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Membership: 85%

Pres: **John Rudder**

Sec'y: **Vince Balderrama**

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I'm gonna take a page from my *Omnes Viri* counterpart there, El Segundo KR, and try to squeeze in something that resembles a column, or paragraph, or couple of sentences—just so I don't have another blank against me.

Let's see what, wadda we got here?...

Talk about batting follow-up to your Classmate, **Bill Dunkin** relieved **Jim Scola** as skipper of the "Fighting Marlins" of VP-40. The change of command took place this past February while the unit was on one of those per diem wasteland deployments along with the gooney birds in Diego Garcia. By now Jim and his wife are living the peaceful FUN island life in Pearl Harbor, HI. He's the Air Operations Officer for CINC PACFLT. As for Bill, the last time I saw him was while he was the class desk at NAVAIR, after he completed the Acquisition University gentleman's course at the Defense Systems Management College back in '92. Pam's holding down the homefront back in CONUS, ably assisted by their daughter, Kimberly, and son, Will. I'm sure Bill has a full turnover list of "things I didn't quite get to", "things not to screw with" and other life saving CO gouge passed down from Jim. It should complement that "scavenger" checklist list P-3 folks usual carry around in their "Pocket Checklist" book...Wine—got 'em, monkey pod—yup, furniture—check, wicker baskets—ah huh, Persian rugs—yeah, Lladros...

Andy Cuca saw the pitiful *Shipmate* absences I recently suffered and threw me a news bone a few months ago to feed you info-hungry salts. He enclosed a Xerox copy of his change of command invite (Gee, Andy, some guys really send me invitations. I guess you figured I'd scarf up all the egg rolls.) [To be accurate, it was Linda who took pity on this worthless scribe and jotted the little note.] Anyway, Andy's the CO of VP-91 (Reserve) at Moffett Field. His "mortgage" job is flying or instructing on DC-10s for Northwest Airlines. While he is stick-pigging with either P-3 bubbas or the coffee, tea, or me crowd, Linda is kept busy keeping the fireplace stoked in their homefront in Burnsville, MN. As if we needed another reminder of our seniority, or as **Will Kramer** puts it's, "gaining experience", here's another reality check—Linda and Andy's eldest daughter, Colleen (17), just finished high school! Their younger daughter, Jennifer, wrapped up the ninth grade. Can you say A-A-R-P?

In the any news is good news—even OLD news—department:

Paula and **Roger "Kappy" Kaplan** and their family are living in Jolly Old England. Kappy left the Computer Science Department back at Mother B and is in his second exchange tour of two years with the Ministry of Defence in London. If he can just get over the language barrier and teach them how to spell DEFENSE properly he'll have smooth sailing. As it is, he has the equivalent of an airborne Eurail Pass and unlimited mileage to cruise the Med in the pursuit of better communications interoperability. Talk about your boondoggles! On his list of places visited or to visit are Brussels, Lisbon, Halifax, DC, Venice, San Diego, Athens, New Zealand, etc. Is this what the Navy really meant by an adventure?!! Just don't pinch him or he'll wake up in the E-Ring at the Five-sided Puzzle Palace, with a wet used coffee filter dripping on his white bucks and the Admiral yelling for his cup a' Joe. As for the rest of the Kap-

clan, this dream says that Paula is doing the same wife/mother billet description except that the Navy Chapel actually PAYS her to be CCD Coordinator at West Ruislip, England! Sean (6) and Amanda (10) and Heather (14) pull the kid detail—attending schools, singing in choirs and (here's another dream part) in Heather's case—getting to take field trips to Calais and The Hague. In fact the whole family hopes to swing out to Athens or on one of Kappy's other jaunts. Those of us who missed seeing them during Kappy's former life and tour in Scotland are invited to stop on by and verify this Paradise Tour... Well, everyone should have at least one of those before they retire. They're in RAF family housing in Bushey Heath. It's just about an hour's ride on the tube—subway—from central London. Cheerio!

Joe Schmitz is a "Partner and Of Counsel" with Patton Boggs, L.L.P., a firm in Washington, DC. I don't know what that legalese "Of Counsel" means but I guess it means he's getting the big bucks passing along advice in his area of expertise—Aviation.

Rennie Pili is a bone cruncher (chiropractor) I think in Southern California. he finished up one of those Reserve Officer Joint Military Operations Courses at the Naval War College last year. Okay, so I am reading those Fleet Hometown News Releases! Was it that obvious? Well, get ready for more cuz here they come...Speaking of stick-pigs, **Dan Kuehle** picked up a Mishap Free Award for 5,000 hours of accident-free flying in the E-2C. Dan is currently with the Commanding Officer of VAW-117 out of Miramar. **Bob Ryan** is also a Hawkeye CO with VAW-123, homeported out of Norfolk, VA. **Rick Yasky** is the CO of VT-22 at Kingsville, TX. **Bill Burke** is the CO of TOLEDO, homeported in Norfolk, VA. **Dave Williams** is CO of VP-11 based in the cross country lobster capital of CONUS, Brunswick, Maine. Filling out the FHTNR CO listings are **Dave Buss**, skipper of VA-34, homebased out of NAS Oceana (but lately at sea aboard GEORGE WASHINGTON), and **Tom McKeon**, CO of TORTUGA (LSD-46), homeported in Little Creek, VA. There's also a civilian equivalent of the FHTNR. It's called a Public Relations release. This one is from TBM Consulting Group in Durham, NC. It reports that **Will Pierce** has been named Manager of Training Performance Systems at TBM. He's responsible for internal and client training and maintaining all information systems. Will, Nancy and their two kids, Melinda and Justin, live in Raleigh.

That about wraps up this "quick" attempt to make it under the wire. In closing let me fill in another X in my secretarial duties. This one pertains to a little bit of Class business. Many thanks to all of you who have pledged and are paying out on your pledge to contribute to the Academy's fund raising campaign and Alumni Association drives. Our Class has been among the leaders in these efforts. We continue to be prominently mentioned in *Shipmate* for these accomplishments. We're still a ways off from achieving one goal of critical mass (calm down you nuke guys) in the Lifetime Memberships. All you annual dues payers should give serious consideration—heck forget that—don't consider, just quit paying up yearly. Suck it up and get on board as a Lifetime Member of the Alumni Association! Over the years you've probably paid ten fold of what we who paid out with that "funny money" account First Class year did. As we have assumed leadership positions in the Fleet and in industry (just look at the CO lists these days and the corporate letter heads) we still need to assume more of the mantle of leadership for the Alumni Association and the direction of the Academy. We can do so by actively joining nearby chapters and associations (there are quite a few of you who are officers of local Alumni Chapters). Those of you alarmed by the state of current affairs can play a vital role in ensuring that the caliber of men

and women appointed to the Naval Academy remains intellectually, physically and morally the finest our nation has to offer, by getting involved in Blue and Gold and in your congressional screening board processes. Contact your Representative or Senator today and the Candidate Guidance Office for more information. Lastly, put on that thinking cap for ideas, ideas, ideas, as the twentieth reunion rolls around the corner and selection for our Class gift pushes more to the forefront; send 'em in.

Well that's all the info and the soap box for today, my nose is beginning to bleed up here. Next month—more business, more news and a regular photo album of long overdue pics from around the world! So much for brevity, eh? But you all knew I couldn't keep it under four pages! Anyway, catch you in the next edition. Launchin' Spot Four!

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Membership: 94%

Pres: **Mike Finley**

Sec'y: **Ken Russell**

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I'm driving home from Dallas last May and I'm feeling pretty doggone excited. An intense electricity was movin' through me and I had to do something to get rid of this gigantic internal thrill ride. So, of course, I pulled into the very next McDonald's, went up to the counter, looked the pimply faced teenager in the eye and said, "I'm feelin' pretty wacky tonight and outta control and I need a bag of ecstasy. Give me one of them adult tastin', baby boomin', satisfyin' Arch Deluxes and take it all the way sonny boy: Slap that peppered bacon on there too. No kid stuff for me tonight pal. I'm a grown up and I've got a big grown up taste." I got the whole meal deal; even Super Sized it. My life is now complete.

So last month we had a Draconian cut in the size of the article due to your Give King and Mrs. Give King shipping out pots all over the country. This month however, is gonna be HUGE. So huge in fact, that we'll simply use current administration tactics and tell Ron-the-Home Office-King that if we don't get the size article we want, he'll be blamed for starving school kids, destroying the environment, putting our parents in the streets, and killing children with dirty water. Ron will never buy it but people are stupid enough believing it coming from Daschle and Gephardt, it'll be a snap coming from a yutz like me.

WE INTERRUPT THIS ARTICLE FOR A GIVE KING OPINION AND COMMENTARY...He's on ACTIVE DUTY!!!!?? REALLY?? Active Duty? Has that guy been talking to the McDonald's Arch Deluxe/Pepsi marketing people? "Mr. President, we think they were stupid enough to buy into putting a burger on a sesame bun, say it's for adults only and charging two and a half bucks for it and also stamping a freshness date on our cans of soda that'll taste EXACTLY the same whether they're opened tomorrow or ten thousand years from now, so perhaps if we can get a jury from Los Angeles, you can do some more likewise bambooslin' at your trial." Kids, am I the only one who feels like the President fertilized the graves of our fallen comrades by using an excuse even more pathetic than my stabs at comedy? Ain't it comforting to know that those who have gone before us have provided this guy with the freedom to not inhale, drop trou in front of Paula Jones, blame the word "cut" on CNN's Wolf Blitzer and the media, lead a demonstration against his own country in