

Pres: **Arch Griffin**Sec'y: **Vince Balderrama**

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It's been a busy month, the usual whines: job, house, school year, extra-curricular activities (hers, his, mine), not to mention the Reunion. So, straight into the mail bag, no humorous intros (then again, some of you may be saying this isn't any different from the other months). With that said, let's get to it. A lot of you have been taking the occasion of our Reunion to break a 20-year silence among the lost sheep coming back to the fold.

**Andy Funke** (afunke@emerald.com) emailed a synopsis on his existence. After an initial tour in engineering on HEWITT (DD-966), he moved to Philadelphia as OIC of the FFG-7 gas turbine school. This was followed by a short tour as flag aide, prior to attending medical school. While in medical school at USUHS, he transferred from the Navy to the Public Health Service to pursue a career in rural medicine. He's been walking that path for the last ten years down in South Carolina. The last several years, he's been medical director at a community health center, which has offices in six rural towns. On the home front, his wife, Debbie, home schools the older four of five children, who range in ages from three to 15 years old. Andy helps out by teaching the seamanship course (they have a boat). He also reports that they're blessed with an active involvement in their church. Thanks for the update, Andy, we'll look forward to seeing you as Surgeon General someday. You can declare Cannon Balls as hazardous to your health and make the Wardroom put warning labels on them.

Also in from the cold, was **Don Free** (Don.Free@billingconcepts.com). After 20 years of sitting on the sidelines and reading about Classmates in *Shipmate*; and especially after seeing **Jeff Ewin's** and **Faris Farwell's** picture in the July/August edition, he was moved to action. Here's what he had to say:

I am out of the Navy and have been since September '94. After living in Norfolk for two years, my family and I relocated to San Antonio, TX. My wife of 13-1/2 years, Janet, has had a home in China Grove just east of San Antonio for over 20 years. I was able to find a job with a growing local company, Billing Concepts, as the manager of the Technical Support Department. Billing Concepts is a billing clearing house for long distance telephone companies. They pass their customer's long distance charges to us; and we, in turn, pass them to the local telephone companies for billing. It has been a lot of fun both working for this company and living in Texas, not to mention no more midwatches, or any type of watches! I have two daughters. Jennifer is 10-1/2 and just starting the 5th grade. Maria, whom we adopted from China this past June, is 14 months old. Janet and Jennifer made the two week journey to China to bring Maria home. I remained at home, after all some one had to pay for the trip! I keep in irregular touch with **Rick Hiel**. He's living in Hawaii and recently married (for the first time) this 20 June. All is going well with Rick and his new bride. In a nutshell that's it. Amazing how one can sum up 20 years in a couple of short lines.

**Mike Clendening**

(clendening@jotc.spawar.navy.mil) emailed the following:

Since I'm nearing the completion of 20 years as a Geophysicist (Ha!), Oceanographer, and now

Meteorology and Oceanography Officer, it must be time to come out of the closet, er, transition. Deb and I have settled the family in New Port Richey, FL (727-376-9046), just north of Tampa. Heather and Rob are both doing well with those teen years and music. I'm currently learning how to spell resumé and considering many options that will take advantage of my organizational skills. Over the past three years, I've established Sun Up Fishing and offer half and full day flats/in-shore fishing trips for snook, redfish and trout in the Tampa Bay to Tarpon Springs area. I'd like to invite my Classmates, and all Alumni, on a quality fishing experience while on Florida's Gulf coast. For special fishing consultation rates contact me at 727-376-1315. I look forward to hearing from you folks!

Okay, since this is a 20th Reunion special, I'm not even gonna charge Mike for that completely no-transparent plug. But he's gotta promise to write more often than ever two decades.

**Scott Stoner** sstoner@dsccc.com declared that

The past 20 years have been extremely kind to me. After completing my five year commitment, I headed down to Texas. I worked at Texas Instruments for about six years and am now employed at DSC Communications (soon to be a part of Alcatel). I am the Director of Product Quality Assurance. I have been married to Toni for nearly 11 years and have one beautiful seven year-old daughter, Sydney. I still play golf and took up running and weight lifting about two years ago. I look forward to hearing from all you "old" guys!"

Well, seems like Scot got the bio-clock working the wrong way. See, now's the time you pick up golf, fishing, hammocking; you know, low-cardio, high snooze value activities; *not* lifting and running. Still, he had to be one of the few guys who could still fit in his Midshipman full dress.

**Scott Godfrey** (K9madmax) aka **Roscoe Godfrey's** brother, filled me in on a few captain select absentees from my previous column lists. From Scott's Company, **Jay Bowling** and **Keith Sauls** should be added to the list. Jay's father is the mayor of White Sulphur Springs, WV, so Jay's selection was no doubt politically motivated. Jay just finished his tour as Air Boss of the BOXER (LHD-4). He and Kathleen, Shane, Sarah, and Joe are enroute to Tampa for his next assignment at SouthCom (?), whatever command it is there.

Scott also noticed **Gary R. Leaman** on the list. As for Scott, he's still flying for Delta. He lives in San Diego but is based at LAX now. The commute enables him to drive through my old neighborhood to get to work. He reports that Orange County has very few orange groves left, but lots of great burrito stands for the road trip home! His wife, Nancy, is still in the Navy and is assigned to ComNavSurfPac.

**Ken Heffernan** (Heffernank@aol.com) wrote me a little email note and shot me a captain correction too. He, also, was one of First Company's finest to be among those selected! He was back with the Aerospace Engineering Duty Officers (1510), but we think it still counts. He admitted to feeling a bit like Rodney Dangerfield, but admitted it could be worse. Turns out the Bureau actually left a name of one of the 1510 selectees off the AINav message. Ouch! He went on to write:

Well, true to the words in my *Lucky Bag* bio, I've remained "low profile." I went restricted line about ten years ago and have been working space jobs ever since. I was the spacecraft manager and launch vehicle engineer for the UHF Follow-on Communication satellite program, putting up five satellites in four and a half years. Subsequently, I came over to the NRO (National Reconnaissance Office) and have been here just over three years now. I just left a job as the Deputy PM/

Spacecraft Manager for a classified satellite program and have taken on the Program Manager's job for the National Space Communications Program (NSCP). We are concept definition phase and are looking at some really neat solutions for integrated high-speed space/terrestrial networks, meeting the needs of DOD, NASA and the Intelligence Community.

As for other First Company Classmates, he confirmed (or re-confirmed) that **Bob Schwaneke** is back at sea as the head pork chop for a two year tour on TAFS Saturn. Capt **Gerry Roncolato** is relinquishing command of SULLIVANS (DDG-68) on 4 September for an assignment at the Pentagon, JCS (J5). **Eric Rosenlof** is on ComCarGru-6 staff as Surface Ops. **Darrell Van Hutten** is off to a two year stint at Naval Facilities Engineering Command (NavFac) headquarters at the lovely Washington Navy Yard. **Jack McCourt** is working as a PM for Motorola in Marietta, GA. **Frank Hunt** is working as contractor support for USACOM's Joint Training Analysis and Simulation Center in Suffolk, VA, also running a sideline business as a PC Value Added Reseller (VAR). **Warren Krull** is the Surface Officer at Second Fleet. **Bruce Carter** is CVIC officer onboard the CARL VINSON (one year down). Lastly, **Doug Grau** is doing budget stuff with N12 at the Navy Annex.

Thanks for the "data dump", Ken. **Craig Diffie** (DiffieC@ncr.disa.mil) sets the record straight on his job. He's not the Commander of the Defense Information Systems Agency (DISA), that's his boss, a three star Army Lieutenant General David Kelley. Craig's the Commander of the DISA Information Systems Center (DISC). They do exactly what I said in the previous column (Can anybody remember that?), only not for all of DoD, just for DISA, about 10,000 users spread from Saudi to Korea. Nonetheless, Craig submitted a request to BuPers based on the scope of his responsibilities and the size of his organization, and they granted him official authorization to wear the Command Ashore pin. Way to go!

**Bill Timme** (WGTimme@aol.com) is in DC, working at NavSea in the New Attack Submarine program with Steve Petri as the Warfare Requirements Officer. His main job is to make sure that when the boat hits the Fleet, the operators don't scratch their heads and wonder what planet the designers were from to build the thingamabob a certain way. He finished up a three year command tour of HELENA (SSN-725) last April, where he did several deployments to the Western Pacific. He finished up with a Panama Canal transit (the steel beach picnic was great) to the East Coast, where he was in the yards for two months before being relieved. Suzette continues her career as a commercial property manager, achieving her CSM (Certified Shopping Center Manager) designation last year. She is now the General Manager of Mazza Gallerie, a mall in Chevy Chase, MD, undergoing a multi-million dollar renovation. Savannah (age 5) and Morgan (age 3) keep them hopping, so there's never a dull moment in North Arlington!

On my travels around the globe, I literally bumped into **Jim Jones** at NavAir in Patuxent River, MD, and saw who I could swear was **Paul Pietsch** driving around the NavAir parking garage looking for a space (I beat him to it!). A few months ago in one of those quirks of fate I came across **Mark James** at a gas station on the exit just north of the Baltimore toll. Since I'm away from my notes and his business card, I'll use "fuzzy logic" (mental recall) to recall that he lives in Richmond, VA, is working for some software company (or selling some software) and gets to travel up and down I-95. I'll have to beg off as stupid and ask Mark to "please pass the gouge."



I got a sad piece of mail from **Craig Silverthorne '70**. Craig wrote to say that the "Dean" of Navy Boxing, Coach Emerson Smith, passed away late August. It was told that Coach Smith passed away very peacefully. He had been in a nursing home since around June as the result of a massive stroke. A memorial service was held at the Academy on 26 August. Coach Smith was a father figure to all the Brigade boxers and countless other Midshipmen who laced up gloves for P.E., got a kind "pass" call on the Plebe gymnastics routine, or simply had the pleasure of talking with him. He's sadly missed. Coach Smith is survived by his wife, Louise; his daughter, Debbie; and his sons, Steve and Michael. Louise may be reached at 410-268-0277. Her address is: 807 Janice Drive, Annapolis, MD 21403.

That'll close it for now. Happy Birthday to all my cohorts in green, the Marines! It's our 223rd, and we don't look a day over 20! Semper Fi and Semper Gumby (Always Faithful, Always Flexible). Launchin' Spot Four. Vince (CanoeU78@aol.com)

## 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

## 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  
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*Oh the Goat is old and gnarly...* We're all set to sing the old songs as Navy comes into town to play the Green Wave of Tulane University. The local chapter of the Alumni Association and other groups are getting ready for a fantastic experience. I'll report more next issue with a few photos and stories. As for now, I've had to break out the *Reef Points* and get ready as we are going to be hosting six Midshipmen for the weekend who are here for the Drum and Bugle Corps. Should be interesting. I'll have to have copies of our local paper delivered to their room so they can be ready for come around. "How many parades are there during Mardi Gras? Who was the last King of Rex? How many hurricanes does it take to finish a date? What do you do if you are taken prisoner and held hostage by ten out of control party animals from Tulane?" Critical questions in the life of a Midshipman! Ah well, on to the mailbag!

**Ken Hall** (hall@charlie.iit.edu) sent in a note to let me know that he has completed his PCS to Chicago. He is the XO for the Chicago NROTC Consortium. He did report that he was surprised to discover that **Ray Trygstad '77**, his Plebe summer squad leader first set, is working at Illinois Institute of Technology, one of the Consortium schools. I don't think that they have had a chance to catch up. That should be an

interesting meeting. Hey...I remember you, you were an...just kidding Ray!

**Jill Votaw** sent in a few notes from the West Coast and claims to have seen the elusive **Rich Carlquist** at the dedication of the Homecoming Statue. All reports are that "Mr. San Diego Navy League" looks fine and is keeping very busy. Here is the rest of her news:

Ran into **CDR Rich Lepper** today at an AFCEA West '99 planning meeting. He's now at AFCEA Training Group Pacific here in San Diego. For anyone who will be in San Diego 19-21 January 1999, think about attending AFCEA West '99. It's co-sponsored by the U.S. Naval Institute, and it is free. They're focusing on the technology and systems of the future, and may even talk about the Y2K problem. Hope to see you there!

**CDR Bill Personius** was relieved as CO of HC-11 by **CDR Peter Sciabarra '81** on 10 September. Bill's next assignment is as Chief of Staff for Helicopter Tactical Wing, Pacific, at NAS North Island. Greetings from your San Diego correspondent! It was really great seeing you when I was in the "Big Easy" on duty last month; thanks for a terrific lunch. News from "America's Finest City:" My one-time roomie, **CDR Melissa Harrington** checked into Commander, Naval Base San Diego recently. She will be serving as the Regional BQ Officer, in charge of all the BQs in the entire southwest region. Her hubby and Classmate, **CDR Bill Hoeft**, took command of SALT LAKE CITY (SSN-716) and will be on deployment by the time this goes to print. That's it from San Diego, anyone in the area please check in, and I'll be happy to take you out for a margarita! Beat Army! Jill

I received a great note from **John Frost** (John.E.Frost@allison.com). This is a remote check in and photos are promised for a later issue:

Your article is great. I love it. Feel free to edit this and publish when you deem it appropriate. I have a photo of the Frost and Friddles when they visited, but it may have fallen behind the seats. I'll send it if found, but don't hold your breath.

I have been reading our Class news for years and planned on making the Ten-year Reunion before being activated for Operation Desert Storm. Eighteen years has not changed me much, which is good...so I think. My wife still loves me after 16 years (God only knows why), and we have three boys, ages 14, 12, and 10 years old. She works for America West Airlines, and I take full advantage of her flight benefits. Let me know; I'll come visit ya!

My ten year-old and I got the motocross bug real bad, and nearly left the rest of the family in pursuit of our dream of becoming motocross stars. My 12 year-old has recently out-matured me, which makes fathering rather difficult. My teenage son can't believe God adorned him with the likes of me.

All in all, life is good, and I spend a lot of time with the family. I've worked for Rolls-Royce Allison for six years now. I may move on to different, although less green than Indy pastures; an Airline, Airline manufacturer or another engine maker. Aviation Managers, call me at 317-230-2791.

I'm part way through a masters in aeronautical science and have had **Tom Ryan** as one of my teachers. He was forced to give me a B; I suspect. I left the USN from Bermuda in '87 and recently retired from the Reserves. I love the engine business, got an A&P license and still keep my '69 Camaro running (although I may need to trade it in on new furniture soon).

**Christine** and **Ron Friddle** stopped by on their way back from two months active Air Force duty. Their five boys (all ages eight and under) complemented my clan. He had fireworks; I had the backyard, and the eight boys light up the sky. Being great leaders from Class of '80, we supervised in our normal hands-off style. Only one minor incident (thank God). Hey "He who does not risk, does not win."

Our fearless leader, **Tim Kobosko** (tim.kobosko@usna.com) wrote me a note to let me know that we have a contract with Loews Hotel for the 20-22 October 2000 weekend. This is still scheduled to be the Homecoming football game. Give him a call if you need any further details. In case you didn't know it, Tim is now at the Alumni Association as Deputy Director of Alumni Services and may be reached at: 410-263-4448, ext 124, fax: 410-263-9348.

I received a photo from **Mike Kane**, awhile back, and managed to get the photograph in the column, but didn't print the letter that came with it on 5 May 1998. I don't know what happened, but maybe, like John above, the letter is behind the couch somewhere or maybe the dog ate it or...Anyway, here it is, and sorry about that, Mike. It was great to catch up with him and hear all that is going on in his world. Here is the long lost letter:

An update on my happenings: I just finished my eighth year with Delta; and after living in Atlanta for six years, I moved to Bucks County in Eastern Pennsylvania. My wonderful wife of almost 17 years, Janet, and I and our six kids have finally settled into the new house. I think we had four boys the last time I wrote; we rounded out the hoop squad and then two years ago added a cheerleader. I'm flying to Europe from JFK, a very educational experience.

Normal Class of '80 doings for me are seeing Delta buds from '80 and reading *Shipmate*; early '98 has, however, been exceptional. We started in grand style when the whole family went to the Cape to watch **Joe Edwards** blast off in the Shuttle. The night launch was truly awesome. The entire sky was gold during the liftoff, and we kept Joe in sight for over 200 miles downrange! Joe and I got our wings together in Meridian, MS, and spent part of our Fleet tour together in VF-143 at Oceana and on the IKE. When the CamCom announcer said that "Pilot Joe Edwards is starting up the APU" two minutes from launch, I swelled with pride. Anybody from Oceana will tell you that nobody fires up an APU like Joe. Seriously, I was proud of my Classmate, squadron-mate and friend, and all that he has accomplished.

On the subject of proud, I attended the change of command of two great friends; one leaving, one beginning, one Reserve and one active duty. In January, **Mark Crook**, my Meridian and Oceana buddy, left after a great tour as CO of the Reserve EA-6B squadron at Andrews AFB in D.C. Mark flies for FedEx in his other life and moves to a prestigious Reserve job at Strike-U in Fallon, NV. **Jim "Max" Wilson**, now an attorney in D.C. and Mark's former squadron-mate, was also there. Congrats to Mark, Terri and their three great kids.

In February, I saw **Greg Miller**, from my own 26th Co, become CO of VP-45 P-3 squadron in JAX. I've been lucky to see Greg from time to time, through the years, on my USNR detts and Delta layovers. We had a mini 26 Co-reunion: **Sean O'Branski**, VP of Large Sums for Chase Bank in NYC; **Pete Jerome**, Delta pilot living in Salt Lake. Greg and I had a great time. Other Classmates there were **Randy Pizzi** and **Scott Jasper**, XO of a P-3 squadron on hellish duty in Hawaii. Congrats and good luck to **Greg, Isa** and their two kids.

I also saw my old roommate, **Doug Leivonen**, who is a computer systems engineer for Lockheed-Martin. Doug was in the Philly area working on a large project "TAD" for several months. He lives in Virginia with his wife, Brenda, and their three girls.

Now that we're "local" again, we look forward to seeing more Classmates at homecomings, reunions, Philly and the Meadowlands. Thanks Joe, for your efforts in keeping the Class closer and more informed. Sincerely, Mike Kane (MKane@erols.com) 5706 Hunters Place, Doylestown, PA 18901.