

transferred to Taiwan before he could complete the outstanding start he had made on the reunion preparations. **Steve Hubbard**, stepped in to ensure that all of Chris's hard work came to fruition. I talked to Steve last week and he said he would be sending out information in the near future. For the few early planners and those who may be deploying and want to get things set before they leave, the Hotel is the Marriott at BWI Airport. Rooms have been blocked out. There is no special price. I would ask the hotel for the best price possible (i.e. Corporate, Government). We will also have a dinner dance on Saturday night. For those of you who want to help, Steve is more than willing to accept it. His address is: 8739 Susini Dr, Laurel Md, 20723-1225. His phone number is: 301-725-8514.

Also wanted to remind you guys that this is the age of computers and modems. I see very little information pass via the *Over The Wall* BBS or via INTERNET to my Compuserver address, 71223.2446@compuserve.com. Until next month...Take Care..Dave

## 76

Membership: 61%

Pres., **Chuck Gorum**

Sec'y, Cdr. **Tim Traaen** USN  
4704 Fisherman's Cove, Montclair, VA 22026  
(703) 730-2240 (H); 607-0902 (W)

Well, folks, welcome back to the '76 column! Received absolutely no news for last month's column, so I saved 29 cents in lieu of mailing in a blank sheet of paper. The mail box this time has been more fecund.

Received a postcard from Larissa Raher. She relates that **Rocky Raher** is currently in the Inactive Ready Reserve and is working for Dun and Bradstreet Software. The **Rahers** (**Rocky**, Larissa, and daughter Amy (almost 6)) live in Massachusetts.



The Gambones

Also received a letter and family picture from **Al Gambone**. The **Gambones** (Al, wife Margie, daughter Gina, and sons Marc, Matt and Tommy) live in New Milford, Connecticut. He's interested in hearing from any Classmate who'd like to write or call. His address is: 1 Adams Lane, New Milford, CT 06776 (his zip has all the right numbers!), telephone 203-350-2618.

Navy Fleet Home Town News Center was velly, velly goood to me:

**Chuck Mehalic** is a LtCol, USMC, and has been serving with the 22nd Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU) in NASSAU Amphibious Ready Group(ARG)off the coast of Bosnia Herzegovina. [ed. note: see picture in "All Hands"] Chuck left

with the 22nd MEU in late October for a six month overseas deployment with NASSAU, GUNSTON HALL, and PONCE. He departed from North Carolina and transited to the Med where the ARG was scheduled to take part in several multinational amphibious landing exercises.

**Don Pacetti** and **Mark Rupprecht** recently returned to Norfolk from duty off the coast of Haiti in MOUNT WHITNEY. Don and Mark are on the COMSECONDFLT staff embarked in MOUNT WHITNEY. During this period, COMSECONDFLT served as the deputy commander of the joint task force of all U.S. Forces on scene during the operation to "ensure order, restore democracy and protect U.S. citizens and certain foreign nationals on the troubled island nation."

**Derwood Curtis**, a member of the finest 27th company ever assembled, recently returned from a six month deployment to the Med, Adriatic Sea and Persian Gulf while a member of COMCRU DESGRU-2, embarked in GEORGE WASHINGTON. Sounds like it was quite an eventful cruise—enforcing the no-fly zone in Bosnia-Herzegovina, D-day visits to England and France, visits to Greece, Israel, Turkey and UAE! Seems like he is setting himself up to be a travel agent some day!

**Grant Sutherland** has also returned from duty off the coast of Haiti in the Navy Hospital Ship USNS COMFORT. He was one of the 700 medical personnel who were assigned to the COMFORT during the operations to rescue Cuban "migrants" and restore order to Haiti. They treated more than 100 military and civilian personnel including five Haitians during the deployment. The medical team even provided emergency neurosurgery to a news photographer after he was shot in the head by a sniper while ashore in Haiti.

**Vic Thombs** recently received the Navy Commendation Medal for meritorious service while serving as supervisor at Marine Corps Combat Development Command, Quantico. He was recognized because of his initiative in making a significant contribution to the command's mission. BZ! Vic is now stationed at Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron, MCAS Yuma, AZ.

**Jim Willy** was relieved of command of ASPRO in Pearl Harbor recently. No word as to his new duty station.

Speaking of new duty stations, looks like the powers that be have determined that I've had as much fun in the DC arena as they care to let me have. I'm goin' to DISNEYLAND! Well, not exactly, but I am going to San Diego to be Supply Officer in BOXER (LHD-4). The family and I are looking forward to the change! Anyone want to swap houses for a couple of years?

That's a wrap for this month, shipmates. Keep the letters and cards coming.

**Don't forget to update your address in order to continue receiving Shipmate.**  
**Call 410-263-4448 to give us your new address.**

1845



1995

## 77

Membership: 80%

Pres., Cdr. **Owen G. Thorp III** USNR  
Sec'y, Cdr. **Bill Millward** USN  
200 Windstone Dr., Portsmouth RI 02871

## 78

Membership: 85%

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

Reality check. I was driving back north last Sunday. I had attended one of those black tie dinners in Washington and was heading up the highway back to Connecticut.—While driving up that long corridor called the New Jersey Turnpike we passed a car with Massachusetts ego-plates that read "USNA 98". Holy Highway Patrol, USNA 98!!!! I had to re-check my calendar. Isn't this 1995? Elizabeth calculated that this meant that the owner must be one of this year's Plebes. Of course, it really meant that the car's owner must be a "pledges" overly proud parental unit. I mean, I've come across a few ratee plebes in my lifetime, but I don't think anyone possess the metallic Spaldings to drive away from the DC area on a Sunday night!—Once I got over the shock of seeing that license plate, I felt a little satisfaction in knowing that 1998 is retirement year; well, that's for those of you still on active duty. It also means that we're at least another 4 to six pages closer to the front of this mag.

I got another one of those, "I've never written to Shipmate before but now have something to talk about" letters. This one from **Joe Leidig**. Actually, I figure it's not that you guys have anything more to talk about than you did before. You can *always* find something to talk about—just look at me. I think it's because you now have the time to write. After all, you are COs, XOs, OICs, and execs (the shirt and tie types), with seniority enough to write a letter while all the underlings and peons dash about doing your bidding. Isn't life GREAT?! In Joe's case this is especially true. Joe is the new (as of November 23, 1994) CO of the CAVALLA, a fast attack out of Pearl Harbor, HI. The year 1994 was a busy one for Joe. He finished up Naval War College in March, earning his Masters in National Security and Strategic Studies. A dash through the PCO pipeline and 3 months at Naval Reactors in DC was followed by the tactics phase course in Pearl Harbor. He says that command's a challenge but well worth the sixteen plus years of preparation. By now the CAVALLA should be on its unclassified science mission under the Polar Ice Cap—sounds a little like a Star Trek intro doesn't it? Joe and his crew were to participate in SCIEX '95. They were to take a half dozen scientists to various surfacing spots, including the North Pole. They were pretty excited about it as it would not only gather good science info but present a lot of positive Navy PR. I don't know if they'll make *USA Today*, but Joe's hopeful. Joe's XO is one of my Foxtrot Company Plebes, Ken Voorhees ('81). Actually, **Tim Hanifen** and **Bill Withers** had him in their 12th Platoon. Yikes, now I'm feeling age again, even our Plebes are now XOs but then that's only because we trained them right! As for the Joe's homeport, his wife, Meg, and their two daughters, Elizabeth and Jacqueline are really enjoying Hawaii and look forward to 3 years in the fun and sun. Thanks for the note, Joe and drop us another line. Once submerged I'm sure you've got nothing else



to do except watch movies and eat ice cream.



Leidig Family

Cheri and **Drew Mulhare** are still in Williamsburg, VA, along with their three girls a dog and a bird. As he puts it, he's the civilian equivalent of an Ops Boss running development, maintenance and regulatory affairs for a golf course community called Ford's Colony. With all the increased regulatory pressure in his business he's had to recently obtain certification as a Professional Community Association Manager. Coupled with his presidency of his homeowners association I guess he's now qualified to run a small city or Leisure World, or the DC government. Drew also wanted me to inform you that it's getting that time of year. Yup, the annual **Drew Mulhare and Dennis Reilly** Class of '78 Golf Outing and Family Picnic is just around the corner. It's scheduled for May 13th at where else but Ford's Colony Country Club. Here are the particulars: Calling all 1978 Grads!

The annual golf outing and family picnic is planned for May 13, 1995 at Ford's Colony Country Club, Williamsburg, VA. This is the Saturday before Mother's Day so change your weekend duty. NOW. The golf format is Captain's Choice: Don't be concerned with that slice or whiff. Golf will check in at 1100 with the picnic at 1630. Golf and BBQ only \$55; BBQ-\$15, Kids Free. Call **Drew Mulhare** at 804-258-3995 or **Dennis Reilly** at 703-690-8548 to get on the mailing list.

That's the gouge. Remember, you don't really have to be any good to play. That never stopped Drew or Dennis. It's the camaraderie that's important. I'd like to thank Cheri Mulhare in advance for setting up the event. As Drew confessed, she really does all the work while the guys just play golf! Drew also sent a photo of the Mulhares, Reillys and Eckerts in a sky box at Army/Navy '94. It must've been taken well before the game because there isn't a soul in the stands! I know the games have been disappointing lately but I know that it doesn't translate into empty stands. If anyone is interested in getting a sky box for next year's game give Drew a call. Having watched a game from the skybox perch one year I definitely endorse it. Let's see, t.v., great view, hot food, cold drinks, dryness and warmth versus cold, wet and miserable? Yeah, it doesn't take a 4.0 to figure out which one to prefer. Count me in, now Drew. (I'll take three seats.)



Mulhares, Reillys, Eckerts-Skybox '94

**Matt Elias** took time out from his homework at the Kennedy School of Government to send an 11th Company newsletter. Brenda (got her name right this time!) and Matt are living in what he termed a small reserve Naval Air Station south of Baaastan (Boston). He must mean South Weymouth. Fortunately for him it's on the metro line to school and he can read the whole way. Since he's taking a dual major in National Security Affairs (Uncle Sam's choice) and Strategic Management (his future civilian job needs) he has plenty of reading to do. But as **Marty Drake** says, "It's only a lot of reading, if you do it." (I agree.) Being from around the area (Cumberland, RI), Matt and Brenda are having a ball. Brenda is lucky that Matt is attending school this year and not last year. The winter has been relatively mild compared to the multiple blizzards of '94 so her warm blooded Floridian ways have not been severely tested. Matt goes on to write:

**Phil Winters** has put Stanford's School of Business on hold for a year. He stayed at the Reserve Patrol Wing in Moffett Field and deferred the Sloan Fellowship until fall of '95. After he gets the Masters in Management he'll go to his command. Right now it's looking like VP-65 out of Point Mugu. It looks like Phil, Jennifer and Christopher are accustomed to what they call the "left coast". Having grown up in California, that's a pretty fair assessment of the region of Granola. Jennifer has her Master in Child Development from San Jose and reentered the job market, which means more money for Phil's greens fees. Christopher is doing very well and made the jump to Palo Alto Middle School last fall. Trina and **Mike Kreyenhagen** (78 and a half and a half) are back in Rota, Spain. Mike runs the oceanographic center there. He recently screened for O-5 and also command. Trina said that he was pretty relieved and shocked, in just that order. If you remember Mike from youngster year you wouldn't be too surprised. While all the rest of us burned the midnight oil, Mike would rack out at 2200 with the famous goodnight comment of "If I don't know it now, I'll never know it." While we studied exhaustively, he "slept" to an A. Mike and Trina have four kids, Steven, Kristin, Robby, and Emily. They also have a new bouncing baby 33 footer. Life is good in Rota!

Gretchen and **Tom Crowley** are still in DC. The twins, James and Kelly are almost two and with the passage of time they have become ever more increasingly mobile. That means mom gets a lot of exercise chasing them and older brother TD around. Oh the patter of little feet and the panting of exhausted parents! Tom has one year at Naval Reactors and then is slated to take command of the **SCOTT (DDG-995)** in Norfolk in November of '96. [This is confirmation by second source, Tom, so I can put it in now.] Kathy and **Steve Brashear** live up in Rocky Mountain High Country—yes that's right all you John Denver fans—Colorado. Steve was to have moved this year but United Airlines deferred it. Instead, Steve completed Boeing 777 training and continues on as an instructor at the United's training center, this time in "triple sevens." This means Kathy, Steve and the girls will get to keep their skis waxed for another two years. After that, he'll head back to the "line" flying 777s for hire.

Pat and **Bart Buechner** left Cleveland and are now in California. Matt showed great restraint in not taking cheap joke at Cleveland. Besides, it's too easy. The Buechners are living in a house behind the Veteran's Home where Bart works. They

have a gorgeous view of the eastern hills and often see balloons rising in the mornings. Bart is still in the reserves and is CO of his Treasure Island unit. Pat is with the Inn at Napa Valley, but according to Matt, she made no offer of discounted rates. But that doesn't preclude ME from making an offer. Normally 10% is the minimum expected Classmate discount, but since I have to make it up, I'll go up to 25%. Yup, that sounds good. Kathy and **Scott Laser** live in Norfolk, VA. Beamer's water purifying business started out slowly at first. Once he got listed in the Yellow Pages it really took off. Of course, despite what James Earl Jones would say, I'm not so sure if that's really attributable to the Yellow Pages or the fact that Norfolk water is, well, you know... Anyway, continued good business luck, Scott. The Laser boys are doing well. Jared is in the second grade and Zach is in kindergarten. Kathy keeps busy between looking after her "three" boys and teaching part time at a new high school in Chesapeake.

Matt closed with a few one line notes:

Pam and **Terray Wood** supposedly left northern California for Hawaii. **Gary Lovgren** is still in Newport, teaching at War College, but **Scott Laser** said he should be headed for DC. **Marty Drake** is slated for command of the **DAWES (FFG-53)** in October of '96 after penance with the CINCLANTFLT staff. **George Billy** and **Mike Lewis** are civilians. George's mug was again seen on the film *Hunt for Red October*—this time on the t.v. network broadcast.

I'm running out of room and deadline—so what else is new? A quick note from **Craig Diffie** to say that he appreciated my column on 10th Company. Hey no sweat—you write, I type. He's spoken to **Steve Derwood Kinney** several times. Steve is assigned to the EUCOM Staff in Stuttgart. Derwood's spent a lot of time in Geneva. Unfortunately, it's not skiing. He's been involved as a member of the joint air logistics planning staff working Bosnia (including some relief time in-country). He's also worked the Rwanda joint relief. Diff also takes credit, and rightfully so, for a Cass gift suggestion that calls for light up the Chapel Dome. You know, like the monuments around Washington, DC. It wouldn't be all that expensive and would be a great visual attraction (besides think of the navigation aid to lost and mids, not to mention alumni during Homecoming). Anyway, it's one idea. By the way, Craig and Steve, any good two week reserve billets open? I'll be out in France for school in June. Do you think you guys could use a "few good men"—just one?

Well, that's all she wrote, I hear the FEDEX plane warming up. I'm launchin' Spot Four. See ya next month!

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Alumni House!**

