

Pres: **Chuck Gorum**146 Prince George Street, Annapolis, MD 21401  
h: 410-263-3337; e: cgorum@annap.infi.netSec'y: **Chuck Dirienzo**2833 Horsemans Ridge Drive, Clayton, NC 27520  
h: 919-550-2627; e: chuckles@ipass.net

Hello, Classmates! It's early June, the first to be exact and I have just returned from Rolling Thunder XII in D.C. It was an amazing site. They estimated there were 250,000 bikes there for the event. For those of you that don't know what is Rolling Thunder, it is an event to show support for POW/MIAs. Bikers from all over the country converge on Washington and show their support. It was a great event. Now on to some other stuff. If anyone knows how to get in touch with **C.A. Janiec** please let me know. **John Kruse** sends greetings from Quantico. He has one of those "you won't believe who I saw when I was walking through the Pentagon" stories. **John** was leaving the building after a morning of briefings in preparation for his next assignment in Bahrain, and he ran into **Carl Soderhohn**. Carl and John had roomed together as firsties, and hadn't crossed paths in about twenty years. **Carl** is a captain in the Navy Reserve and is the CNO's project officer for the upcoming International Seapower Symposium in November at Newport. He's living in San Diego where in his real life he is a future's broker.

**Bruce Hinkley** (BHink20@aol.com) is still looking for 7th Co. sea dogs from '76. He has been receiving several service academy contacts/resumes due to his name in the service directory and the fact that he runs an engineering and design staffing/placement company called Tekton Resources. Bruce is also proud to announce that an incoming Plebe **A. J. Shedd '03** will be coming from Bruce's hometown of Medway, MA.

Well, that's about all for now! Keep in touch...

Pres: **CAPT Richard (Rick) White, USN**1404 Hunting Wood Road, Annapolis, MD 21403  
w: 703-605-5605 ext 145; h: 410-295-0089

e: (w) WhiteRW@navsea.navy.mil;

(h) betwhite@erols.com

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, MD**1522 South Sea Breeze Trail  
Virginia Beach, VA 23452

h: 757-486-8056

e: mlsobczak@pnh10.med.navy.mil  
or usna77@infi.net

Where the #\*%\$@! has the class column been? If you've found yourself asking that very same question please count yourself in the majority. By way of explanation let me say that following the December issue there was a drought of sorts in submissions. After several long columns, I took the luxury of a month off. As information began to come in earlier this year, I found myself an unsuspecting and unwilling member of the "sandwich" generation. The sandwich generation is those middle-aged folks (like us) that are faced with the care of parents while or after raising children. In

the early months of this year both of my parents were hospitalized with major illnesses and surgery. The free time that I had after running a department of the hospital, caring for my patients, and on occasion, sleeping was spent caring for my parents. Just as this began to level out I found myself in the hospital for an unplanned, urgent surgery of my own. That in short is where the Class column has been. My apologies, I will make every effort to ensure this does not happen again in the future.

While I was "away" the rules at *Shipmate* have changed somewhat. It seems that some classes were writing long class columns (who could that be?) which was driving up the issue size and thus increasing production costs. As a result, Class columns are now limited in size with a word count in force. As a result, expect shorter columns and more editing on my part of the emails, cards, and letters that are being sent. I will continue to use a first come, first served approach except when an item is time sensitive. Please ensure that all of your inputs are most appreciated and will be included.

So with that behind us, on to Class news. **Jim "Cheese" Rowan** checked in to say he is a consultant in healthcare information systems for DoD. He and his family have recently relocated to Sterling, VA, from Annapolis. For those of us that stashed illegal cars at his parents home in Crabtown he notes his parents are doing fine and are looking forward to his father's 80th birthday in September.

**Larry Cliff** sent an email via **Bill Millward**. He had been doing SSBN sonar analysis, but has recently changed over to satellite flight control. The shift work is reminiscent of standing watches in the Navy, but he enjoys it none the less. Larry also commands a reserve unit out of Tampa, FL, that mobilizes to Bahrain. Look for him at tailgates this fall.

Email also brought a note from **Richard Maurer**. It seems Rich has recently completed a SigInt project for the Office of Naval Research, but the really big news is his "recent" (now a year ago) wedding. He was married in the Chapel in March '98 on a day that featured the most weather phenomena known to man. He had rain, sleet, fog and even a bit of snow to help him celebrate his vows. He and his wife, Linda, are living in Bowie. He has been in touch with **Neil Gillespie**, but offered little other info about Neil's exploits.

A "long lost" Classmate also took the opportunity to check in recently. **Robert Eves** wrote:

Don't know that I've ever dropped the Class secretary a line since graduation. Following graduation, I was stashed in VX-1, went to flight school, received my wings in September '79, and became the pre-com Hangar Deck Officer for PELELIU (LHA-5). I met my wife, Denise, while in flight school. We were married in January '80. Following PELELIU tour, I flew the SH-2F, doing tours with HSL-34, ConHelSeaConWing ONE, and HSL-32. My post department head tour took me to ComSurfWarDevGru, the only brown shoe on a black shoe staff, writing tactics for surface combatants. My last tour was with TacRon 21. I retired in September '94 (reluctantly) under TERA. I started with Operational Research Consultants, Inc. in November '94, and now manage the Avionics Engineering Support Branch. Along the way, we added four children, Bob in April '81, Jackie and Maggie (yes twins!) on Christmas Day 1983, and Katie in December '85. We now live in Montclair (Dumfries), VA. I promise not to wait another 21 plus years before providing an update.

That's all the space we have for this month...be well.

Send the name of your  
Class Volunteers to  
VolunteerTeam@usna.com

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

45 Little Fawn Drive, Shelton, CT 06484

e: CanoeU78@aol.com

website: <http://usna1978.org>

Boy these double month issues really throw me for a loop! Now if only we could do the same thing in real life, wouldn't that be great? Imagine having a miserable week and just being able to lump all of Monday through Thursday into one 24-hour period. Hurrah, here comes the weekend... tomorrow! Of course there are occasions when I feel the fates have already done that. In some perverse way, I swear that there are some weeks when someone or something has strung several days of Mondays together! Lately, that's been the case. Before it gets any worse, let's see what slim pickin's are on the mail line.

Got a letter from a non-grad Classmate, **Reydel "Sonny" Santos** of 14th company. Sonny left the Academy because at the time he believed "that God was calling me to serve Him in the ministry." Well, he went on to obtain a BA in religious studies from Florida International University and a Juris Doctor from St. Thomas University, School of Law. (Okay, now you go figure that one out!) He's been a practicing attorney for the past eleven years. He's married and has two wonderful children, Esther Marie (a sophomore at the University of Miami) and Reydel Matthew (a sophomore at Miami-Killian Senior High School). A couple of years ago, he flew up to Atlanta to meet up with his old roommate, **Brad James**. The experience left him with a greater understanding of the love and camaraderie that we shared as shipmates and Classmates. The friendships we nurtured are deeply lifelong. They can't be overcome by any span of time, or distance. "That's what USNA is all about!" In an advertisement for me, he encouraged everyone of you to write me and help me keep the rest of us informed as to your doings. Thanks for the words, Sonny. You hit the nail on the head! For those of you wishing to drop Sonny a line as well, you can reach him at Reydel (Sonny) Santos, Attorney at Law, P.O. Box 165333, Miami, FL 33116-5333 or email him at: [reydelsantos@ofla.net](mailto:reydelsantos@ofla.net)

In March, **Ed Reid** and our Class president, **Arch Griffin**, represented the Class at the Commissioning of DDG-78. Ed spoke for our Class and presented to the CO, **Ken Spiro '81**...a check for \$1,978. This gift came directly from Ed's own pocket! We'd like to thank Ed for his personal contribution and recognition to DDG-78 that '78 is a "Class Act." We're still trying to coordinate the details of our Class sponsorship of this fine new ship. For now, we can say we trained her skipper, Ken, just right. He definitely had a Plebe Summer!

**Dan Kuehlen** assumed command of the Airborne Early Warning Wing of the Atlantic Fleet on 21 May at NAS Norfolk. I believe that makes him our first Wing Commander. Congrats, Dan. Sorry we couldn't make it. If anyone was able to attend the changeover, drop me a line and fill me in on the details. Pictures would be nice.

**Dennis Reilly** ([dreilly@backweb.com](mailto:dreilly@backweb.com)) reported that the annual '78 Golf Outing was another success. Of course Cheri and **Drew Mulhare** were, as always, gracious hosts. It was a day of great friends, great golf (not always reflected on the score sheets), great weather, and a great meal for Classmates and their families at the Mulhare's beautiful home. It really doesn't get better than the way Drew and Cheri do it up! The tournament was a multi-

service, multi-generational affair. There were about nine '78ers there: **Drew Mulhare**, **Scott Eckert**, **Arch Griffin**, **Steve Sutton** (who's back on Capital Hill), **Rich Cellon** (who's the XO of the PW Center in Norfolk), **Craig Cowen**, **Ron McNeil** (who's at USNA), **Dennis Reilly** and **Steve Ferree** (who's at Westvaco in Richmond managing the transportation operations of that major paper company). Also included were Dennis' brother, **Neil '84** (USMMA—He's sailing as the chief engineer on the USNS Cornhusker State, a Maritime Administration RO-RO ship that's homeported in Chittamaddock, VA on the York River near Williamsburg.) (Now that's how Dennis spelled it. Does anyone even know if this place exists?) Drew's nephew, **Tony Mulhare** (USFA '95—he's stationed at Ft. Meade) and Drew's daughter's boyfriend, **John. Dennis' 12-year-old son, Brendan**, was at the helm of his golf cart. Brendan actually outdrove his old man twice when he got his chance to hit a few. (That isn't too farfetched if you've ever seen Dennis play). Of course, even less far fetched is the fact that while driving that cart, Brendan practically "OD'ed" on all those Sea Stories! **Arch Griffin** had added:

Cheri Mulhare was again the Hostess with the Most-ess at their fairway home in Ford's Colony. During the outing, **Rich Cellon** was able to relive a 300+ yard drive...and also float test his next shot into the water fronting the green! Drew and Cheri deserve some special recognition for this annual effort. This year was an extra organizational challenge and balancing act as their oldest left for her first "Prom" during the post-golf party. Of course the occasion subjected her unsuspecting date a chance to be grilled by Dahlgren Hall dance veterans!

Now listen up! For planning purposes, next year, like every year, the only place to be the Saturday before Mother's Day is Ford's Colony at Williamsburg! Let's try and get more of '78 out there!

**Bill Timme** (WGTimme@aol.com) sent me a hilarious email on a father's rules for his daughters date. Here's an example of one of the rules:

Rule Ten: Be afraid. Be very afraid. It takes very little for me to mistake the sound of your car in the driveway for a chopper coming in over a rice paddy near Hanoi. When my Agent Orange starts acting up, the voices in my head frequently tell me to clean the guns as I wait for you to bring my daughter home. As soon as you pull into the driveway you should exit your car with both hands in plain sight. Speak the perimeter password, announce in a clear voice that you have brought my daughter home safely and early, then return to your car - there is no need for you to come inside. The camouflaged face in the bush is mine.

Reading that and the other nine rules made me glad I had a son. On the other hand it also had me pitying him because he'd have to meet a father like that someday. But hey, didn't we all? By the way, Bill had that LASIK eye laser surgery. His eyesight was -6.75 (about 20/400) before surgery. It was still stabilizing a week after the surgery, at that time one eye was 20/20 and the other was 20/30. It was getting better too. He says it's great to be able to see without glasses. His wife, Suzette, is pulling her hair out as the mall she is the General Manager of (Mazza Gallerie in Chevy Chase, MD) is undergoing a \$30M overhaul. Not unexpectedly, the contractors are idiots. Compared to what she's been going through, the Douglasses had a better time with Alph and Ralph Contractors on Green Acres! Bill is in the sixteen week program manager's acquisition course at Ft. Belvoir. (**Bob Novak** is also in his Class section). Bill sewed on the CAPT stripe at the beginning of June. He and Suzette are settled in D.C. for the rest of his career. That's at least what the plan appears to be, being an acquisition professional and all.

**Charlene and Skip Bayes** (REDLIONONE) sent an update. They're still in Northern Virginia. Charlene was about halfway through her radiation treatment. As a result, she's the local chapter rep for Eva Gabor wigs 'cuz she's still waiting for the growback after finishing chemo at the end of March. She's taking it all in stride and hopes it comes back a good color, not gray! She had an endometrial biopsy and sonogram and those results came back okay. The Bayes family was running in the Race for the Cure held in DC on 5 June. Even with her treatments I bet Charlene has a better race time than Skip! (Remember how well he fared in the Applied Struggle and Mile Retch?) As for the rest of the clan, their daughter, Angela, was vying for her high school drill team. Ken was the beaux of the ball at the prom. Skip was due to retire in July. After the rough last few years, they're looking forward to life in CIVILANT. You can drop them a line at their email. Charlene especially loves the jokes and agrees that humor is the best medicine. Looking at all the jokes I get from you guys, I know you can spare her a few.

**John "Boston John" Ehlers** (JFEHLERS@aol.com) is also fighting the good tough fight against Mantle Cell Lymphoma. Back in May he started the second cycle of chemo at Walter Reed. His doc was very pleased at how well he's responded so far. His spleen, although still oversized at the time, is half the size it was when he started. Many of the enlarged lymph nodes that were evident the month before that were no longer detectable and those that remained seem smaller. The mysterious rash that started this whole mess had all but disappeared. The doctor thought the chemo would be able to get the disease into complete remission, which gives John the best chance of responding to whatever follow-on treatment they choose. Since John's sister and he are not a match, bone marrow wise, they are looking at a combination of something called an autologous stem cell transplant (where his own stem cells are harvested, cleaned up and put back in, or something like that), plus a mono-clonal antibody treatment. Soooo, as John puts it, "we are "cautiously optimistic" (the best a Red Sox fan can hope for) that things are starting to look up." He's still keeping up the humor as you can see from the following:

As far as those Army guys go [at Walter Reed], once when I was getting a cat scan, while flat on my back, this tech had me squeeze his finger tight while he put an IV into my forearm. After a few seconds, I raised my head and told him I was just checking to make sure I knew *what* it was I was squeezing. I made his day! I think he's still laughing, those Army guys must be a pretty serious bunch when a lame Navy joke like that can put them in stitches.

John appreciates all the thoughts and prayers that everyone is sending him, especially his company-mates at Good Times Ten. They've really been keeping the email lines flowing! Hang tough, John!

I've got a bunch of promotion selection congrats. The FY00 CAPT selections came out over the past few months. Quite a few '78ers appeared on them. As far as I can recall, for the active line selections: Tom Abernathy, Don Aiken, Marty Drake, Rick Dubberly, Mike Durnan, Bob Guy, Alex Hnarakis, John Hollyer, Glen Ives, Andy Karakos, Joe Martin, Charlie Martoglio, Brian McCormack, Larry McCracken, Tom McKeon, Dave Morrison, Matt Pasztalaniec, Dave Philman, Paul Pietsch, Chris Powers, Jim Rennie, Brain Roby, Bob Schwaneke, Charlie Sotomayor, Tim Sprague, John Sturges, Paul Susalla, Shawn Tallant, Bill Yeager, Barney Cramp, and Fred Shutt. On the Reserve side, picked up for the fourth stripe were Tim Arcano, John Aclin, Dan Cannan, Marcus Fisk, Brad Thomann. Now I know I've probably missed a few names so

I'll expect to hear from you guys. In fact, *please* zap me a line or hell, give me a call. I get tons of email jokes, some multiple copies of the same joke, so how about a little news instead? The old mail bags been pretty thin lately. Even the Fleet Home-town News Release system has let me down. Don't make me resort to whining, groveling, or worse yet, excessive creative license.

Well, with that little plea for help. I'll close out. Catch y'all in the single edition month, when the Mids return to academics and American football returns to Monday nights! Adios, 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  
Class Web site: [www.usna79.com](http://www.usna79.com)

Please refer to following pages for Reunion Information.

So, what the heck was the deal last June, eh? Once again, the Laptop of Love was smitten with another queertron (not to be confused with a "Don't Ask, Don't Telltron") and had to be sent back to the vendor. They replaced the hard drive...again and all data was lost. Of course it happened just before the June deadline. Tragedy struck the LOL once more just one week ago after trying to upgrade to Windows '98. It was ugly and I got real familiar with answering *Yes* after typing format c:/s. So, how many emails do I have? Not a lot, but we'll go with the info I have and hope for the best. If someone knows how to save Outlook Express messages to a zip drive and retrieve them back into Outlook Express, talk to me.

I haven't received a recent update on **Vince Bousa**, but I talked to Marianne a few days after VB's mishap and it sounds like he's on his way to a good and quick recovery. VB, you get well and make it snappy, so I can continue to give you grief. **Wiz Withers**, I need that snail mail address again. It was lost in the last hard drive crash.

Congrats to all who made the captain's list, and what a *huge* list it was. It was doggone good to see the names of so many in '79. **Mo Montana**, if you can make captain, you can email me from 20,000 leagues under the sea, and receive my emails too, without the secret handshake. Make that happen. Good on all of you guys!

Now, who's the guy that's been giving Al Gore credit since '92 for inventing the internet? I have, damn it. And, the Veep validates my claim last winter with his very own lips (I think he was clutching that two bladed axe after building a log cabin by hand during his proclamation). Anyway, the only tronnage I have is a note from **Wiz "Martha SteWizart" Withers**. Hit it Wiz:

*Homecoming 1999 is just  
around the corner!! See  
the ad on page 36 for  
more details.*