

career (I just want to know how he remembered who he met and when after all these years!). Spring is almost here in Annapolis, and I'm sure the diggers and fillers are chompin' at the bit to start their work on the yard. That's all for this month. Drop me a note then you get a chance; until then, "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>

Slow news month. It must be the weather. It can't possibly be that I have exhausted all the emails, cards and letters. I'm not that organized or efficient. I know there's a stray email or letter somewhere around my house or office. As for the email, we recently "refreshed" our office computers—new hardware and new systems. All the data that existed on the old "Betsy" was migrated to the new one. You know what that means—lots of luck trying to find everything. As for the home system, my son just upgraded us to the new AOL 7.0 system. I don't know about you but I'm having trouble with it. The sign-off and linking is erratic and slow too! Must be a bug or something. It can't be the recently purchased hardware we bought with its megabazillion bytes of RAM and ROM and the penultimate processor with the 18.4 jigawatts of speeds. I know it's not the man behind the mouse. I guess I'll just chalk it up to the doldrums and dark ages. Hmm let's see what I can scrape up from the bottom of this peanut butter jar of news...clink, clank, clink, clank.

Some of you have started to get in touch with **Glen Woods** about signing onto the 25th Reunion Committee. **Mark Nault** was one of the recent draftees—um volunteers. From the return mail it looks Mark's out of the service and working at Systems Planning & Analysis in Alexandria, VA.

George Teufel (GBSDAD1@aol.com) sent thanks to everyone for all the cards and letters and email notes of support he's received since his wife's death. He says they've seemed to ease the burden. He was especially grateful to **Chris Slack** for letting us know about it and for representing the Class of '78 at the funeral; and to the other grad who immensely helped him to maintain course—that big guy from '81, his brother Bob. By way of update, the Teufel family is getting on. George has one son out in the work force. Another son is a freshman at the University of Richmond and the youngest son is a seventh grader at Kempsville Middle School in Virginia Beach. He says the challenges are many but fun. Thanks for the update, George and the words of appreciation—we're all here for you. Hang in there and smooth sailing.

A couple of questions have come up regarding the subscription list I advertised in a recent issue of *Shipmate*. Here's more background and gouge to try and further clarify it.

A couple of events this past fall have caused the Class officers to find a better method to

communicate as rapidly and as globally as possible to the Class, and to allow the Class to communicate with one another. This is especially needed this year as we plan for our upcoming 25th reunion. From this need sprang **Rob Cloutier's** idea of implementing an automated mailing list for our Class. The way it works is that *you* send a subscription request email to the mail list, and your email address is automatically added to the list. Then, whenever you or anyone else want to send an email to the Class, you will send that email to the list, and the server will automatically blast it out to everyone that has subscribed to the list. To subscribe, send an email to: usna78-subscribe@calimar.com. To unsubscribe, send an email to: usna78-unsubscribe@calimar.com. If you want multiple email addresses on the list (say both your work and your home email), simply send an email from each account. Once you have subscribed, you will receive an email from the system giving you additional information. The response will be from: ezmlm response, so when you get that, do not worry about it being a virus. Finally, for additional commands, you can send an email to: usna78-help@calimar.com. Final item that must be mentioned, but we will not dwell on it. This is not set up as a marketing tool. Please do not use it that way. If you use it that way, we will remove your name from the list, and may block you from subscribing in the future. OK? 'nuff said on that. Remember, *you* have to subscribe or unsubscribe. We can't add you on to it from the current list of email addresses we have. It'll only be as effective as the number of subscribers we have. We'll continue to use *Shipmate*, website, direct email, company reps and snail mail to get word out (a system of communication). But if we need to blast out news quickly, those forms aren't always the fastest. We'll try it out and see how it works. Nothing ventured, nothing gained!

Well that's all I can muster up. Oh, you may have noted the ballots for Trustees in last month's *Shipmate*. Last year **Chris Nichols** boldly tossed his cover into the ring. While he didn't get elected he made the attempt (and we hope he will try again!). What I'm trying to say in my simple Marine-speak manner, is that I strongly encourage any one of you with an inkling to be more participative in the leadership, direction and guidance which the Alumni Association provides to the Alumni and to the Naval Academy and the Navy's future, to get those covers ready to toss. While you may feel Trustee-ship is not your first likely choice of "billet" there are ample venues open to you—involvement in your local alumni chapters, Blue and Gold, or volunteering for one of the several Standing Committees that support the Alumni Association. For more information just contact the Alumni Association. Now that's been said I'll get off my soapbox (besides, I'm getting a little dizzy being up this high). Catch you next month when the mailbox is more full. Launchin' Spot 4!

Final transmit: Notice that we have two Academies with Marines as commandant?—our own **Art Athens** at the Merchant Marine Academy and now Col **John Allen '76** here at Mother B. Now on to West Point, Air Force and Coast Guard—oooooraghhhh!

79

Annual Membership: 4%
Life Membership: 88%

Pres: **LCDR Sean Cate, USN (Ret.)**
e: scate79@comcast.net
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!

It's here! It's here! The time is finally here! We're now in April, and the time is here!

I've been saving this special treat for a long time. In the two-plus years that I have served as your humble scribe, I've been waiting for just this moment. Twice before I've felt this anticipation, only to then endure the crush of disappointment when things fell through. I'm so glad I waited, for now I can share this with the entire Class (and my fan club of one in the Class of '84), knowing that *this* is the moment. It's here!

Gentlemen, I am proud to announce the completion of my latest epic, and rather than go through all the hassle and rigmarole of looking for a publisher, I thought I would, in the pages of this column, unveil it for an unsuspecting world. I had to get special permission to do this: editors had to be appeased (I had to promise to get future columns to them *before* the deadline), the planets had to be in alignment (had to talk with our man in the ISS on that one), and pigs had to fly (a Navy H-3 helicopter flew over the house just the other day).

And so, for the first time anywhere, I present, in its entirety, "Wiz's Ode to the Dark Ages":

"Good riddance!"

The End

(OK, Wiz, slow news day? Have you been doubling the dosage of those growth hormones again? Do we need to call **Ken Russell** out of the Old Class Secretary's home in South Dakota?)

Well, maybe I was just a little over the top there. Our winter here along the Chesapeake was fairly mild, with low temperatures seldom below 35 degrees. But it still qualifies as the Dark Ages, and now that the days are getting longer as well as warmer, summertime activities seem close at hand. I'm looking forward to getting on the water this year, spending some time sailing on the Chesapeake Bay. Now if I can just find someone with a boat...

I've been accused of taking up space with this column, but here's a man who takes space to a whole new level. Yep, we have an update from the International Space Station, where our own **Dan Bursch** has been spending his days, nights, weekends, and holidays since Thanksgiving. Dan and his two crewmates have been doing great things up there, and if all goes according to schedule, they should be returning to the land of 1g later this month. Dan was gracious enough to include yours truly on a recent "friends and family" email, and I'll tell ya, it's interesting to see the address "Outer Space" in my electronic inbox. OK, OK, the address just said "Dan," but I knew it was our local ISS correspondent.