

Our son, Morgan is attending the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy, Kings Point, NY, Class of 2000. He is pursuing an engineering degree and license in Kings Point's shipbuilding and engineering program management curriculum. A varsity lacrosse athlete, he starts in goal for the Mariners. As a Plebe last spring, he was selected MVP of the Maritime Academies Lacrosse Tournament, All-League goalie and Rookie-of-the-Year for Hudson Valley Lacrosse League teams. He returned at Christmas from 168 days at sea working toward his engineering licensing requirements aboard commercial container vessels. He enjoyed numerous port visits at northern European and Caribbean ports as well as major U.S. East Coast.

Our daughter, Megan, graduated last June from St. Stephen's & St. Agnes School in Alexandria. As captain and goalie of her undefeated "Saints" lacrosse team, she led her varsity team to the #1 national ranking by *Lacrosse Magazine*. She accepted an athletic scholarship to Penn State and will "tend the pipes" as goalie for the Nittany Lions women's lacrosse team this spring.

Nancy continues to work in critical care nursing. She accepted a position as a clinical specialist at the National Institutes of Health in Bethesda. I'm now working for General Dynamics Corporation. After three years in business development with AT&T and Lucent Technologies, my Lucent business unit, Advanced Technology Systems (ATS), was acquired by GD in October. Though my desk and phone number within ATS remained constant, each year saw new corporate ownership. I'm convinced that the business card industry is the only one getting rich on these mergers, acquisitions and LBOs. GD-ATS is a leading supplier of undersea surveillance systems; signal and information processing systems; open-architecture multimedia networks for tactical platforms; decision support and ship automation systems; active structural control and automated vibration reduction for improved stealth and performance, and condition-based maintenance applications; advanced robotics; and integration of advanced C4ISR systems. It's a great time to be with ATS, developing technology solutions to provide unprecedented capabilities for advanced Navy platforms, such as the new LPD-17 class, DD-21 and new attack submarine, and the CVX-78 future aircraft carrier class, and for tactical support of Marine Corps operations ashore in the extended littoral battlespace.

I stay active swimming in a master's program, playing club lacrosse and coaching youth lacrosse in Northern Virginia. Looking forward to the Vail LAX Shootout this summer (I plan to bring my own oxygen bottle!) I maintain strong ties with USNA through my nine years service as a Blue and Gold officer and as a USNA Foundation trustee. I find the interaction with my candidates rewarding, as I help usher them through the nomination, appointment and admissions processes. As a master ocean racing skipper, I coach Midshipmen in seamanship and offshore yacht racing with the Naval Academy Sailing Squadron. In this manner, though retired, I feel I still play a role in the selection and professional development of our Navy's future leaders. My email address at home is Amesn@aol.com and at the office it's mpames@gdats.com.

Finally, I wish everyone a very Happy Chinese New Year; let's make this year "Tiger" for all of us! BEAT ARMY! //s// Morgan

...I know that I speak for everyone in the class when I say Thank You Morgan! Your letter was an outstanding update and you are welcome to sit in as guest columnist any time you want.

Next month we'll get back to the mail bag, which is still running a little light. Hopefully,

Morgan's letter will encourage a few more classmates to put pen to paper and write.

75

Regular Membership: 45%
Life Membership: 18%

Pres: Steve Hubbard

Sec'y: CAPT Larry Warrenfeltz, USN
21 Colony Trail Drive, Mandeville, LA 70448
h: 504-626-4964; e: highvolt_sid@hotmail.com

76

Regular Membership: 43%
Life Membership: 17%

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

77

Regular Membership: 24%
Life Membership: 55%

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

*See you at the
West Coast SACC
August 17-19*

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

Okay, how many of you caught the glitch in one of my last columns? No, I'm not talking about having missed one—that was a while ago. I'm talking about pictures. Yup, seems I left out a few of the photos I had talked about. Well, here's one of them. It's the family photo of the **Tom Sudbecks**—Tom, Annette, and the boys—Joshua, Nathaniel and little Zachary.

Now that I've corrected that problem maybe I can still have my traditional reunion dance with Annette (when Tom and Elizabeth are too pooped to cut the rug). Speaking of reunions, if all goes right, you should be seeing a few pages near this column in *Shipmate* with information on events, registration and some souvenir orders for our reunion. If I can't get a download or we don't get a hard copy to the editor in time—you can expect a package in mailing to your home. But seeing as this is a JUNE column, and I'm writing this in April, you should already have the information one way or another. If not, OOPS! Remember to keeping checking the website for info. **Mike Holden**, who maintains the site, is up for canonization this year by the way. The address is: <http://www.cs.nps.navy.mil/people/faculty/mjholden/78stuff/78reunion.html>. Speaking of email-type stuff, I got a bunch in my file box so let's get to it.

Chris May may@apl.washington.edu is Doctor May, as in the Ph.D. type. He's an Environmental Engineer at the Applied Physics Lab at the University of Washington.

Rusty Cone rccone@mssystems.com is still down in Dallas, working for M&S Systems. His wife, Patty, and the kids Bobby (16) and Kristen (14) are doing fine. Bobby is now into the driving stage and is making parents crazy, that coupled with the discovery of girls, reminds Rusty of much of his youth. Like most fathers with daughters, Rusty hopes his daughter does not find someone



'78's Sudbecks

like him (I guess a lot of mothers are murmuring the same under their breaths right now too.) Rusty still manages to play in a couple of hoop leagues every fall, and one in the spring. He does some Hoop-It Up, (finally) in the over 40 crowd. As for work, he runs the operations of M&S. It's a small electronics firm which manufactures built-in music, communications, central vacuum, home theater speaker and home automation systems. It does about \$25 million in business and has 100 employees. They have an operation in Monterey and Mexico, so Rusty gets to go down there every month. (During his trips he wishes he had studied his Spanish better in high school.) He's been with M&S almost eight years now. Before that he was in Texas with Texas Instruments (having started there back in '83). He sees **Matt Elias** every month or so. Now that his old roommate, **Prentiss Hall**, is back on the East Coast, he's lost a round ball teammate. Prentiss had played on Rusty's Hoop-It Up team for the past three years. Thanks for the note Rusty...see you in a couple.

I wish these darned old keyboards would type what you're thinking...If they did, I wouldn't get into trouble as often. Sometimes they have a mind of their own and sturt ot jot watever thay wont to—See, there it goes agin?—I mean how else can one explain the fact that I added to my Hall of Misnomers, **Tommy HamilTON**. That's Hamil with a T-O-N. Seems I left out the 2,000 pounds notation to Tom's name. Of course, I wonder if it didn't have anything to do with the fact that his email address is Tommy Hamil@aol.com, and I tend to type these things out really late at night. Hmmm, that's a theory! Anyway, Tom was jamming in what passes as his living room (between his keyboard, amps, guitars and son, Mike's drums—oh and the two easy chairs an optometrists short distance from the v.v., THAT'S IT!) when he caught the error of my keyboard. *Mea culpa, mea culpa, mea maxima culpa*—stupid typing! As if confusing the typing of Tommy Hamilton's name wasn't enough, **Charlie Sotomayor** c6fn70@AGF3.NAVY.MIL dropped me an email to tell me I "mangled his e-mail address." Here's how it should go—his home email is soto@dimensione.com; work is c6fn70@agf3.navy.mil. Now if that's wrong Charlie you've got no one to blame but yourself 'cuz that's a direct cut and paste from your email. Of course you could try and get by with "Shipmate must have scanned it wrong." (Of course that works once—but only once—er, so I'm told.) Soto didn't just drop me a female dog, but he also wrote to say he's still languishing on the Sixth Fleet staff in Gaeta, Italy. In October he hopes to go to Newport for fluff degree at Naval War College. **Jim Loeffler** is retiring out of Gaeta to go to Oregon. **Eric Nelson** arrived on the staff recently after a CO tour on TUNNY, which he just defueled prior to decom. He says that Italy is great and that it's truly "the 20 pound tour—Bruschetta, pasta, chingiale cacchiatore, mozzarella buffala, gnocchi, vino rosso, bianco, etc.,"—you get the idea. Gretch and he plan to make homecoming. Now if I can convince him to come a week EARLIER they'll make the reunion instead.

Okay, is everybody sitting down? Good, 'cuz if you weren't, the following would definitely knock you on your duff. **Loren Divers** loren@lava.net dropped me an email (Yup, he finally figured out how that funny looking TV worked!). He wrote to say that he and Cammy (Ms. Yun Ching Sum) are getting married on Saturday, 1 August 1998, 5:00PM (1700 Hrs). Class of '78 is invited. So all you Pearl Harbor, K-Bay and Camp Smith types can jog on over in your flip-flops to the Halekulani Hotel in Waikiki. There'll be a reception afterward

in the hotel ballroom—dinner buffet, cocktails, the works. The anticipated schedule is as follows: 1700 Wedding (Hotel Courtyard)—Wedding march by Fife and Drum Corps; 1702 Reception Begins; Entertainment—Italian Piano Sonatas played by Fife and Drum Corps; Reception Disco—Music by Fife and Drum Corps. As a former "Hop Committee" chairman Loren must'a got a good deal. Unfortunately, I can't make it. You see, I'll be on the **Balderrama's** first real FAMILY type vacation—wife, kid, in-laws—(Yes, I said in-laws!) the works. The day of the wedding, I'll be right dab smack in the middle of a Tauck Tour through western Canada. Deposit, planes, all the stuff is locked. Not, that it didn't stop me from trying to see if I could go—which in turn, didn't stop me from getting hit by various kitchen appliances and tour books either. I couldn't very well ask Cammy to hold off the wedding for a couple of weeks—it's taken THIS long for Muff's feet to thaw out. And I couldn't very well play El Niño and risk another cool spell on his dawgs. So, you guys will have to go instead. Have fun in my name. Maybe I'll just catch them on their Honeymoon or have a few rounds set aside at the Holiday Inn Bar during reunion time. So let's see, with Loren's passing, it DOES look like **George DeMarco** will be the last "first round" bachelor in the class. We wish the soon-to-be Mr. and Mrs. Loren C. Divers all the best in the world!

Charlie Wendt cwendt@erols.com sent me the abridged edition of "What Have I Been Up To These Last 20 Years." Here it goes:

Went subs, normal stuff (deployments, overhauls, etc.) to shore duty at Canoe U as CO for 'Dirty Thirty.' Then, SOAC with all the hot running COS (Bill Burke, et al). Pre-con Engineer of NEWPORT NEWS (SSN-750), by way of TDY as RadCon Ofcr on PUGET SOUND. Got DQ for kidney stones after two years on NN, and went to SLO on BG Staff (Blackshoe-CCDG5 out of San Diego). After 'carrier quals', back on Sublant Staff, jumped ship to ED and NPS in Monterey. Grad with MSEE in 12/93 and left the service in 4/94 on the 'early out' plan. Worked for EG&G WASC ('beltway bandit') in Norfolk until 11/95, when I started with Carrier Corporation in Herndon, VA.

Okay, now the first person to decipher for me what the heck all that COMNAVACNYM

(Commander Naval Acronyms) jive is in English, get a copy of this years "Reef Points" (As soon as I mug a Plebe to get a copy.) The most I got out of it is that Charlie is now a CIVILIAN working in Herndon, VA, for my sister United Technologies company—Carrier (and getting discounts for that central a.c. or heat pump). We can get the civilianized version of Charlie's career at the reunion. Like the rest of us, he'll be there to swap Sea Stories, embellish on our good looks, smart kids, and amazing exploits!

It was twenty years ago today, Sgt. Pepper taught the band to play...It was also twenty years ago this month that we grabbed our certificates of attendance (and some of you thought they were diplomas), raised our right hands, tossed our covers into the air, slapped on bright shiny shoulder boards and gold bars, and left Mother B in search of what we thought was reality. Well, we found "Reality" truly a concept and something we keep pursuing much like a Holy Grail. Along the way, the majority found ourselves entered into new concepts of reality as they left their active run at the Naval Service and found that civilian life can really be much of the same "Stuff," but with different uniforms and better pay. Twenty years later, even more will be packing uniforms into zippered mothball-protected bags to be hung in rarely opened closets. Another "Reality Check." Of it all, I guess the one "reality" that met our expectations was each other...classmates, shipmates. Forged through four years at Mother B and tempered through countless Mid-watches, Alert Fives, Medevacs, staff tours, job changes, layoffs, windfalls, weddings, divorces, births, and yes, a few funerals...In a few months, we'll get back to that reality. A reunion of old friends, familiar faces and some faces a little harder to recognize; but all with a common bond—shipmates, classmates, friends—We're the metal of one of the finest links in the long chain of Navy Blue—the Class of '78! See you next month and at the 20th. Fill out the forms and "Come Around." As the T-shirt on Commissioning Day said—Outta Here! Launchin' Spot Four, VMB CanoeU78@aol.com



Hip, Hip, Hooray! June '78

USNA Class of 1978 20th Reunion Souvenir Mail Order Form

ITEM	NUMBER	COST	TOTAL
1. 100% cotton T-Shirt, ash, navy class crest imprint (back), USNA 78 front left chest. Adult S _____ M _____ L _____ XL _____ (XXL add \$2.00) Youth S _____ M _____ L _____	_____ X	\$10.00 =	_____
	_____ X	\$8.75 =	_____
2. Heavyweight (12oz) navy crew neck sweatshirt with gold imprints as above. Adult S _____ M _____ L _____ XL _____ (XXL add \$3.00) Youth S _____ M _____ L _____	_____ X	\$22.00 =	_____
	_____ X	\$16.00 =	_____
3. 100% cotton golf shirt, with embroidered navy/gold class crest on left breast. Men's - navy S _____ M _____ L _____ XL _____ (XXL add \$3.50) Women's - white S _____ M _____ L _____ XL _____ Youth - navy S _____ M _____ L _____	_____ X	\$30.00 =	_____
	_____ X	\$26.50 =	_____
	_____ X	\$22.50 =	_____
4. 100% nylon long sleeve windshirt, navy with class crest imprinted in gold on left breast. M _____ L _____ XL _____ (XXL add \$5.00)	_____ X	\$34.00 =	_____
5. 100% cotton V-Neck sweater, natural with navy trim, class crest embroidered on left breast. S _____ M _____ L _____ XL _____ (XXL add \$5.00)	_____ X	\$50.00 =	_____
6. Long sleeve rugby shirt, navy with khaki collar, crest embroidered on left chest. S _____ M _____ L _____ XL _____ (XXL add \$5.00)	_____ X	\$52.00 =	_____
7. Fortrel/Teflon water repellent jacket, navy with jade trim, USNA 78 embroidered on left chest. S _____ M _____ L _____ XL _____ (XXL add \$10.00)	_____ X	\$55.00 =	_____
8. Low profile "90's" style ballcap, khaki crown/navy bill with crest on front & USNA 78 on back.	_____ X	\$18.00 =	_____
9. Women's navy cotton sun visor with USNA 78 imprinted in gold on front, one size fits all.	_____ X	\$4.50 =	_____
10. Zippered top and front pocket tote bag, navy colored duck with gold crest imprint.	_____ X	\$18.50 =	_____
11. Navy canvas duck barrel (gym) bag with gold handles/class crest & USNA imprints.	_____ X	\$17.50 =	_____
12. Heavyweight navy blue cotton canvas briefcase with gold imprint of class crest.	_____ X	\$20.00 =	_____
13. Computer Screen Saver with approx. 30 images of USNA & 78 crest/I-Day/Graduation Day.	_____ X	\$25.00 =	_____
14. Stadium blanket with one navy water repellent side/one navy blue plaid wool side. Water repellent side has gold imprint of class crest. Vinyl carrying case.	_____ X	\$55.00 =	_____
15. Set of four brass coasters with navy leather inset/class crest medallion. Wooden stand.	_____ X	\$75.00 =	_____
16. 6-pack soft collapsible cooler, blue with gold imprint of crest.	_____ X	\$12.50 =	_____
17. House flag, gold with navy chevron, Bill the Goat and USNA 1978 sewn onto flag. No pole.	_____ X	\$72.00 =	_____
THESE ITEMS ARE IN THE GIVEAWAY PACKAGE THAT ALL REGISTERED ATTENDEES WILL RECEIVE. EXTRAS CAN BE ORDERED.			
18. Lightweight canvas tote with navy handles & navy class crest imprint.	_____ X	\$5.50 =	_____
19. Blue/gold Crest auto decal.	_____ X	\$1.25 =	_____
20. Blue Thermofreez Mug with gold imprint of class crest.	_____ X	\$6.50 =	_____

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

TELEPHONE _____

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Expiration Date _____

Signature _____

ORDERS MUST BE RECEIVED BY JULY 31, 1998!

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Dear 1978 Classmates:

By now you should have received the letter inviting you to 78's Twentieth Reunion on 1-4 October. Your Reunion Committee has succeeded in planning the best reunion possible at the most reasonable price available. Your early commitment to attend is critical to a successful, well-run reunion. If you haven't registered yet, please do so by returning the form at the bottom of the page soon. Be sure to call the Holiday Inn Annapolis at 410 224-3150 to make room reservations if needed. Thanks, looking forward to seeing you.

Mark A. Hubal, Reunion Coordinator

Major Events

Friday, 2 Oct	07-1700	Registration @ Alumni House (Holiday Inn after 1700)
	0730-1600	Midshipman Store
	08-0900	Prayer Breakfast in Smoke Hall (Art Athens, speaker)
	0915-45	Memorial Service in Chapel
	10-1030	Dedication Ceremony
	1215	Lunch in King Hall
	TBD	Visiting Ship
	12-1700	Sailing @ Sailing Center
	12-1800	Golf Outing, NA Golf Course
	1330-1530	Walking Tours of Yard
	16-1700	Parade
Saturday, 3 Oct	1900-Close	Function 1: Dinner Party @ Holiday Inn
	Various	Midshipman Store, Walking Tours, & Visiting Ship
	11-1800	Function 2: Tailgate Party @ Class of '53 Pavilion
	TBD	Open for smaller private gatherings among friends

Registration Form

Name _____

Address _____

E-mail address _____

_____ (# Adults) will be attending the Functions 1 & 2 **Dinner Party & Tailgate Party** for a price of **\$139 per person**.

_____ (# Adults) will be attending only the Function 1 **Dinner Party** on Friday, 2 Oct for a price of **\$78 per person**.

_____ (# Adults) will be attending only the Function 2 **Tailgate Party** on Saturday, 3 Oct for a price of **\$85 per person**.

Please make checks payable to "Class of '78" and mail to: **Kevin Liddy**
55 Knob Hill Road
Milford, CT 06460-7244

I authorize updating Alumni Assn records and the Class of '78 Homepage with the above information (signature required). _____