspect that proves to be the most difficult. Jon's group also advises firms that are in the defense field and wish to effect changes (like getting out). He seems to be doing pretty well. (So, Jon, lets talk about buying a certain helo company out the Southwest. I only need a few hundred million bucks . . .)

Well that's about it for now. I'm sure there's a typo lurking in the previous paragraphs, but I'll try to weed it out with the spell check, one last time. You know, I may be fumble fingered but hey, at least I did have a column last month and not an empty space like that "dirt bag" who follows me. (Oops, Michael just reminded me that that's his Uncle Dirt Bag.) Well, K. R., that was your first empty space. Doesn't it feel like you got caught kicking someone's dog or breaking a campaign promise?! I've got to confess that I do have one in my deep dark past. (Were it not for the good graces of a very understanding *Shipmate* editorial staff I'd probably have a few more too!) Just admit your faults like a man, take it on the chin and don't use some lame excuse like being on active duty, in the middle of a desert without your floppy discs and teddy bear. Don't even think of claiming you were abducted by alien beings who took you into their Wienermobile shaped space ship and conducted unnerving experiments on you until you were reduced to a salivating Plebe-like state reciting mixed up *Reef Point* ditties . . . "She walks, she talks, she's full of chalk . . . is a subservient of sir surviving from surly days when . . . due to the inaccuracies of the hidden mechanisms . . ." Don't try any of these excuses, K.R., cuz they don't work . . . I know—I've tried 'em . . . just suck it up and do like I did . . . blame the U.S. Postal Service . . . It always seems to work with the bills. For now, K.R., we're even . . . Well, that's enough of my digression, guys. I just had to give my buddy and fellow Class Sec a little grief, besides you have to keep those Second Classmen in line sometimes (and he also said I could do—he's not as good at self-flagellation as I am.). Until next month—I'm outta here. Launchin' Spot 4.

# 79

Membership: 93%

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

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(805) 943-7933

Yeah, what the heck happened to last April? Ever have a five week period of time when you feel like a *Bozo* on the Firesign Theater bus, and everything you know is wrong? That just about sums up February (when April's column was due) and the first ten days of March. During that time I was in Louisiana on three weeks of the worst AcDuTra in over eight years of doing this Reserve thing. The Army disproved my motto from the Navy and Marine Reserves: "They

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