

In a ceremony held on Friday, 10 August 2001 at RONCADOR Submarine Memorial on the Submarine Base, San Diego, CAPT Christopher Stathos was relieved as commanding officer of Naval Base Point Loma by CAPT Donald Boland '78. The guest speaker for the ceremony was commander, Navy Region Southwest, RADM Rick Ruehe. Stathos' next assignment will be as the chief of staff for Commander, Carrier Air Group Seven located at NAS North Island.

Stathos graduated from USNA in 1977 with a bachelor of science degree in ocean engineering. Following graduation, he attended Nuclear Power School in Orlando, FL; Nuclear Prototype Training in Windsor Locks, CT, and Basic Submarine Officer Training in New London, CT.

In March 1979, Stathos reported onboard TULLIBEE (SSN-597). He served as electrical officer, reactor controls assistant and as weapons officer. After completion of the Submarine Officer Advanced Course in New London, he was assigned as engineer officer of RICHARD B. RUSSELL (SSN-687) in July 1983. During this tour, the ship completed a two-year ocean engineering conversion, completed its first Pacific deployment and was awarded a Meritorious Unit Commendation and the Battle "E." In July 1987, he reported to Submarine Squadron Twenty Two in La Maddalena, Italy, as squadron engineer and material officer, where he managed refits for both submarines and surface ships deployed to the Mediterranean Sea.

Following completion of Prospective Executive Officer School in October 1989, Stathos was relieved as executive officer of GEORGIA (SSBN-729) (Blue) and completed three strategic deterrent patrols. In March 1992, he reported to the Joint Strategic Target Planning Staff in Omaha, NE, and was assigned to the Provisional Staff in U.S. Strategic Command. With the standup of U.S. Strategic Command in June of 1992, he assumed duties in the Operations and Logistics Directorate (J3/J4) as chief, Current Operations Missile Branch.

Stathos commanded CINCINNATI (SSN-693) from October 1994 until the ship's decommissioning in July 1995. He was assigned as deputy commander for training on the staff of Commander, Submarine Squadron Eleven in San Diego, CA, from August 1995 to January 1996. Stathos commanded HAMPTON (SSN-767) from April 1996 until January 1998, completing the ship's first North Atlantic deployment. CAPT Stathos was then assigned to the Headquarters, Supreme Allied Command Atlantic, as Branch Head, Manpower and Personnel. He took command of Naval Base Point Loma on 6 April 2000 (which I'm sure all of you more astute Classmates will recall from the June 2000 issue of *Shipmate*). Additionally, CAPT Stathos is also the ComNavRegion Southwest ACOS for Environment and Public Safety.

Stathos' awards include the Defense Superior Service Medal, the Legion of Merit, the Joint Meritorious Service Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal (four awards), the Navy Commendation Medal (three awards), and the Navy Achievement Medal (two awards).

CAPT Stathos is married to the former Marylee McGee of Laurel, DE. They have two daughters, Shannen and Rebecca.

Chris, we all wish you the best in your new position!

Class Communication

George Watt '73, the president and CEO of the Alumni Association, wanted us to publicize the return of the "World's Largest Alumni (Cocktail) Party;" they're bringing it back this year and it's scheduled for the *Friday night* of Homecoming weekend, 12 October 2001.

As George described it,

I can still remember the first time I attended as an alum in Dahlgren Hall (I won't mention trying to sneak in as a Midshipman...and I'm sure I wasn't the only one). What an awesome scene to

walk in and see hundreds and hundreds of us there with signs overhead for Classes to gather under. You could always find that "special" Firstie or your "favorite" Plebe detailer. And, *your* Plebes managed to find you. You could introduce your spouse to your best friend from flight school, or from that first WestPac. My absolute best experience was finding my first commanding officer and catching up on old times (or even a former company or battalion officer). Unlike a Class reunion reception, we had multiple generations and an "extended Brigade" all in one place. I can't think of a better or more fun way to "...perpetuate the history, traditions, memories, and growth of the Naval Academy and bind alumni together..." I hope you agree.

I am excited about renewing this special Alumni Association event and I'm asking everyone to come back and participate. I can't think of a more appropriate venue than Alumni Hall, the beautiful multi-purpose facility conceived and built with alumni support. The happy hour begins immediately following the formal parade on Friday afternoon of Homecoming. It will go from 5-8 p.m., still leaving your evening free to get together with your own Class or crowd. We hope to have entertainment from Midshipmen, like specialty groups of the Glee Club—the Barbershop Quartet, the SKIVS. You've heard we now have a Pipes and Drums Corps at the Academy, see them there! It will also be a chance to meet with many of the Naval Academy and Alumni Association staffs. I look forward to seeing you at Alumni Hall on Friday, 12 October 2001 as "...from low to highest in the Fleet, we'll Pledge the Blue and Gold!"

I hope many of you will be able to attend this "traditional" event that evening, as I'm sure it'll be quite a time for us all! Be on the lookout for a '77 banner (or even our infamous helium balloon), and be prepared to renew old friendships during Homecoming 2001 (one more year till our 25th!).

Closing Remarks

Just one parting shot...you guys should really know that you're starting to make my job way too easy, and if the current mail bag trend continues, you won't need a Class Secretary much longer. In case you hadn't noticed, there wouldn't have been a single Classmate mentioned in this column if it weren't for the Point Loma PAO. I can only recount what you tell me, so get back on the stick out there and let me know what's been happening. Until next month's edition, fair winds and following seas (and more emails!). In the meantime, be on the lookout for me and Michelle at upcoming events in the Yard this fall. Go Navy! —**Bob Sanderson**

78

Annual Membership: 18%
Life Membership: 70%

Pres: **Arch Griffin**

Sec'y: **Vince Balderrama**

45 Little Fawn Drive, Shelton, CT 06484

e: VBalderrama@Sikorsky.com

Class Web site: <http://usna1978.org>

Tim Stark (StarkTJ@marforlant.usmc.mil) didn't see any mention of the USNR O6 list in the July-August *Shipmate*. He thought it may have been either because of AAADD (AAADD—Age-Activated Attention Deficit Disorder); or the fact that it was probably because most of '78ers were on it two years back. He wanted to let us know that there were at least two "sleepers" on the FY02 list—**Frank Hunt** and he. As they say, "Third time's a charm." (Being one myself at the O-5 level, I wholeheartedly agree.) Tim works as lead joint experimentation planner in the G-8 at Marine Forces,

Atlantic (MarForLant). He does joint concept development and experimentation. Work with JFCOM and MCCDC (in Quantico) in "transforming" the military. He elaborates that the experiences presents many "Dilbert-ville" type experiences.



Tim Stark—Balloonatic

Roscoe "Scoe" Godfrey (ROSCOE_GODFREY@qvc.com or scoe78@earthlink.net) sent greetings. After seeing the photo of yours-truly and **Ray "Ray Moon" Luevano** in one *Shipmate* issue, Scoe looked at his watch and wondered aloud that it *couldn't* have been 23-plus years since Ray was his best man (and almost 20 years since he and I were "roommates at Justice School" and fearless aviators in Beirut!). When reality answered his wonderment, he decided to send me an update. Today, Roscoe's a single guy; but by now, a grandfatherly single guy. His elder twin-daughter, Leigh Ann, was due with her baby last month. Robin (the younger twin) is a PO3 in the Navy specializing in Crypto-Security. His son, Eric ("Little Scoe" as we used to call him) is a lance corporal in the Marine Corps and works in ATC at Yuma. That means the twins are 22 and Eric is now 20. (Whew, just pour me a Haley's MO and put me in a rocker!) As for Scoe, he made the leap from the defense manufacturing business several years ago. He now works for QVC as a building facilities manager. He manages the conveyor systems as well as all building functions. At least now he's putting to use all his double-E stuff. You can catch Scoe at his email address. Then again, if you happen to be travelling south on I-95 he says that Rocky Mount is a good stop off and (as I recall) beer is ice cold and plentiful in the Scoe household.

Joe Leidig (JOELEIDIG@aol.com) just completed a move back to the Annapolis area after two great years in San Diego. He was relieved as commander, Submarine Development Squadron Five by another USNA Alumni, **Dale Nees '79** in July. Joe says that was the absolute best tour of his career. He had a such a blast he claims he left kicking and screaming! Of course, the payback came due for that cherry tour of duty when the detailers finally figured out that over the last 23 years, Joe had *never* served time in DC. As a result they sent him to the Joint Staff to begin a tour in purgatory. Joe and Meg found a home just a few miles north of good 'ol USNA in Arnold. They plan to be regulars at the tailgaters and football games; and look forward to seeing some Classmates. Another plus is that the transfer re-united them with their oldest daughter, Liz. Liz is now a junior at the University of Maryland where she is a double major in biology and psychology. She's dated a couple of Mids but unlike her mom she still prefers guys who have a normal life. (What? Years of separation and a tumble weed existence isn't normal? Actually, sometimes things aren't much more different in the corporate world.) Meg and Joe's younger daughter, Jackie, is entering the 10th grade. That means Joe is busy trying to keep the boys away from her for as long as possible. He admits, it's tough raising teenage girls!

Jeff McCabe (jeffmccabe@mindspring.com) wrote to let his 28th Companymates and everyone know that he is alive and well. He and September (his girlfriend and conscience throughout our time at Annapolis) are still married. They have three kids, Megan (just graduated from Hanover College, distinguished Theatre grad), Keely (junior at Hanover, javelin thrower) and Ian (8th grader). Jeff works for American Express. He's the senior vice president and general manager for their corporate services business (that's right, corporate cards, business travel, etc). They have a home in Atlanta, GA, but Jeff spends a lot of time at American Express headquarters in New York City. He passed an interesting note that their aviation department has a couple of Annapolis grads and a couple more Navy Helo pilots. September and he also own a tree farm in Indiana. Any free time Jeff has left is spent canoeing and fishing. He ran into one of his 2/C Year Plebes recently, **Carl Hendershot '80**. Carl is a pilot for Delta. Anybody wanting to drop Jeff a line can catch him on his email or just put a note in the memo block of the check you use to pay off the corporate card.

Speaking of corporate credit cards... for you DOD types who carry the GSA Smartpay Government Travel Card issued by the Bank of America, **Chris Slack** (Cslack@carolina.rr.com) asks that you pay your bills on time too—it greatly affects his job performance. You see after 22-plus years on active duty, Chris is now the account manager for the DOD Travel Card for the Bank of America. There's nothing like the competitive spirit to revive old relationships at tests Chris. Just about each month for the past 23 years, he and his wife, Terri, have looked at each other and said, "Hey, we really need to update Classmates on what we're up to." Well, when they saw the last issue, where **Bob McMasters** threw the gauntlet down with his claim of the first from '78 with an offspring with a secondary diploma—that did it. Chris decided to get off his butt and write. Here's what I got from him. His one and only, Terri, and he were married on 16 June '78—ten days after we graduated. Keeping the theme of not wasting time, their first daughter Melissa was born on 5 April 1979—9.75 months after being married. (For you Honor Chair types, yeah, I checked it. The math works.) Their second daughter, Stephanie, was born almost three years later at the end of January in '82. Chris spent his 22-plus years on active duty in or around subs; first as a JO on ETHAN ALLEN followed by tours as engineer on NR-1, an XO tour on RICHARD B. RUSSELL (lots of deployments he can't talk about!) and a command tour on OHIO. There was the usual smattering of schools and shore billets as radcon officer in Holy Loch, Scotland and in the puzzle palace as Deputy ASW Requirements Division and an EA and Navy Aide. That last EA/Aide slot was wearing the aguillette (leash) to the Under Secretary of the Navy, Jerry Hultin. Chris' primary reason to write was to lay challenge to Bob McMasters' claim. It seems his daughter, Melissa, got her associates degree in '99. This year she graduated from Mary Washington College with her B.S. in psychology. She now teaches school in Fredericksburg, VA. As Chris wrote, "My heartiest congratulations to Dr. and Mrs. McMasters and their son, Robert—a great accomplishment to be sure, but if we are competing for the "first in the Class to...", Melissa is two years ahead of Robert...and there could be others who started family production just a little before graduation that could even eclipse this by a few months!" Sounds like a winner—for now. See you at the 25th, Chris!



Melissa Slack's graduation

Jill (Hawkins) Votaw '80, sent me news of another Classmate's change of command. On Friday, 10 August 2001 at RONCADOR Submarine Memorial on the Submarine Base, San Diego, our own CAPT **Don Boland** relieved CAPT **Christopher Stathos '77** as commanding officer of Naval Base Point Loma. Don's proud family was on hand for the occasion (his wife, Dotty, and sons, DJ, Adam, and Brian) as were Classmates, **Kevin Walsh** and **Wade Tallman**. The Bolands will live on base at Point Loma. Don is dual-hatted as he will also serve as the assistant chief of staff for environmental and safety for Commander, Navy Region Southwest. It's been a very successful and award winning career for Don. Along the way to this recent command, his career saw him receive the L.Y. Spear award for academic excellence at the completion of initial sub training; be a JO on GROTON (SSN-694); and teach as the sophomore instructor and class advisor at Pennsylvania State University Naval Reserve Officer Training Corps Unit. After completion of the Submarine Officer Advanced Course, his academic excellence was again rewarded with the David Lloyd and L.Y. Spear award. Don then served as engineer officer on TULLIBEE (SSN-597) until March 1987; a brief stint as flag lieutenant to the Commander, Second Fleet in Norfolk, Virginia; then XO of MEMPHIS (SSN-691) from November 1988 until November 1990. He next served on the staff of the Chief of Naval Operations as the nuclear submarine officer program manager; followed by a command tour as CO of PHOENIX (SSN-702) from July 1993 until July 1996. Under his leadership the sub was awarded a Meritorious Unit Commendation and was recognized as the Silver Anchor Award winner for personnel and retention excellence. Don then got a chance to "swing with the wing" (sort of) as the N6 and the Command and Control Warfare Officer for Carrier Group Two with JOHN F. KENNEDY (CV-76) Battle Group. Next came some time in Pentagon Purgatory as Branch Head for Manpower and Training (N779) and Branch Head for Plans, Liaisons and Assessments (N77C) in the Submarine Warfare Division (N77) on the OPNAV staff. Finally, a smattering of top level schools and sacks of meritorious awards and decorations prepared him Command as "Head Dude" of Point Loma. Now he just needs a quick course in Surfer-speak and California cool at the local Granola U to round out the resume and give him *all* the right skills. Enjoy it, Don!



The Boland Family

Tony Poleandakis (Tony_Poleandakis@acml.com) should be back in the U.S. this month. The family was headed back from Australia in time to be ready for the school year. Tony was trailing. They planned to move back to Akron. I don't have an address for him yet, so use the email. I needed **Jim Rennie's** support again from his position as Deputy Mine Warfare Command down in Corpus Christi so I called him the other day. I must say, he's got a cracker jack staff as while I was waiting for him to give me a call back, they were helping me resolve another "Message to Garcia" type matter. By the time we chatted, the matter was resolved. During the chat Jim said that he had recently toured Gulfport, MS. While there he was able to spend some time with **Tim McGee** (mcgeet@navo.navy.mil) aboard Tim's Bertram 45 "Command Boat." Tim is the Commander of the Naval Oceanographic Office in Gulfport, MS. He's been there for about 18 months. It's the crown jewel of commands for the Oceanography types and he Nancy and their family have been enjoying the heck out of it. Tim has a few options for his next tour of duty but we'll keep them SECRETNOFORN until one becomes real. Here's a look at the one of the two professionals—If you remove the cover and replace the SBD with Hawaiian or T-shirts Jim looks just like he did as a mid! (Tim is the same, but his command photo didn't make the quality cut for *Shipmate*.)

Jim Vanderkamp (Vandy@hawaii.rr.com) further clarified that Cammy and **Loren Divers'** "new boy" is an 18 month old girl named Soho. Okay, the age error I could blame on this time phase thing (timing of inputs and columns submitted five weeks before publishing)—not to mention my poor math grades. Besides, "new" is a relative thing. Vandy, I mean, an eighteen-month old is certainly *newer* than a 24 year old still living at home and on the seven-year college and beer program. (An 18 month-old is also certainly more valid proof than a 24 year-old that one adhered to the rule that "Midshipman shall not be married or have children"—at least for a graduate from '78!) As for the gender discrepancy—I claim that AAATD stuff Tim Stark wrote about. Vandy did say his *son* (I got that right) Nicholas (6) was going for his green belt. Jim claims that Nicholas is still looking to meet me. I trust that's so I can tell him stories about his old man over some Nestle's Quick and not so he can practice his Jackie Chan moves. I shouldn't worry though, his Sabunim has told him that it's forbidden to whoop up on anyone smaller than him. Say hi to Mom, Jim.



Chris and Leslie



15th and 16th Company

Pres: **LCDR Sean Cate, USN (Ret.)**
e: scate79@home.com
Sec'y: **LCDR John "Wiz" Withers, USN (Ret.)**
22445 Bluebird Court, Leonardtown, MD 20650
h: 301-997-1980; w: 301-342-4936 ext. 156
e: (h) WithersJ7@starpower.net;
(w) WithersJD@navair.navy.mil
Class Web site: www.usna79.com

Greetings, '79!

Once again, I, your humble Class Secretary, sit before my trusty desktop PC with its ergonomically correct keyboard, preparing to bring you news of Classmates scattered hither and yon around the globe! I can't sufficiently express my gratitude...

Brrriinnnggg! It looks like you're typing a Class Column. Would you like some assistance?

Nnggaaah! Who—or what—are you?

My name is Clippitt.

I must have left the volume up when I was using that flight simulator program. You startled the bejeebers out of me!

I don't recognize "bejeebers." Might I suggest "beekeepers" or "bejewels"?

Huh?

Oh I'm sorry. Introductions are in order. I'm the Assistant provided in your beta version of Microsoft Word 2001.5 for Windows Me2 that you downloaded last Saturday.

That annoying paperclip thing that keeps popping up when I least expect it?

Your previous sentence was a fragment. Please consider revising it.

(I'll revise something all right.) Ok, are you "that annoying paperclip thing that keeps popping up when I least expect it?"

Well, I disagree with the adjective "annoying," but you are essentially correct. I provide helpful hints to composers of MS Word documents. For example, I politely point out misspellings by conveniently underlining them with pleasant red squiggly lines. I also point out improper grammar with festive green squiggly lines. If you look at your screen, you'll notice several examples of both. But I do not just find fault: I also offer helpful suggestions to make your task much more easy.

(Let's see, go up to the drop-down menus. Click "Tools," then click "Options," and now "Spelling and Grammar.") Hey! All the buttons are greyed-out! I can't turn this thing off!

Wiz, you misspelled "grey." I corrected it for you.

Grey? Stop that! Quit changing my "a" to an "e"! Besides, isn't "grey" the British spelling of the word?

Well, you did download the English version of this program. Looks like you wanted the "American" version. Shall I instruct Internet Explorer to download that for you?

(Let's see... Click "Help," and then "Office Assistant." No, no shut-off button there either.) What's the difference between the versions?

There are no spell-check and grammar functions in the American version, since Americans couldn't care less about spelling and grammar. There's a "Random Capitalization" function, since Americans love to capitalize various words in a sentence for no apparent reason. Then there's the "Automatic Apostrophe."

What's that?

This function places an apostrophe after any word that ends in "s", even if the word is not used as a possessive. The random option uses a complex algorithm, and will randomly place the apostrophe either before or after the "s". If desired, an "s's" function can be included in the algorithm for use as a plural.

That's the American version all right. How big a file is it?

It will take you about 44 hours to download with your modem.

Hmmm, well I'm almost behind deadline already. I guess I'll have to keep going for now. But couldn't you cease with the shifting beady little eyes thing you've got going right now? How about appearing as something pleasant?

What did you have in mind?

Well, how about an extremely attractive woman? Can you look like my wife?

Smooth, Wiz, real smooth!

I thought so. Can you do it?

Wiz, you should know that Karen's feminine pulchritude could never be adequately represented in this or any medium.

Smooth, yourself.

I thought so. Anyway, my appearance cannot be altered in this version. WYSIWYG.

Huh?

Sorry, I was using computer lingo there. "WYSIWYG—What You See Is What You Get".

Oh, great! Well, I've got a column to finish. OK, gang where was I? Oh yeah. Before getting to the fun stuff, there are some official business matters that we must attend to.

Excuse me, Wiz, there's a prime example of ending a sentence with a preposition. A more correct wording would be, "...to which we must attend."

Whatever.

Anyway, in all seriousness, this first item is **Time Critical** (hence the attention-getting bold print). This past summer, all Class presidents received a letter from CAPT **Neil Block '61**, President of the 2001-2002 Nominating Committee, announcing upcoming vacancies on the USNA Alumni Association Board of Trustees, namely Vice Chairman, Regional Trustee (Eastern Region), and Regional Trustee (Central Region). Elections to fill these positions will occur in Spring 2002. The ballots will be mailed with the March 2002 issue of *Shipmate*, and must be received at Alumni House not later than close of business, Monday, 15 April 2002. Those elected will begin their new duties in May.

In case some of you aren't up to speed on the latest developments at Alumni House, the Board of Trustees recently completed a reorganization, which provided for creation of four Regional Trusteeships, (replacing three Regional Vice Chairmanships). The fourth region was created to "provide for relative equality in area representation population." A single Vice Chair replaced the multiple Vice Chairmanships, and Class Trusteeships were created from former Trustee-at-large positions and realignment of Chapter Trusteeships. This transition will be completed in 2003.

The time-critical part of this is that CAPT Block is soliciting nominations for candidates from "the broadest possible base of eligible and interested Alumni." Candidates must be willing to serve in this capacity, be members in good standing of the Association and reside in the regions for which they are nominated. The Committee will then put together a slate of candidates for the election. These nominations must be received at Alumni House no later than **31 October 2001**.

Kevin "Ols" Olson (KROYOLS@aol.com) checked the best man guidelines and realized he's supposed to advise his Class secretary if the nuptials involve a Classmate. So here goes: On 23 June of this year, Leslie Greenburg and CAPT **Chris "Dwarf" Nichols** (ctn@CG58.Navy.mil) were married. The ceremony was in Spikesville, MD, but the reception was held at the Alumni House in Annapolis. In attendance for the Bachelor party and wedding were the following '78er's. Ben Harris, Carl Freeburg, Bob Schmermund, Duane Lafont, Ray Miskowski, Aaron Watts, Dick Findlay, Larry Galvin, Eddie Reid, Case Runolfson, Larry Semanyk, Guido Manzo, Tim McGee, and Morry Ray.

Besides a new bride, Chris is now the proud owner of PHILIPPINE SEA (CG-58), deployed to the Gulf. His change of command was on 29 July. Welcome to the Navy, Leslie! You've just experienced an oft repeated Naval Tradition—marry then deploy. I presume there was a honeymoon in there somewhere, not just a wedding night at the Thrift Inn. (By the way Chris will be back this month). I continue to be impressed by the state of communication technology these days. No more waiting for letters or conning JOs into Mail Buoy watch. The age of the satellite and internet makes folks on deployment even more accessible than the old days. In fact, Ols said he got an email from Dwarf in which Chris described a rescue at sea that his ship performed. It read like something right out of *Readers Digest* or the "History Channel." Eight Hindu sailors were found adrift in the Persian Gulf. Their boat had sunk the night before Chris and crew came upon them. Two of the men were in a leaking eight-foot skiff (and bailing like madmen!). The other six were floating on barrels. Sharks were circling them—the whole bit. Fortunately for them, Chris and his ship came to their aid. The rescue also provided Chris and men a little "John Wayne and Victory at Sea" opportunity. They had to sink the victims' skiff as a hazard to navigation. A few squirts of M-60 machine guns, and a couple of blams and zips from the .50 cal's and 25 mm chain guns and that was all she wrote. The skiff went to the bottom. Chris confesses that the rescue was rewarding and great fun to boot! He's loving life as the CO. I'd also like to thank Chris for running for the board of directors. While he didn't garner enough votes to win, he made a good showing. He also demonstrated once more that the Class of '78 has people who are committed to becoming more deeply involved in affairs of the Academy and the Alumni Association and dedicated to ensuring they both remain on course with the principles we all hold dear. We salute you, Chris, and encourage you to try again, and others to try at least once. As for Kevin, the move with the Bureau (FBI) to Virginia has worked out "great." The family loves it there and they have a great house, in a great location. He admits that he should have done it years ago instead of chasing idiots around the streets of Miami.

Well, that's all the news. No clever endings or attempts to impress with wit today 'cuz I'm feeling more "nit" than "wit." Besides this month's column is packed with news and photos yet still is 20% lower in saturated fat and contains no artificial fillers or sweeteners. Not like some other fancy brands. Adios, launchin' Spot 4.

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