

Pres: **CDR Owen G. Thorp III, USNR**
Sec'y: **CDR Bill Millward, USN**
5013 Stone Haven Drive, Annandale, VA 22003
h: 703-250-3578
e: bmillwar@ix.netcom.com
Acting Sec'y: **CDR Mark Sobczak**
1522 South Sea Breeze Trail
Virginia Beach, VA 23452, 486-8056
e: pnh0mls@pnh10.med.navy.mil

Spring may be in the air, but there hasn't been much in the old mailbag recently. After all the excitement surrounding the 20th reunion last year things have really died down. At one point things were so bleak that I told **Bill Millward** I'd soon have to start making things up about people. We were saved from that fate when I received the following email from **Terry Hamilton** (34th Company).

Greetings from the sunny West Coast! After 20 years, I thought I'd get around to sending in a howgozit...how's that for procrastination? As I recall I did the same thing with my term papers too and the grades usually reflected it! Twenty years in the Marine Corps has finally brought me here to the FAA Western Pacific Region HQ near LAX. I am one of two Marine Corps Lieutenant Colonels assigned as liaison officers to the FAA—the other is in Atlanta with the Southern Region. It's a great job and well kept secret—except that I am no longer flying, which is a major bummer. I'm here with **Chris Spada** (12th Co.), and we're doing our best to stay out of trouble.

My career was mainly east coast oriented early on with a couple of tours at MCAS Beaufort, SC and HQMC. In 1991, I came to Southern California to transition from the Phantom to the Hornet and have been here ever since—and I have no intentions of leaving! I extend an invitation to anyone who is in the area or passing through to give me a call in Irvine, CA at (714) 654-4939, especially any 34th Co. renegades. My work number is (310) 725-3904 and my email address is terry.hamilton@faa.dot.gov. I look forward to hearing from the rest of the Class.

I also ran into a number of classmates at the Hampton Roads Alumni Association ARMY/NAVY party. **Steve Weingart** is still on active duty and assigned to Fleet Training Group. He is completing an MBA program at Old Dominion University and plans to retire later this year. **Dave Paddock**, who is very active in the local alumni chapter, was in attendance as were **George Herning** and **Bill Daniels**. Bill has detached from WASP and is in a billet at CINCLANTFLT. George teaches school in Virginia Beach. They passed on some information about classmates not present for the party, including **Mike Wertz** who seems to have found gainful employment with United Airlines. Also mentioned were **John Wilson** and **Mike Tryon**. It seems that John is now living in Idaho, not Montana as previously reported, where he apparently teaches home economics at an all girls school. John, sorry we got some of the details wrong previously, but I'm sure we'd do better if you checked in every now and then. Mike Tryon is Supply Officer on CAMDEN in Bremerton, Washington. **John Mackrecher** and his wife, Liz, were at the game. He is going to orders at BUPERS and looking forward to moving to that bastion of all things Navy, Tennessee, when the bureau relocates later this year. Finally, **Lee Geanuleas** and wife, Deb, said to say hi to all. Lee is currently working in the Office of the Secretary of Defense (Strategy).

Congratulations are also in order to my Company-mate **Stratton Hicky** who writes:

Bonnie and I are proud to announce the healthy arrival of our second daughter, Dana Shelby Hicky, born on 30 December, at 2010, weighing in at 7 lbs, 7 oz, and at a height of 20 and 1/2 inches.

Bonnie and I are struggling with the combination of little sleep and the challenges of our...maturity, which seems to slow down the ability of our bodies to bounce back! Do we hold the record for Class of '77 latest birth (no second/third/younger wives count)?

Well, does anyone want to challenge Stratton's virility record?

There are also some Hometown News releases that have come across my desk in the past several months. **Pete Filkins** has reported to Naval Sea Systems Command in DC. **Tom Hawkins** is on the staff of Commander Cruiser Destroyer Group Five and recently completed a WestPac/Persian Gulf deployment aboard KITTY HAWK. **Dan Sigg** relinquished command of COLUMBUS in Pearl Harbor and moved on to a staff position at CINCPACFLT. **Tom Hejl** graduated from the Naval War College with a Master of Arts degree in national security and strategic studies. **Doug Hannum** also completed a short course at the Naval War College. **Jeff Holloway** was awarded the Defense Meritorious Service Medal for his work at the Atlantic Intelligence Command here in Norfolk. Last, but not least, **Keith Haney** is serving at Headquarters, Special Operations, Central Command at MacDill AFB in Tampa. As most of you know, I am a physician on active duty at the Naval Medical Center in Portsmouth, Virginia. Specifically I am a Radiation Oncologist which means I treat cancer for a living. Last week I had an unusual day. While driving to work I passed a ship in dry dock. Glancing up I noticed the name on the transom which read, PONCE. Memories of Youngster cruise flooded to mind that had not found a place in conscious thought for decades. My first patient of the morning continued the trip down memory lane as it was a classmate that I was evaluating. I had been involved in the care of wives of classmates in the past, but this was the first time I was called upon to care for someone that spent four years on Severn's shore with me. We, like the ships and aircraft on which we've served, are getting older and things can go wrong. Sometimes with the demands of career and family we place our own needs on the back burner. Please, take the time to look after your health. I look forward to seeing you all at the next reunion.

Until next month...be well.

78

Regular Membership: 13%
Life Membership: 71%

Pres: **John Rudder**
Sec'y: **Vince Balderrama**
45 Little Fawn Drive, Shelton, CT 06484
e: CanoeU78@aol.com

I get knocked down, then I get up again, no one's ever gonna keep me down...I get knocked down, then I get up again, no one's ever gonna keep me down...ya take a whisky drink, ya take a lager drink, take vodka drink, ya take a cider drink...

Hey doesn't that song remind you of Youngster cruise? Or at least Army-Navy weekend? — doesn't really matter which one... Man, along with "MMMBop," it's gotta be the "It's a Small World" song for this generation... Oops, now there I've gone and done it...*It's a small world after all...It's a small world after all...dee dee dum dum dee dee...Stop me before I kill!!! AAAAGGGH...* Whew, I got it out of my head now...just started imagining familiar southern voice saying for the gazillionth time how we're building a bridge to the Twenty-first century... It has an amazing countering affect... That and picturing Boris Yeltsin in speedos... But let's not go there... Still,

as I ponder the remarkable universe I can't help but wonder— what is an MMMBop?

Anyway, not much in the way of the grab bag... Not even a Fleet Hometown news release... I must be pretty desperate, huh? Ooh, here's something...Now this is not one of those I've-finally-gotten-to-it Xmas newsletters... It's one of those I just-got-it Xmas newsletters... (Really, no "Sea Story")... It's from Annette and **Tom Sudbeck**... Of course, I'm not going to be a bit judgmental about getting a CHRISTMAS newsletter when the **Balderrama** Xmas newsletter paper is still in the cellophane wrapper— yup, it looks like it'll be our Xmas '98 supply... As for the Sudbecks, I figure Tom was waiting for Annette to write... But then with two car-ready teenagers and an infant on her hands she's a pretty busy woman and didn't get to it 'til late... "Whoa, now hold on there Babalouie! Did he just say an infant?" "Yes, Quicksdraw, that's correct!" Seems after almost 15 years (Nathaniel is 15 and Joshua is 16), the special something in the infamous Quantico, VA water system strikes again... Of course it's suppose to only affect Lieutenants and their wives, not Lieutenant COLONELS and their wives... We'll have to get NIH on this... Needless to say, the initial shock succumbed to the underlying joy and the June result was a great looking kid named Zachary Matteo... Fortunately for Tom, Annette's background in setting up the Marine Corps' Semper Fit program has kept the Sudbeck's equally trim... So, Tom won't have to worry about loading a walker into the car when Zachary starts his driving lessons... They were all scheduled to leave their Stafford, VA home for another set of orders this summer but Tom's been extended another year... He'll continue to be an instructor with the staff training program at Quantico... Besides, if they moved now they would never experience the fun of deciding what to do with a move in Josh's senior year of high school... Ya gotta love the Corps... Where else could you get such character building opportunities— AT&T, Proctor & Gamble, Johnson & Johnson? Well, yes—but not at this kind of pay!

In February one of our chief barristers—**Sean Coffey** gave up command of his reserve squadron, VP-92, at NAS New Brunswick, ME... He was relieved by **Kevin Sinnett '79**... Without those CO cross country specials he'll now just have to get his California wines the old fashioned way—in the local liquor store...

A couple of new emails came up on the scope recently—**Mike Dyer** and I traded time zone instant messages... Mike is the MAG-36 Ops O in Okinawa... You can reach him at the more professional address of madyr@kdn00.attnet...or...jp By the way that is a zero after the kdn not an "O"...I asked him to clarify... He'll be heading to the states for one of those professional courses of study...Don't know when the permanent move happens... He did tell me that **Jim Shulson** has retired and is living in Okinawa where his wife teaches in one of the DOD type schools...

According to a second source —**Jock Maloney**— (see even I have second source checks) Jim plans on teaching as well... If any of this is wrong or inaccurate, please write and clarify for the record...

Dennis Reilly sent me a timely email... Next month (May) is the Annual Class of '78 Golf Tournament at Ford's Colony in Williamsburg... The date is set for 9 May and the action will begin at the gentlemanly hour of 11:30 a.m... Cheri and **Drew Mulhare** will again be your gracious hosts for a family barbecue at their home after the tournament (about 4:30-ish)... Better than Bubba in holding down the budget, Drew has kept the

tournament fee to a inflation busting, Class inspiring bargain of \$78! To register or get more gouge call, write or email Drew or Dennis: Drew Mulhare, (h) (757) 258-3995, (w) (757) 258-4230, drew_mulhare@prodigy.com; Dennis Reilly, (h) (703) 690-8548, (w) (310) 571-3902, dennisr@netscape.com... Now those of you with a Hallmark Calendar and a wife and mother (that's just about all of us isn't it?) will note that the Tournament happens to fall on Mother's Day weekend... But hey, Mother's Day is on Sunday and the tournament is on Saturday... That still allows plenty of time to make up for getting your assistant to handle the little league or soccer game and to get some flowers and make reservations for mom and the wife... Better yet, if you play golf the way most of us do— with a beer handicap (still haven't mastered a one handed putt let alone a two handed drive) it'll give you time to recuperate and take "mom" out to dinner... Really, the tourney is a great time... Besides, consider it a warm up for the Reunion Golf Tournament...

Speaking of Reunions, as I've repeated in the last couple of columns— it is NOT on Homecoming Weekend... The next guy who asks can bring around a Form 2... Remember, mark your calendars for Oct 1-4, 1998... THAT's the weekend... Now there are some of you who may also plan to go to Homecoming anyway or in place of the reunion, enjoy yourself... By the way, my fellow coxs'n **Mike Spencer** spencemt@aol.com, is among you and would like to know who you are... He, Carol and the kids will be coming in from Michigan, so if there are old crew jocks, Marines, 19th Company wildman or just general classmates who plan to be at Homecoming let him know... Mike left Pratt and Whitney a few years ago to go work for Ford... Hey, he may be a Marine but it doesn't take a kick in the butt with a copper-toed boot (one of my dad's famous old Marine Corps sayings— anatomy location adjusted to be "PC") to see that the rapidly dwindling numbers of employees at his Pratt facility in West Palm Beach (reduced to almost half) was a sign to GET OUT—run for your lives! Well he did and he's done well... Sorry we won't see you guys at the Reunion, Mike... But maybe I can sneak down again for Homecoming... it won't take much to twist Elizabeth's arm...

Speaking of the reunion... keep your eyes posted on the website that **Mike Holden** has set up... He has a page especially for reunion stuff: <http://www.cs.nps.navy.mil/people/faculty/mjholden/78stuff/78officers.html>

Also, this month you should start receiving some info in the mail concerning registration, etc... as well as the elections... On general, Friday morning will open with a Memorial Service... That night is the dinner party at the Holiday Inn... Saturday night is the tail gater (practically all day)... Saturday night is free to pass out from the tail gater or have your own private dinners or company reunions if you like... **Archie Griffin** and **Bob Novak** are setting up special events... So far things like a golf tournament, ship visit, Memorial Service... If there is a special event you want— sailing, rowing, b—ball etc... get in touch with them... Be prepared though, you suggest it— you volunteer to help get it organized (or draft somebody else)... As for the elections, look for ballots soon in your mail... As of today (I'm writing in February) I haven't received any nominations from the floor... Among the current officers, **Kevin Liddy** and I are running again for Treasurer and Sec'y, respectively... **John Rudder** may go for a Member at Large slot... After several outstanding years at the helm, he's leaving the conn and the deck open for the next watch-stander... A few of

the Members at large are re-election candidates... So, that means the field is open... Get your nomination in to me supported by 25 Classmates (just list the office your running for and the 25 guys you've bribed— I mean your 25 supporters)... The rest will be to vote...

Hey, look what just came in— thank you Mister Postman (and by the way, nice M-16!)... One letter squeezed in to make a deadline... **Bob McMasters** (mcmaster@pp.su.edu) wrote to send a photo with a quick "your-never-gonna-believe-who-I-ran-into" story... It was one of bumping into his Plebe summer roommate **Chip Jones**! As **Bob** wrote:

After a wild and woolly two years at USNA, he (Chip) baled and eventually graduated from the Randolph-Macon... I kinda lost track of him until I enrolled my oldest son, Bobby, age 17, in Fork Union Military Academy, Fork Union, VA... When we showed up to pick up Bobby's football uniform, guess who was manning the equipment cage?! It was a photo made to order... Chip is now a math teacher, football coach and an ordained Baptist preacher with his own congregation as a side job... He's taking good care of Bobby at Fork Union...

As for Bob, he and the family have been in East Lansing, MI for about six years... He doesn't see many classmates wandering up there... He just finished the PhD in mechanical engineering at Michigan State University and opined that he was probably one of the last grad students of '78— Not hardly, Bob... There are some still planning to go to post grad for a first or second go-around! His June '78 Bride, Mary Lynn, has managed to put up with him still... She's in the middle of her internal medicine residency... Though they have one out of the house— three teenage sons (13,14,&15) still remain to chase around and take to wrestling meets... It's a busy life and they're looking forward to telling the story at the 20th... We'll see you then, Bob...

Well, that's the last of it for the month... I would be remiss and a big slug if I didn't say we're gonna miss the Queen— Nancy Gorum— her cajoling, humor, and tolerance... She's done a helluva job in bringing up the standards of the alumni gossip and sea story rag into a first rate sea story magazine! No seriously—it's a first rate alumni information periodical which is admired and envied by many of the civilian universities (despite all that tuition and money soliciting they do—take a look at their alumni mags... They can't compare to *Shipmate*!) We wish you luck and success in whatever you're doing now, keep in touch. Thanks for all your help and patience and emails...

Well, I gotta go before this gets too maudlin, besides NOW I gotta start suckin' up to a new editor (let's go KR)... Launchin', Spot 4... CanoueU78@aol.com website: <http://www.cs.nps.navy.mil/people/faculty/mjholden/78stuff/78officers...html>

Thanks to our volunteers!
From the
USNA Alumni Association

79

Regular Membership: 3 %
Life Membership: 90 %

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

Kids, I'm taking a breather this month due to a very hectic set of wholesale gift shows in Chicago, Philly and Denver. I'll be back of course in May with a ton o' ploppage for yuns. Put the **Kenny Russell** voodoo dolls back in the junk drawers; your Give King will have an incredible spread come May. Tootles.

Ken '79, Omnes Viri

80

Regular Membership: 1 %
Life Membership: 96 %

Pres: **Tim Kobosko**
Sec'y: **CDR Joseph A. Grace, Jr., USNR**
15 Allard Blvd, New Orleans, LA 70119
h: 504-486-9040; w: 504-539-9255
f: 504-539-9257; e: jgrace@USNA1980.org
<http://www.USNA1980.org>

Happy Mardi Gras Gang! The floats have started rolling and the beads are flying through the air. "Throw me something mister!" is the cry on the streets. Hard to believe that it is already that time of year again. Time is flying by right along with those beads! UNBELIEVEABLE! Rumor has it that a few heavies are even riding in the parades and throwing beads! Nice to see!

Lots of activity here in the Crescent City. The Navy Project is alive and well, and I constantly see classmates and other friends here to do business with the Navy Information Systems Center. If you are a programmer and want to come to New Orleans, give us a call. They are really looking for talent and we'd love to have more Academy types down here! Anyway, on to the mail bag! Not a ton of news to report, but I have some nice letters that came in. Many of you know, Serf, **Mike Serafin**, and have followed his romance and finally the marriage as reported in *Shipmate*. Well he and his new bride, married at the block party last year, wasted little time in starting the new family. I'm proud to announce that Cameron Michelle made her entrance this week to two very happy parents. Mike came by today to ask if I would help him unload an old cast iron claw foot tub from the back of his bachelor truck (the four door is soon to replace this beast). I asked what in the world he was thinking when he bought this old thing...and his reply was that of an older wiser married man. "It was the day before she had the baby, she wanted it...any other questions?" He's learning. Which brings us to the true question...*If a man is out in the woods all alone, and there are no women for miles around, and he makes a decision...Is he still wrong?* Think that one over! Speaking of **Mike Serafin** and classmates supporting classmates. We went out to their boat to do some work on a swim platform. Mike was convinced that the \$3,000 the yard would charge them to put a beautiful, fantastic, firm, workable swim platform on the stern was out of line. SOOOO, he asked if I would come out and help cut out, shape, and mount a new one (He really did all the work; it was just "shake and bake, and I helped!"). Well, we got **Mike Ales** out there too,