

officers and three QM enlisted types. We augmented the staff of ComDesRon TWO. **Sam Locklear** is commodore of the squadron, and **Skip Miller** was onboard serving as C2WC for ComCruDesGru EIGHT (*sec'y note*: they accuse doctors of speaking in medical lingo! What the heck is this?) Yes, it was Class of '77 at the helm. I wish I could have had some more time to chat with Sam and Skip, but a 14 day exercise had been squeezed into eight days. Everybody was busy.

Jim sent along a great picture, which I'll try to get into a future article.

I also received a great letter from **Phil Wisecup**. Phil is currently in Brussels, Belgium, where he works at HQ NATO. He writes:

I just got here after a year at the War College in Newport, RI. Still waiting to have the family join me in a week or two. We should be settled in, by the end of August. We have a guest room and easy access to transportation, and I'd welcome any Navy reinforcements in this predominantly Army/Air Force enclave.

He didn't have an email address, but welcomes mail at: 29 Ave. Madoux, 1150 Woluwe St. Pierre, Belgium.

The last of the snail mail trio came from **Mike Tryon** in Tucson, AZ:

Not unlike **Terry Hamilton**, I figured that after nearly 21 years I should drop a note in the mail also! I recently assumed command of Defense Contract Management Command, Raytheon, Tucson, AZ. Many folks here muse over why the Navy would be in the desert. In any case, I had the distinct privilege and pleasure to retire one of our Classmates on 19 June. **Dan Ryan** (16th Co.) was the Operations Group Chief here in Tucson. He has taken the procurement job with PG&E at the Diablo Canyon reactor site in beautiful San Luis Obispo. (*sec'y note*: sounds like another vacation destination) I received an email from **Gar Wright** (3rd Co.); he is on the reserve O6 list and is slated to take command as the reserve CO for NASNI and the Amphibious Base in San Diego, CA. Gar reported that he recently met with **Heinz MacArthur** and **Rob Wilson** in San Diego. Heinz is stationed at MCRD, and Rob was in town visiting. The O6 Supply Corps list had some recognizable names like **Joe Clements** and **Tom McIlravy**, and even some less notable names like mine. I guess that even a blind pig finds an acorn every now and then. Should you ever find yourselves in the desert, my office number is 520-794-8361. My email is mtryon@swest.dcmdw.dla.mil. Give me a call, and we'll make you an honorary 'desert rat.' It's only 144 degrees today!

Sounds like Mike may have a better chance of visitors over the fall/winter given those temps. A bit of Class business needs attention. Owen sent me the following email with the treasurers report:

Note that this report only includes the Class of '77 funds, i.e. the funds we use to make down payments on our reunions. It does not include the funds sent into the Alumni Association under the category of "restricted" or "unrestricted" funds. Savings account: \$13,900.45; Checking: \$58.21 (reflects the \$1000 check recently written to secure the 25 year reunion caterer.)

Hot off of email I received the following from **Michael Brunskill**:

Just wrapping up what may be my last two week Reserve stint here at SpaWar; and since I hadn't written in about ten years, I thought I'd drop a line. I got a little behind the Class with broken service, so I'm not up for O6 until FY-00 board. I was helped out in my Reserve career when I relieved **Mike Jones** as CO of NR NAS GTMO at Willow Grove in 1993. Anybody else ever relieve a Classmate? The new command helped me make O5 and non-pay status, where I hung out with the NavAir crowd for awhile. I saw **Al Lohman** fairly regularly, while he was handling Joint UAV programs. When they closed the old Bendix plant where I was working, **Kit**

Ruland '68 hired me at what was then GE AstroSpace in Princeton, NJ. I ended up selling commercial satellites, and worked with **Dave Bair**, who ran the Echostar program, and **Mike Anderson**, who ran the digital electronics manufacturing organization. After the name changed to Martin Marietta, and then Lockheed, and then another plant closure, Mike preceded me to Allied-Signal, first in Phoenix and then Torrance, CA, and Dave moved on to Lockheed in Sunnyvale, CA. I am back at Allied-Signal, working for **Dick Krulis '69**, who works for **Dean Flatt '74**. Purely accidental but kind of scary. I had a blast at our 25th Reunion (*sec'y note*... maybe too much fun as it was the 20th Reunion, Mike!) 25th Company got together for a couple of events. Present were **Glen McCormick**, **Tom Hejl**, **Terry Amyx**, **Dave Aland**, **Ed Yetko**, **Pete Misiewicz**, **Jim Propheeter**, **John Shmorhun** and **Mike Keeney**. On a sad note, some of us attended the dedication for the weight room. After seeing it, I agree that it is far better than a bench or a tree. **Dennis Franich** is one of our Classmates the facility is dedicated to. Dennis was killed in a light plane midair collision, along with his daughter, his brother and his brother's daughter. Dennis' parents were so grief stricken at having lost two of three sons and all their granddaughters instantaneously that they couldn't even speak to me for at least a year after the accident. I never saw a write-up on it, so I guess this is it. Thanks to the Class leadership for their efforts; I know it was appreciated. Working here in SpaWar, our TAR is **Kevin Sullivan**. He's mostly busy getting bigger jobs, though. In addition to his TAR job, he's acting PD17A, a USN Captain's job. Played golf with **Rey Arellano**, still on active duty, but missed **Kevin Skjei**, who's a VP with Kemper Funds. He and wife are about to have their first baby. Better late than never! For excitement, I babysat **Suzie** and **Mike Keeney's** kids, **Ryan** (4) and **Carly** (9 months). Mike's getting ready for retirement and looking for a job that utilizes all of his talents: Spanish, Portuguese, and Chinese language skills, air guitar and DJ experience, plus a mean bowl of chili.

I also heard from **Dan O'Lone** who wishes to challenge **Stratton Hicky** for his claim to the latest fatherhood title:

I appreciate the job you are doing in keeping '77 up to date in *Shipmate*. I read with interest the comments by **Stratton Hicky** in the April issue and your invitation to challenge. Upon reading it, I knew I just had to wait a few more months to take over the lead of latest birth. Janet and I are very proud to announce the birth of **Emma Rose O'Lone** on 3 June 1998. Emma was small by our normal trends, weighing only 9lb 8oz. (Our previous was 11 lbs.) Some of you have been married longer than Janet and me. We waited until the day after graduation to get married, but we now have six children: **Daniel**, 16; **Bethany**, 12; **Alison**, 8; **Christian**, 6; **Samuel**, 2; and **Emma**. We live on a 25-acre farm in Barrington, NH, with about 40 dairy goats, 100 chickens, a couple of steers and pigs. We are having a ball!

I retired in August '94 and am in the school administration software business. I am Vice President of Marketing and Corporate Relations at Rediker Software, Inc. (Good position for a guy with a MS in Nuclear Engineering!) I am currently working on the School Office Suite, which integrates administrative software (as opposed to educational) from other companies with our product, Administrator's Plus. The goal is to have a single system that covers all the non-educational software needs of any school. Rediker Software currently has clients in all 50 states and 63 foreign countries, and things are booming. I travel more overseas now than I ever did in submarines. Well, here is my challenge to the Class—Does anyone have: a) a later birth, or b) more children from individual births? (Not counting multiple births, **Jeff Cauffield-James**!) I hope not, or we may have to keep going! Thanks again, and I look forward to facing any challengers. Keep it up '77!

I take it that by saying "Keep it up '77," Dan

is not plugging Viagra; but from the sound of his challenge, Viagra is probably far from a concern for Dan. I much prefer ending the column speaking about birth than death. Until next time, be well.

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Regular Membership: 13%
Life Membership: 71%

Pres: **John Rudder**

Sec'y: **Vince Balderrama**

45 Little Fawn Drive, Shelton, CT 06484

e: CanoeU78@aol.com

This is a quick column for a lot of reasons, not the least of which is that my deadline comes while I'm away on vacation, touring the Canadian Rockies with the family. Besides, this month will be the real gouge gathering month as I'm surrounded by live updates from everybody at the reunion. Of course, I fully expect the obligatory form deuces from those of you whom I've aggravated over the years with late items, forgotten photos, mail, messages and bumping-intos. That's why I'm packing my flak jacket, along with my N sweater. So to those of you who are coming to the reunion with a "Kill the Scribe" poster, I apologize and vow the next guy who gets elected and replaces me will try to do better. In the meantime, I have the pen...

Tim Stark (stark@jasc.acom.mil) dropped me an email with some "Various and Sundry." Like many of us he thinks this email is "grand." For those of us too lazy to scrounge up pen and paper, and too cheap to pay the 32 cent postage, 'trons are wonderful...and to think he (and I) almost failed 'puter science 1010 at boat school. Here's a few of his '78er sightings of recent (a relative term mind you) vintage. Tim is currently on active duty (ADSW) recall to USACom, working with the Joint Countermeasures Advanced Concept Technology Demonstration. The short version, he's helping the Navy/Marine Corps/Army team find a better way to find mines other than the old "contact" method, ouch. He was supposed to have completed the tour last month, "on or about 24 September." But you know how orders are; they aren't real until they're executed.

Here's the rest of Tim's gouge. **Spence Witten** is currently assigned to the Office of Naval Research. He's working the same project as Tim but from the Project Office side. **John Wissler** recently detached from command of an Engineering BN in Camp LeJeune and is heading for the Brookings Institute in the land of perpetual confusion (D.C.). **Gerry Roncolato** (GRONCO@aol.com), is, as noted in a recent *Shipmate* column, the CO of THE SULLIVANS. **Kurt Tidd** is CO of ARTHUR W. RADFORD. According to Tim, that really is a "different looking ship." So I'll have to get the skinny from Kurt this month at the 20th. Now as CDR Stark put it, the aforementioned "miscreants were all participants, in one way or another, in a combined exercise off the coast of Newfoundland in June. Some of them enjoyed the hospitality of the good people of Halifax, Nova Scotia, after the exercise was complete." Tim

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ended his email with the news that a recent assignee (or consignee, or confinee, as applicable) to USACom is **Tom McKeon**. He's assigned to the J-33 shop, Current Operations. Thanks for the zip mail, Tim!

I forgot to mention that among the sightings I had while on my two weeks of active duty in D.C. was **Rick Boch**. Rick's was one of the other lieutenant colonels on a promotion board. In his case, he was on a marathon board; the thing had been going on for almost a month; thousands of cases to review and only so many get through the secret ballots. But then, that's the downside of still being on active duty.

In closing, **Bill Girrier** (kublaikhan@worldnet.att.net) wrote me with some sad news. His 22nd Company roommate, **Larry Harper**, died suddenly at his home in Garland, TX, on 17 July 1998.



Chloe, Perla and Larry Harper

Larry leaves behind his wife, Perla, and their seven year-old daughter, Chloe; as well as his mother; sister, Sandy, and three brothers, Ed, Mike and Mark, who all live in West Virginia. Perla Harper may be contacted at 5317 Brookport, Garland, TX 75043. It is Perla's desire and plan to have Larry's cremated remains interred at the Naval Academy sometime this year. A memorial service for the immediate family was held on 21 July at Saint Michael the Archangel Church in Garland, TX. Those who knew Larry, knew him to be a deep thinker, a devoted family man, a dreamer and a lover of the outdoors and motorcycles. He will be sorely missed. During this month's reunion, we are holding a memorial service in special remembrance of those Classmates who have left us for another tour of duty. Bill's name is now among them. We all wish it were otherwise. Perla has established a fund to benefit young Chloe's education. Any gifts may be sent to Perla in Chloe's name. Along with your prayers and best wishes, I encourage your contributions.

'Nuff said...Launching Spot Four.
Vince
CanoeU78@aol.com

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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

First up is a letter from **Greg Baka**. Greg is doing that legal thing on Saipan. He used to defend some of the Mariana Island's finest, but now he's a federal prosecutor and U.S. Assistant Attorney, qualified to be a guest on all the cable news shows. Greg has essentially been the 32nd company rep and has 21 good addresses of those who graduated. Plus, he writes a pretty darn good company newsletter. An APB is out for **Brent Cottingham** and **Berle Garris**. If any of you all know Brent or Berle's address, you may fly to Japan; then take a quick hop over to Saipan on Continental, Northwest or JAL (hey, Japanese currency is in the basement so flights are cheap) and catch Greg in person. You may also send a tron-o-gram to gbaka@hotmail.com. Greg, thanks so much for your update, and congrats to you for your new position as a federal prosecutor.

First off the info superhighway is an update/correction from **Kent French**. All the way from Alaska, take it away Kent:

After reading the note from **Skip Steinwedell** in the June issue of *Shipmate*, I thought I would update some of his info for him. I love Skip like a brother, but he is about five years behind the times. My wife **Evelyn (Jilli) '81** and I have lived here in Anchorage, AK, for five years where I am based with FedEx, (Not UPS! We all know you have to send it FedEx if you want it there on time!) flying mostly to the Pacific Rim on the MD-11. In March, we welcomed our son, **Spencer Christian**, (no, not after the weatherman of the same name) to our ever-expanding family. January saw the arrival of my niece, **Gretchen**, who has become a permanent part of the family. So, I have gone from one very compliant, sweet seven year old daughter to three kids, one a teenager and one a very strong-willed infant, in the space of three months. My brother-in-law, **LtCol Bob Trombadore USMC**, has been working on the OpNav staff as the Assistant F-18 Requirements Officer, at the five-sided wind tunnel known as the Pentagon, for the last two+ years. He is married to my beautiful sister, **Mary**, and has three great kids, **Tony (9)**, **Kate (4)**, and **Josephine (3)**. **Brian Rodgers** has just been assigned to good ol' USNA as Assistant Athletic Director, I think. He will be running the PE department. Bounce '79. He is coming off a tour on the NIMITZ as OPS OY and had some kind of make work job while the ship was in refit in Bremerton, WA. I almost got to go to **Dave Yoshihara's** change of command ceremony at the end of June, in Pascagoula, MS. Dave just served a highly successful tour as CO of the TICONDEROGA, (CG-47). His next stop is Virginia Beach, where he will be a high level staffer. Dave is married to the ever-lovely **Chiaki**, and they have two fine boys, **Andrew** and **Timothy**. I have also kept in contact with **Dr. Howard Green**, who now lives in Syracuse, NY. Howard is a prominent anesthesiologist and can put people to sleep in a wide variety of ways. (Unfortunately, he is too witty to lull them to sleep in normal conversation.) Howard is married to the equally witty, but much more beautiful **Liz**, and they have four kids, **Caroline**, **Elizabeth**, **Alexander** and, as of 22 May, **Timothy**. Between family, work and home Bible studies, there is never a dull moment at the Green house. (Maybe Howard should bring his work home) Skip got it just about right on **Ken Southworth**, he does live in the woods and likes to kill things with his bow and arrow (not

enough challenge with his machine guns.) Ken is a successful commercial pilot, a captain no less, flying for American Airlines. Ken and the ever patient and lovely **Laura** have four kids, **Jennifer (16)**, **Jonathan (14)**, **Carolyn (11)** and **Noah (9)**. The boys are forced to wrestle for their supper; but somehow, the kids are all growing up to be kind and Godly people. This must be Laura's influence! That's all I will subject you to for now, but I'll write back in another five years or so and keep you posted on all the goings on. Keep up the good work, and always remember to check your sources.

Thanks Kent. And Skip, are you related to **Steve Brill**? Just kidding! Now onto more stuff from **Bob Kovac**:

The VAC is back! Just a few lines to let you know that I'm alive and kicking...I have recently taken a new position at U.S. Postal HQ in Washington, D.C., as a staff quality consultant for the Deputy Postmaster General. I really enjoy the career and the Washington area. Spent some "quality" time a few weeks ago with **Francis Sablan** and **Tommy Shelley**, tipping a few brews. Have some sad news to report also, Mom was killed in a car accident last summer. A lot of the guys in 23 will remember her as the person who mailed 50-plus pound care packages to us Plebe Year. Other than that, life is good, and I'm really looking forward to our 20th. Ken, I really like reading your monthly columns in *Shipmate*. I look forward to your jovial wit each month. If you are ever in the Northern Virginia area, look me up, and we'll hook up. Keep up the great work; you do a fantabulous job. Take care and Semper Fi...OV...

Vac, thanks for the info and sorry to hear the news about your Mom. Next up is an update with terrific news from my old squadron bubbah and catcher of much grief, **Ed Francis**. Talk to me Doc:

Julie is slated to deliver number three, girl yet to be named, on Tuesday. I will get you an update and picture, if you promise to reserve a spot for the new arrival. Oh yeah, does your pony tail reach the crack of your a** yet? And, are both of your ears pierced or just many holes in one ear? The boys in the squadron all have bets on these important issues. Regards, Ed

Thanks Doc and like I said in my email reply, the pony tail brushes against my calves and the earring chain from my left ear lobe to my tongue really helps me get in touch with my creative self. One thing though Doctor, where's my update?!

One note of congratulations that I missed last month was the latest astronaut selections. **Mike Foreman** made the list according to the Home Office research folks. Good on you Mike.

Sean wanted another shot at missing Classmates so I'm going to go with a list from 1 to 18 October, then I'll get the rest next month. Now, don't be like **Bill Enslin** and skip over this list of names. Check it out and let me know if you have a good address for one of the missing guys. Here goes: **Joseph Romano 1**, **Peter Krug 2**, **Jon Gahan 3**, **James O'Connell 3**, **Dennis Retterer 3**, **Jefferson Sherman 3**, **Charles Weikel 3**, **James Crawshaw 4**, **Charles Firmino 4**, **Joseph Hoffert 4**, **Kevin Mathison 4**, **Carey Butler 5**, **Nestor Camerino, Jr. 5**, **Steven Grant 5**, **Richard Phares 5**, **Paul Branum 6**, **Stephen Fessler 6**, **James McCormick 6**, **Starr Horton 7**, **Neil Larimer 8**, **Thomas Thompson, Jr. 8**, **Spencer Tolis 8**, **Thomas Brandt 10**, **David Rogers 10**, **Edward Williamson 10**, **Robert Wilson 10**, **Warren Lewis 11**, **James Sebastian 11**, **Fred Griffith 12**, **David Moroney 12**, **Thomas Teynor 12**, **Eric Doyle 13**, **Gary Gray 13**, **Allan Harlow 13**, **Ronald Marshall 13**, **George Mayer 14**, **Ken Gigliotti 15**, **Kevin Albright 15**, **Jonathan Fish 16**, **John Green 16**, **Michael Jordan 16**, **John Ford 18**, **Paul Hanrahan 18** and **Mark Lee 18**.