



Oh McGoo, you've done it again!

78

Membership: 85%

Pres: **John Rudder**

Sec'y: **Vince Balderrama**

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"Ya don't tug on Superman's cape, ya don't spit into the wind, ya don't pull the mask off the old Lone Ranger" and ya better not mess with your *Shipmate* editor. If only Jim Croce would've written those lines, I wouldn't be in the shoals and at risk with the DLC (Deadline Leniency Committee)! I really didn't mean to tweak the nose of the Queen of Scribes by commenting on the uhh...texture of the new paper. I'm not among the "effete city slickers" as **Carl Strang '55** stated in his email. But now that he's mentioned it, I guess I *can* appreciate the value of the improved pulp filler for its "soft and absorbent quality"—characteristics highly cherished by those in the "hinterlands beyond the reach of indoor plumbing." Thanks for shedding some light for me, Carl. From your "contrary opinion," I have a better appreciation for the new paper. I will make sure I carry my *Shipmate* with me on every Field-ex (those C-rats—now MREs—never provided enough "tickets"). The bottom line, as our *Editor* so clearly stated, is that it saves beaucoup bucks and enables her not to compress these ramblings of mine, KR's, et al; she *more convincingly* made the point that the DLC has been **ESPECIALLY** kind to this prodigal penman, soooooooo...nuff said...I'm not worthy, I'm not worthy.

Anyway...

Bill Soer wrote awhile ago as the 32nd Co. PAO to tell us about a January change of command at Andrews AFB for **Tim "McGoo" Murphy**. Murph assumed command of the weekend warriors of VMFA-321, a Marine Reserve F/A-18 squadron. It was a beautiful, brightly sunny January day; and Bill said that fortunately for all the spectators, McGoo wore his cover throughout the ceremony. Tim, his wife Pat, and their two daughters live in the Annapolis area. Murph flies the airbus for FedEx, and Pat teaches at a local school. Surrounding Tim at the Change of Command Party were **Rand Lebouvier**, **Ray Kwong**, **Bill Soer** and **Bill Hession**.

Rand was the CO of CARTER HALL. This May he passed the helm and the conn and was headed for Japan as the Assistant Ops Officer on the Seventh

Fleet Staff. Julie and the three kids were excited about the move. **Ray Kwong** is the President of Triton Services, a rapidly growing business which has software and manufacturing divisions. The business is doing very well; well enough to allow Ray to assume collateral responsibilities as COCDO ("Change of Command Duty Officer"). It seems wherever there's a change of command, there's Ray. While Ray chases down his next corporate acquisition, his wife Becka holds down the fort. **Bill Hession** was promoted with Lockheed-Martin and relocated to Fredericksburg, VA. He's still hiding out in the Reserve and flies with **Ken Law** at HSL 94 in Willow Grove, PA. With five daughters on their hands, Sherry never has a spare moment. Bill's dream is that when the girls reach maturity they all elope—simultaneously. As for **Bill Soer**, he hauls the night freight with Murph at FedEx. He, Stephanie and their three kids live in the Philadelphia area. Stephanie works for the Vanguard Group. Like anyone with children, the kids' activities ensure that they have no adult social life in the foreseeable future. Among other 32nd Company-mates who've kept in contact, Bill noted that Sylvia and **Phil Benoit** and their two children live in Dallas, TX. Phil is a Subcontract Manager for Texas Instruments (which might now be a division of Raytheon). He drills with the Army Reserve at Ft. Sill, OK. The last time I saw Phil was several years ago in DC at a Reserve Officers Association Convention. He looked great but admitted that if you thought Army-Navy is a tense time, try being a grad of Severn Tech in Army olive drab!

J.D. Oliver is CO of VF-211, which was among the Miramar squadrons to cross deck East to NAS Oceana. J.D. also emailed me and added a few more details. Those of you who were at the Navy-Delaware Game may recall the F-14s that "reefed and zorched" over Navy-Marine Corps Memorial. That was J.D. and his boys. (I swore to the FAA they were at LEAST 500 feet above the stadium!) J.D. hoped to make his last Tomcat flight this Summer during the Parents Weekend P-rade flyover. After that, he gives up the squadron (Aug. 29th to be exact). Where he, Kathy and their two kids will end up is still in the whimsy of the detailer at BUPERS. It's probably a penance tour somewhere around the Beltway; otherwise his plans to attend some tailgaters may be scuttled. You can catch J.D. on email at—where else?—TomcatPilot@aol.com.

FedEx's other '78 crew are: **Steve Podawitz** and **Mark McNair**. Both of these guys live in the Memphis area. Steve is a B727 captain and Mark flies and instructs in the airbus. Thanks for all the news, Bill. Sorry I wasn't very punctual in getting this onto

my Pulp Fiction Column where my motto is—"If it ain't all true, it oughtta' be!" I hope your tail pipe isn't too singed.

Like all global travelers, **John Hueseman** uses hotel stationary in place of the old Academy velum these days. On Radisson, Hotel Narita Airport paper, he wrote to tell me of his visit to Janis and **Mark Strasser's** place in Minnesota. John's plan to avoid visiting them during the Winter didn't work out; too restrictive. After all, I think the rest of the seasons in Minnesota cover only a span of about ten days. I think it's *still* snowing. Proof that *nothing* deters '78 from having fun—not even -10° F and 42 inch deep weather—the two of them got into a local Broomball Tournament on Lake Minnetonka. (Strasser scored a few goals and John played defense with serious bodycheck that would make Bill Hanna and the Alumni Hockey Team proud!)



Gretzkey and Messier—NOT! (Strasser & Hueseman)

They also did a little ice fishing (My preferred method of ice fishing is digging for a Morton's in the frozen food section at the Stop and Shop.); took in a Timberwolves B-Ball game; and helped the local beer distributor make quota. They succeeded in all objectives! Casa Strasser is right on Lake Minnetonka, about 40 minutes outside on Minneapolis Airport. The distance makes it easier for Mark to make his 747 duties with Northwest Airlines. He and Janis have been married since '94; following the previous year's 15th Reunion proposal. They have a 20-plus month old son, Alex. With the baby came an early retirement for Janis from her flight attendant duties with Northwest. As for **John Hueseman**, he's currently a securities broker for A.G. Edwards & Sons, Inc. His business partner is Joe Micheletti, the ex-NHL Hockey player and color commentator for all the pucks at Fox Sports. I guess John got a few pointers from him before heading out for that Broomball Tourney. John and Nancy celebrated their 18th wedding anniversary on Dec. 30th. That deserves a medal—for Nancy that is. Along with their two daughters, Heidi (15) and Kelly (13), they call St. Louis home. When not playing Broomball, John gets in about 3 rounds of golf a week. Unlike most "golfanatics," he sets a 40° F temp limit before he ventures out to the greens. Nancy has even taken up golf, but John didn't say if her temp limit is more in the sane level. He's rolled out the Welcome Mat to anyone passing through St. Louie. Bring your clubs and/or brooms. Just ring them up at 800-866-2801 or 314-394-5302. In closing, John added that Denise and **Steve Stamos** also live in St. Louis. Steve owns Exhibits, Graphics and More, a marketing and promotions firm. Mary and **Rick Roustio** live across the river in Belleville, IL. Rick recently joined a law firm there after having worked in the public defender's office in East St. Louis. Anne and **Chris Davidson** are also in St. Louis. Chris is climbing the corporate ladder at Union Electric Company. Both **Joe Chartrand** and **Dave Price** work at McDonnell Douglas, or is it Boeing? Dawn is Joe's better half, while Etta completes Dave. Christine and **Ed Bohne** (my old Plebe Summer roomie) live in



The Kings of Groton

Alton, IL. Ed's a lawyer. Jan and **Drew Niehaus** (Strasser's roomie and John's sidekick at Navy) and their three sons live in "Nawlins," LA (that's New Orleans for you Yankees). Drew is still on active duty as a Pork Chop—Supply Corps.

Marilyn and **Scott Langdon** are living up the road in Gales Ferry, CT. Scott is enjoying life as the CO of CITY OF CORPUS CHRISTI (SSN-705) out of Groton; but then, it's GOOD to be the King! Kyle (4) and Erin (2) keep Marilyn busier than any ships crew could. Among the other "Royalty" at Groton are: **Tony Quatroche**, **Bill Burke**, **Bob Zalaskus**, and **Joel Bohlmann**.

Mary and **Tony Quatroche** and their two boys live in Salem, CT. Tony is XO of the base at Groton. Mary and **Bill Burke** are in Groton with their two kids. (For my fellow Marines and the links near the anchorman, that's a different Mary from the one with Tony. Got it? Okay, let's continue.) Bill is CO of TOLEDO (SSN-769). Jan, Lauren and **Bob Zalaskus** live in Gales Ferry. Bob is the CO of TREPANG (SSN-674). **Joel Bohlmann** and his wife, Wendy Barnes, live in Groton. Joel is the CO of HARTFORD (SSN-768). It is NOT true that Joel rows the boat into mooring. Other '78ers with whom the Langdons keep in touch are: Barbara and **John Storvick** also live in Gales Ferry; while John works for NUWC in Newport, RI. Patti and **Rick Martinez** (RickMartnz@aol.com) are up in Portsmouth. Rick is decommissioning New York City. In an Christmas note from Debbie and **Eric Rosenlof**, they told Marilyn that they are beginning their third tour in Hawaii. It sounded as if that was number three-in-a-row. Eric went through PCO in Newport last year; returned to Hawaii; completed a turnover; had a change of command; and immediately deployed. Awww the wonders of Naval life! Eric should be home by now. You can drop **Scott Langdon** a line on email at LangdonSA@aol.com. Thanks for note, Marilyn. I can always count on you for gouge.

As I start to wrap up, here's a quick update on **Vince Belleza**, courtesy of **Jim Fiorelli**. Vinnie is doing great! As of May, he was working half days and getting around on crutches. Besides his legs, he seems to have no lasting, critical problems. He can support his weight on the one leg where he broke his ankle. He's getting physical therapy for the other leg which had the compound break. He still has a way to go but, with the love and help of his family and friends (especially bud's like Jim), he'll GET there!



Jim and families with Vinnie Belleza—up and about! I'm running short of space so I'll fill you in on more details and the rest of Jim's letter next time.

Look forward in next month's edition to email news from **Bill "If" Fell** (Ifuma@aol.com), **Bob Destafney** (LtCol.Robert_DeStafney@smtp.ddre.dla.mil), **Mike Fifer** (mfifer@shore.net), **Kurt Tidd** (Ktidd@aol.com) and **Cale Haren** (charen@tidalwave.net), not to mention plain old-fashioned letters still piled on my desk.

Gotta go, and pray before the DLC, mea culpa, mea culpa, mea maxima culpa. Launchin' Spot Four (CanoeU78@aol.com)

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Kids it's gettin' pretty official here in Eastern SD. Mount Marty College's motto: "Ideals for today, Ideas for the future" is being changed to "Wish we could have half as much Give as Kenny" once the gala UnHomecoming football game is over. I'm here to tell ya, you're gonna be so stinkin' glad you went to Navy after the Hootnanny on the Prairie, not to mention the status you'll enjoy when your pals see that Buffalo Nickel Keychain dangling from the ignition switch. The chicks just dig those things. All you single guys will certainly hear this more than once from cute single babes, "Hey fella, is that a Buffalo Nickel Key Chain? Well I want to party with you, you animal. Take me." Okay, enough innuendo, let's get on with the info and hold off on the excitement we'll have because I, your Give King, saw a need to make sure we had a Twentieth Reunion and stepped up to the challenge. I also did it...for The Children.

So I'm at the wheel the other day, throwing some large platters, thinking about how wonderful it'll be to snag a few Walleyes at one of the prairie lakes this Summer, when I hear on National People's Republic Radio that one of our Classmates discovered a whole new galaxy. Yep, somewhere near Andromeda, **Al Whiting** figured out one of the stars was actually a small galaxy. Way to go Doughball.

One thing I've been forgetting to tell you's guys was that Karen and **Wiz Withers** stopped by during the Christmas holidays to see us. Karen became the Skipper of one of the SeaBee commands down in, I want to say Biloxi. Wiz, retired and becoming an avid Martha Stewart fan, keeps the house tidied up and golfs to his little hearts content. I know, I hate him too; but it was a blast getting to see them and spending some time visiting. Wiz, Karen, I hope you two are enjoying the warmer weather, and Wiz send me a flame...I mean, email.

Got a great letter from **Kent Norgrove**. He just got promoted to Senior Operations Manager at Kids-R-Us. Seems Kent will need the extra denaro because his 16-year old son just started driving. USAA sent him the happy car insurance rate increase news along with a video. Unfortunately, Kent's old position hasn't been filled, so he's wearing two hats which is putting a big damper on baseball coaching and basketball refereeing. Also, he met **Frank** and **Pedro Leon Guerrero's** sister Christina at a recent family reunion. One of those small world deals. Kent, thanks a bunch for the note and congrats on your promotion. I don't know how to get ahold of **Dan Bursch**. Maybe Dan could send me an email, and I'll try and hook you up. You might also try surfing NASA's web page. You may be able to get to him from there. Also, thanks for the compliment about Vicky. She's never met a stranger. Thanks again for the note.

George "Tracy" Franks sent an update. He's a General Manager with Lucent Technologies, the AT&T spin-off company. Tracy, Pam, and their daughters Abby 14 and Melissa 10, moved into bigger digs last year in Fanwood, NJ. Man, two daughters. Can't say that I envy you Trace. I do think on the first date, I'd be in the back seat, cleaning rifles and pistols, telling the two teenagers, "Don't mind me. Just pretend I'm not even here." George also keeps up with former roomie **Mike Johnson** and **Brian Ward**. Tracy, thanks for the note and update and good on you for your promotion.