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Okay, at long last I need to get on to some belated but very much deserved kudos for those who worked extremely long and hard to make our 20th Reunion a smashing success! I don't have the final body count at this writing, but suffice it to say we max'ed our room quota at the Holiday Inn and did serious strain to the overflow hotel hot spots of Annapolis (this even for a NON-homecoming weekend). Heck, we might even have had to deny a few rooms to Mids in the old "Thrust" Inn. Yeeow!

**Mark Hubal** earned the Norman Schwartzkoff Award for his generalship of the entire operation as Reunion Coordinator. As soon as he's released from the sanitarium, he'll accept Bravo Zulus from you. Right now, he's still recovering from the effort and not accepting any calls. Abby and **Howard Seeger's** Committee's Friday night reception was another jam packed event. Food and drink were flowing as everyone met, mingled and mugged. People moved about, rushing to cram into the evening as many "hellos" and "you look great!" as they could. Well into the wee hours of the morning, pockets of friends were seen shoeless, with feet propped up on tables and chairs and remnants of drinks in their hands, swapping histories, recollections and enlarging sea stories.

Our new Prez, **Arch Griffin** put on a golf tournament to rival the PGA (at least the scores were so "claimed"). He, **Bob Novak** and **A.J. Wise** had other events around the Yard coordinated and running like a Swiss watch. **Steve "Jock" Maloney's** Reunion Basketball Game did have a pretty good turn-out. At least 40 or so brave souls, including yours truly, dragged themselves out of bed early on R-Day 2, to try and loosen the old bones with a round-robin of hoops. Though our numbers were less than the previous attendees at the 15th Reunion, our "shots attempted" surpassed their mark. (I won't say how many went in. Sometimes we wished the rule of nukes applied, "close enough.") Hey, but we looked good and as Fernando would say, "It's better to look good than to feel good, dahling." And we "looked MAH-velous!"

**Ray Kwong** and **Steve Hinks** and their team pulled off a tailgater that had everyone talking about it, "The BEST one we've had!" As we used to report in our inspection logs, "the food was of sufficient quantity and quality." Nope, in this case it was fantastic! Using the Pavilion was ideal, though it obstructed the view of the game (well, somebody said there was a game going on), it afforded plenty of tables, our own lavatories (you don't know how many Porta-Potty averse people appreciated that!), and a privacy that ensured the festivities were for '78 and guests only. One or two stragglers tried to get in, but our interlocking fields of fire repulsed them. Even the caterer escorted a few errant West Virginia moochers from our tables!

**Ron McNeal's** logistics kept the busses moving, and the photo guys documented special events. Cindy and **Fred Shutt** and their committee, including my wife, Elizabeth, got registration sorted out and put out some first

class giveaways. You don't know how tough it is to settle on what trinkets are worthy and economical! (For those of you who saw a few people with those polo shirts with full color Class crests on and wondered how they got to have ones different from the rest, the answer is simple. They were volunteers! So if you want a special deal at the 25th Reunion, join up!) Also thanks to the Shutt and Seeger Young.

**Fred Butterfield's** first day prayer CB (continental breakfast) in Memorial Hall exceeded our expectations as additional tables were setup and crammed to accept the additional "walk-ins." **Andy Funke** and **Art Athens** words were uplifting and inspiring. They put us all in the proper spirit for the opening day's next events, the Memorial Service and Honor Chair dedication. Our new V-Prez, **Bob Novak**, and his group (**John Rudder**, **Fred Hilger**, **Tom Eldridge**, **Al Baker** and the other volunteers who acted as escorts and coordinators) coordinated a Memorial Service in the Chapel to honor our eighteen Classmates who have passed away since Induction Day. With some of their loved ones present, we gathered as a special family in quiet prayer and fond memory. **Al Bakers** "talk" was especially insightful and encouraged us to honor our Classmates by answering the question of what we are doing with the quality of our life, measured in "the dash between the dates" of our birth and the number which will mark our own passing. Following the ceremony we all walked to Alumni Hall to dedicate Honor Chairs in the names of those particular Classmates who gave their lives while on active duty and in the service of our nation. Both these events, as **Al Baker** said, spoke to the "core character of our Class," that we chose first to remember and honor our Classmates, before we pursued our "play."

Special thanks goes to **Kevin Liddy** and **Jack Christiansen** who first thought up the idea a few years ago. By the way, **Ron McNeal** is working to enable us to order copies of the video tape of both these services. The video is about 80 minutes and would likely be around \$12.00 or less, depending on how many are ordered. If you have an interest, email Ron at [mcneal@novell.nadn.navy.mil](mailto:mcneal@novell.nadn.navy.mil).

In the last bit of Class news, here are the results of the elections (in case you didn't already know): **Arch Griffin** ([agriffin@noesis-inc.com](mailto:agriffin@noesis-inc.com)) is our new president; vice president is **Bob Novak** ([novak.robert@hq.navy.mil](mailto:novak.robert@hq.navy.mil)); treasurer is **Kevin Liddy** ([kgldiddy@us.ibm.com](mailto:kgldiddy@us.ibm.com)); and you're stuck with me again as scribe. The member at large positions are held by: **Matt Elias** ([MPGee@aol.com](mailto:MPGee@aol.com)), **Mike Holden** ([mjholden@usna1978.org](mailto:mjholden@usna1978.org)), **Ron McNeal**, **Jim Fiorelli** ([jim-jan.fiorelli@erols.com](mailto:jim-jan.fiorelli@erols.com)) and **John Skogsberg** ([skogs@tc3net.com](mailto:skogs@tc3net.com)). We'd also like to extend a large thanks to those outgoing officers and members at large, **John O'Neil** (VP), members at large **Mark Hubal** and **Steve Sutton**, our "consultant" **Jock Maloney**, and

especially our outgoing president, **John Rudder**. Through their efforts and under John's leadership, the Class of '78 has established itself as one of the leading contributors and active Classes in the Alumni Association.

On to some 11th Company news. **Rodger Welch** ([Welch.Rodger@HQ.NAVY.MIL](mailto:Welch.Rodger@HQ.NAVY.MIL)) zapped me some email facts. The results of the Aviation Major Command Screen Board were posted. Four '78ers were selected for Airwing Command: **Mark Fox** (F/A-18 pilot, currently CO VFA-122) is standing up the Navy's F/A-18 E/F FRS in January, **Mike Galpin** (F-14 RIO, currently at PaCom), **Dave Mercer** (A-6 pilot/transitioned to F/A-18s for his CO tour - currently at BuPers), **Rodger Welch** (F/A-18 pilot, currently on the OPNAV Staff). That's not bad, when you consider only eight Airwing Commanders, in total, were selected. Half of those went to the Class of '78!

**Matthew Elias'** ([mpgee@aol.com](mailto:mpgee@aol.com)) job hunt is over. He accepted a position at the Annuity Board of the Southern Baptist Convention. The Annuity Board is located in Dallas, and Matt will be the Director of Strategic Planning and Resource Development. Matt attended his fellow "Gee" brother and roommate, **Phil Winters'** Change of Command and Retirement ceremony at Point Mugu. The weekend was a blast and Phil went out in style. In addition to Matt, also from '78 were Megan and **Pat McCormick**. They flew in from Phoenix. Pat is flying for Delta. They have three teenagers. Also, our (1st and 2nd Class Years) 11th Company Officer Mike Moffat and his lovely wife, Trish, came up from San Diego for the ceremony. Phil's year in command was a highly successful one. The squadron did very well, and VP-65 won the Battle E and several other awards, too. The ceremony was great, and Matt's favorite quote from the speeches was when Phil spoke of how Jennifer kept him in line by telling him that "only Gilligan obeys the Skipper's orders." Phil is going to stay on the 'left' coast and is very close to joining a Palo Alto area company, which does business on the internet. Jennifer and Christopher, now 16 and a sophomore in high school, moved back there last summer in anticipation of Phil's retirement.

Gretchen and **Tom Crowley** ([crowleytd@worldnet.att.net](mailto:crowleytd@worldnet.att.net)) are back in CONUS. At the beginning of the year, they moved back to their old house in Arlington. Tom will be doing another "penance" tour in D.C., this time with the Joint Staff (J-3/Readiness). He reported that Gretchen is fine and so are the kids, "although they are driving us crazy." But hey, isn't that in every kid's, "Statement of Work?"—1.0 Drive Parents Crazy." The three Bs (Elizabeth, Michael et moi) hope to finally link up again with the TDCs on one of our road trips south. Knock on wood.

Aside from the four that Rodger mentioned, a quick check of the major command screen list shows that congratulations also go out to: **Dan Kuehlin** (Shore), **Harry Harris** (PatWing), **Jay Bowling** (Sea), **Wade Tallman** (Sea), **Tony Winns** (VP), **Bill Dunkin** (AP), **Mike Fralen** (AP), **John Rosa** (AP), and **Tom Trudell** (AP).

**Lloyd Prince** ([Lprince@aol.com](mailto:Lprince@aol.com)) was among the no-shows at Homecoming. He's no longer in AirTrans Management but has switched over to the cockpit. With the freedom of flying, comes the constraints of schedule, such was his reason for absence from the 20th. Lloyd is flying as a First Officer (Co-pilot) on a full-time basis now. That means he has 12-15 days off a month. What to do with all this time is driving him nuts! He took a significant pay cut, so most of his efforts

*Got wisdom to share?  
Please see p. 32  
of this issue of Shipmate.*

are toward making up the difference. He's been up at night looking at all those get-rich-quick infomercials, but hasn't made that phone call yet! He'll be fine. With a few leads under his belt at the beginning of the year, he planned to have his free time occupied by now. He's still in Jacksonville, FL, still married and still working to keep their daughter, Catarina, at Harvard (where she's a sophomore).

**Alex Callas** (cf18ac@erols.com) dropped an email. All is going well. His wife, Jaci, is now working for the Interior Dept. and enjoys it. She says it is nice to work for an agency with money (as opposed to NavAir). Alex speaks often with **Ken Waldie**. Waldo is still at Raytheon in Massachusetts. He and his family are well and Kenny is the same. He says he can still knock down a fifteen foot jumper with the best of them. (Well if that's true, why wasn't he at the reunion hoops game?!) **John Kurowski** is working for Dean Witter in Florida. John and his family are fine. John enjoys his work as an investment broker and newly crowned Florida State Seminole Booster. (Women's B-Ball not Football...My, how times have changed.)

Alex also wrote to say it's that time of year again. He's organizing the Eighth Annual Peter G. Callas Memorial Golf Day for MDA. As you may recall the tournament benefits the Muscular Dystrophy Association. To date the event has raised over \$85,000 for the MDA. The 1999 tournament will be held 23 June 1999 at Andrews AFB, MD. Among the notable members of the Class of '78 lending their support are: **Drew Mulhare, Kevin Lynch, Bob Schmermund, Arch Griffin, Steve Sutton, John Young, Tony Shaddix, Mark Poston, Larry Olsen, Ron McNeal, John Rudder, Chris Davidson** and **John Kurowski**. Now there's a list of All-Stars who have either contributed, played or sponsored in support of the event. The event has turned out to be a mini-reunion of sorts as some of the guys travel great distances to attend and play.

Here are the tournament particulars. ATTENTION TO ORDERS! The event has grown rapidly and Alex now offers a morning and afternoon start. The day is set up so you can play 36 holes, if you're a fanatic or a glutton for punishment, depending on how you play. A foursome for the morning or afternoon start costs \$350/team. If you play both ends, it costs \$590/team. All meals and beverages are included. Every golfer gets a gift bag, and they have separate door prize tables for the morning and afternoon. They also will conduct a silent auction during lunch. The auction has turned into an excellent money maker for the event.

Okay, here's where you guys come in, Alex needs help. As you can imagine, an event of this magnitude needs merchandise for the door prize table, auction, place prizes and the gift bags. He can use anything and will put all articles provided to good use. So raid your company freebies and marketing trinkets. If you can give, gift bag items donated are asked for in quantities of 150 or 300 (They have an average of 275 players). Company logo items are great for the gift bag and door prize table. Alex will also sell tee box sponsorships for \$200 and he accepts donations of any amount. For those so inclined, he has other sponsor opportunities for higher dollar donations. As you know, Alex has a brother that continues to battle this dreaded disease of MDA. His family knows first-hand how devastating it can be. His dad led the fight and spent 25 years raising funds for the MDA. In 1993, Alex renamed the golf tournament in

memory of my father. In doing so, he tries to keep alive his father's spirit, good will and hope for a cure. If anyone is interested in making a donation, playing, sponsoring, etc.... please contact Alex at w: 703-416-9516 or h: 703-968-4918. Thanks to all the '78ers that have helped out in the past. Let's help this year's tournament be an even bigger success!

There was bitter sweet news for the '78 family. On the joyful side, on 13 November, Anne and **Tim Hanifen** presented a new daughter into the world, Katherine Louise. However the bitter side is that **Tom Martinez** (Tom.Martinez@nsc.com) wrote to say that a month after our reunion, and three days after little Katherine Louise's entrance, his wife, Diana, passed away of complications from her fight with cancer. She died peacefully in her sleep. Her parents and sister, as well as Tom and their daughter, Sarah were at her side when she passed. Tom and Diana had been married for 20 years. It was one of those post-TBS weddings, with Tim Hanifen doing the "swatting" honors to welcome her into the Corps, hmmm. Katherine Louise Hanifen entered our world on 13 November and three days later, on 16 November, Diana departed it. Strange twist, how life has a way of balancing things, isn't it? Pity it couldn't do so without all the tugs at our hearts. We congratulate Tim and Anne and send our condolences and prayers to Tom and Sarah.

In some last bits of news I have a "locator" request. A WOOP, Class of '78, Terry Adams (b2bulldog@vvm.com), is trying to locate **Scott Thomas**. Scott was his roommate at USMA for a semester of the Midshipmen/Cadets exchange program. If you're out there, Scott, drop him a line. If anyone else knows Scott's whereabouts, pass it on.

In closing, take note that the '78 website has changed. The new address is <http://www.usna1978.org>. Now it takes a couple of password answers to get in. They're easy. Just follow the directions. If you can't get in, then you didn't have a Plebe Year. Trust me; it's pretty Marine proof, even I got in. Many thanks to our Webmaster, **Mike Holden**, for keeping it up. There is a page for you to put your email address and other particulars. Yup, it's a make your own entry. There are a lot of blanks, so as you surf the net, take time out to check in to the '78 website and submit your particulars. We will be using it for one-stop shopping and posting of '78 AINavs. So check it out regularly. Well, that's it for now. If I missed anyone who should've been thanked or congratulated, I'm sorry. But then I know I'll hear about it! Until then, I'm outta here. Launchin' Spot 4!

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**Regular Membership: 3%**  
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So, I was philosophizing the other day (I can do that all the time now, what with being an honest to goodness, real live artiste) about the possibilities after we finally make contact with aliens. All the UFO goofballs; I mean experts; get on the Discovery and The Learning Channels and try to convince us what it will be like meeting these extraterrestrials. How will we communicate with them? What will they be like? Will they have a culture like ours? Well, I think we'll be in for a big disappointment. In fact, I think we're going to wish like hell "contact" never happened, if it ever does. Here's why.

Okay, the universe has this incredible natural order, right? And, according to the UFO experts and even most astronomers, some of the unknown mysteries of the universe are "annoying." If there's natural order, except for the annoying unknowns, then space aliens will look like us and speak the same language, but worst of all, they'll be annoying. I think space aliens, instead of listening to Musak in their elevators, will listen to the music we hear on the Amazing Bloomin' Onions Machine and Ultra Closet Hanger commercials. That background music that drives us earthlings nuts. All the male aliens will be like the one guy in the Ready Room who thought it would be a great move to give his wife fake silk roses for Valentine's Day and argue that she'd love him even more by telling her they only cost \$19.99. Trying to convince him otherwise is pointless. You know who I'm talking about, right? See what I mean? The scientists are right. The unknowns in the universe really will annoy us.

Whoa, that was some kinda pathetic comedy intro, huh kids? Don't be too despondent though because I'll remind you that not only is this article Y2K compliant, but more importantly it's the *Official Class Column of the New Millennium*, and don't ever forget it. Who made that happen? Your Give King, and that would be me.

Well, alrighty, let's get on with this month's bag o' info. Oh yeah, one more whiny excuse on my part: this time of year is hyper-busy due to good biz and due to the winter wholesale shows, so if you haven't seen your info, send me a richly deserved flame or please be patient, and I'll find it one of these days either in the Laptop of Love or in the black hole nightmare mess scattered around the Laptop o' Love. Now, on to the info.

First up is an email from **Bobby Eaton**. Hit it Bob:

Hello to everybody from the big city of Soddy-Daisy, TN. Actually, we live only five or six miles out of the city limits of Chattanooga, and only about 20 miles from Interstates 75 and 24. So, it's not like we are completely out in the sticks. Thought I would send a note to catch people up on what is going on down here. My wife, Gina, and I are getting ready to send our son to college in a few months (Bobby, Jr.). Our two girls (Chrissy and Leslie), are both in middle school. Chrissy is in the 8th grade and Leslie is in the 6th. I am still working for the Nuclear Regulatory Commission in Chattanooga. I am an instructor at the training center, where we teach NRC