



Bob Jackson, Mike Yeager and Mike Kelly (l-r)

Other news release I've gotten: **Dave Markham** graduated from the Naval War College and was awarded a Master of Arts degree in National Security and Strategic Studies. . . . **Dave Winters** has been involved in Operation Provide Promise which helps get critically needed supplies to people in former Yugoslavia. Winters is assigned to NSA, Naples, Italy, which has a mission of getting food and medicine into the war torn region.

Mark Haas wrote a letter which I received too late to get into the last issue: "... still working for All-state Insurance in Chantilly, Va. Not quite exciting as commanding a submarine or a Marine Batt, but 'it's a living'." I'm sure, Mark, that many of us on this side might disagree with your assessment at times! Anyway, as you all may recall, we lost a super guy, **Rich Eisloeffel**, in a helo crash five years ago. Mark has volunteered to take the lead in collecting donations to dedicate a seat in the Alumni Hall in Rich's honor. He writes:

The cost to 'reserve' a seat is \$1000 (and all contributions are tax deductible). Anyone wishing to contribute can send a check to me (made out to the USNA Alumni Association) at my home address: 360 Foxridge Drive, SW, Leesburg, Va. 22075. If anyone has any questions, my home phone is 703 777-9149. Once we raise the necessary money, I will contact the Alumni Association and work with it to formally designate a chair in Rich's memory. The seat will be marked with an engraved brass plate. I will update the Class down the road as to how we are doing with fundraising. Thanks in advance to our Class for its help in recognizing a Classmate who was a fine Midshipman and Marine Aviator, as well as a great friend to many of us. — Mark.

I enjoy all of you to help out in this effort. Good luck in your efforts, Mark. Please keep me posted.

Looking at the calendar, it appears to me like we've got less than 2.5 years until our 20 year point. Planning really needs to start happening now if we're going to have a good one. Things that need to be determined are little details, like, WHEN. Do we want to have it on an off-Homecoming weekend or during the Homecoming weekend? What activities do you all want and the degree of formality—dress-up dinners or casual cookouts? If you have any ideas, or desire to work on the planning, let Chuck or myself know ASAP. We will try to get a "market survey" questionnaire out soon—please take the time to fill it out and get it back to us.

We've got elections coming up soon. Do you feel your interests are being husbanded well by the board? If so, vote to keep your interests protected. If not, vote for change. In any case, please vote!

Until next time, keep on keepin' on, write, and keep the pictures coming (special thanks to all you wonderful spouses (spice?) and loved ones who take the time to keep me posted).

Be safe out there.

77

Membership: 78%

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

Happy New Year! Well, 1993 is out of the way; press on with 1994.

Your response to Class elections has been tremendous. In addition to sending in the ballots, your contributions to the column have been overwhelming! What a way to start the New Year!

Owen Thorp has been elected President. He has included the following note to the Class:

I am pleased and grateful to accept the position of President of the Class of '77. This is truly an honor for me, and I am hopeful of fulfilling your expectations as we proceed through the next five years. I would like to offer a vote of extreme thanks to my predecessor, **Keith Tibbits** for all of his dedication and hard work. It was Keith who laid the groundwork for our Class project, the Class of '77 Weight Room. His dedication to our Class and the Naval Academy is very much appreciated.

I would also like to congratulate the other elected officers:

Vice-President: **Rick White**

Secretary: **Bill Millward**

Treasurer: **Jeff Wendel**

Members at Large: **Rich McGraw**, **Julius Caesar**, and **Bob Nichols**

Regarding the next five years, I see this as a very critical time for our Class. Many of us will be retiring and undergoing crucial career transitions. Many of us will be achieving key positions and leadership roles in the Navy and Marine Corps, private industry, and government service. Meanwhile, questions will continue to be raised concerning the role of the Service Academies, up to and including whether or not they are necessary. As such, our Class will like so many others past, take a leadership role in providing support and shaping the future of the Naval Academy. Soon, the newly elected Class Officers and I will be discussing what our goals should be over the next five years, keeping in mind some of the issues I have just mentioned. Until then, however, there are two more events which will be occurring during the next five years which will be given top priority and attention: The 20th Year Reunion, and completion of the Class project. **Owen Thorp**

Thanks, Owen, for that tremendous introduction! I would like to thank Karen and **Julius Caesar** for collecting and forwarding nominations, and Jan and **Ken Graber** for collecting and tabulating the ballots. Without your help, none of this would have been possible.

Before starting with the personal information sent in with the ballot, there are a few individual letters worthy of presentation. **Judy Kessler** wrote to mention all the great things **Rande** is doing as Plant Manager for Michelin Aircraft Tire in Kansas City. She relates how he is working day and night to ensure the best tires are produced from the facility. Their move to Kansas City was number 20 out of 16 years—16 with the Navy and four with Michelin. They have a son, **Cliff** (12), who has somehow managed to survive all the moves! They would like to say hello to everyone and to **Mike Golda**, wherever he might be, **Tim Sprague** '78 and **Margie** and **Mark Anthony** '76. Thanks for the note, **Judy**!

Paul Przyborski dropped a line to correct our indoctrination date listed in the July-August column. Paul is correct in stating that we were sworn in on Monday, 9 July 1973 versus 8 July. Paul had an active 1993 while serving as acting Reserve Unit Commanding Officer for MIUWU 209, and getting married in July. If you are shaking your head about not being able to remember such an eventful date, don't feel alone. Paul has an advantage, 9 July is his birthday! Thanks for the great news, **Paul**.

Three of our shipmates recently assumed command. **Steve Schlientz** relieved as Commanding Of-

ficer of VF-33 on July 27 at Oceana NAS. **Randy Bannister** took over as Commanding Officer, VAW-112, in Miramar, Calif. on November 16. **Thomas Russell** assumed command of VT-27 on 10 December in Corpus Christi, Texas. Well done Steve, Randy and Thom!!



Steve Schlientz

Ellen and **Bill Stiles** sent a Christmas letter to the Class. Bill is working in the Pentagon, and by the tone of the letter, he is enjoying a wonderful tour in the OpNav budget arena! Their family is active in scouting; he in Boy Scouts and she in Girl Scouts. Among his many accomplishments, Bill earned the scouting Wood Badge and attended the National Jamboree at Fort A.P. Hill this past Summer. They have two children, **Betsy** and **Chris**. Happy New Year!

I'll see how far I can get with the personal information sent in during the election. If you don't see what you sent in, please be patient, I hope to have all of it entered by the April column. There are a few that did not include the most important piece of information, **their name**. We should have fun with these choice few, trying to guess who!

Al Seither said he promised to write me before the Holidays. I empathize with his compressed schedule. He sends his best from Palm Harbor, Fla. **Gregg Smith** lives in Norfolk, where he has worked for IDS Financial Services as a certified financial planner since 1987. He served as an officer of the Tidewater AIDS crisis task force and the Walk for Life Foundation. He is enjoying sailing, volleyball and tennis.

Gene Matranga is the plant engineer at the David-Besse nuclear plant outside Toledo, Ohio. He finally sold his 1974 white Porsche and his wife mentioned that they are expecting their third child in January. I wonder if there is a connection? **Clint Hallman** lives in Fairfax, Va., with his wife, **Angie**, and two sons, **Chip** (7) and **Scot** (22 mo). Chip still works for Mobil Oil Corporation at their U.S. marketing headquarters in Fairfax—eleven years with Mobil! This spring he will graduate from George Mason University Law School with a specialty in patent law. Chip mentioned that Angie has been a virtual single parent for the last three years and will be glad when school is done!

Thanks for all the super news. Until next month, happy trails . . . **Bill**.

78

Membership: 84%

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

I love the New Year!! It's full of promise, everything is fresh. The calendars are new and relatively empty of obligation (though mine has already started to get filled). It's also the time that all those old files are archived or dumped. As for me I chose the latter. I figure, hey, if it wasn't viewed in the last six months of what value is it? I even came across a folder with DeVinci's original designs for the helicopter!! Looks like I was carrying a lot of my predecessors old notes (and his predecessor, and his . . .). Speaking of old notes (great segue, huh? . . .)

I got a phone call from **Bob Schwaneke** who followed up with a 1st Co. Newsletter. He's written tons, and as usual, I'm out of deadline so I'll print half of Bob's details and the rest next month. Here then is part one of 1st's Newsletter, which I reprint here with a little editorial license:

After a few years with CTF-63 in Naples, Italy, Bob is now in what he calls "Supply Corps Mecca"—the Defense Logistics Agency (DLA) Headquarters, in the "D.C. suburb" of Cameron Station, Va. Of course all of us know that the big move was really done by Shane and the kids (John (8) and Jennifer (4)) while Bob lingered in Italy. It wasn't until she found a house to rent (Fairfax Station), got everyone moved and got the kids started in school did her last piece of furniture arrive—Bob. I was impressed with the volume and layout of Bob's newsletter. For a guy who asked ME for some computer advice, he seemed to do well with that archaic system of his. Of course I advised him that now that he's a Cdr., not to get a new personal computer with all the latest software, just get a new Lt. (an Ensign will also do). Remember when we were JOs? How many Field Grade were having us do the mundane admin stuff? Come on, you guys are senior enough now. Well, here's half the poop that Bob sent down. . . .

Dale Allison finally got married. One of the last surviving bachelors bit the dust on 7 November '92. He and his new bride, the former Susan Elliot, live in D.C. Dale is still at NavAir as the V-22/H-46 Strength Engineer. Karen and **Bernie Baetzel** now live in Millington, Tenn. Bernie is flying with American Airlines out of the Dallas-Ft. Worth area. He's got quite a commute! Between flying with the airlines and the Reserve in VR-60 out of Memphis, he's really building up the flight hours, not to mention burning up the tire tread. Donna and **Bruce Carter** are still living in Paris where he is the Naval Attaché. Bruce was among those who braved the old crinks in the bones to play a little round ball at the 15th year reunion. Cindy and **John Day** are in Birmingham, Ala. John is now in private practice with four other gastroenterology docs. On 11 February 1993 the Days added little Michael Taylor to their brood. (This makes 4.) Within 1st Company, they are pressing Barbara and **John Link** for the "most kids" award. (Barbara and John have 5!) Deborah and **Carl Garvin** are living in Newport, R.I. Carl is out of the Marines and now works for a management consulting firm KMPG Peat Marwick. They have 2 children Chelsea (3) and David (2). Lauri and **Doug Grau** were enroute to Monterey, Calif. Doug will be the new Ops Analysis Curriculum Officer at the Naval Post Graduate School. Paula and **Ken Heffernan** are still in Fredericksburg, Va. He's due to rotate in July '94 but nothing firm yet. In the meantime, he's the Assistant Program Manager for Test and Evaluation at the Program Executive Office, Space, Communications, and Sensors. Amy and **Mark Hubal** are in D.C. Mark is with System Planning Corporation, which I guess is appropriate for a guy who helps plan our D.C. area luncheons. (Okay, very, very lame, comment. I admit it. Shoot me. I claim egg nog overdose.) Debby and **Frank Hunt** are in Chesapeake, Va. Frank now works for Reflectone Training Systems as a Simulator Instructor for the E-2. Frank is still in the Reserve with CinClantFlt Det 106. He's also been seen dabbling in the estate planning business with a company called Pugh and Bunch.

Donna and **Joe Hynes** are in sunny but scorched Southern California. Joe had reported to Bob that they have 2 dogs, 2 cats and about 200 kids! Despite the great numbers, this doesn't qualify them as surpassing the Links either. The kids are their students at Bonita Vista High School in Chula Vista (If they really were their kids they'd definitely qualify for their own hour on *Oprah*, the *Guinness Book of World Records*, *World's Strongest Competition*—heck canonization!) Roberta and **Warren Krull** are in Springfield, Va. Warren is a Special Assistant for Naval Personnel at SecNav in the Manpower and Reserve Affairs. (He's another Pentagon rat.) Tess and **Bill Landay** now have 3 kids, William (6), Nicholas (4) and Shelby (2). After a successful tour as CO of the patrol hydrofoil AQUILA Bill is now at NavSea in

Washington, D.C. as the Deputy for ASW Systems, in the AEGIS Program Management shop (PMS 400). Bill had a very interesting tour as CO and claims to have earned every bit of that Command pay, of course a nickel at a time. He cited running into a freed Willy while cruising on foils at 45 knots enroute to Grenada. After 12 hours of fighting flooding, shoring, and possible fires, medevacs and diesel engines moving around his engineering spaces he got things under control and returned to Key West 5 days later. Along the way he had to deal with fatigue and pain (a broken nose, 2 cracked vertebrae, and a head wound)—(Hey, Willy didn't go down without a fight!). What was a serious situation now is one of those great sea stories which becomes even more greatly embellished in direct proportion to the number of years passed and the beers consumed (not necessarily in that order). The bottom line is that the Big Green Table (a Black Shoes' equivalent to the Field Flight Performance Board) labeled the collision "unavoidable" and that the actions subsequent to it were "commendable." It looks as though it hasn't hurt, as the job Bill has is a good one. Needless to say, I bet it was a while before they had fish sticks on the menu at the Landay household.

Well that concludes part one of Bob's letter. I'll get to Part 2 next month. I would like to add a few interesting facts which he jotted down on the last page. Didn't think I'd see the small print did you, Bob? Of 26 to graduate, fifteen are still on active duty (as of December 93). Everyone is married (also as of December 93). Twelve families live in the D.C. area. Between all 26 there are 47 kids. But a fact you really didn't emphasize, Bob is that the Links, Days and Theresa and **Ron Robbins** made up a little under a fifth of all those kids with five, four and four, respectively! Thanks for all the news Bob, see you (and everyone else) next time I'm in D.C.

A few other quick notes: Last month (5 Dec) **Steve Bartie** married the former Kirsten Gill in a touching ceremony in Westport, Conn. The reception was a garden type at Kirsten's parents house. Though I claimed to being a friend of Steve's they still let me in. It must have been because of the beautiful blonde with me (Elizabeth, of course). Actually, I was the only friend to have been able to make it. That's not a reflection on Steve's hygiene but rather of his geographics (he hopes.) Needless to say I represented the Class well! Despite freezing cold, wind, rain and a power outage everyone maintained the fun factor (Hey, Mr. Gills is a former Naval Aviator—so the drinks were flowing to keep the bundled crowd happy!). Besides, nothing could've dimmed the occasion for Kirsten and Steve! Once the portable generator came on line the band got cranking (not to mention the portable heaters!) and the tent livened up even more! Thanks for a great time and we wish them the best of luck and happiness.

As for other happy occasions, Gretchen and **Tom Crowley** became the proud parents of TWINS, one of each gender. Unfortunately, I can't find the announcement, so you'll all just have wait for the cliff hanging news. Also, congrats to **Ken Bowersox** for another Sierra Hotel space mission! Yes, that was him on the Hubble Repair flight. Now that it's fixed the Black Beach Visual Recon can even be done from space! (One of these days I am going to make the event, Sox!!)

Finally, a note from Dennis DiLucente '76:

Mike "Flex" Galpin recently returned from a six month WestPac deployment. While overseas Mike's squadron participated in Operation Southern Watch over the skies of Iraq and Operation Continued Hope off the coast of Somalia. During the cruise, Flex logged his 100th carrier arrestment aboard ABRAHAM LINCOLN, gaining "Centurion" recognition. Fortunately his command returned in time for the Christmas Holidays. Mike wishes everyone Seasons Greetings and invites all of us to his change of command ceremony for VF-213 at NAS Miramar in

April. (See photo in All Hands this issue, pg. 12)

Well, that'll do me for now. I know there's lots more and I am getting a jump on it for the next edition, starting NOW. (It's part of the no-more-procrastination resolution, number 4. It would've been number one but, hey I got to it when I could.) Until next month, Happy New Year to you all. I'll see you in next month's column when we've all recovered from our celebrations. 'Til then, Launchin' Spot Four.

79

Membership: 94%

Pres., **Mike Finley**

Sec'y, **Ken Russell**

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Well, it's a week before the Fat Jolly Guy squeezes his way down the chimney and if it weren't for the fact that I got stuck on Santa Rosa Island (part of the Channel Islands National Park) until the wee hours of the morning last Friday because of a Main Tranny Low Oil Pressure light, the house would have been all decked out by Friday night. Now that isn't all that bad in and of itself, but if your wife happens to be the Christmas Nazi from Hell, it puts a real damper on all the Yuletide stuff. Not to mention the fact a certain investment banker lied to me and my partners, destroying three years of work and success. Anybody need any dishes washed or ditches dug? I've even got my own buckets, sponges and shovels. In the mean time I'll be drilling for food, looking for a prime sewer grate and shopping cart to move the family into AND spilling the beans about what's been going on in the Class o' '79. So without any further ado, let's get along little dogies, shall we?

A big fat apology goes to **Bruce Brittain** from yours truly for not getting his info and fantastic photo into the December column. Last May he and Susan had a brand spankin' new young'n named Rachel Suzanne. Now Sarah 2 has a new playmate. Bruce is the VP, CFO and Operations Manager of Stahl Southwest. He's been real busy adding the State of Mississippi to four other states that are his responsibility. The addition will double the size of business for the chainsaw and power tool folks. Bruce and Susan also want to see a bunch of Tenth Company folks at the Fifteenth. Bruce, thanks for the letter and picture of those two cuties with dad, congrats to you and Susan and again, sorry about the late input.

Matt Coleman sent a great letter and suggestion that piggybacks on what **Pete Long** mentioned in November about us Niner's doing back for Mom B and the rest of the place what it did for us. Pete mentioned a sponsorship of the Rugby team and Matt suggested we put together a group of folks that get together with Captain B. and Capt. Bill Flight '56, Executive Director of the USNA Foundation to see what we need to do to organize and channel some energy toward doing stuff for our old school. Mike, if I'm stealing thunder, give me a call and let me know what's happening. Matt, thanks for the note and the encouragement. I am a lot smarter and learned a whole bunch about risk taking but the helo entrepreneur thing unfortunately will be a bag of experience and memories that never produced a paycheck. That

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