



LaSelle Booker about ready to take advantage of a defenseless Plebe



LaSelle Booker and Cody Lutke discussing the qualities of a good "foil"

Alan also wrote that fencing was disestablished as a sport at USNA in 1993, and LaSelle is part of a determined group of Midshipmen and Alumni who are not only working to bring it back but also getting Midshipmen fencing as much as possible in the meantime. I'm sure LaSelle could use all the help he can get, just in case anyone's interested. It makes me wonder where **Pete Varsanyi '76**, **AJ Groves '76**, and the Circle of Death are when you really need them.

#### Class Communication

It may not feel like it yet, but football season is upon us once again and we're icing down the drinks and staking out our spots for Navy Tailgating 2001. Since we had so much success with the '77 balloon at last year's Army-Navy Game, we're planning on making it a part of our regular home game festivities. If there are any experienced (or simply willing) balloon-a-tics out there who'd like to be a part of the crew, please drop me a line and let me know. Otherwise, be on the lookout for our light-headed inflatable in the Blue Side parking lot near Farragut Road. Hope to see some of you there!

#### Closing Remarks

Not much else to say at this point other than I'm looking forward to a little less excitement next month and maybe a little more mail. Until then, Go Navy! —**Bob Sanderson**

# 78

Annual Membership: 18%  
Life Membership: 70%

Pres: **Arch Griffin**

Sec'y: **Vince Balderrama**

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You may see **Bruce Gearey** ([bgearey@levylatham.com](mailto:bgearey@levylatham.com)) at the links in Myrtle Beach if you ever head there in January. That's the time he usually haunts the place for days of golf, cards, and adult beverages with 36 other gents from his golf club. Bruce retired around three years ago after doing most of his career in the Supply Corps.

Nowadays he is the east regional manager for Levy-Latham Global. As he likes to say, he's the Fred Sanford of DOD. Let me explain, his company has the contract to sell all DOD surplus that is available for sale at DRMOs around the country. They do Internet auctions and sealed bid sales. He works out of his home in Chesapeake, VA. While Bruce does some traveling (as he has people and sites from Maine to Key West) he also spends a bit of time at a place he owns at the Outer Banks of North Carolina. Bruce says it is a great job. Working out of the house, he's gone from wearing suits and ties to, if he likes, Service Dress Zulu. Bruce says the company is looking to expand to other surplus business; building on their DOD contract. We wish him luck. Oh, he invites any Classmates that want to chat to catch on his email or give him a call at 602-315-6080.

**Archie Griffin** reported that the Class of '78 had a good turnout at **Dog Callas'** Annual MDA tournament back in June at Andrews AFB. Our Classmates who were there to support Alex in his tenth year of the event included Mark Poston, John Young, Bob Schmermund, Scott Eckert, Dennis Reilly, Roy Cranford, Ron McNeal, Tony Shaddix, Steve Sutton, Eddie "The Machete" Reid, and Jim Shulson. **Jim Shulson** came all the way from Okinawa! Arch claims that LIMA Company had the greatest representation with Eckert, Reilly, Shulson, Sutton, Griffin, and Reid there. Arch believed that in this year's tournament Alex raised over \$35,000 for MDA. Arch also said that **CAPT Chris Wode** departed USNA later this summer for the Brookings Institute, and is slated to major command after that. **CAPT Bruce Bole** left USNA in June and now is the commanding officer at NAPS in Newport, RI.

**Larry Easton** ([larryeaston@worldnet.att.net](mailto:larryeaston@worldnet.att.net)) sent an update on '78 Racing, as you'll recall, that's Larry's quartermidget racecar. '78 Racing consists of Larry, his son and driver, Kevin, wife, Cyndi, daughter, Beth, two dogs, and a Quartermidget racecar (Number 78, of course). They started halfway into the '99 season and were happy to log one feature win and several podium finishes. As a novice, Kevin did not race for points. Last year was their first full season. They got to three feature wins and 11 podiums in fourteen starts. Kevin was third in points. This season they expect to be a contender for the track championship! What's in the future—perhaps a '78 Racing at the Indy Pole position? When not spending all of his time and disposable income on racing, Larry is the director, Ground Based Radar Programs at Lockheed Martin in Syracuse, NY. For him, the job has been unbelievable for 16 years—he's been through three mergers and who knows how much reorganization. Despite the organization turbulence Larry says it looks like he'll be around for a while yet too. Keep capturing that checkered flag, Larry!



Racing '78!

**Rich Polek** ([Richpolek@aol.com](mailto:Richpolek@aol.com)) wrote that **John Lademan** and his wife, Miriam announced the birth of the second son in June. That's two sons now to go along with their baseball team of nine daughters—or a mixed football team! Congrats John and Miriam. Oh Miriam, Elizabeth wants you to repeat after her, "nnnn, ohhhhhh, nnnn, ohhhhhh, nnnnohhhh—no!" (She's a "little" for that doncha think?) Anyway, you can all send congrats to the Lademans and see if John knows all his children's names without looking them up in his organizer.

My old lightweight crew teammate, **John "Woody" Woodward** ([WoodwardJL@navair.navy.mil](mailto:WoodwardJL@navair.navy.mil)) is now the H-3 FMS "Class Desk" and a NAVAIR civilian employee. He said there's an interesting story how he got there but says it's better discussed over beer. I like those kinds of stories. He also notes that **John Rosa** is the head Class Desk at NAVAIR and as such happens to be his boss.

On 15 May 2001, at 32nd Street Naval Base San Diego, CA, another lightweight crew buddy **Tom Hejl '77** was relieved by Classmate **Brian J. McCormack**. Brian came to DUBUQUE from Helicopter Anti-Submarine Squadron 10. He'd been the CO of HS-10 "Warhawks" since June 1999. Congrats, Brian (and congrats to Tom too who will be moving on to command of KITTY HAWK.) The FY01 Naval Air Systems Command Acquisition Slatting Panel convened on back on 24 May 2001. One result was that **CAPT Larry McCracken** was slated for Naval Air Warfare Center Training Systems Division. Congratulations, Larry! A stray round email showed that Dr. **Scott Stafford** ([drsjstaff@home.com](mailto:drsjstaff@home.com)) has been on staff in Radiation Oncology at Mayo Clinic Rochester for the last five years.

Regular correspondent, **Billy Martin** sent another quick update. After years of distance learning, Billy was awarded his Ph.D. in financial management at the beginning of July. He's proof positive that persistence pays off. (So does collecting enough box tops of Campus Crunchies Cereal). As reported last month, he should be recovering from total knee replacement surgery. He was scheduled to go bionic on 16 July after he returned from all expenses paid vacation to San Diego. The vacation was his reward for being named MetLife Resources Manager of the Year. Now he's probably put those skills to use in managing some youth labor to help him get around and retrieve things for his crutch-bound self. Here's a picture of Billy and his "Fetch-this-for-me team" son, Sean (14) and nieces, Shelby (9), and Alexandra (13).



Billy Martin and his team

I talked to **Chris Hassler** recently. We're still trying to hook up for that backyard barbecue and brew at his place in the Virginia burbs outside of DC (whenever I get my backsides to DC). Chris is a VP for SM&A. It's a management consulting, support of winning proposals, internet, etc. kind of company (I'd have given you more boasting, Chris, but your check hasn't cleared). Chris was at the Paris

Air Show this year "Chalet'ing" for business (that's going from one company's chalet to chalet). While there he saw **Jon Kutler**. I don't think they were able to drain Paris of all its wines but I am sure they "sampled" a sufficient quantity. Chris said that rumor control has it that, barrister, adjunct professor of law, fellow former Southern Californian (Dude!), reserve Captain and Classmate, **Joe Schmitz**, has been nominated to be the DOD Inspector General. I don't want to jinx the thing by offering congrats in public print. Besides, as this goes to print I'm still trying to get confirmation from Joe—or a congressional intern if I have to. As I always say, if it ain't true, it *ought* to be. I can't think of a better man for the job! Say, Joe, do you think they could use another able body, say in RD&A (Research Development & Acquisition)? I'd settle for a deputy assistant secretary of something position.

**Chris Slack** sent sad word that his roommate **George Tuefel** lost his wife, Helen, to cancer. Helen passed away on 4 May. George and Helen had been married for almost 23 years. She battled the disease for the last 12 years before she finally succumbed. She died somewhat peacefully in the Portsmouth Naval Hospital. George was by her side. She was memorialized at the Community Methodist Church in Virginia Beach and buried at her home in Jersey Shore, PA. Helen left behind George, and their three sons—George, Ben, and Sean. While George has a strong support group in Virginia Beach, words from friends and company mates also can help as he and his family recovers from their loss.

You can reach George at 516 Gaskin Circle, Virginia Beach, VA 23464 or his parent's address in Jersey Shore at RR 1, Jersey Shore, PA 17740.

We also lost non-graduating Classmate, **James W. Leiser III** earlier this year. Word of Jim's death came from IDC Fundraisers via the Alumni Association. Jim died in Lehigh Valley Hospital, in the Salisbury Township on 24 January. He left behind his wife of almost 15 years, Karen, and their daughter, Codi Sue. Karen and Jim had a son, Dusty, who predeceased Jim. Some of you may remember that while Jim was at Mother B he played soccer and wrestled. He finished his education at Lehigh University. Jim had been working as business manager for Brown-Daub Chrysler/Plymouth dealer for 16 years. He belonged to the business management association for Chrysler Corp. and the Inner-Circle for Chrysler for the top 100 business managers in the United States. Contributions in Jim's memory can be made to the Codi Sue Leiser Education Fund, care of Connell Funeral Home, 245 E. Broad St., Bethlehem, PA.

I hate to end the column on two sad notes. But with such news always comes uplifting testimony to the power of shipmates, Classmates and friends,

and the bonds forged over 27 years ago and tempered with time. We always rally to one another in time of sorrow, distress or need; whether it's simply helping someone paint their house, giving someone a room and a home cooked meal as they pass through town, supporting a golf tournament, or comforting the loss of a loved one. Remember one of the first lessons we ever learned as Plebes was—if you can't count on your Classmates, who *can* you count on? '78 has proved time and time again, in little ways and big ones, that we can *always* count one another. Our condolences and prayers go out to George and Karen and their respective families. We're all here for you.

Launchin' Spot 4.

# 79

Annual Membership: 4%  
Life Membership: 88%

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Greetings, '79!

Once again fall is in the air, and once again so am I. Or rather, I will be soon. I am heading out to sail once again on one of Uncle Sam's finest BGBs (Big Grey Boats). It's a good thing I retired from the Navy—otherwise I would be in a desk job somewhere and miss out on all this great sea duty! At the risk of disappointing all four of my fans, I won't be able to provide the high caliber opening and closing of this column for which I am so well noted. Fortunately, many of you have sent greetings throughout the summer, so let's get right to the **bold print!**

**John Jolliffe** took some time out of his busy schedule to drop me a line about what's going on out on the West Coast. Last year, John reported as commanding officer, Space and Naval Warfare (SPAWAR) Systems Command 119 in San Diego. Among other things, John passed along his official commanding officer biography, which is most impressive. John would probably be embarrassed if I printed the whole thing verbatim, so I'll summarize the high points.

After graduation, John pursued a career in submarines, winning the CinCPacFlt Shiphandler of the Year in his first tour. He then became an aide and flag lieutenant to the CINC Allied Forces Southern Europe and CinCusNavEur in Naples, and later served in the same capacity to SaCLant and CinCLant in Norfolk. He returned for sea duty on *GUITTARO* (SSN-665) and *PINTADO* (SSN-672). After a subsequent tour with the CinCPacFlt Nuclear Propulsion Examination Board, John left active duty in 1992 and affiliated with the Reserve. He has since held several commanding officer billets, including *McKEE* (AS-41) Det-119, Navy Region Southwest Det-1902, and ComSubPac Det-219, before beginning his present assignment.

In his civilian career, John is an avid venture capitalist and real estate developer. He is the owner of CASAS International Brokerage, the largest U.S. Customs broker and freight forwarder along the California-Mexico border, with over 100 employees. Quoting here from his bio:

John is extremely active in international affairs, serves as the World Trade Center San Diego vice chairman of the Board of Directors, is vice president of the local Chamber of Commerce, is a San Diego Regional Economic Development Board member, is licensed by the Department of Treasury as a U.S. Customs broker, and is widely quoted in various trade publications as a visionary of logistics management issues.

He is married to the former Sylvia Casas of Fullerton, CA, and they have three children.

John also sent along a great photo of a few of the U.S. Navy's finest leaders. How do those guys keep looking so young? Clean living? Thanks, John, for the update and the photo, and we wish you the best of luck in all of your many endeavors.



'79 Captain's call (l to r): Scott Pursley, Rob Wray, John King, John Jolliffe, and Charlie Mark

Late last spring the Navy director of my project (translated: "my customer—a very important person!") asked me to travel to scenic Lakehurst, NJ, to provide a briefing to the 2001 Surface Aviation Conference. While there I recognized a lot of faces from my active duty days, some still wearing khakis, and others wearing the coat and tie of the contractor. One of the conference attendees was CAPT **Jim Weckerly**, ([WeckerlyJ@phibgru2.spear.navy.mil](mailto:WeckerlyJ@phibgru2.spear.navy.mil)) who is the senior "air guy" on the Amphibious Group Two staff in Little Creek, VA. I remember shoving his shirts aside many times in the "W" section of the Press Shop, back in the basement of Mother B. Our paths have crossed several times over the years, as we were both members of the LAMPS community. Because of Classmate loyalty, Jim went easy on me during my spectacular brief, and we had a few minutes to chat during lunch. A couple of weeks later he sent along the following update from his Norfolk-area abode:

Wiz, I left New Jersey and headed out to sea so I'm still playing catch up. My eldest daughter, Dani'el, graduated from Maury High School last week and will be heading for O.D.U. this fall. She will be a theater major, so I'm making her get a summer job waitressing, that way she'll be ready for a career of chasing stardom. My youngest, Sarah, is a senior this year at Maury. My wife, Rebekah, and I are becoming skilled painters, plaster-patchers and general handymen while we slowly renovate a lovely but 50-plus-year-old Cape house here in the Edgewater section of town. Take care.

Thanks, Jim. It was good to see you again!

Before my election as your Class Secretary (Campaign Slogan: "Personal Friend of **Ken Russell**"), I didn't spend much time reading *Shipmate*. When I received my monthly issue, I usually reviewed only two things: the Class column (hoping to recognize some names) and "Last Call" (hoping to *not* recognize some names). Now, of course, I read much more. For example, I now read the Class column a dozen times or more, because I'm enamored with the author's fantastic writing style and brilliant humor. But I also still look through "Last Call," the "No News is Good News" section. It's rare that this subject evokes any kind of humor, which is why the following is so much fun to report.

## Have you moved?

Don't forget to update your mailing address with one of these three options:

Online:

[www.usna.com](http://www.usna.com) (under "membership")

By email:

[adchange@usna.com](mailto:adchange@usna.com)

By phone:

410-263-4448