

Naval Ocean Processing Facility. **Brad Barth** is living in the Baltimore area, probably upset that the Orioles don't play in the old stadium anymore.

Fellow Reservist, **Steve Keough**, (one of the dreaded "K's" from LPD-9 days) has a new law practice in downtown Minneapolis. Finally, Gail and **Joe Harrington**, plus son, Joey, are on their way to northern Va.'s Mobil headquarters.

Thanks Bob for that super information.

We received letters from **Bill Venohr** and **Dirk Debbink** concerning the activities of **Rex Derby** that were highlighted in the May 1994 issue on "AOPA PILOT." Rex is a jump-plane pilot for Freeflight Skydiving School in Zephyrhills, Fla. After graduation, Rex flew helicopters. In 1983 he moved to the commercial airline sector that included a stint with Pan Am. Rex has since enjoyed, as the article billed it, "One pilot's alternative to airline flying." For those who know Rex, rest assure, he hasn't lost his super sense of humor. I wonder where he found the Blue and Gold Macaw—nice touch! **Bill Venohr** went on to add that he was nearly finished with his Omaha tour at StratCom before heading back to Bangor to be the Chief Staff Officer of Submarine Squadron 17.

Ron Sticinski dropped a note from his new home in Vienna, Va.:

I guess its been nearly four years since the last time I wrote. That would have placed me in Savannah, Ga. working for Intermarine USA. I left Georgia in December 1992 for Northern, Va. to work for Booz • Allen & Hamilton, Inc. I was originally hired to work as a naval architect for a specific program. After eight months, however, the program was canceled and since then, I have been working very hard putting together proposals to bring in new work—especially from non-DoD agencies.

I am still in the naval reserve as an engineering duty officer and am presently Commanding Officer of a SIMA unit located in Charleston, S.C. Commuting between Vienna and Charleston has been an additional obstacle, but I have enjoyed the tour which ends this September. I hope to be affiliated with a new unit, this time closer to home.

My family has grown. In addition to Alex (4), I have another son, Nicholas (2). They are a lot of fun as well as a lot of work! For this reason, my wife, Cookie, has stopped working out of the home and is now working inside the home as a full time mom. Although the boys look the same, it amazes me how different their personalities are.

I have seen a large number of Classmates since my move north. **Al Richardson** is at NavSea on the Sea Wolf program. **Joe Marques** is on the Navy Staff (N43) at the Pentagon, and has become a geographic bachelor with Anne and Jason living in Mayport. I saw **Ed Rogers** very briefly one day. Ed is working in Falls Church. I ran into **Dennis Antonio** in the Crystal City underground one morning as I was walking to work. Dennis is working on the Theater Ballistic Missile Defense project. I have talked with **John Polcari**, who is working for Undersea Warfare, also in Crystal City. Incidentally, **Neil Gillespie**, another Napster, also works for Booz • Hamilton.

I am trying to locate **Steve Renie**. The last time I heard from him, he was in San Francisco. If anyone knows of his whereabouts, please let me know. 2443 Shenandoah Street, Vienna, Va. 22180, 703-207-7013 (H), 703-412-7608 (W).

Closing out this issue, I include the last of the Class information from the election. For those esteemed Classmates who are included in this group, not to worry. I saved the best for last! **John Gerhard** completed his orthopedic surgery residency at Duke University in June 1989. Since then, he has been stationed at Naval Hospital, Camp LeJeune, as the staff orthopedic surgeon in support of the 2nd Marine Division and 2nd Fleet service support group. In 1990, just before deployment to the Gulf, John married the former Dianne Heath of Tarboro, N.C. Since then they have been blessed with a son, Ian, born on 14 July 1993. In other medical news, **Glenn Bacon** is the Chief of Anesthesiology Service at Naval Hospital, Newport, R.I.

Pete Filkins is working as CV/CVN business officer at the Puget Sound Naval Shipyard. After several years as a surface nuc, Pete became an Engineering Duty Officer following a three year graduate program at MIT. Pete, his wife, Karen, and children Ryan (10) and Kathleen (7) love it in the Pacific Northwest and would love to hear from anyone passing through the Seattle/Bremerton area. **Terry Hamilton** is presently stationed at Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS), El Toro where he is the Operations Officer for VMFA(AW)-1212 flying the F/A-18D. He returned in March from a tour at MCAS, Iwakuni, Japan. **Roger Sheppard**, wife, Kathleen, and three children, Ben, Sara, and Lacey, live in Rome, Georgia. Roger is a pilot for Federal Express. **Al Verhofstadt** and family live in Virginia Beach. Al is a staff engineer officer for USACOM in Norfolk, overseeing U.S. military training in the Caribbean.

That concludes another newsworthy edition for the Class of 1977! The view from the window beckons me. Happy Trails . . . **Bill**.



Dave Palmer, Ken, Vahan Chertavian

78

Membership: 84%

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

79

Membership: 94%

Pres., **Mike Finley**
Sec'y, **Ken Russell**
6234 Azalea Dr., Quartz Hill, Calif. 93536
(805) 943-7933

Man, can anything wackier happen in this nut-house state I live in? Too bad I had to witness the last natural disaster from my BOQ room in Hawaii as the 91, 405, and 5 freeways cleared themselves during rush hour on a Friday. I suppose if it had been Moses, the freeway overpasses would have collapsed between all the police cars and the Ford Bronco and that LA tower would not have cleared any news helicopters through the Class Bravo airspace on their way to Brentwood. I digress. Kids, it's great to be back in the mainland amongst all my "howlee" pals!! However, I must admit three weeks of SPECAC in Hawaii, flying the "Jurassic Park" TERF routes over Kauai, viewing the north shore of Molokai from a helicopter, AND getting paid for it was certainly the best thing I've ever done in the 21 years of doing stuff in the military. Eating Jo-Jo potatoes at Newport's Chicken City while attending NAPS might be better. Mmm . . . nope, I'd have to say three weeks in Hawaii tops it. Enough mindless prattle and bragging, we have an 18 wheeler sized bag of info to deliver so let's sit up in our chairs, pay attention and get on with it, shall we?

As you can see, **Dave Palmer**, yours truly, and **Vahan Chertavian** are pictured on Ford Island with the famous control tower behind us. Vahan was the OIC for the HCS-4 detachment at RIMPAC '94. Dave was the "Box Lunch Nazi" for the det. I got to tag along as a guest from HCS-5 and get LOTS of flight time. I'm not saying this to suck up to Vahan or HCS-4 like I normally would in this article when I tell you they were fantastic hosts to all of us from HCS-5 who were fortunate enough to get to go. I certainly was made to feel like a "Redwolf" the entire time. It was better than outstanding. Okay, I'll stop before everyone gets cavities but they really are a class act bunch of people. Back at the ranch . . . Vahan is the

President of his own importing/distributing company, Arjan USA, Ltd. His wife Linda is the Skipper of a big gray thing with a pointy end, MOUNT BAKER, and is also due to have Numero Uno this July. They live in Fredericksburg so Vahan's BURPING days (Basic Unemployed Reserve Pilot) are numbered once the little one shows up and Linda goes to sea. Be ready to give him plenty of abuse . . . I mean support, at the Fifteenth. Dave is a Systems Engineering manager for EDS and lives in Troy, Michigan with his wife Judy and their kids Jennifer 7 and J. D. 3. Dave does a fairly incredible job of supporting the Reserve program from such a long distance from Norfolk and he does it on his own dime. On one occasion, Dave and I got to fly "Starboard D" on the island of Oahu between 0300 and 0630 as dash 2 to Vahan and his hopeless romantic, manly man, and famous denture wearer copilot from the second to the last all male class. A good time was had by all and we all felt almost as tactically proficient as our active duty HS brethren, only different. Again, I digress. Vahan, Dave, thanks again for the great time, say hello to the Redwolf bubbahs, and PLEASE send copies of the pictures.

First out of the mail shoot is an update from Laura and **Brian Decker**. They sold the house in Marblehead, packed up the plantation and moved back to their hometown, Kingston, New York. Laura is getting her MD board certification and is also working 85 hours minimum per week in her Family Practice Residency while Jeff 11 and Margaret 9 are helping out around the house and being good, RIGHT? BD still flies 767s for Delta out of Boston but should be flying out of JFK come September so the 4 hour drive each way will be drastically reduced. Brian and Laura would obviously much rather smash their thumbs with a hammer than throw up in a crowded bus. BD also said that **Jim Rioux** is supposed to be there in Kingston too but no sightings as of yet. Brian, thanks so much for the info and please know that Vicky and I are cheering for you, Laura and the kids.

Chuck Wright sent a great picture of himself and a few other Niners from the Naval War College. Pictured are **Greg Parker**, **John Green**, **Henry Luna**, **Cliff Perkins**, **Dennis Fox**, **Rob Needham**, **Barry Brocato** and **Chuck**. At the time, they were crashing the Newport Chapter Alumni meeting and probably misbehavin' but they did have a member of the Class of '34 at their table to smack 'em around and keep them in line. **Roy Harkins**, **John Madden**, **Steve Jenkins** and **Jim Weckerly** have also been studying Clauswitz, painting themselves Purple and enjoying the historic sites of Newport but were unable to at-