

Pres: **John Rudder**Sec'y: **Vince Balderrama**

45 Little Fawn Drive, Shelton, CT 06484

e: CanoeU78@aol.com

Okay, I'm sitting here, staring at this blank screen peering at me like a polar bear in a blizzard. A big DUH flashes in and out of my mind. Now I could blame it all on the March mung that has afflicted me and made me the largest customer of Kleenex on the eastern seaboard—or I could just chalk it up to writer's mind block. (It's a common affliction these days among scribes.) Pondering either option doesn't do squat for filling in the emptiness. But lookee here! "You have mail" says the guest voice on AOL for an additional \$2 bucks a month...

**George Tyree** Tgeorge678@aol.com dropped a quick email after 20 years. He was having some "switchology" issues with the '78 website. I gave him the proper address and hope he'll stay plugged in. If he still can't get it right he'll seek more experienced technical support—from his eight year old! He did promise to provide a "personal update" in a future emailing. For now he said he was retired from the Reserve and his "mortgage job" keeps him coming and going. In between the trips he doesn't always get to see *Shipmate* before it gets tossed out the door, recycled as plant holders or new condos. (My problem is a little different, George—Since Elizabeth gets ALL the mail first and I have to hunt down the *Shipmate* in one of the gazillion Longaberger baskets that clutter ... er ... dominate ... um decorate the house. Looking forward to hearing more from you. In the meantime, your Company rep, **Sean Coffey**, can take note of your email address.

**Bob Schwanake** BSchwaneke@cnsi.spear.navy.mil zapped me some news. First of note are the various email addresses which I culled from the header. Here they are: **Bruce Carter** bcarter@vinson.navy.mil, **Doug Grau** dgrau@erols.com, **Ken Heffernan** heffernank@tses.com, **Rich Link** Rich.Link@faa.dot.gov, his home address is rblink@worldnet.att.net, **Dale Allison** psunavy@us.hsnet.net, **Frank Hunt** frankjr@exis.net Frank works for Loyola Computers, **Jack McCourt** mccourt\_jack@pamd.cig.mot.com, **Mark Hubal** mark.hubal@symmetron.com, **Jim McClean** jim\_mcclean@imdgw.chinalake.navy.mil, **Dan Keuhlen** qlinz@aol.com, **Gerry Roncolato** gronco@aol.com, **Don Schneider** schndr@cpug.org, **Darrel Van Hutten** d.vanhutten@ieee.org, and **Warren Krull** WSKrull@aol.com. For his mates from 1st Company, Bob had forwarded a preliminary notice of **Gerry Roncolato's** change of command. On 3 July, Gerry is scheduled to give up THE SULLIVANS. Gerry will be heading back to DC to take over as N861 in OPNAV. Bob won't be able to make the change of command because he'll be deployed as OIC/Suppo USNS SATURN (TAFS-10). He relieves later this month (after which you can reach him at oic.saturn@smtpgw.msc.navy.mil.) Yes, this proves that pork-chop types do have sea tours. In fact, it should be Bob's last sea duty! As he says, "Ain't no sea billets out there for Supply Corps after this!" Currently (depending on when this comes out in May), Bob is Deputy Force Supply Officer for COMNAVSURFLANT. It keeps him hoppin'. But once he gets to the ship, he should have some spare time ... or maybe before at some of those "important" schools he gets to go to. One humorous item he noted (or a point of envy)—

being CO of your own ship may be the epitome of life as a line officer. Well, for a Suppo, going back to sea as an O5 on a big deck (CVN, LHD, LHA, TAFS, AOE) is THEIR top job. BUT, there is one thing Bob will have on that SATURN that line folks will never have ... a FULL SIZE BATHTUB in his stateroom... He can't wait! Bob's promised a long overdo company newsletter which will be "cc'ed" (courtesy copied) here in a future column.

One of the last remaining "first tour" bachelors, **George DeMarco** demarco\_george@jpmorgan.com dropped me a line. Since leaving active duty in '88 he's been in the Wall St. finance-field. Presently, he's with JP Morgan in the Financial Technology Group in New York. He saw **Al Baker** and family when they were assigned to Governors Island about 18 months ago. George was looking to see if anyone had the name of the photographer who took those diploma shots on the graduation platform. His photo of the President giving him his diploma is long lost and he is looking to replace it. If anyone knows the name please let him know. In fact, let me know too. I never got a picture of me getting issued my "Certificate of Attendance." Of course, I was so far down the class pecking order that I think Coach Lenz or one of the Diggers n' Fillers gave me my diploma. Still that would be a pretty good photo. Wouldn't it? Anyway, thanks for the quick note, George. Hope to see you at the Reunion or sometime in New York.

**Doug Ray** dray2@san.rr.com just completed his tour as Repair Officer at Trident Refit Facility in Kings Bay, GA, and shifted homeports to San Diego, CA. He now works for the Chief Engineer at Space and Naval Warfare Systems Command (SPAWAR) as the Deputy Director of Test and Evaluation. Kathy Shelly and he arrived in time to enjoy El Niño. (Now is it me or are you getting fed up with everybody blaming stuff on El Niño?! Everything from mudslides to Dow Jones drops to ... hmmm ... did you read the depositions? ... It's the new line for kids these days, "My homework? ... I'd have brought it, but it got destroyed by El Niño." or "Honey, I'd have been home earlier but I ran into El Niño and got sloshed?" Earth to Vince ... to continue back on track ...) Contrary to popular belief and an old 70's tune—Doug says it truly DOES rain in California. After four years in Kings Bay, the cost of living in San Diego is a shock to his wallet, but then on the plus side there aren't any gnats here trying to make a lunch out of him.

In honor of the 20th, **Jeff Clites** Jeff\_Clites@dell.com wrote for the first time. He and his wife, CDR Ann Clark, USNR (TAR) are in Austin, TX. Jeff works there for Dell Computer corporation. Ann is the CO of the Reserve Center in town. Jeff is also in the Reserve and drill up in Waco, TX. He says that there are lots of Academy types at Dell but he thinks he's the only '78er. He got his position at Dell through the Military Affairs Council which is part of the Chamber of Commerce. Jeff says that's a great resource for those looking for a job! So for those of you thinking transition—keep it in mind. Jeff got off active duty in '89 but he's up a good bit of time in the Reserve. He even did two years active at the Reserve Headquarters (COMNAVRESFOR) in New Orleans. He ran into several '78er's there; **John Webster**, **Dean Marzetta**, and **Mike McGee** but this information may now be dated as to where they are now. Thanks for the info, Jeff and for coming out of the cold.

**Gary Rupp** grupp@cincom.com is another 20th out-of-the-woodwork. I never knew 'til he told me; he's one of those "use the middle name" guys. Actually he's a C. Gary Rupp. Regarding the "C." ... Gary says there's nothing like being named after

a grandfather! But he claimed even his gramps hated their shared first name. Still, he was his grandfather, so he kept the initial. (Hey, talk to one of my old roommates, **H. Scott Rodgers**, sometime—the H is just H! It's another one of those, "Who do you name someone after?" things). Gary noted that after looking at some of the pictures in his latest copy of *Shipmate*, he's certain we're all much younger looking than the alumni who were celebrating 20 years when we graduated! (I heartily concur!) He's married to Carolyn and they are going on twelve years now. They have three wonderful children: Kristin (age 9—destined for the Olympics in gymnastics), Garrick (age 6—of whom Gary claims if he could only bottle Garrick's energy he'd be rich!) and Stephen (age 4—he's gonna be one big dude). Carolyn's father is a West Pointer (Class of '57, I think). Despite her sometime misplaced loyalties, they still get along pretty well. Gary also has two beautiful children from a previous marriage: Sarah (almost age 18—that can't be right!) and Melissa (age 15—another definite Teenager). The girls' mother is Sheryl Anderson, sister of another classmate, **Rick Anderson**. Sarah's off to college next year and kicking butt with a 97th percentile score in the ACTs. (Gary admits she must have gotten the intelligence from the Andersons; but claims her good looks are from him. Check that mirror again, Gary.) Gary's another of my "Band of Brothers." After TBS and flight school he ended up as a picture taker, an RSO in the RF-4B (Photo Recon), one way-cool plane, with VMFP-3 in El Toro, CA. He left Active Duty in 1983 and took an Engineering/Project Management position with Texas Instruments. That was especially great because he could continue to fly, this time the F4 Phantom fighter (N&S models) with VMFA-112 "the Cowboys," out of Dallas, TX. (Life doesn't get any better than that!) He loved the flying, and the Marine Corps, but sooner or later we've all got to grow up (or, so his wives have told him.) So he left TI and VMFA-112 to pursue fame and fortune ... It's a pursuit still in progress. (Actually, he originally left TI to take a job that was closer to where his two older daughters live in Illinois.) Since leaving TI, his career has been pretty much focused on Software Sales and Professional Services at AT&T, NCR and now CINCOM Systems. For all you computer guys, Stochastic Simulation Modeling, I-CASE/Integrated Process & Data Modeling tools for Business Process Re-engineering, and Object Oriented Development Tools and Frameworks. Whew, now what the heck does that mean ... in English?! CINCOM moved him back west so that he could ski, oops, I mean to act as a Business Development Manager for some of their TOTAL FrameWork software products. (Well, that's his story and he's sticking to it!) That's where he and the family live today in Littleton, CO. If you ever need to get a hold of him, drop him a line, an email or pick up the phone. When he's not on the slopes—um—road developing business—you can catch him at 8241 South Emerson Way, Littleton, CO 80122 (303)797-7025 virtual office; (303)797-6997 home phone; (303)797-7005 fax. Thanks for the update, Gary. (I don't even mind the company ad you stuck in—send cash though, checks are too traceable.)

In closing here's a good one I got from a Marine buddy—and he's not even an alum.

There's a Navy guy driving from Pensacola to Redstone Arsenal, and an Army guy driving from Redstone Arsenal to Pensacola. In the middle of the night with no other cars on the road they hit each other head on. Both cars go flying off in different directions! The Army guy manages to



climb out of his car and survey the damage. He looks at his twisted car and says, "Man, I am really lucky to be alive!" Likewise the Navy guy scrambles out of his car and looks at his wreckage. He too says to himself, "I can't believe I survived this wreck!" The Army guy walks over to the Navy guy and says, "Hey man, I think this is a sign from God that we should put away our petty differences and live as friends instead of arch rivals." The Navy guy thinks for a moment and says, "You know, you're absolutely right! We should be friends. Now I'm gonna see what else survived this wreck". So the Navy guy pops open his trunk and finds a full, unopened bottle of Jack Daniels. He says to the Army guy, "I think this is another sign from God that we should toast to our new found understanding and friendship." The Army guy says, "You're darn right!" and he grabs the bottle and starts sucking down Jack Daniels. After putting away nearly half the bottle the Army guy hands it back to the Navy guy and says, "Your turn!" The Navy guy twists the cap back on the bottle and says, "Nahh, I think I'll wait for the cops to show up." **BEAT ARMY!**

See you next month. Launchin, Spot Four!

# 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

So I'm sitting at the breakfast table the other day, staring down at my big bowl of Fruit Loops, deeply concerned about a registered hate letter I recently received, when suddenly I was unwrapped by a great revelation of discovery and thought, "Man, would you just *look* at all those natural fruit colors?" Yeah, one of those members of the vast right wing conspiracy wrote me a registered letter, all upset about our class motto, demanding that we stop using it. He even thoughtfully translated the words *Omnus Viri* from a Latin dictionary just in case I was unaware that it meant "All Male." Did any of you guys know that? All this time I thought it meant "Chicken Francisco Tastes Great" or "Victims of a Single Gender" or as Vicky likes to translate it, "Always Wrong." Go figure. Anyway, this civilian husband of an eighty-something grad, compared our motto to ideology furthered by those stupid idiots who wear white hoods. Almost as ridiculous as comparing me to someone who is well organized and has a full head of hair. Well, I'm sure all of you will agree that no registered Latin to English translation letter ever fed a hungry child or taught a third grader to read. I think you'll also agree that some folks have WAY too much free time on their hands in their quest to make a more enlightened Village. Nothin' like a little earth shattering controversy over a class motto in a monthly alumni magazine for a readership directed at 900 guys, huh? Oh yeah, we'll rock your world with on purpose insensitivity because I have nothing better to do.

Okee-dokee, let's put aside all the bipartisan bickering and get on with this month's load o' info, shall we? One last deal, sorry about last month, but I was knee deep in the winter wholesale show hoopla at article deadline. Chicago, Philly and Denver back-to-back was a whirlwind and except for Denver, the shows proved quite successful for The Arlington Pottery. Now I have to make all that stuff; Stuck at the wheels for many months. Sorta

like golfing all day, skiing the perfect run all day or flying your own jet whenever you want and getting paid for it. Bummer.

Due to a catastrophic Mr. Mailbox transmission failure (**Bill Enslen**, that means I didn't get any mail), our info will be comin' atcha from the internet. I believe all I have are a few lost emails that I frantically searched for two months ago, but couldn't find them in the Laptop of Love. Well that's because Mr. Electron here put them on the stinkin' Win '95 Desk Top and they've been right in front of my face the whole time! Uh-huh, the White House has nothin' on me when it comes to losing stuff then finding it again. Blanket apologies and Kenny Russell voodoo dolls with the industrial stick pins are in order here. Back at the ranch...Here's some tronage from **Harv Lyon**:

Rack my "parent of 4" reduced brain I don't think I've ever had the pleasure of knowing you. Well I was in 8th Co. and I truly appreciate all the hassles that you go through to publish our monthly news. I really appreciate it. Oh yea, I can't figure out how to spell check on email so please check spelling before you send this in. Anyway, here's my input. Harv Lyon of 8th Co. sends in his first letter of 18 some years. There are about three '79ers I've stayed in touch with over the years, **Bob Larys** (soon to be Dr. Bob Larys), **Jim Pinkston** (now of somewhere in "Noth" Carolina selling some engineering thing), and **Stan ("Ra Ra") Clark** of Southwest AL. For those who know me, no surprise that I was offered the 18 year retirement (gratefully accepted) and am now of Steamboat Springs, CO. I have a small construction company which takes me back to my roots. I love the life, the elk and deer hunting, the fishing, the small town family atmosphere and, of course, the skiing. I have four fantastic kids (a lot of pre-deployment goodbyes), a super wife who is the only female pharmacist in the entire county, and generally a terribly enjoyable time on a daily basis. We just finished drilling a 525' vertical wine cellar, better known as a dry well to you city folk, that we hope to deepen next spring to support the building of our family home. Until then we've an "adequate place" about 5 min from "the mountain". Of course we invite any and all '79ers to come visit at any time of the year, 970-871-0551, the acceptance of lots of kids are required (if you're happy in the local zoo's primate house you're fine)...bring your own! Try as I might, I've been unable to track down old buddies **Jeff Frost**, **Spence Tolis**, and (dare I say it) **Jay Wallin** and **Paul and Lee Kaus**...so if you guys (et al) read this give me a call or send email hlyon@aol.com.

Harv, thanks so much for the great info and again, sorry about losing your email RIGHT IN FRONT OF MY FACE! Just think of me as being on that keen razor's edge. Kids, I'm not through being hyper stupid yet. No siree, here's another late one from **Spence Williams**:

Ken, last time you heard from me, Loretta, 7 kids, and I were enjoying the peaceful life of the Vermont wilderness and a family-owned mutual fund business. That was 1992 and much has changed. To make a long story short, the family, now 10 kids, has relocated from Pittsburgh to Sturbridge, MA this past summer. I am presently gainfully employed by Mass Mutual Life Insurance Company, heading up a piece of their retirement services division. I haven't had much contact with classmates or USNA, except for the annual inter-family Army-Navy rivalry (I have 2 West Point brothers, '78 and '87). However, I do seem to spend a significant amount of time wandering the Web, and presume that most of us have some reason to do the same. Therefore, I once again solicit communication from any 16th Company survivors that might happen to read *Shipmate*. My return address is jspencerw@aol.com. Take care. Thanks for the many years of keeping me in touch via *Shipmate*. I know that's got to be time consuming and occasionally an irritant, but I can tell you that I never miss an issue or a chance to read the (sometimes) amusing pieces you compose. Thanks again.

Thanks Spence, and doing the column really is a no-kiddin' privilege to me. I would have to disagree with you on the "sometimes" amusing comment. I'd go with a big pathetic "NEVER."

I gotta tell ya, contest winner, Ginsu knife owner and famous denture wearer **Kirk Michealson** is really doing a yeoman's job with his Five Sided Puzzle Palace '79 newsletter. It's not just for those who work at the Vulcan Mind Meld Shop or those in the DC area. You need to email Kirk and get on his list of email addressees. Kirk's email address is: michealk@paesmt.pae.osd.mil. (Hey, before you start wrapping fish with my column, go over to your confuser and send Kirk an email). Plus, in Kirk's newsletter there's almost always a low down of what's going on as those other members of the vast right wing conspiracy try to starve the children and dirty our water by taking the UnHomecoming Extravaganza away from the Arlington Metroplex and getting it on track and into Crabtown. I've gotta ask **Sean Cate**, did destroying the chances of getting a Buffalo Nickel keychain or all this Northern Plains bashing ever feed a hungry child or teach a third grader to read? To those of you who are reading this column for the first time or are not members of the last all male class, (and of course to **Vince Bousa**, **Bill Enslen** and **Doc Francis**), *It's a running joke!! Okay!?* No need to send me any more registered letters telling me that it's insensitive to blame Sean for preventing kids from getting to books. He's *not* really dumbing down our third graders.

Well, I think I'm all caught up with info and stuff. Let me know what you've been up to so I can fill the column up with something other than my idiotic filler. Now I know what you're thinking, "That yutz will get my letter and lose it for three months, in addition to the two month delay from the Home Office space-time continuum! Plus, he fills up the column with moronic dribble!" I know. Calm down, take a big cleansing breath, get a nice cup of Sanka and just plop some info down, send it on out to me and know that someday it'll get inked. Remember, I am the Give King and doggone it I do eventually get your stuff into the article. Keep in mind, without you and your info, it's all just bad filler. Also, take comfort in knowing that Vicky is here to dope slap me as needed, so you can live vicariously through her whenever I screw things up. So until June, I'll leave the light on for you. 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 Jazz Fest!** You can always tell the time of the year by the repeating festivals here in New Orleans. There is always something great going on. I always expect to see more classmates on their way to a great party. We do get our fair share, but be sure to call if you're in town.

I had a great visit with my old roommate, **Joe Hayden**, who was in town looking around at a few business opportunities. They are presently still in Rhode Island where Netia is finishing up her Masters and Shawn, their 10 year old, is burning up the hockey scene. We sure hope they decide to