

Pres: **John Rudder**Sec'y: **Vince Balderrama**

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From: **Class Officer Dudes**To: **The Great Seven Eight**Subject: **Class Stuff**

1. Get the Class business word spread (i.e.—Get Vince back into *Shipmate*, consistently.) [I know I had a coupla' misses in a row but I figure I'm battling about .950 overall. Guess, four or five misses in TEN years is still downright irresponsible! I'm not worthy, I'm not worthy...] Provide a back up correspondent in the event Vince gets near a deadline without an idea or inundated. [I'll think about it; but even Steve Young had to sit on the bench for a LONG time before Joe let him even touch the football. Not so fast with that lexicon laddie!]

2. **20th Year Reunion News:** The gang has settled on a date. Homecoming weekend, right? Guess again. The date is Oct. 1-4, 1998. If you think back on one of the few columns I wrote in the last millennium, it mentioned that we had been considering doing the shindig on an off weekend. This way we don't have to compete as much with every other class's reunion, etc. Well, it's a good call because that particular year Homecoming weekend coincides with the Annapolis boat show. How many more people could Annapolis hold? Well, here's the basic layout on the activities—as it stands for now:

Holiday Inn—We really wanted to get the Thrift Inn, but there was a Cockroach convention that weekend so no luck. Like a magnet the H.I. just seems to draw us back. They've got the room. In fact a block of rooms are blocked off. Don't know how many exactly. Definitely more than two but less than a sell-out. Those of you Holiday Inn Priority Club members can try and get some upgrades when you check in. You know things like—an extra bar of soap and a FULL roll of t.p.—oh yeah...

Friday night is planned as Dinner Party night and Saturday will be just the Tail Gater (but the Mother of all Tailgaters!): The thought was that spreading the events over two days might make it easier on everyone. I guess SOME of us just can't hit the long ball anymore and require that extra recovery time.

Mark Hubal is the Bag Man for overall event planning. A few committees planned for set up are: Hotel/Dinner Party, Tailgater, Class Souvenirs (Elizabeth has leapt to claim that spot. No cheesy momentos here!); Transportation; Tent; Special Events and Porta-Potties (Don't be too surprised that we need an *entire* committee for this topic. Have you heard the extra, ummmm—"embellishment"—our Sea Stories have acquired over the years?) I guess we good consolidate these committees into something fewer ones with task groups under them; things like Logistics/Transportation, Refreshment/Food, etc. But the ones I've listed are a first pass. Of course for every committee there needs to be chairmen (Read that as someone with all the actions and at whom Mark can point the finger.). Oh yes, and lets not forget, for each committee we need volunteers (aka—"Worker Bees", peons, ensigns, plebes). It may be easier for local area folks to participate on the committees. But that shouldn't discourage any of you from volunteering. We can always use brains and bodies. Besides, not every task requires local planning and execution.

Lastly, not everything is yet in solid concrete (but it is mixing). Your ideas and suggestion are still needed. Get in touch with Hubal and volunteer your services and ideas. Get in touch with any of us for that matter.

3. Our Class Treasury is still in the black. Our Class Treasurer, **Kevin Liddy** has had ideas for investment and made some moves with everyone's concurrence that should help it continue to grow (conservatively and steadily). We could still use a hot tip or too, or some lavish contributions. Speaking of Contributions—we got a windfall from the Class of '51. They made a gift of \$1,300 to our efforts. Thanks for the generosity, Shipmates! We hope to be able to follow your example and pass on some generosity in similar fashion to some youngster Class someday.

4. The Academy fundraising is about halfway through. There are about 10% outstanding pledges in the Class totaling about \$11,000. With taxes, kids, braces, and what-not, I know some of us haven't been able to make the regular pay up plan. I'm sure, that we'll all come through in the end. (Don't forget to take advantage of your companies matching fund if the have such a thing.)

5. The next Class Officer meeting is scheduled for Saturday, September 21st. The place is yet to be determined. Generally, it's at **John Rudder's** new office, or the Alumni House, or some pub down the block. Most of it is conducted via teleconference. Feel free to give us a ring if you're in the area and want to lend an ear and fresh ideas. It'll be good to have more warm bodies in actual attendance and a better diversity of opinions—not too mention a few defenders of the scribe as well!

Well, that's it for the Class News, at least my version of it. Serious ain't my style.

I'm still working on the letter back log. It gets tough when you get behind and a lot of you have written. Just a single company newsletter can sometimes take an entire column, even without a little spice thrown in. Let's just review the rules of the road again. My deadline is about five weeks before the column month (And through a little smacking up to the editor, I've milked every second out of that deadline—and then some. On occasion, I've just missed the wire.). What that means is that the news already has at least two months of scheduled age when you read it. Just remember that it's still NEW word to the majority of our readers! My word limit is five pages, doubled spaced (plus one or two paragraphs, thanks to the kindness of Nancy Gorum) I can play with fonts and margins to cram more words onto the page, but there comes a point when it drives the editor almost to blindness! Any pictures have got to have a Alum in it, even if just in the background, for them to make it to print. That's also dependent on if the contrast is clear enough to make it through a scan. Contrary to *some* belief, a missed column seems to bring your pens and paper out of the wordwork. I guess you figure I either don't have anything to print or am dead. So you write, just to check it out and bust my stones in "Whose-your-buddy" fashion. I'm sure I've irritated more than a few of you with errors in accuracy, punctuation, grammar, elimination and general goofiness. But just keep telling yourself—It's only a MOVIE! This ain't exactly Pulitzer Prize stuff I'm dealing with here. Though some folks have made a living out of writing goofiness. I'm not one of them. Did I mention this isn't a paid post? Anyway, drop me a line, via mail, E-mail, phone, fax, or carrier pigeon to let me what's going on and, as Mayor Koch used to ask, "How'm I doin'?" Now that I spent a half a column on this business, enough already!...I have a back log to chip away at.

Duane Lafont sent me a copy of his newsletter so his some of his scrolling. **Miguel Beceril** was last heard of as being at US Southern Command, J-3 [Ed. Note: Miguel is back in DC on the Inaugural Committee. Stopped by to see your unworthy managing editor...Nancy]; while **Rico Blanco** was living in Temecula, California, still on active duty. **Kevin**

Carmody is living out in Green Bay, WI. He's still involved in the Marine Corps Reserves and is in the silver oak leaf club along with **Rico** and **Dick "Finner" Findlay** and a cast of many...Finner just finished up the Air War College in Maxwell Air Force Base. (You know we're getting up there when Finner is the SENIOR guy in the class. Whew, gives you the creeps, doesn't it? Dick, Jenny and the kids should be heading back to Cherry Point, NC where he'll pick up his A-6 Command. Alicia and **Randy Duncan** are living in their huge log cabin in Geneva, FL, near Orlando. Dunc works for now Lockheed Martin (same group different name) on the Shuttle Program. **Ray Fritsch** is in Durham, NC and **Larry Galvin** is still instructing/administrating/managing at USNA and living in Annapolis. As if he didn't have enough to do, he's also going to Georgetown Law School. Call **Sean Coffey** for the gouge. Larry, he's an alumnus. You can reach Larry on E-mail at LFGALVIN@CHARLESTON.NADN.NAVY.MIL.

Billy Hanna is living in Lynn, MA. **Ben Harris** is in Greenbelt, MD. **Harry "Binkley" Harris** is skipper of VP-46, home based in Washington. Bruni and he have set up household in Oak Harbor. I'm sure it's well furnished from all those patrol trips. Enroute to Diego Garcia last year, "Binks" stopped in to Adak for a bag of gas and photo op with Duane. While Harry's wearing the aviator "bag", Duane's in the Adak uniform, summer service Eddie Bauer.



Harry Harris and Duane Lafont

As you've read in many previous columns, **Charlie Hautau** is CO of VA-34. **Elton Kelley** (circa '93) was last seen living in San Francisco. **John Koljesky** is in Guatay, CA. Okay, I gotta ask, where the hell is Guatay, CA? That calls for a letter of explanation. John—just to prove that Duane didn't mis-type!

Duane Lafont finished up his CO of the Naval Security Group at tour in Adak and is back in DC for some stash time at NAVSECGRU HQS. In Alaska he only had to worry about the furry kind of Grizzly chewing up your you-know-what, in DC it's a bear of a different shoulder board...Some days you get the bear and some (most) days the BEAR gets you! As this goes to print Duane should now be at ICAF (Industrial College of the Armed Forces) and playing student. **Mike Makowicz** was living in South Berwick, ME. **Guido Manza** is still working with Ortho Diagnostics and is Mink-vile. Actually, he's living in the Garden State, in Flemington, Fur Coat Mecca of the East Coast. Guido has strongly hinted to Duane that he could use some Classmates to visit. In fact, emphasizes that it's a good rest stop heading to or from Army/Navy. Now that I've said that, you can stop shaking Duane's, Guido. He (we) got the message. Denise and **Chris May** and their boys are living in Washington State. I think I may have previously reported them as in the Seattle area. Chris is working on that doctorate at U of Wash and drilling with the reserve staff of CARGRU 5 on INDY, out of Whidby.

Tim McGee is now the CO of weather guessers of NAVPACMETOCFAC San Diego. It must be pretty rough guessing the weather...Early morning

fog, breaking by late morning/early afternoon, sunny and mild this afternoon...drone, drone, drone, repeat, repeat... **Ray Miskowski** and **Morry Ray** have APBs out on them by their company-mates. When he isn't cranking out *Proceedings* articles, **Chris Nichols** is playing Skipper. He's on his second command tour as CO of a precom unit—**MILIUS**, DDG-69.....Sorry, I sorta drifted there for a sec'. Thought about that ship designator and then I visited all the places my fertile and demented mind could go with it and...well...never mind discretion and all that...ANYWAY...The ship was being outfitted in Pascagoula, MS. According to Duane, the Dwarf is rapidly becoming a GIANT in the Surface Warfare Community. (I always saw eye-to-eye on everything with him.) He's having fun, but "probably should've paid more attention to the weights and moments discussions in Naval Science". Susie and **Kevin Olsen** were expecting twins last March. By now Ashley (almost 4) should be enjoying the big sister role. Let us know how things went. Were the pre-chosen names of Zachary and Sarah appropriate? **Dave Rodriguez** was last seen in San Diego. **Rob Romaine** is living in Wake Forest, NC and almost became our first elected official. We understand he lost a close and valiant race for the U.S. Congress. If you just would have gotten our campaign pro and veteran, **Steve Sutton**, on your team the outcome might have been different. Still, thanks for making the attempt to (as Duane put it) bring the "voice of reason with former Navy experience into the snakepit". Keep trying and go after 'em in two years!

Bev, **Case Runolfson** and their son, Reid, still live in Quantico, VA while **Bob Schmermund** and family are still in Gambrills, MD. What's he doing? Couldn't say, except that he's just being Schmerm.

Bobby Scott is supposed to be some real estate magnate in the Tidewater area (Virginia Beach, VA) but no one had heard anything yet. **Larry Semanyk** is working for a Beltway Bandit, DP and Associates. He supports the Naval Hawk program office and still drills with the Aviation Logistics Branch at Headquarters Marine Corps. He gets up to the plant at Stratford quite a few times and leaves me notes.

Aaron Watts was last seen living in El Segundo, CA.

On the Associate side of things, Duane didn't have any word on **Gerry Alford**, **Bill Clark**, **Mike Howell**, **Tony Poleondakis**, or **Gary Trenti**. I hope that **Steve Sterner** is out of that body cast by now. It's a trophy from a car accident. I wrote about it a while ago. He's still living in Severna Park. Body cast aside, he's doing fine and desires some Classmates to stop by and visit. Lastly, **Carl Freeburg** is a pre-sales consultant with COMSHARE software out of Seattle. He and Susan are living just outside in Bellevue, WA. A short while ago (last year) they became first time parents, with the birth of their son, Christopher Jon. Having figured out the details, and now fully NATOPS checked, they thought they'd give it another go. They were expecting dash two around April 96. You know looking over all the locations, 15th Co. has a lotta folks living around Seattle. With all those 15th Co. '78'ers you guys could start your own Alumni Chapter. Wrapping it up, thanks for all the gouge, Duane. Sorry it took a while.

Well folks I'm outta space. I'll keep knocking away at the papers you've sent so far. In the meantime, I have to get this on the E-mail before I wind up with a Form 2 at my doorstep. Catch you next time—launchin' Spot Four.

**Check our New Merchandise
Insert in the front of this issue
and on the inside back cover!**

Please see the Nominating Committee Precept in the front of this issue!

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Are ya startin' to admire how the heck the Fourth Estate is staying as objective and balanced as they've been telling us? Sorta like going to an OJ, Inc spousal abuse prevention seminar, huh? Reminds me of a song I want to write for the Slick Willy and the Inhalers band about how the weather is precisely at this moment. No one's watchin' ya, don't be embarrassed, sing along with me, here's the chorus: "It's a hot cold wet dry light dark d-a-y, yeah, yeah, y-e-a-h.!!! I'm your credible weather m-a-n, hear what I s-a-y, b-a-b-y-yyy!"

Okay, it's late and I don't know where I was goin' with that either so let's dispense with whatever the heck that first paragraph was tryin' to achieve and get on with the info before you start noddin' off and drooling on your shirt. If my oh-so riotously exciting dribble normally causes you to nod off when you read this, get the drool cups in the ready-catch position, 'cause here goes: By the way, one quick thing, I'm gonna try the current administration tactic and tell you whatever you want to hear and lie about myself throughout the article. Won't that be fun? I figure since it's helping that (what did a Classmate whose career was ruined by the White House call him? Oh yeah...) idiot get re-elected, I'll use it so I can hold this powerful Give King position forever. For the Marines: "Attention!!! Stand by to raise all drool cups to half mast!!! Stand byeeee! Drool cups!!" All right now you're all set. Let's get on with it, shall we?

So I'm throwing some coffee mugs for a Dollywood order the other day and who should stroll into the shop but none other than Marlene and **Greg Shear** with their kid units Renee 9, and Daniel 8. Greg was looking for a guy from Arlington, SD who made pots and wrote an article for '79 which cut the federal deficit in half. There's only one guy like that and of course it's me, your Give King. The other guys who may want to take over this position also want to kill the children and put working families out on the streets. Greg and Marlene were on their way to De Smet, the homestead of Laura Ingalls Wilder, author of *Little House on the Prairie*. Greg takes the Skipper slot for NMCB1 in Gulfport and wanted to bring his kids up to see De Smet and to see someone who feels his pain. Greg completed a joint tour in Omaha with the bus drivers. Greg, Marlene thanks so much for stopping by. Dianne at the City Cafe says hello.

Next up is a letter from **Matt Coleman** who lives in Colorado, a state where I helped Patsy Schroeder make the Rocky Mountains, saving the environment for future generations. Matt and his 12 year old son Chris got to see **Russ Keller** take command of SPRINGFIELD in New London. Matt sent a shot of Russ and his wife Chris at the COC. Good on you Russ!!



Russ Keller with Chris

I of course made sure Russ' boss gave him the position. Matt also recently heard from **Phil Cullom**, former White House Fellow, Harvard MBA grad and famous denture wearer. Phil is presently lost somewhere in the Five Sided Puzzle Palace but because of my well known support for a strong military as evidenced by Haiti, Somalia and Bosnia, Phil can find his way out in time to become the CO of MITSCHER sometime next year. Lisa and **Chuck Kuzma** live in Hershey, PA where Chuck is an engineer for Wright & Associates. Matt recently remarried and now has a grand total of SIX KIDS??? Fortunately for his new wife Kimberly, because of my health care plan, Matt made it anatomically impossible to have any more. Gosh, why? Matt's words were, "For those of you who are childless, call me—we'll pay you." Matt is also selling insurance in Southern Colorado. Matt, thanks for the superb letter and photo.

It's been a long time but don't drop the big one, don't cut my lifeline, don't bite the mailman, what would you say if those info scientists on Dillingham got George Elvis and Ed Zeppelin together to form a Raggaie band doing Elvis renditions of Led Zeppelin tunes AND brought us some brand spankin' new, filled with WAY too much extremism in writing style: FLEET HOME TOWN NEWS RELEASES!!!!????? YEAH!! **Tom Phelan** recently assumed command of VAQ-140 at Whidbey Island. **Chuck Wright** is/was in the Western Pacific near the island of Taiwan with VF-147 aboard NIMITZ.

Because of the Draconian cuts in the amount of mail in Mr. P.O. Box, cuts which I've vetoed, we're out o' info. A person has been hired by my wife, Vicky Rodham-Russell to personally retrieve all the information from your FBI files so that I can have more stuff to write about. NONE of the information will be used against you or in a way that will destroy your lives and careers. If it does happen, it'll just be a harmless SNAFU, and I'll make sure it never happens again. I'm only interested in the issues. Until Rocktober, keep laughin'. **Ken**.

'79, Omnes Viri.

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