

there is still work to be done. A new sound system is being installed and a Class sign, as well as dedication plaques for our fallen Classmates which need to be prepared. We hope to have everything in place in time for a Homecoming '94 unveiling.

I'll now continue 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!

Pierre Thuot is at it again! He is currently training for his third space shuttle mission, STS-62, aboard COLUMBIA; scheduled for a 3 March fourteen day microgravity science mission. Maybe the cameras will catch you reading a copy of *Shipmate*! Best of luck!

Other exciting command news includes **Rich Thayer** assuming command of VFA-131 in February. He and his wife, Laura, live in Orange Park, Fla., with their two daughters. **Gary Holst** is headed for FITZGERALD (DDG-62), a new ARLIEGH BURKE class destroyer to be commissioned in May. Recently detached from the CNO's Strategy and Concepts Group, Gary is now in the PCO pipeline. He mentioned that FITZGERALD is named after a 1963 grad who was posthumously awarded the Navy Cross for heroic action in Vietnam. **Ron Brinkley** is headed in the near future to GUNSTON HALL (LSD-44) and **Bill Daniels** is slated for TORTUGA (LSD-46). Both ships are homeported in Little Creek, Va. Finally, **Jim Leuman** reported that **Kent White** has assumed command of an attack squadron at NAS Atlanta. Well done Shipmates!

Jim Childress is a lawyer in Mansfield, Ohio, as is his wife, Elizabeth. They have somehow figured out how to add three wonderful children, Jon (7), Katy (6), and Jimmy (4). Oh, I almost forgot to mention the two dogs and two cats. Jim just completed a two year Reserve CO tour of a Seabee unit in Cleveland. He is now assigned to a naval control shipping unit along with **John Althans**. Sounds like a full case load to me! **R. G. "Mac" McLemore** lives in Marietta, Ga., with his wife, Carole, and son, Rhett Thomas (8). Mac is the President of Major League Image, Inc., a fine clothing store for men and women in Atlanta.

Dan Bereck lives in Boulder, Colo., where he stays busy with his construction practice and climbing mountains. **Chris Cain** and his lovely wife, Nancy, live in Virginia Beach with their eleven year old daughter, Natalie. Chris recently finished his XO tour in BIDDLE (CG-34) and is now on the CinCLant-Flt staff as CTF 84 XO/Surface coordinator.

Dave Powell and his wife, Kris, send their greetings from Orange, Conn. Dave mentioned that their two boys, Michael (3), and Mark (1.5) are holding down the household while he runs up his frequent flyer miles between New York and Tokyo as a V.P. at Sikorsky Aircraft. **Glen Blinde** has been living in the Florida Keys for four years, working as a Senior Reactor Operator at the Turkey Point nuclear plant. While challenged with Hurricane Andrew cleanup and as CO of a Fleet Training Center, Mayport Reserve unit, Glen finds time—and additional challenge—in raising his two boys, Tim (10) and Paul (6). Fortunately, his wife, Temperance, is an equal partner in the venture!

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

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78

Membership: 84%

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

The first meeting of your Class Officers was held in January over a blizzard weekend. **Kevin Liddy** and I prudently decided not to attempt a drive in the blizzard for fear of Donner Pass-itis on the Jersey Turnpike. Needless to say, through the miracle of Ma Bell we linked up on a three way with the rest of the gang to have a very fruitful meeting. (Kevin in Stamford, me in Shelton, and **John Rudder** and the rest at his office in Alexandria.) I'll be keeping you up to speed on what goes on during the meetings and of the things we're planning over the next few years. We all hope

that will help generate your ideas and input. For those of you who don't know, the Class officers for the next five years are: **John Rudder** (President), **John O'Neil** (Veep), yours truly—the Class Scribe, and **Kevin Liddy**, our Keeper of the Gold as Treasurer. The Members-at-Large are: **Matt Elias**, **Jack Christensen**, **Mark Hubal**, **Kevin Lynch**, and **Steve Sutton**. Our special consultant to the Class is our previous prez, **Jock Maloney**. Among the things we're looking at in our "Five Year Focus," aside from planning the 20th year reunion (Hey, it's never too early!) are: Fund raising activities, philosophy behind the Class gift and identification of the gift(s), as well as increasing our level of activity and involvement as a Class, both within our own Class and the Naval Academy as a whole. If I was to summarize a theme behind our thoughts, it would be that last bullet of involvement and service.

Homecoming Tailgater





As this column advances forward in the pages of *Shipmate* so too is our seniority. We're no longer Sparky-the-new-kid in the Alumni House. A lot more Class columns follow this one. As we advance to the front of the book and reflect on what that really means many of us are beginning to find (just as we did while at Mother B and in our service in the Fleet) that RHIP (like better seats at football games). But there is also RHIR. And that's what this is all about. We all have opinions and criticisms about how things have changed from the days when we were Mids (favorably and unfavorably to our various likings). But opportunities abound in which we can make our opinions known, and actively and constructively participate in the shaping of what the Academy is today and what it will be in the years to come.



Longcoys and McCreadys at Monterey



"Hey guys, where are the seats?"

Among them are, first of all, becoming a life time member of the Alumni Association, as well as getting involved in your local Chapter Alumni group. There is also the Blue and Gold Program and getting involved in candidate screenings and the selection processes of your local congressman or Senator. Those of you who have opportunities to get involved or nominated for boards, committees and the like, should try to accept where possible. By these means and others, not only can we assume some RHIR and benefit the Academy, but we will also have a big part in weaving the fabric of our Navy's future leadership and of the J.O.s you will be commanding. In that way, as more and more of us hang up our uniforms we can still retain some ties to leadership in Naval Service.

More details will follow in the months and years to come on the ins and outs of these ideas I mentioned. But the gist is that as we head for the end of our second decade as Alumni, '78 is still charging on—and picking up steam. That's enough of the soap box. I'll get down from here, besides I'm getting a nose bleed. Until next month I'm launchin' Spot 4!!

79

Membership: 94%

Pres., **Mike Finley**

Sec'y, **Ken Russell**

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Another bitter cold Winter here in Southern California, yeah, I think we dipped down into the high sixties yesterday. I came this close to putting on a LONG sleeve T-shirt. Not to worry though, payback was a 6.6 earthquake that rattled our neck of the wood and cut our lush tropical paradise off from Los Angeles. If you live in or near the San Fernando or Santa Clarita Valleys, I hope you made out all right. Well enough droning prattle, we have a ton o' Classmate stuff to talk about so how's about we move along smartly.

Here comes yet another blanket apology to those of you who I let fall through the cracks (no pun intended) and forgot to include your stuff last month. The Blanket Apology Award this month goes to both **Mike Pedersen** and **Chuck Gittins**. Mike sent a note updating his doin's. Ped is at Camp Pendleton doing the XO thing with 1st ANGLICO, jumping out of airplanes on purpose at night. To get his self esteem back, Mike spends weekends in the garage, where he smashes his thumb with a 20 ounce hammer just because it feels so good when the pain stops. During the thumb smashing, he also dreams of soon hopping back into the cockpit of an F-18D at El Toro. That should happen around October '94. Chuck didn't write a note but he was awarded an Orchid from his former B&G Officer for what will probably be one of THE most famous trials of the decade. He won an acquittal for the CO of the BLUE ANGELS over the Tailhook ordeal. From the picture in the *Norfolk*

News, the Commander was so grateful, he even carried Chuck's bulky briefcase. Good on you, Chuck. Again, to you and Mike, sorry about the oversight. I moved my office from the family room into the fourth bedroom and organized everything much better, so hopefully it won't happen again (Vicky's looking over my shoulder right now, laughing uncontrollably for some reason. I keep asking her, "When donkeys do what, honey?").

Aviation Supply Officer, 18th Co. rep and denture wearer, **Mark Heinrich** wrote a huge letter from his home in East Philadelphia about his busy schedule last Summer and Fall. Mark has been just about everywhere in the country, plus he had to make a trip to Japan. Mark's the Business Manager at ASO for the H-2's and H-60's, so he puts a lot of miles on the road making sure the Uncle Sugar Cow lip-lockers, I mean government contractors/suppliers, do what they're supposed to do for their Navy customers. In addition, he's also the transportation system for his son Jared (5) for after school swimming practice. Judy has to take both Jared and Colin (3) on a thirty-five minute each way drive to school everyday, so Mom is also racking up the miles on the Family Truckster. Mark's Classmate info goes somethin' like this: While in Japan, Mark ran into **Simon Boocock**. Simon is a TAR with the Norfolk VR squadron and has the arduous duty of flying C-9's all over the world. He and Wendy along with their two young'ns Shawn (7) and PJ (5) recently moved into their new house in Chesapeake, Va. Wendy has a real job at the local credit union and also does volunteer work at the kids' school.

Roy Harkins is in Newport at the War College senior class while Karen is waiting in Jacksonville for him to get through and is, get this, taking care of the other three kids, is pregnant and going through nursing school. Come on Karen, how about carrying some of the load, huh? Roy is still running marathons and recently beat some nobody named Bill Rogers in the Rhode Island marathon, running a pathetic 2:36. Leigh Anne and **Rich Hayes** and their two boys, Spencer (5) and Tyler (3), live up in West Bloomfield, Mich., where Rich is a sales and marketing manager for Kaiser Aluminum and Chemical Corp. Rich is also a SelRes and CO of SIMA Norfolk Det 513 based in Southfield, Mich. He and Leigh Anne are also members of a wine tasting club and they're hoping I bring out some of that world famous Quartz Hill Muscatel to the Fifteenth. Little do they know that the folks at Quartz Hill Wines recently started using screw-on bottle caps for their finer two month old vintages. Yeah, Yeah, who's your buddy Rich?

Don Hubbard is doing that Corporate Raider thing as a mergers and acquisition lawyer with Alex Brown Investment Banking there in Baltimore. He and his wife Chris, also a lawyer, live in Crabtown. They are enjoying life and also spent 10 days touring Italy last Summer. Soozie and **Earl McLain** are stationed in Hawaii with their two aqua-kids Billy Joe (10) and Luke (7). Earl is at CinCPacFleet while Soozie works at Kapiolani Medical Center. The two boys are on the Aulea swim team and Billy Joe's relay team is undefeated. The McLain's Christmas card is a shot of the two boys underwater, snorkeling near a coral reef. The reef doesn't seem to enjoy the same enchantment as that of the salt reefs at Mojave Desert's own Roger's Dry Lakebed. Those recent earthquake fissure cracks near where the saltbeds meet the dirt are truly breathtaking (well . . . maybe not). Mark, thanks a bunch for the 18th Co. news and 18th Co. folks, you can write/call Mark at his new address: Quarters K, 700 Robbins Avenue, Philadelphia, Penna. 19111-5010, 215 745-1147 (H) or 215 697-4033.

We got a beautiful card from Patti and **Larry Taggart**. Vicky and I are looking forward to seeing you two at the Fifteenth. **Bob Dupuis** sent an info packed note from our old neighborhood there in Jackson-