

# 76

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Hello to everyone. As I write this article, all the folks here in the Raleigh area are caught up in March Madness! Dean Smith has just tied the record for the most wins by a coach, NC State is in the NIT and NAVY is getting ready to play in the first round of the NCAA Tournament. I guess that accounts for the lack of information. Oh well, here is what I have for now.

**John Kruse** (kruse\_jrj@mqg-smtp3.usmc.mil) (the Kruser) e-mailed me on his return from Korea and PACOM. As he said, I also think e-mail is great! He hooked up with **Dave and Joyce Thieman** while there. Dave, following a successful command tour on HELENA, runs the ORS Board out at CINCPACFLEET. He is an O-6 select and has been picked for Top Level School. John says he is looking forward to seeing Dave, Joyce and the girls here in the DC area this Summer when Dave comes to the National War College at Fort McNair. Big change from shorts and aloha shirts to coat and tie for Dave. Thanks John.

I know there are signs all around us that we are getting old but, here is one sure sign from **Mark Hubbard**. Mark has just received the news from the U. S. Naval Academy that his son, Billy, has been formally accepted for the Class of 2001!!!! They had been waiting since October to hear if his medical waiver was approved for his childhood asthma (this is a kid who goes both ways on the football field and lacrosse without any problems). He had the support of the Navy football and lacrosse offices (they are recruiting Billy for both sports). The football coach, Charlie Weatherbie, called Billy at home two weeks ago and said that he was excited about Billy and was pulling for him to get accepted. In fact, Coach Weatherbie was watching a tape of one of the other Navy football recruits from Frederick, MD, and the opposing team in the film was Billy's team and the coach was impressed with what he saw of Billy at quarterback (he is being recruited as a defensive back). Anyway, I'm in seventh heaven right now, as you all can imagine. Mark was back at Kennedy Space Center until March 26<sup>th</sup> when he accompanied the Hubble Space Telescope flight hardware back to Goddard Space Flight Center in Greenbelt, MD, via C-5 aircraft (depart from the Shuttle Landing Facility at KSC and land at Andrews Air Force Base). Mark also reports the Hubble Servicing Mission went extremely well. He had been TDY at KSC since October 22<sup>nd</sup> to support the integration of the payload carriers into the shuttle, DISCOVERY. His wife and two youngest children, Chris and Meghan, flew down for the week of the launch in February. Our Classmate, **Bob Jackson**, and his wife, Gerri, and four children, flew all the way from San Diego to spend the week of the launch with them at their condo in Cocoa Beach. It was a short visit with the family and friends for him since he had to leave immediately after launch to ride the NASA-1 plane from KSC to Johnson Space Center in order to support the mission at Mission Control in Houston. He did get an opportunity to spend a week at home after the mission before returning to KSC for the deintegration and preparations for shipment of the carriers. Mark looks forward to getting back to the home front (less

than two weeks to go). However, there is no rest for the weary because the project is already getting heavily into the flow for Servicing Mission Three (scheduled for December 1999). Thanks, Mark. Congratulations to Billy!!!

Just as I was getting ready to fire this off, an email appeared in my in box from **Bates Estabrooks** (besta@tis.eh.doe.gov). He, Stephanie and the kids will be moving in early April to the Denver area. He is taking a job with Safe Sites of Colorado (a Westinghouse partnership with B&W) as a senior principal health physicist (quite a pretentious title) at the Rocky Flats site. He wanted to remind all of us that Rocky Flats was the former birthplace for plutonium "pits," but is now an environmental remediation site. In addition, Stephanie and Bates are eagerly expecting another child in late October. Thanks, Bates.

That's all for now. Don't forget to email (maddog@ipass.net) or snail mail anything of note.

**Chuck D.**

Hello Folks, this is **Chuck G.** kicking in a few last minute notes of note...

**Michael Bosworth** retired from the Navy in Sept '96 and took a position with Syntek in Ballston, VA. Syntek is a small firm specializing in technology strategic planning for maritime applications. Boz is therefore still engaged in Navy ship design issues, besides Syntek's other work with DARPA and domestic/overseas commercial firms. Barbara (Ring Dance date) and Mike have three children and a rabbit, all are active in soccer and music (except the rabbit). Mike continues his interests in history of technology (focussed on circa 1800 right now) and music (sea shanty group), and has commenced part-time graduate studies at George Washington University. Good luck, Mike!!

**Kevin Stone** sends in one for the "small world" department! Penny Vahsen, a middle school science teacher in the Annapolis area, has **Jim Stone's '52** grandson, and Kevin's son, Matthew Stone, as a student this year. As it turns out, Penny's late husband, **George Vahsen '52** was a submariner in New London at the same time the Stone's lived there.

This Summer will be the Twenty-Fifth Anniversary of our Induction Day back on that HOT July morning in 1972. We celebrated with a picnic for our Twentieth Anniversary and I'd like to do the same this year.

Set aside July 12<sup>th</sup>, this year to return for another foodfest on the Severn. I'll start working on getting Hospital Point for the cookout and we can wander around the Yard gawking at the Plebes for a while. Bring your kids, a covered dish, plenty of Ben Gay and an appetite. The Class will kick in for burgers, chips, other miscellaneous items, and sodas. It should

be a nice event and I hope everyone in the area will make it a point to come join us! Standby for more details...

Take care folks!

# 77

Membership: 80%

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[Ed. Note: Again I come to with an apology. We had another disconnect; we surprised Mark by getting Bill's wayward column in April, so Mark thought he had the month off. He is truly dedicated and will be back for June...Nancy]

# 78

Membership: 85%

Pres: **John Rudder**

Sec'y: **Vince Balderrama**

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Okay, is it just me or when you guys were reading the recent *Shipmates* did you find yourself fighting the urge to look for the car mat section? I mean, I know we're trying to save money and condense the volume of the magazine by going to this new paper but jeeze, it felt like those car catalogs you see in the waiting area of a Firestone Tire center, or those Pennysaver sales rags. Uuugh. Come on folks, I'll even kick in a couple of bucks a year to help pay for better paper. I kept looking for recycled traces of my newspaper in the background. [Ed. Note: Thanks for the support, Vince. I guess accepting all those columns from you after the deadlines, doesn't count for much. Remember, women have a long memory! We weren't happy with March either, but we feel as if April was 400% better. We are able to reduce costs by \$100,000 per year without cutting the size of the Class Columns. It is a trial so please give us a chance...Nancy]

Usually I get a letter from some Alumni Chapter President telling what's going on with **Mark "Beau" James** but this time he actually wrote himself, and a pretty lengthy letter too! He and Connie are living in Midlothian, VA, along with their two kids, Jes-



Wedding Day Reunion for Fun 31: (L to R) Tony Quatroche, Jack Christensen, Rich Polek, Ron Brownley, and Mark James '78



sica (4) and Matthew (2). As the picture will attest, they spend a lot of time with the Poleks, as in—Jennifer and Rich Polek.



The Polek and James Families—Labor Day '96

As for Jennifer and Rich, Mark wrote that back in July, those two became the proud parents of Nadilee Rose. It was 2 July to be exact. It's been almost three years since Jennifer and Rich were married in Antioch, IL. As you can see by the flashback-in-time photo Mark sent, "Fun 31" was well represented at that ceremony by Vicki and **Ron Brownlee**, Jill and **Jack Christensen**, Connie and **Mark James**, and **Tony Quatroche**. Mark is hoping that the contrast of the photo is dark enough to do for the guys what the Hair Club for Men couldn't.

As for Jennifer, she is a key supporter of a scholarship fund that Rich established in memory of Rich's first wife, Cindi. Cindi passed away in '92 after a diagnosis of advanced cancer. In her all too brief lifetime she affected many people through her work in physical therapy. To continue that work, Rich established the scholarship fund. It's a fund that's pretty well managed and nicely endowed with the help of a six figure gift left by a lady who died of cancer, but who too was profoundly touched by Cindi. This good fortune provides about 20 Physical Therapy scholarships a year. Selection is based mostly on character and financial need (Which for a link on the Anchor Chain guy like me sounds pretty fair!). Rich isn't seeking any new donors, but he'd be glad to answer any questions folks might have about the fund or how to go about setting up one. You can reach him at 847-356-9313. Still, if you'd like to contribute, your gift won't be turned down. You can send donations to University of Wisconsin-La Crosse Foundation, 1725 State Street, La Crosse, WI 54601. Be sure to designate any gifts to the Cindi Stoller Polek Scholarship. Jennifer and Rich make it a point to meet all the scholarship recipients. The say it's especially rewarding to see the reactions and know you can truly do something wonderful to help someone. As for Rich, though Cindi's death was a big blow to him, he's one lucky guy to have found Jennifer. I mean, it's hard enough to find that one certain someone with whom you can share your life. For Rich, he's found good fortune twice. As Mark wrote, Jennifer helped Rich through the tragedy of Cindi's death; she unselfishly shares the best part that remains while building a new life together. A lot of guys are envious, Rich. Good luck. Mark also mentioned that he ran into **Mark Miller** during Homecoming. He was pleased to see that Navy ran up 64 points against Duke. He and Mark were especially thrilled as they (and their brides) were all in grad school at Duke. Football at Duke he says was so bad that he claims, "the highlight films showed a lot of tailgater footage, cheerleaders, band, and the annual 'Wait till basketball!' quotes from the fans." It made him yearn for the "Up the Middle; Up the Middle; Pass; Punt" days of our Plebe Year. Well thanks for the letter and great description of life for the Poleks, Mark. But next time, how about a little more on you, too?



**Bill Larimore** dropped me an email from Palm Harbor, FL, asking for an email listing of our Class. I have quite a few addresses, Bill, but I don't believe there is one comprehensive list—yet. But you've given me a great idea and we'll see what we can do. First off, how about sending me your email addresses folks! You can reach me at—[CanoeU78@aol.com](mailto:CanoeU78@aol.com)—that should be pretty easy to remember. As for Bill, he's on [blarimore@juno.com](mailto:blarimore@juno.com). Even better, check-in and send your email addresses to the '78 web page that **Mike Holden** has set up. He can use the input and has already taken the time to try and push us onto the information highway. He needs our help to make the page work—so get on board (mea culpa too)! If you didn't make a note of the URL the last time I ran it, it is [www.cs.nps.navy.mil/people/faculty/mjholden/78grads.html](http://www.cs.nps.navy.mil/people/faculty/mjholden/78grads.html). Check it out.

**Bruce Crair** ([crair\\_bruce@coxpcs.com](mailto:crair_bruce@coxpcs.com)) also dropped me a long awaited note, via the net. This internet stuff should be second nature to him as he's working for Sprint PCS in Southern California. He's responsible for building and operating the replacement for cellular systems. Now if he could only straighten out Sprint's billing mess—but that's another of my horror stories and why I'm *Dropping* my dime on Candace Bergen. Bruce and his wife, Cathy, are sans tax deductions (kids) and enjoying the SoCal scene. Bruce has been out of the Navy since '83. His civilian career path has been in the telecommunications field; first with Pacific Bell and then with Cox Communications (the Cable and telecom company). Cox sent him out there in '95 to start up the PCS business. He did speak with **Toby Buttle** but had sketchy information on him. Toby is in the cradle of conservatism known as Orange County, CA (as opposed to the cradle of Haley's Milk of Magnesia—Orange County, FL). Bruce thought that Toby was working for a company that builds espresso machines, or was it that they met at a Starbucks? Oh well, Toby, give me the straight scoop.

I ran into **Art Athens** a couple of drills ago. I didn't actually run into him—but I could've as he started to cross in front of my car. I had already gotten my quota of road kill for the day enroute from Shelton, CT to Willow Grove, PA when I came across (through) some bird on the New Jersey turnpike. I swear it was sparrow suicide or some other feathered foolish fowl with a death wish. Anyway, Art would've done more damage to my basic GEO transportation than Gertrude and Heathcliff's grill stuffing—so I stopped; got out of the car and chatted. Art is the CO of a Marine Reserve air controller squadron in Norfolk, VA, but he has Dets spread all around the USA, which means road trips. That weekend he was visiting his boys and girls at Willow Grove. So much for explaining what he was doing there. For those of you competing in the progeny race, are you all sitting down? He and Misti now have 9 kids. They range from a sophomore in high school age to sev-

eral months (is my memory right, Art?). Thank goodness, Art and Misti both did well in their respective class standings as they continue to home school all the kids. My Michael already taxed the limits of "dad-help" with the match the bunnies to the correct numbers homework back in first grade. Misti handles most of the bull courses and Art is taking on the "80%" stuff, especially with the teens. But, he admits he's no gouge prof. Art's still the Executive Director of the Officers Christian Fellowship. He raised a few eyebrows when he made the move to Norfolk from the OCF Headquarters in Denver, CO, but like with his USMC Reserves command, he still maintains firm command and control from a distance (thanks to faxes, phones and computers)—but it's a heckuva challenge. As you can see from his jobs, he gets to do a lot of traveling. In the past it was the entire Athens clan in a traveling road show 15 passenger van, but with the youngest one now, the trips are more of a solo event. Still, those family ventures are run with a precision and efficiency that would put any military logistician to shame. Misti had organization down to a science! And the Athens squad would execute mom's daily clothes pickup kit exchange to "8th and I"—like perfection. Hey Misti, you can run my production and parts supply lines anytime, just say the word! All the kids are doing well. Their youngest (Daniel?) had been having a little heart problem and was to undergo surgery the week following our drill (1st Part of March). From the way Art described him, he's a tough little guy who'll get through it like a one minute chow call. Besides, they have a lot of faith and confidence in the surgeon and a LOT more of it in the "Man Upstairs." By now we hope he's fully recovered and that the operation was a success. As always, it was great seeing my fellow fooze-ball team mate.

According to the Fleet Hometown News Releases: **Mike Yurina** received a Meritorious Service Medal for doing something, well, something meritorious! (These FHTNRs are filled with such detail.) **Cal Dixon** got back from a Med float with the 24th MEU late last year. He was with the CH-53E det attached to the medium lift bubbas. **Larry McCracken** also got back to hometown in San Diego, CA about the same timeframe Cal got back from his float. Larry is CO of a Hoover squadron (S-3B), Sea Control Squadron 35, which was embarked aboard **CARL VINSON**. In February **Tom Holman** had the South America Carnival cruise, **UNITAS 37**, on board **LA MOURE COUNTY**. **Chris Lagemann** reported for duty in San Diego as the Chief Staff Officer, for Submarine Development Group One.

One quick reminder—next year is the 20th Reunion (20 plus 78 equals '98. Even 2.0 Vince can figure that out). And its NOT Homecoming weekend. That's about it for now. I know there's a bunch more to say, but frankly I'm a bit disorganized this time...okay, again. Besides, I'm out of space and with that crack I made about the cheesy new paper I don't want to risk the Editor making me a key contributor to reducing the magazines volume by axing me out. Not that the generous, kind and benevolent Editor would EVER do that to me...(Is my smacking—Sugar Crisp sweet?) Anyway, I'm launchin' Spot Four. Catch you on the net.

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