

78

Membership: 84%

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

ninety minutes around the planet. (Oh yeah, that one was just choked full of Give, Give, Give, Never, Never Take comedy. Doesn't it make you just want to camp by the mailbox until your *Shipmate* shows up? Well . . . maybe not.) Anyway, being farther away from Mom B and the Home Office than most folks, I gaffed Dan off by giving him Mike and Frank's phone numbers figuring they could scramble to get a banner much easier and faster than I. Dan, I sure hope those guys pulled it off. If not, we can blame them both at the Fifteenth, gosh I sure will. Mike, Frank, put down the voodoo dolls and stick pens. It was a joke! Dan told me those who attended the launch included **Mike Hecker, Dan Cloyd, Ray Griffith, Dom Gorie, Mike Foreman, Scott Bruce, and Pete Levoci**. In addition to scooping up lizard droppings, Dan and the crew were going to launch Space Radar Lab II from the payload bay and take pictures of Earth out the windows. But the best news of all is that Ronnie is due in September! Be sure to send some pictures and info about the big event. When Dan is through with the Shuttle stuff, he's going to stay with NASA as an Aerospace Engineering Duty Officer. Dan, thanks for the call and if you're going back up again, could you look for my trash can lid? I just know those Mojave Desert winds launched the darn thing into orbit. If you do see it, try grabbing it and throwing it in the payload bay. If you land at Edwards, I'll just pick it up from you at Base Ops. Thanks.

I got a call from **Roy Kompier** who is now situated up in I think Michigan and is a Production/Plant Manager for the International Paper Company. I am the worst note taker on the planet. Meanwhile, Candidate Gomper should be moving up in about a year and will be taking Chris and the four young'uns to a new location after the promotion. Roy also said **Jim Rioux** really wanted me to mention him in a big way in the article and Roy told me that Jim, Chris and their two little ones are living in Kingston, NY near Laura and **Brian Decker**. Not to embarrass Jim or anything but I think if he shows up at the Fifteenth, Kenny, The Give Monster is going to publicly humiliate him for not writing to Vicky and me about his whereabouts. But, you didn't hear that from me. Roy, thanks for the call and for the clandestine news about **Jim Rioux**, who again, wanted huge press about the fact that he is living and working in Kingston. Jim, hope that's enough for you pal, but there are other people in the world, so don't try to hog all the notoriety. Chris, please let Jaime smack him. Then if you would, drop Vicky and me a note. Thanks.

Okay, now it's time for guys like **Bill Enslen, Vince Bousa, Larry Taggart** and of course **Jim Rioux** to pay attention. To all you other guys who also put the magazine in the fireplace kindling bin without reading it if you don't see your name in bold, well there's no excuse now because here it is: **Your Name In Bold**. All right, everybody in lock step? Are ya flowin' with me? Good. **Frank Dombrowski** has some vital and final pre-Fifteenth info that I'll be passing on to you. To those of you who read the flier that Frank sent, said to yourselves, "Man, I need to keep this because it has all the vital price information on it, who I make the check out to, and the address to send it to," then promptly lost it in the pile of Clearinghouse Sweepstakes letters, Lillian Vernon catalogues and the other throw away junk mail, well I have good news. The reunion ticket payment is due no later than 1 October. For those attending Woodstock II, that would be 1 Rocktober (oh yeah, the comedy is simply oozing forth this month even though we all wish it would stop the same way we now wish that Perot hadn't run for office). The price per ticket is \$105.00 per person if you plan to attend the Sunday brunch or \$93.00 per person if you don't want the brunch. Make the checks payable to: USNA Class of 1979. Send the checks to **Frank**

Dombrowski, 2840 La Fora Court, Vienna, VA 22180. Frank also mentioned that you need to order the memorabilia most ricky-tick or you won't have it in time for the reunion.

That'll about do her for this month. I hope to see you all at the Fifteenth. Perhaps next month, me and that guy from the Brand X Class will have a big zany surprise for you. I don't want to blow the whole surprise if we do in fact, pull it off but it has to do with extreme Type A personality remission and certain retention processes. We think you and the Brand X folks will love it. Stay tuned. Until October, Be Young, Have Fun, Drink Pepsi. **Ken**.

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Membership: 94%

Pres., **Mike Finley**
Sec'y, **Ken Russell**
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(805) 943-7933

Well kids, luck be darned again this month because there is no world famous comedy intro from the Give King (yeah, pretty much makes your eyeballs puddle up, eh?). That's on account of the USPS only having a delivery accuracy of a whopping 84 percent here in Southern California and the Home Office's deadline letter getting stuck in the 16 percentile which was probably delivered to the neighbors who most closely resemble 'Tish and Gomez Addams. And, that means because I didn't know the deadline, yours truly is about a week late. Cordy at the Home Office was gracious enough to extend my deadline, just this once on account of the merry mixup at the Lancaster Post Office. Gosh I hope the USPS director gets the same reward for incompetence as that of the guy who is responsible for the Denver-Stapleton Airport fiasco. Oh wait, they made him Secretary of, you guessed it, Transportation. Enough political satire, let's get down to the task at hand, shall we?

Fresh out of the chuck wagon o' info is a correction I received from **Chuck Wright**. In his original letter, he forgot to let us know that **Jim Hillan** also graduated from the War College and will be fleeting up as XO/CO of one of the F/A-18 squadrons. Thanks for the extra input, Chuck. **Marty Sullivan** wrote a quick info packed note about the June graduates from Marine Corps Command and Staff School. The Corps could get some TQL bonus points from this politically correct administration by shortening the name to TBS for Field Grades but I digress. The new Masters from Quantico are **Tom Brandl, Paul Evans, Jon Miclot** and of course, Marty. Tom is headed for USACOM in Norfolk, P.E. is headed to TransCom in St. Louis. Jon is going to El Toro to boil his potable water along with the rest of the folks on base and fly F-18D's. Marty gets to stay on and attend the School of Advanced Warfighting which, by the way, only goes to a few primo guys and it ain't no cake walk either. Good on you Marty and thanks a bunch for the great note.

A Great Totals of Bebob Congratulations goes to the new Mr. and Mrs. **Gary Stahl**. Gary and Jennie were married last April in Ann Arbor, MI. Also attending the ceremonies were Beth and **Scott Pursley** and Nancy and **Cliff Jacobs**. Gary sent a superb photo but because of the deadline deal, it'll have to wait 'til October's edition. You'll see next month that all three couples looked fantastic. Like **Sandy Jones**, Gary looks EXACTLY like he did while at Navy so if you need a place to throw some envy, jealousy and self-pity, send your hate mail to Gary. Thanks Gary for the news and can't wait to see you and your new bride at the Fifteenth.

Dan Bursch called and was looking for a '79 or USNA banner that the salamanders could use for a space blanket while he drove the flying brick every

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Membership: 97%

Pres., **Tim Kobosko**
Sec'y, **LCdr. Joseph A. Grace, Jr.** USNR
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EIGHTY SIR! How well those words ring true to my ears as I think back to that hot Summer in July of 1976. Anything and everyone who mentioned another year/Class or date was met with the cry of many a hoarse voice . . . Eighty Sir! Why the nostalgia? I recently was up at the boat school to take my son to the 16th annual soccer camp at USNA. He and his cousin from New Orleans, attended in the youngest age group, the 8-10 year olds. The camp is open to kids from 8-16 years old, and is a fabulous chance to play some great soccer, with great coaches, at a great location. The kids stay right in the hall, eat in the wardroom, and generally get to live a mid's life with none of the grief. Fantastic! Anyway, the plebes from the class of 1998 (can you believe it?) were marching around. I just had to lean over and shout . . . Eighty!!! . . . only to be rewarded with screams of . . . Ninety Eight Sir!!! Lots of memories, thank goodness I only had to drop off my son and then could leave. The halls are still as hot now as they were then. Big change though . . . they are putting in air conditioning into the 7th wing. Maybe all of the hall later, but this is the first. What is the world coming to? When I was a plebe . . .

On to the mail bag. Not a great deal to print, though I did get a great letter from **Walt Poor**, which I'll put in on its own, and a few other notes. Keep the info coming. Also, I haven't heard from ANY company reps! Where are you?

A note came in from Philip Vladessa, Class of '49, stating that **Susan Welch** was recently installed as the President of the Florida Coast Chapter of the USNA Alumni Association. She had been the VP for the last two years. Susan is an attorney in Sarasota. We wish her well in her new post.

Another . . . It's been eight or nine years since I last wrote . . . letters came in from Susie and **Ron Thompson**. Since there are three **Ron Thompson's** in the class, and two of them have wives named Susie, even spelled the same way, this probably deserves some clarification. **THIS Ron Thompson** is the "rat" from 24th Company. They have been stationed and re-stationed at Whidbey Island since late '83 and have loved every minute of it. Ron has been the Operations Officer for VA-128 for the past year, the A-6 Training RAG. He was recently selected for commander, and has orders to the War College in Newport, Rhode Island starting in August. Susie says that she will only go kicking and screaming! They have been fortunate enough to be stationed in an area where they both grew up, and as they have two sets of grandparents always willing to baby-sit at a moment's notice . . . Susie is trying to get the Navy to move the grandparents with them. What do you