

78

Annual Membership: 20%
Life Membership: 68%

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79

Annual Membership: 5%
Life Membership: 88%

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Greetings, '79!

September already! Is that right? It seems like we just celebrated the Fourth of July last week! To me, September has always been a month of stark contrasts. As a kid, September meant seeing all my friends again, but also the return to the classroom and homework. It marked the end of Plebe Summer, but also the return of the Brigade. The same month that brought Navy football also brought USNA Academics. In the southeast, September means a welcome moderation of summer heat, but it also marks the peak of the hurricane season. It is the month we celebrate my wife's birthday, and it also presents the opportunity for me to forget my wife's birthday! (A bad thing...)

If memory serves, September was one of the two months that we wore WUB"D", our lightweight short sleeve uniform. But all too quickly (for me, anyway) we returned to that other one, the one with long sleeves, tucked-in ties, stud factors and spiffies. There are some things that you just can't forget. "Sir, a WUBA is a black dust collector, Sir!" At least that's what it said in Reef Points.

Speaking of contrasts: all those rabid Washington Redskins fans I work with are having trouble with the much-ballyhooed acquisition of "Mr. Dallas Cowboy" Deion Sanders. Here is a man who has been absolutely detested for years by the area's football fans. Now, with just one signature on a contract (and a check!), Deion is the prime weapon on the Washington defense. I wonder if he'll be cheered or booed when he's introduced at home games.

But on with the main event! I am proud to present this month's winners in the world-renowned "Who-Wants-To-See-Your-Name-In-Bold" sweepstakes! First up, all the way from the Motor City, is that 10th Co. standout, **Ken Gray** (CDRRed@aol.com). Ken's winning entry:

A brief update: I retired last fall and am now working with Parsons-Brinckerhoff in Warren, MI. We are working the construction management of a major renovation of the General Motors Technical Center.

I would love to try and track down two old Tenth Companymates that I have lost track of over the last few years. I would love to get in touch with **Tom Gibson**, last known location was Newport, RI, and **Jim Edmondson**, last known location was Alexandria, VA.

I will be coming to Homecoming this fall to show my kids a little more of my past and maybe



'75ers at Jack's change of command: CAPT Carl Klee, USNR; Jamie Burd; MIDN Andy Burd '03; Ric Johns; CAPT Jack McCorkle, USN

sleeping, taking meds, watching TV, reading, sleeping, and computing. Tina gets out and waters the plants, swims, and sits beside the pool. Since we are doing so well, the caregivers haven't had to work as hard as they had expected, but cleaning this and that and preparing meals still keeps them busy. We appreciate all the notes, cards, calls, and prayers.

Bill Dixon checked in while on a business trip to Malaysia. He's expanding Tracer Corporation to the Pacific Rim with the help of a Vietnam Army chopper pilot he met in Brussels in April. Bill hired him and they took off on what Rose calls "Fred and Bill's Great Adventure." They plan to have aviation support contracts signed in Hong Kong and Korea, as well as with Malaysian Airlines.

Elsewhere on the international business scene, **Christian Nielsen** is making headlines in the *Prague Post*. Running his "scrappy Czech company" with a *no meetings-no memos-no politics-no neckties* motto and flying the Oakland Raider flag in front of the factory, Christian is sending ripples throughout the international tractor-loader-backhoe (TLB) manufacturing world. He recently beat out Volvo and John Deere in a bid to acquire the British company Fermecc. His company, Superstav, sells its equipment internationally under the name EarthForce. With the addition of the new plant, they will offer the broadest line of backhoe loaders of anyone in the world. The "Forrest Gump of the TLB business" says it was part luck and part a boyhood love of diggers that led him to bring his revolutionary management style to the Czech Republic. Fascinating story there, Classmate! We'd love to hear more.



Navy Soccer Dynasty—The Dennis Brothers: Bill '77, Sam '75, and Dave '79.

Fans of Navy soccer in the 1970s will recognize the trio in this picture. **Sam Dennis** sent us the story:

Just a short note along with a picture taken this past 29 April at the annual alumni soccer game at school. For the first time, my brothers and I were fortunate to be able to arrange our schedules to all make it to the game this year. Bill (captain of the '77 team) and Dave (troublemaker of the '79 team) held me up in the game as well as in this photo! Actually surviving the game was our primary goal and making it to the post-game tailgater

a close second. Glad to report we accomplished both! Lots of family from across the Chesapeake Bay also made it a fun time.

On a personal note, I'm now living in the San Francisco Bay area, happily married to my new bride of 15 months, Bonnie. Looking forward to seeing my four-year roommate, **Marty Mason**, his wife and everyone else in October!

Go Navy! Beat Rutgers!—Larry

76

Annual Membership: 59%
Life Membership: 24%

Pres: **Chuck Gorum**
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 Sec'y: **Chuck Dirienzo**
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A USNA 1976 class ring has been found and turned in to Alumni House. If you are missing your ring, please contact Timothy Elizabeth Woodbury at 410-263-4448 x112 or timothy.woodbury@usna.com.

77

Annual Membership: 32%
Life Membership: 55%

Pres: **CAPT Richard "Rick" White, USN**
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 Sec'y: **Bob Sanderson**
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From the Yard

Well, guys, I'm sorry to say that I let you down this month; I had a lot of great input from you but an untimely work situation right before the *Shipmate* deadline delayed me from writing and submitting the column until almost a week past the deadline, which was too late to meet their production requirements. Fortunately, the editors were gracious enough to let me at least explain what happened rather than simply have a blank column. I hope you can excuse my foul-up and will look forward to twice as much information next month. Once again, I'm truly sorry and I'll do my best to keep this from happening again.—**Bob Sanderson**