

It is indeed and this ends my article for this month. Hope all is well with all Classmates and their families. Keep those cards and letters coming! **Chuck D.**

## 77

Membership: 80%

Pres: **CDR Owen G. Thorp III, USNR**  
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## 78

Membership: 85%

Pres: **John Rudder**  
Sec'y: **Vince Balderrama**  
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The following are UNPAID advertisements. (Which should mean no tickey no washy. But since it's Alumni stuff, I'll waive the beer.) A timely source of information pertaining to the Naval Academy and the Alumni Association is the Association's Listserve, AlumniUSA. To subscribe, simply send a message to: Majordomo@usnaa.org. In the body of the message, simply type, subscribe alumnusna. That's it. Even simpletons on 386s can figure it out. If you have any problems, just contact the Chairperson of the Delinquent Leniency Committee and Queen o' Scribes, Nancy Gorum, at ngorum@arctic.nadn.navy.mil. There's a lot of good gouge on what's happening with the Alumni and Navy and around Mother B—more than just what latest piece of real estate has been dug and filled by the D&F (Diggers and Fillers) Gang. Prof. Karl Montor, Professor of Leadership and Ethics, is trying to make sure that Classes are not the LeadersLEEP they once were. Along with CNET and USNA support, he's developing leadership cases dealing with combat and/or high stress situations faced by officers in Navy air, surface and submarine environments. The Marine Corps is separately developing their own case write-ups. Reading the examples he sent, I figure I could add a few cases to his program. Then again, so could a lot of you. Those of you who stayed awake, or better yet, those of you who went to sleep during Leadership and want to cut down on the narcoleptic substance should give him a call or write him with some stories out of your own experience. Call Prof. Montor at 410-293-3350 or email him at: montor@arctic.nadn.navy.mil. He has a format to follow but promises not to change a word of yours without your say. After all, to do otherwise would be unethical. Couldn't have the Ethics professor doing that. This is a great opportunity for us Old Salts to pass on lessons to future JOs within an academic environment and not just some O'Club Sea Story BS. The lessons could pay off big dividends in the quality of your own wardrooms and ready rooms in the future.

Nine years after all us Marine types were selected for Captain, some of our Navy Classmates have finally made the rank. (It's the only time we can lay claim to more advanced promotion—though, regrettably in name only.) Congratulations go to: **Dave Buss, Bill Burke, Mark Ferguson, Vic Guillory, Dan Kuehlin, Jon Sears, and Frank Schraml.**

Speaking of four stripes, I got a digital-gram from **Tim Arcano**. He almost went back on active duty to teach at USNA but at the last minute was convinced

otherwise. He figured it might not prove to be the best way to sew on that extra onion ring on the sleeve that **Dave Buss** and the aforementioned gang have. Instead, he'll continue to stay at work and try to develop a niche in ocean engineering projects, the path to promotion in actually building stuff instead of teaching. Newsflash, Tim, there's a lot of folks these days who wonder if even GOING to Severn Tech is a good way to four stripes, period. But then they're usually the beltway bunker-bunny types with a poly-sci degree from the University of Jocks and Tree Huggers; poorly informed and green with envy.

**Mike Shinego** dropped me a line and wondered aloud why in a previous column **Dom Berenato** had listed Mike's occupation as "Animal Rights Activist." Mike suspected that it probably had something to do with envy. You see, Mike opined, another well known ARA, **Kim Basinger**, is from Syracuse—which was where Mike was living at the time the picture was taken. It's a BIG stretch, Mike. Anyway, Mike transferred in August of last year from Syracuse Lockheed Martin OR&SS to Sanders Advance Systems Directorate in Manchester, NH. He runs several R&D programs involving submarines and surface ships for Sanders. In case you didn't know, Sanders is part of Lockheed Martin, so it was an intra-company kind of move. Come to think of it, there's a whole heckuva lot of companies that are now part of the mega-corporation of Lockheed Martin. I hear it told that Geoffrey is shaking in his sand box out at Toys r' Us and that even Mickey Mouse may change his monogram to MLM. Yikes! Acquisitions, hostile takeovers, mergers and bears—Oh my! It's great Mike is making the big bucks within the great military industrial complex because someday he'll have to pay for weddings for his two daughters, Carrie (13) and Amie (11). He's making beer money on the side as a three striper in the Reserve at a SACLAN unit and lives in Amherst, NH. You can reach him at MNSHINEG@mailgw.sanders.lockheed.com; or the old fashioned way, via the Ameche (old 40s slang for the telephone), at home 603-672-8190 or at work 603-645-5729.

After a 19 year drought of mail, I finally got something from halfway around the world from **Mike McCrabb** usnfdh50@riyadh-emh1.army.mil. Crabb was 2/3s of the way through an unaccompanied tour in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia as the Naval Aviation Advisor for the Royal Saudi Navy. In December, he'll leave to report to the Naval Aviation Schools Command in P'cola (His family is already there!) He thanks **Brian McCormick** for the orders (I just hope its **OUR Brian McCormick** and not some ROTC impostor). His Riyadh roommate is **Pat Fox**. Pat's in the same gig as Mike, except that he advises the Saudi black shoes on shipyard issues, among other things. Along with an "atta-boy" for all my good work (I guess his edition with the empty column space is still in a UPS warehouse someplace), he sent me some news on Classmate sightings. Before getting to Saudi in November of last year, he was on the CNO Staff (N3/N5). During his three year tour, he saw a bunch of Classmates lost in the maze called the Pentagon and around the beltway. From his own 8th Co., he saw: **Rich Chapman** (now at USCINCPAC, HI), **Brian Rochon** (working at NAVSEA), and his own roomie, **Vance Moore** (NAVSUP, Mechanicsburg, PA). **Steve Holman, Joel Gonzalez, Tim Stark, and John Costello** were seen at **Don Boland's** relinquishment of command of PHOENIX. Until recently **John Costello** was CO of HC-8 in Norfolk (**John Flynn** was at the Change of Command). **Kevin Walsh** works for a DC company. He lives in Lake Ridge, VA and can be spied tooling around town and Crystal City with "USNA 78" Virginia tags. I spotted him at a stop light by Crystal Gateway Three on a business trip.

**Wade Tallman** just gave up command of an F/A-18 squadron and is now in training to drive the BIG

RIGS as XO of a CVN. Rumor control has it that as part of a USN-USAF exchange program, **John Hollyer** is CO of a USAF Training Command squadron. If that's true, John should try and introduce CQs into their syllabus. Let 'em see what REAL aviation is like! Those Zoomies will be using those scarves for hygiene purpose rather than decorative ones! Of members of the 35 companies, Mike reports: "Disco" **Dean Marzetta** is at BUPERS. **Dave Jenkins** and **Bill Yeager** were VT-2 "Doer Bird" COs in succession. **Dave Babcock** was Crabb's predecessor in Saudi and is now on the TraWing Five Staff at Whiting Field, FL. **Scott Miller** was finishing up a tour at CINCPACFLT and was headed to 3rd Fleet Staff. **Jon Will** screened for command of a ship, but which one? Mike didn't know. A few years back, **Keith Wray** was spotted coming back from a DAO job in South America. **Steve Petri** was in the Pentagon. Whew! I guess after 19 years you do have a lot to say! Thanks for the info Mike. And oh yeah, thanks for bringing up that road trip from P'cola to Maryland for **Dean Marzetta's** wedding. Most disturbing. Not so much for the fact that it took us a little less than 16 hours and we passed through some Deliverance-type towns of the South (I swear I saw Ned Beatty's offspring), but I began whining from the fact that I no longer have that brown bullet, my 280Z. In fact, I'm wondering how many Firstie cars are still out there in '78 possession? Anyway, don't wait another 19 years to write again, Mike. I'll catch you on-line.

**Chris Nichols** sent me a couple of emails in succession. They traced him packing his bags from his ship (CO of CURTIS WILBUR, DDG-54) in Yokosuka, Japan, to his actual departure to CONUS. Chris had been the PCO of Milius. But someone else's un-luck of the Irish sent him to WILBUR. While out west (PAC), he'd come across Classmates, some about whom you've recently read in this column: **Shawn Tallant, Don Aiken** (CO, VS-21) and **Andy Karakos** (CO, Germantown). **Matt Pasztalaniec** and his family were spied at church on base. Paz is doing his post-command tour on 7th Fleet Staff. **Harry Harris** is also on a post CO tour as Ops of CTF-72. Chris ran into Harry and his wife, Bruni, in a cafe in Hong Kong several months ago. Small world. (I'm convinced that as long as there are pubs, pool halls and pantries you can be sure there'll be opportunities to meet some Classmate!) He also had met up with **Chip Jones** in Tokyo for dinner. Chip's company moved him out there for a change of scenery and some international experience. **John Cohoon** (CO, BUFFALO) and his wardroom had got together with Chris' wardroom at the O'Club to trade lies about each other. **Susie and Kevin Olson** and their three kids live in Miami, FL, where Kevin chases bad guys with the FBI. Chris' new orders were bringing him just up the road to Newport, RI. At the end of September, he was to report as the Director, Department Head Training. Before departing from Japan, he was going to make sure he climbed Mt. Fuji. Legend has it that if you don't climb it you will be destined to return. He was thinking of leaving a picture of his XO, his command Master Chief and himself at the top. But what else he was going to leave up there to ensure he stayed away is another question. By now he can probably be reached at CThayerNic@aol.com. See you back in CONUS, Chris!

I got a quick note from **Tim Sprague** and a photo to prove that he, **Marty Drake** and **Charlie Martoglio** are in fact in the Arabian Gulf and chasing UN sanction-busting bad guys around.

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Terry O'Brian and Dave Eyler

The three of them had gathered together for the CDG ONE morning meeting on CONNIE. Tim is CO of NICHOLAS, Marty has THORN, and Charlie is the head kahuna of FITZGERALD. Also out there were: **John Sturges** (CO, RENTZ), **Glen Flanagan** (CO, ELROD), **Tom Abernathy** (CO, PAUL F. FOSTER), and **George Wadzita** (CO, KEY WEST). With 110 degree days, they all want us to keep the beer cold and save some for them around Homecoming!

Just like coming across the Dead Sea Scrolls, I got letters from **Dave Eyler** and **Jim Pointer**. I mean HANDWRITTEN letters! Yup, seems some people actually take a pen in hand and scribble things on paper. As they say in Hooterville, "Don't that beat all!" **Dave Eyler** is CO of MONTPELIER. Earlier this year, he and **Terry O'Brien** were deployed with the Teddy Roosevelt battle group. OB is CO of my First Class cruise ship, PENSACOLA, LSD-38. Terry, that ding on the bow is not a remnant from my shipboard handling.



Charlie Martoglio, Marty "Mad Dog" Drake and Tim Sprague

**Jim Pointer** claims to be our Class resident shrink. I'm sure he had plenty of field work study after four years at Mother B to be fully board certified a long time ago. Jim is living in Montgomery, AL and is the Chief Psychologist at Greil State Psychiatric Hospital, otherwise know as the Greil Home for the Very Nervous. As a department head, it's not that different from his Navy days—he still works around some lunatics but doesn't have to get up at O-dark thirty every time something breaks. Jim recently heard from some of his 36th Co. Bubbas. **Bill Martin** was a casualty of Bubba's defense downsizing which forced his company to trim some management. Of course, he's not exactly a walking wounded. Like all aviators, he performed an air start and got back

in operation. He's now an American Express Financial advisor. In fact, you can catch him tooling around P-Cola in a red Porsche, cellular phone in hand, talking Dow Jones averages and 401K plans. Usually you'll see him shuttling between visits to his son, Sean (Now 10!) and his folk's place (Billy, Jim says "Hey", to your folks—the Chief and Mrs. M). In May of '94, **Ralph Scaffidi** married the former Ann Grayson. They now live in Thousand Oaks, CA. (Wait, I'm from California and I wanna know, did anybody ever really count those oaks? I mean, are there really only a thousand oaks in Thousand Oaks? Then again, are there 29 stumps in 29 Palms (yup), 2 forks in Twin Forks, 31 Flavors in Baskin Robbins (all the time) and two scoops of raisins in a package of Kellogg's Raisin Bran? Just curious...) Anyway, Ralph is gainfully employed in one of those Federal Civil Service defense jobs that survived the "Peace Dividend" as part of Bill and Al's Get-the-California-Vote plan. He's an electronics project engineer with the Battle Force Tactical Trainer Engineering Group at Naval Surface Warfare Center (NAWC), Port Hueneme, CA. In his "spare" weekends, he still plays CDR, as XO of NAVRESCINCPACFLT Det 719 in San Diego (Just saying that acronym is a whole tour!). Jim also ran into **James Byers** at the USNA Alumni Alabama Chapter's first annual picnic in Birmingham. J.B. works in Birmingham as a computer systems developer for Sonat Gas Marketing. His email address is jbyers@mindspring.com. The two Jims traded horror stories about "Smoke 'em shorts Davis", their Plebe Year Calc. with Computers honors class prof. Davis must've had them in his sights first semester or was it just mere coincidence that by spring they both forsook science to become bull majors. Only the god of the 2.0 knows. Thanks for the "filler" Jim, catch you at the reunion.

Speaking of reunions. Ours is just around the corner, about this time next year. Pretty soon you'll be getting stuff with information. Don't toss them in the circular file. Take action on it. The sooner the reunion committees get your responses the better. It'll save you from the embarrassment of not having tickets or trinkets, or saying "But I mailed in the forms yesterday!" (and probably help keep committee members' blood pressure down). Anybody in the area please feel free to volunteer by getting in touch with our Reunion Chairman, **Mark Hubal**, at home 703-689-4915 or work 703-602-6625/31. He'll get you on the right committee. **Fred Shutt** has the Trinkets Chair, so have your spouses tell him you can spend the extra buck or two on the good stuff and not the Made in Taiwan "Bill the Goat on a Rope" junk. Fred's at AShutt@aol.com. When all else fails, just call Rudder or me or email us. John's at John\_Rudder@systemone.com. Remember our reunion will be on an OFF weekend, that is NOT Homecoming Weekend! In fact, it's on 3 October 1998 (events 1st-4th). So go over to your calendars, take out your highlighters and mark the dates. Have it hypnotized into your subconscious. Build a short timers chain. Tattoo it to some body parts. Do whatever it takes to not forget it! It'll be the stuff of which legends are made, just like the Class of '78! 'Til next month—Launchin' Spot Four. **VB CanoeU78@aol.com**

Visit the  
**Alumni Association Tent**  
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# 79

Membership: 94%

Pres: **Mike Finley**  
Sec'y: **Ken Russell**

210 South Main Street  
P.O. Box 380, Arlington, SD 57212  
w: 605-983-3312; e: gone2pot@iw.net

Well kids, I'm starting this right off with an admin note because I know guys like **Vince Bousa**, **Ed Francis** and of course **Bill Enslen** will only wrap fish with the article unless they see their names in bold. For an extra added bit of insurance, I'm also gonna do this: **Your Name In Bold**. Okay, now that I have almost everybody's attention, my new email address is **gone2pot@iw.net**. If you send me a message to the Juno.com email address, you ain't gonna be seen or heard by yours truly. I'm sorry but 99.99% percent of all the messages I get from Juno are spam. Spam, spam, spam, spammy spam. And like the wife in the Python Flying Circus skit, I don't like Spam.

So this month is gonna be a bit tiny due to Mr. Mailbox being out on summer vacation. That sure won't stop us from throwing out a little info plop-page.

I caught **Chuck Gittins** on CNN the other day. Chuck is the defense attorney for the Sergeant Major of the Army. Ought to be a piece of cake trial to defend. Shoot, if the charges were true, all Chuck would have to do is tell the jury his client was simply following the career examples of his Commander-in-Chief who has proven it's the newest and certainly most preferred way to get rewarded. Slam dunk.

We do have a big email o' plenty from Ginsu knife winner **Kirk Michealson**. Kirk coordinates all the social doin's at the Five Sided Puzzle Palace for Niners. He wanted me to pass on some info to all yun's who'll be going to the Fountain Head. Man, how I wish I could be part of that Beltway traffic deal everyday only to work at a place where hired Duke University consultants work feverishly to "demasculine" the Armed Forces. Here goes:

Would you please include the following in your next article for *Shipmate* some info for our Classmates:

(1) If they are in the DC Area (or will soon be reporting here) and would like to join our group, please contact me at 703-697-0064/DSN 227-0064 or email at [michealk@paesmt.pae.osd.mil](mailto:michealk@paesmt.pae.osd.mil); or they can contact any of the primary or alternate group reps:

GROUP	PHONE	GROUP REP
OSD/JS	703-614-522	Pri—Mike Davis
	703-614-5990	Alt—Nick Harris
Navy/OPNAV	703-697-2450	Pri—Chris Cable
	703-697-3434	Alt—Paul Branum
Navy/Other	703-614-4950	Pri—Ray Pietrzak
	202-433-8657	Alt—Roger Sassman
NAVSEA	703-602-8159 x316	Pri—Joe Fallone
	703-602-0011 x137	Alt—Joe Hellner
USMC	703-697-9582	Pri—Pete Long
	703-784-2645 x2507	Alt—Brian Pooler
GOVT	202-767-7554	Pri—Pat Dennis
	540-653-1889	Alt—Chris Brehany
Other/VA-1	703-697-0615	Pri—Sean Cate
(A—Ma)	703-845-3864	Alt—Tim Blue
Other/VA-2	703-413-0700	Pri—Frank Dombrowski
(Mc—Z)	703-418-2800 x315	Alt—Grant Thornton
Other/DC-MD	301-921-7000	Pri—Mac Silvester
	301-530-2653	Alt—Tom Hicks

(2) If they are passing through the area and would like to know when the next get-together is, please contact me.

(3) If they would like any other info, please contact me. I will include our most recent newsletter