

onship and the automatic NCAA berth that goes with it! [Ed. Note: Yeah!!! 5 March—76-75 Navy over Bucknell...Nancy] The men are doing well under the tutelage of Don Devoe! The women's team has had an outstanding season as well with over twenty wins on the books. However, they have had a nemesis in Holy Cross this year and are second in the regular season's final league standings. Still a tournament victory could result in a berth for them too! They are certainly capable of pulling it off and we are cheering them on!

Anyone in the job search should pay attention to the Service Academy Career Conference information in the last issue. We are probably right at the deadlines as you read this but I'd make every effort to get there if you are "in the hunt." Also, purchase the *Service Academy Business Resource Directory*. This tool is a wonderful reference of Alums from all of the Service Academies. Organized by geography, industry, alphabetic and every which way but Sunday, it provides great business leads and even folks who have indicated a willingness to help fellow grads. Again, call the Association, you won't regret the purchase.

Now, you'd think I was getting a commission or something the way I'm pushing these items but believe me, they are good "gouge" and not easily appreciated until you've seen one yourself. (Goes for the golf shirts too!!!).

Take care folks! Spring is here and life is good! Keep Chuck informed of your or other Classmate's shenanigans and be sure to keep the spirit, the *Spirit of '76!!*

Chuck G.

77

Membership: 80%

Pres: **CDR Owen G. Thorp III, USNR**
Sec'y: **CDR Bill Millward, USN**
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e: bmillwar@ix.netcom.com
Acting Sec'y: **CDR Mark Sobczak**
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[Ed. Note: Through bizarre circumstances we missed putting Bill's column in the January/February Shipmate. I apologize to the great Class of 1977 for this oversight. Bill has been very faithful in keeping you informed and it was our mistake...Nancy]

Shipmates, WOW 1997 already. Instead of looking back and asking where did the time go, let's look forward to a healthy and prosperous new year!!!

This will be my last column for the next six months as I am now deployed to the Persian Gulf. Former Log editor and "A Few Inches from the Yard", author, **Mark Sobczak**, has graciously offered to cover the column in my absence. You can reach Dr. **Mark Sobczak** at pnh0mls@pnh10.med.navy.mil, or at w: 757-398-5730. Mark is the Director of Radiation Oncology (Radiation treatment for cancer) at the Naval Medical Center Portsmouth, VA.

I would also like to send along a special thanks to **Ray Arellano** for also volunteering to cover the column. You're a real Shipmate!

From: **Bob Kennedy**, bkennedy@nva.lmco.com
Bob Kennedy visited with **Rick Self** recently while Rick was on a business trip to the DC area from Kings Bay, GA (but, Rick's main 'homeport' is still Charleston, SC), and with **Dennis Grimes** while Dennis was in from San Diego. Bob also sees **Paul Davis** regularly—Paul is XO of their Intel Reserve unit. Bob has gathered the following Class email addresses through correspondence:
Arch McKinlay—arch6@inlink.com

Dempsey Butler—71664.1411@compuserve.com
Dennis Grimes—grimesdr@ix.netcom.com or Dennis_Grimes@smtp.rc.trw.com
Jay Casey—73544.3132@compuserve.com
Jim Lochry—74740.577@compuserve.com
Paul Davis—pled1@aol.com
Paul Hollich—NINJA1R4D@aol.com
Rick Self—reself@charleston.net

Email addresses for lots of USNA Alumni are available in the 'Wardroom' section of **Ray Trygstad's** http://www.mcs.net/~trygstad/USNA_Alumni.html

JOHN F. KENNEDY (CV-67) Air Boss, Greg Cooper, wrote recently about his exploits on the Big Deck. Included in his letter were the following updates:

Mike Caponi just finished a great tour as JFK Gun Boss and is now at NAS Cecil Field helping close the base down. Greg mentioned that some golf is also being played! **Joe Clements** is the head of the ships Supply Department and has done wonders from the day he arrived from NAS Jacksonville. **Bob Magee** turned over command of HS-3 and left Air Wing EIGHT to go to DC. While he was skipper of the Troubleshooters, the squadron transitioned from H-3s to H-60s. **Bo Henry** is the ships Navigator. He and his wife had their fifth child—all are boys (or should we say buoys!). Greg also mentioned that **Mike Wertz** is Air Boss in CONSTELLATION (CV-64) and that **George Herning** is teaching in Virginia Beach.

Thanks Greg for the super news. Greg is off, with his wife and 4 boys, in January to the Naval War College.

Phil Wisecup wrote a quick note before his CALLAGHAN (DDG-994) change of command in February. Phil is bachin' it up in Everett, WA and trying to keep the snow off his car—it doesn't snow in Coronado where his family is!!! Anyway, Phil has hooked up with **Dan Vallerie**, who lives in nearby Marysville. They are spending lots of time hunting and crabbing—what a life!!

As a final note, **Lee Geanuleas**, relieved in December as CO, SAMUEL B. ROBERTS (FFG-58). He had an absolutely terrific tour, earning the Battle E, the Golden Anchor (5th award), and assorted other awards. Lee's next tour will be on the OSD Staff in the Pentagon.

Take care Shipmates. Keep the cards and letters flowing to Mark. Until next time...happy trails. **Bill**.

Spring has come to the Tidewater area and brought with it a mailbag full of correspondence. **Bill Millward** said this job would be tough, but I think I'll just let our Classmates speak for themselves.

The first letter comes from **Pete Knoetgen**:

It's been a long time since TRUXTON days so I figured that I should write something for Shipmate. I'm working for INPO in Atlanta, along with a few other '77 grads. **Ron Barnes** is in Mexico, Canada, and the Far East. He's off this month leading a trip to the nuclear plant in South Africa. **Paul Wagner** is on assignment up in Connecticut at the Millstone Station heading up one of the engineering groups. **Jeff Reinhart** is a team manager in our assistance division. I'm doing professional development seminars for nuclear shift supervisors.

I'm still having fun in the reserve. Following 5 great years with CARGRU 6 reserve in Atlanta, I just finished 27 months onboard OLIVER HAZARD PERRY (FF-G7) in

We also received a note from **Mike Hamner**:

Thought I'd drop an note to let my long lost Classmates know I'm still alive. I'm currently the director of engineering at the Supervisor of Shipbuilding, Groton, CT. I've been an Engineering Duty Officer my entire career and this will be my final tour as I plan to retire in July '97. My office oversees the submarine design and construction performed by Electric Boat of General Dynamics. I'm looking forward to our 20th Reunion this Fall and welcome any notes at hamn6366@hgc.edu.

Once again I find that I close this column on a sad note. Deb Herning, the wife of our Classmate

George Herning, died at the end of January this year at the Naval Hospital Portsmouth, VA of metastatic breast cancer. Deb was under care in my department at the time and I was with George on the day of her death. George and Deb met at the wedding of Norrie-Ann and **Cal Bagby**. A number of our Classmates were in attendance at a Mass of Resurrection that was celebrated at St. Gregory's church in Virginia Beach. **Mike Wertz, Greg Cooper, Kathy and John Geary, Kelly and Bill Daniels, Dave Paddock**, and Kathleen and **Michael Golda** were all at the ceremony. Internment was in Arlington National Cemetery near the graves of George's dad, Col. Charles Herning, and brother Steve '79.

I work with cancer daily in my professional life and have been involved in the care of a number of Classmate's wives over the years. Breast cancer is a disease that cannot be prevented so the key to winning the battle is early detection. All women should perform monthly breast self-examination and obtain a physicians examination yearly. I also recommend annual mammography starting at age 40 for all women. Please ask your wives if they are performing breast self exam and urge them to get their mammograms. Let's not let this disease claim another loved one due to fear or denial. Until next month...be good to one another. **Mark**.

78

Membership: 85%

Pres: **John Rudder**
Sec'y: **Vince Balderrama**
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Well, it seems like several state Attorneys General felt as I did that I was getting less than stellar performance from my on-line service—"Annoyingly Off Line" a.k.a. "America OFF-line" or simply A-O-L. They made December a pretty rough month for emailing news. I can't really blame them for last months screw up...well yes I can, but the fact of the matter was, that that time it was my fault. Another case of time zone drift...Anyway...

More of '78 takes the helm as: **John Sturges** assumed command of RENTZ (FFG-46) on January tenth at Naval Station, San Diego. On 27 February **Bill Dunkin** gave up command of VP-40 out at Whitby Island, WA. He gives up the fun of being a minor deity as CO for the job of a "Wing Nut." Bill will be the Chief Staff Officer for Patrol Wing Ten at Whitby. While Bill was passing the baton, **Marty Drake** receiving one. On 4 February, Marty assumed command of THORN at Norfolk.

Dom Berenato dropped me a line and a photo of a "mini-reunion" of the boys from 20th Company. The occasion was last August's Change of Command for **John Cooke** in Norfolk, VA. John assumed command of OKLAHOMA (SSN-723). As Dom put it, "John...and 5 of his Classmates were on hand to both caution the crew that 'Cooke' rhymes with 'Hook' and that 'Time, Tide, Formation and John Cooke wait for no man..." As the following picture will attest, on hand were **Dan Peters** (Harrier Jock), **Dom Berenato** (CivLant Environmental HazWaste-Safety Training Business Owner), Professor **Mike Hayden** (PhD, physics at UMBC), HMFIC **John Cooke** (Sub-god, O-K City), **Mike Shinego** (Animal Rights Activist—[This I gotta hear from Mike!]), and **Al Kolpacke** (USNR Commander and Defense Contractor).

John and his beautiful wife, Debbie, have 4 children and live in the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard while his boat goes through overhaul. As for Dom, his company is in Ocean City, NJ but you can also catch him on email at dominick@libertynet.org. Thanks for the



Change of Command—20th Company Reunion

note Dom and the atta-boy, but as you'll read later on, I lost it.

Steve Koronka dropped a line from Hungary. It seems Steve turned a little help from a Classmate into a full-time gig. The story goes like this—A year ago Steve was spending a Reserve weekend lunch-hour working out in the gym at the Defense Logistics Agency (DLA) Headquarters in Fort Belvoir. His workout partner was **Gary Lovgren** (Gary's the Reserve programs director at DLA.) During the workout Gary mentioned he was looking for some people to support DLA in the expected operations in former Yugoslavia. In particular, they were looking for some folks for an intermediate support base in southern Hungary. Since Steve is fluent in Hungarian, Gary encouraged him to submit some papers. Well, you all know what happens when you volunteer... yup, in less than two weeks Steve found himself on a military leave of absence from his job, his stuff stuck in storage and he was headed to Germany. For 3 and a half months he was at the Army's base in Kaposvar, Hungary, with the DLA Contingency Team as part of the logistics effort in theater with the 1st Armored Division. He was probably the only sailor in a land-locked Army-run unit! His language and logistics skills were later parlayed into a new assignment as deputy of the liaison team in the US Embassy in Budapest. While there he worked with the Hungarian Ministry of Defense. This experience has enabled him to reconnect with his Hungarian roots, dealing with the Hungarians not only on a professional level, but personal one as well. Along the way he's made presentations to the Hungarian Military Academy on DLA and IFOR Operations; toured tank maintenance, air defense, computer and communications training facilities and go horseback riding—definitely non-nautical activities! While on assignment to escort a diplomatic contingent from the Hungarian Parliament to the Big E, he came across some other helpful Classmates: **Rich Holznecht**, at the US Embassy in Tel Aviv helped with the COD flight out. **Rudy Costanza** played Tower Flower with him. **Alex Hnarkis** provided briefings and photos of VF-103. What started out as a "sweat room banter" with **Gary Lovgren** has turned into an extended active duty. Steve remains in Europe, helping with the US-led arms reduction effort in the former Yugoslavia. He splits his time between Germany, Vienna, and "in-theater." In the job he truly gets to see the "whole picture" both in a diplomatic arena and joint and multi-national operations. He sent thanks to all the Classmates he's encountered for their help and as well to **Andy Anderson '77** for some "special short notice matter with SecDef's office." Hmm...sounds like Secret Squirrel Stuff to me. By now Steve's probably paid off his Army-Navy bet with some member of the oppo-

site sex. I know some of the bet had to do with some menial duties, like car washing and waxing. The real question is what was the part he couldn't convey in this "wholesome" venue. I guess I'll have to email him at skoronka@europe.dla.mil to find out! Here's a look at some of Steve's travels across Europe.



General Steve Koronka, USN/A

**Plan to Honor Red Romo
on 9 May 1997—
See page 19 for details.**



Guess who's the lawyer



Steve and Rudy Costanza with his redundant T-shirt



Steve and Alex Hnarkis aboard the Big E

In the "Oscar Sierra, where did this letter come from" category—I enclose a long overdue photo sent by fellow vertically challenged Classmate (that's the PC term) **Greg Bauer**. It shows what at the time were four potential CO's at the Aviation Commander's Safety Course at Monterey: **Mark Fox**, **Greg Bauer** (the tall one), **Tim Hanifen**, and **Sean Coffey**.

You've read about the other three in recent columns. As for Greg, what is still current is that he and Beth have two beautiful girls: Sarah (14) and Jessica (11). They live in Crofton, MD just a stones throw (but in the limit for Second Class cars). After

8 1/2 years of active duty consisting of two pumps (one in Grenada and one in Beirut) and an instructor tour at Pensacola, Greg decided to spend more time with the family. He left active duty and went to fly for American Airlines but stayed with the Marine Reserve. With American, he's currently flying as a co-pilot on Boeing 757s, mostly to the Caribbean. As for the Reserve, he just took over the Marine Aircraft Support Detachment at Andrews AFB. Greg says they have some great USMC Airlines toys—umm—equipment; two C-12s and the Marine Corps' only Gulfstream IV (military designation, C-20G). For all you Reef Points aficionados Greg reported that the C-20 has a 4,400 mile range and "cool" looking (that's a pilot technical term) winglets. It's outfitted with 26 seats and has a cargo door—which really means it's one heckuva of a road trip wagon! Greg gets a below in headwork for a career move for most likely helping to get to know the family. I mean, HELLOOO, don't you airline guys TRAVEL a lot? Oops, I forgot, he's with American Airlines, and if I read my newspaper correctly, he may just be getting a little extra time at home these days. Thanks for the gouge Greg. Sorry it got lost in mail. Keep flying...I have some flights scheduled with you guys!!

Bernadette McGee dropped me a note because, well because we all know that Mike can't write. Good Navy wife that she is, she decided that since Mike has been EMCON for the past 19 years she'd break the cone of silence and let us know he's alive and well and living in Oak Harbor, WA. Mike assumed command of VP-69 last June at Whidby Island, which makes Bernadette, Mrs. CO, from a Navy sense; she's always been THE CO, from a matrimonial sense. The McGees love Whidby Island. Mike climbed Mt. Rainier in July and enjoyed the challenge. After the climb, Mike came to know more personally what Sir Edmund Hillary meant by "because it's there." We all still wonder, Yah—but—why? Gary Boettcher made it out for the change of command. Gary, like Greg Bauer, also flies for American Airlines. Bernadette and Mike have three children. Bernadette herself is still active in the Reserve—In spite of taking care of three kids (four if you count Mike), a house, a squadron and her own Naval career, Bernadette, still took time to write. Thanks for the note! Her next project is to get Mike some pencil and paper and writing lessons. I mean, you guys gotta write, or I'll just make this stuff up!

I got a call recently from Doug Ray out in Kings Bay, GA, where he is the Training Officer. Doug informed me that a few weeks ago (circa, January) Vinnie Belleza was in a terrible car accident. It seems he was on his way home to La Plata, MD from his job at PAX River. A lady in on-coming traffic fell asleep at the wheel and ran into Vinnie head-on. She was killed; but fortunately, Vinnie and the woman's daughter were spared. Vince was pretty banged up, compound fractures, internal injuries, a spleen was removed. You name it he smashed, but HE didn't break. He's a tough cookie and is recuperating. As this issue gets to your hands, we all hope he's speeding up the healing process even more. A few cards, letters and phone calls can only help with his recovery. So drop him a line at 8905 Bridgette Lane, La Plata, MD 20646. Barb and the kids could use the encouragement, as well. They're keeping things together at home and making sure dad gets better. We wish them luck and our prayers for a speedy and complete recovery.

On some better news, Doug mentioned that we have our first CAPTAIN select—Mel Williams! Well, we actually had a lot more Captains before now, but they were the USMC green kind and not the four striper with lots of pay kind. Talk about light speed to promotion, congratulations, Mel, you're our first

genuine O-6 type CAPTAIN! Now when is the wetting down? Priorities, priorities, remember?

Well that wraps it up for now. I've a few other letters in the grab bag, but they'll save until next issue. Besides, I'm stumbling through the 1040 forms and trying to figure out if I owe Uncle Sam or whether he owes me. Thank God for the fill in the blank Tax Programs. So far, Uncle Sam is winning and Bubba hasn't helped me yet. Now, if I can somehow claim you guys as dependents, or this computer as a BUSINESS deduction. Hmmm, let me see...I'll let you know how it turns out. Hopefully, I won't be writing from Leavenworth, making them little rocks from the big rocks. Until next month—Launchin Spot Four with them old IRS blues...

79

Membership: 94%

Pres: Mike Finley
Sec'y: Ken Russell
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Another deadline, another dope slap for the Give King. These winter deadlines fall right smack dab in the middle of two of the three winter wholesale shows I have to exhibit in to make the big bucks. Okay so I'm replacing comedy filler with lame excuses for last month and the rest of you are asking yourselves, "What comedy filler?" To let you know what kind of giver I really am, I'm scrambling to put together an April column from the Bethlehem, PA Courtyard Marriott before I commute myself downtown to the convention center to set up my booth. All this to make sure we don't have two blank months in a row (right Kenny, except for the Classmate info, all of your articles have been blank).

Now how are we tracking with the big event here in eastern South Dakota? Well even Governor Janklow is donating a few of his Bob Allen hunting duds to those of you who arrive here without luggage and need something to keep you warm in the Arlington stadium bleachers. This Un-Homecoming extravaganza did have a "minor" incident in that some of our Class leaders attempted to scuttle the whole deal and get the Twentieth back in Crabtown, but all their planning has as yet come up with goose eggs. They may still pull it off but remember, I have buffalo nickel keychains, Mount Marty College chompin' at the bits, and most importantly the incredible power and influence of being the Sec o' '79, your true King of Give. When the other guys come up with more info, I will give them equal time, of course but come on, who's gonna give up the opportunity to spend three glorious nights on cots right under the furnace vents at the Arlington Pottery? Okay, let's knock off this baloney, and get to some Class info, shall we?

All the info for this month will be from what's been stored in the laptop Word Processor of Love over the last few months. Being as how I'm in Philly at the time this is being written, if you see your email a second time, you'll know for sure I don't have a clue how to organize email, or anything else for that matter. Here goes:

First up is an email from Kevin Jackson:

Just a line to let my Classmates know that I'm in Manassas, VA enjoying early retirement (15 years). I work for an engineering and aviation services firm in Alexandria, VA (SENTEL Corp) and am still married to Lisa. Oldest son Karl is a sophomore in high school, youngest son Lance is in sixth grade, and daughter Lauren just started walking (14 months). I can be reached at kjackson@sente.com

or via snail mail at: Kevin Jackson, 9838 Arrowood Drive, Manassas, VA 22111. Also I just heard that Arthur Johnson will be leaving his command in sunny Hawaii for an Ops job in Iceland later this year.

Thanks Kev. Next up is some tronage from Kevin Delaney:

Thought I'd let you know about my new digs: as a result of SPAWAR's BRAC move from Crystal City, VA, I moved out here to San Diego last month (just in time to miss the Winter back East.) My wife's a Southern California native and after two previous tours I'm a converted Californian so we're happy to be back. Saw my old roommate on the way—we stopped off in Phoenix to see Ann and Don Barber and their two fine teenagers. It was great to see them again and talk over old times. I spent almost five half years in DC, mostly in NAVSEA submarine programs, which was a logical follow on to my shipboard and shipyard experience in submarines. In December '95, though, I moved to SPAWAR and into a new area for me—undersea surveillance systems. Having fun there learning about this new world. Please pass my phone number along to all Classmates who might be in the area: 619-553-7137. Also: kdelaney@nosc.mil. Kevin, SPAWAR PMW 183M 619-553-7137 (dsn 553-7137) f: 7477.

Well thanks Kevin for the update. My money's on you unconvincing from being a Californian if you retire there and see the size of the first check from your civilian income you get to write and send to Sacramento each April. Sometimes I walk to the east side of town, look toward the Atlantic Ocean and I'm still not far enough away. Next up is a noble offer from Tom Gehrki to head up the 20th. Apparently, a buffalo nickel key chain's just not good enough for some people. Tom, I hesitate to print this due to the feeding frenzy of Class officers unclipping their packs and letting them drop, giving them an excuse to gaff off any planning they may be doing, but I digress. Take it away Tom!

If you are still having trouble getting someone to take the lead on the reunion, let me know. If I get another 3 year tour in Northern Virginia I will do it—provided there are some resources like:

1. A 15th Reunion plan I can use as a starting point.
2. Alumni Association server support where on I can put a 79 Reunion Home Page.
3. A few people willing to assist.
4. Some seed money. I will—as much as possible—fully automate the process. The major mailing will be a one time event to pass initial information and tell everyone to GET ACCESS TO OUR HOME PAGE. The ball will be in their court to suck information while I push

Thanks for the offer Tom. Hopefully that will brush off a few cobwebs for the folks who are really trying to compete with my incredible funfest I've already got locked up OR you're going to be getting LOTS of "you got the ball Tom" phone calls. There is a web page reportedly being set up and when that happens I'll stick that info in an article. In the mean time, I won't be www-dot-holding my breath. Next up is a note from Solid Gold Dancer fan Larry Taggart:

Subject: Does Thermal Underwear Really Work?

Ken, One of my New Year's resolution was to sit down and write you and Vicki a long letter and let you know what has been going on with the Taggart family over the past couple of years. This is not that letter. After watching all the brutal weather you guys have been enduring the past few weeks I had to send my sympathies and ask; Do we really want our 20th reunion in Arlington, SD.? From the looks of things you won't be done with snow removal for another 5 years! Pay attention now for I am going to give you the 30 second ticker on the Taggarts. Contrary to the Joe Gish rumor control hotline, I did not embezzle any money from my previous company, flee to South America with the FBI hot on my heels and return to the US after extensive plastic surgery. After being downsized out of my job in CT. Patti and I moved the kids to beautiful Warrenton, VA. (near the Shenandoah Moun-