

Pres: **Chuck Gorum**

146 Prince George Street, Annapolis, MD 21401

h: 410-263-3337

e: cgorum@annap.infi.net

Sec'y: **Chuck Dirienzo**

2833 Horseman's Ridge Drive, Clayton, NC 27520

h: 919-550-2627

w: 919-460-0071

e: chuckles@ipass.net

Hello '76! We just have a short article this month, so sit back, strap in and hold on!

I was fortunate to attend this year's Service Academy Career Conference in Pentagon City in April. As a volunteer for the Alumni Association, I was able to go "backstage" and chat with some of the recruiters attending the event. These folks were very excited about the prospects in the crowd waiting nervously outside the locked doors. I don't have any statistics about how many Academy alums got job offers, but I can guarantee you that there were many; and for those who hadn't tried marketing themselves in the private sector, the lessons were many. Over fifty major firms were represented, and the Association had to turn away over a dozen more. Candidates attending the sessions were estimated at over seven hundred eager and nervous individuals. A number of '76ers were in attendance; **Mike O'Connell** was recruiting for ConEd, and **Mike Flentje** was interviewing right and left for RWD Technologies. About four other Classmates were making the rounds and checking out the opportunities in the room. For purposes of confidentiality, I'll not specifically identify them (don't want to surprise anybody's boss with the news!); but let's just say they were some darn good looking guys and therefore easily recognized as representing '76.

My hat's off to **Tom Kennedy** and **Derwood Curtis** for organizing the first Pentagon Class Luncheon in years! Twenty-five of our gang enjoyed the ambiance of the newly renovated Pentagon Executive Dining Room and the raucous chatter of old friends. All but about five of the group were in uniform, with the rest of us smoothin' in our business suits. After assaulting the salad bar, we spent a few minutes discussing Class issues. Not the least among the topics was the idea of a Class project of some kind. **Mark O'Hare** offered to move forward investigating appropriate involvement for the Class in the dedication and commissioning of RONALD REAGAN (CVN-76) over the next few years. Other ideas included contributions to the Academy in a number of forms or possibly support for other segments of the Navy Family. Coming to a consensus on such a project will be a long and detailed effort to ensure success. Keep your ears open as we start pursuing ideas and gauging support from everyone.

By the time you get this, we'll be just weeks away from our 25th Anniversary I-Day picnic. Set aside 12 July to join us in Annapolis for a Saturday afternoon get together. We'll meet at the pavilion on the far end of Hospital Point at 1400. The Class will provide sodas, burgers, basic sandwich dressings, chips and sports equipment. Everyone bring a covered dish to share, and let me be the first to beg you not to forget the desserts! Security will allow beer, but no hard liquor on the grounds; so if you want to tip a few, bring your own suds. Please come out and join us! The Class of '01 will have been onboard just over a week by that time, and I'm sure we can all get a few chuckles out of the memories they invoke.

I'll check into getting a few tee times at the Naval Academy Golf Course for early Saturday morning so that some of us can go out and chase that little white ball in the morning dew, and let our families

meet us for food in the afternoon. I am not going to tie up many reservations, so please email me or call in advance to check on a spot. I'll also be canceling far enough in advance for the course to re-issue spots we don't seem to need. Don't bet on just walking up and getting to play. Email me at cgorum@annap.infi.net or call me at 410-263-3337. I'll also be putting our additional information on the Class' listserv as it is firmed up.

Well that's all folks! I hope to have the list of attendees from the luncheon in time for the next column so everyone can make their guest appearance in *Shipmate*! Take care everyone! **Chuck G.**

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Membership: 80%

Pres: **CDR Owen G. Thorp III, USNR**

Sec'y: **CDR Bill Millward, USN**

1026 Magnolia Avenue, Norfolk, VA 23508

e: bmillwar@ix.netcom.com

Acting Sec'y: **CDR Mark Sobczak**

1522 South Sea Breeze Trail

Virginia Beach, Virginia 23452

e: pnh0mls@pnh10.med.navy.mil

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Membership: 85%

Pres: **John Rudder**

Sec'y: **Vince Balderrama**

45 Little Fawn Drive, Shelton, CT 06484

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Membership: 94%

Pres: **Mike Finley**

Sec'y: **Ken Russell**

210 South Main Street

P.O. Box 380, Arlington, SD 57212

h: 605-983-4777

e: gone2pot@juno.com

I almost didn't make it again this month because I dorked up the conversion factor on the due date. Yeah, see the due date for this article was 13 April based on the regular calendar. The conversion factor for the South Dakota calendar would make that the seventy-third of February.

So I'm doing my monthly Elvis channeling the other day when in walks Gandhi and Eleanor Roosevelt. Both were a little upset and concerned for the 39 chuckleheads formerly from Rancho Vista. Apparently, Mrs. R and Mahatma were zorchin' around the local area as the Heaven's Gate crowd arrived at the Hale-Bopp spaceship. The Nike Air Vince Foster's shod computer nerds entered the alien craft only to find everyone wearing suits with bowties, fez caps with ANOI embroidered on the front, and a big sheet poster with the words AWELCOME TO Calypso Louie's Mother Ship painted on it hanging in the entrance bay. Major screw up, to be sure. Not to worry though, they'll just stay on board for three more years and take the Bridge To The Twenty First Century over to the ship they were trying to get to originally.

No Un-Homecoming update this month. The deal's pretty much locked in Jell-O, and I'm patiently waiting for the funds to get here from the NAAA and Ronbo's House O' Alums so the buffalo nickel key chain guy can get his advance on materials. Also, as of February 73rd, there's been no word from the

mean-spirited, extremist, right wing fringe group trying to compete with me, your Give King and get the whole deal moved back to Crabtown. Clearly, not in keeping with our family values and our aim to help All the children.

I believe that would be just about enough pathetic stabs at comedy, so we ought to move right into this month's load o' info. By the way, those of you incorporate execs looking to benchmark on a few TQ cost savers, you may want to call the Home Office for some tips. According to my sources, by using this paper for the article, *Shipmate* is saving a little over a hundred grand per year on magazine production costs. Dollars that can be spent for enhancing career seminars for Alums (that would be you all), supporting the Brigade and a host of other things (like maybe springing for some custom-made, stoneware Un-Homecoming beer mugs from The Arlington Pottery in '99). Anyway, my hat's off to the Home Office folks for making things better and saving bango dollars in the process (and I'm not trying to suck up like I usually have to because the article's too long or too late). Now on with the info:

This month will be stuff from the Internet being as how Mr. Mailbox gave me goose eggs. First up is some troonage from **John Kunert**:

Just thought I'd drop a note to let folks know where I am and what is going on. I am currently in command of KAUFFMAN (FFG-59) and residing in Norfolk with my wife Diane and son Andrew (9). I've been here since September '96 and have enjoyed every minute of it. Unfortunately, time is passing too quickly as I am due to rotate in March of next year enroute to the Naval War College in Newport. The family is doing fine and enjoying time together while the ship is in DSRA at NORSHIPCO here in Norfolk. My Academy roommate, **Jim Weckerly** is currently in Command of HSL 46 in Mayport, FL. That's about it for now. Will write soon with more detailed info on others that I've seen or heard about. Thanks, John, email address: ffg59co@juno.com

Thanks John, and we'll be looking for that future update. Next up is an email from **Dan Vortherms**:

Sorry it has taken so long to get you a note. Seems like Christmas was either yesterday or a year and a half ago. Shirley and I really enjoyed visiting your shop. It is nice to see someone achieve success doing something they enjoy. I presume you get few Classmate visits in that neck of the woods. I make it back there periodically as I am one of two '79ers from South Dakota (the other is **Denny Olsen** from Elk Point, current whereabouts unknown). I escaped the drudgeries of defense work several years ago when I joined a new start up company in Denver in the wireless communications business. That job eventually took me to Omaha for a couple of years to start up the network for Nebraska and Iowa. After that company was involved in a merger (read acquisition), most of our engineering team competed for and received jobs within the new corporate engineering structure. However, when they started playing musical corporate headquarters locations (let's make it Denver. No, Seattle! No, Washington, DC!), I decided I did not want to go back to that rat race. So, I quit. Along with most of the Denver management of the previous wireless company. Now, I am back in Denver with the same management group, similar venture capital funding and a new company that is less than a year old. We are in the Internet business and it beats defense any day. Things are booming, but the wife and kids would like to be in one place for a while again. I am still in the Reserve. Trying to stay gainfully employed while in the Rocky Mountain Navy, however, is difficult. Staying away from the standard Reserve admin weekend is difficult with a new unit full of direct commissioned Reserve officers. But, I think we now have a viable, useful project for the gaining command to keep us busy.

...I will be back visiting a sister on her way to 3 years in Germany (courtesy of a West Point husband) and two new nieces. Take it easy Ken, and keep the columns flowing. I think my name has appeared on one *Shipmate* edition, courtesy of