



January 1979: Dave and his son, Dennis, alongside T-44 Tail #0968 in Corpus Christi, TX



February 2002: Dave and his son, Dennis, in front of the same T-44

As for Dennis, he attended primary flight training with the Air Force at Vance AFB, okay, as part of the Navy-Air Force exchange training program. He flew the T-37 at Vance, was awarded the multi-engine pipeline, and finished advanced training in Corpus Christi flying the T-44 King Air. Dennis has orders to Whidbey Island to fly the P-3.

**CAPT Dave Schubert** (David\_Schubert@onr.navy.mil) was selected as the next commanding officer of the Naval Research Lab in Washington, DC, and officially assumed his new role at the change of command ceremony held at NRL 31 May 2002. Congratulations, Dave, from all of your Classmates!

As a result of watching issue after issue go by, **Ken Shearer** (Ken.Shearer@us.brann.com) decided it was time to submit a quick note of his own. He wasn't sure whether he could match **Al Seither's** (bseither@earthlink.net) recent input, but here are a few of his items to catch up on. After almost 16 years in Colorado, Ken's family has come back to the East Coast, and settled in Richmond, VA. Ken is currently the general manager of Brann Data, which is a strategic marketing database and analytics provider to the advertising and direct marketing world. Brann Data supports all of the North American offices of Brann Worldwide, which is the fifth direct marketing agency in the world. Ken says it's a challenging job and he enjoys it.

Ken and his wife, Joan, who celebrated their 20th anniversary in March 2002, live on the west side of Richmond with their children, Katie (13) and Kip (10), having moved there in May 2001 after a one-year effort in the dot.com software industry. Like many other dot.com firms, it provided lots of promise and lots of disappointment, but it was a tremendously challenging experience. Ken and Joan are busy with all of the normal "kid" things—as many of you already know, raising kids these days has its many challenges. Ken keeps in contact with a few of our

Classmates—**Jim Bethmann** (jimusna@aol.com) in Dallas, TX; **Bill Hartman** (harts01@aol.com) in Minneapolis, MN; and **Harry Rouse** (hrouse@dsda.com) in Tulsa, okay. He's looking forward to the reunion ("We sure are looking old in all of the pictures!"), and says it will be great to just jump in the car and drive up to Annapolis.

Here's a little update from **Henry Brus** (ShoeEagle@aol.com):

One day last December, after the party at the 'Dants, I was sitting in a class on how to be an OpNav staff officer when I was summoned to the temporary offices of the Navy Command Center Crisis Action Team (NCC CAT). During the next class break, I made my way there and was informed that I was to begin a tour of duty with the Crisis Action Team almost immediately. Reason prevailed, after a small shooting match among the O-6s, and I was allowed to complete the class and take the Christmas leave that had already been planned and paid for.

The New Year started with a quick check out from N61M, the Navy Modeling and Simulation Management Office, and a quick indoctrination/turnover on the CAT. A promised 15-20 days, "just until we can get the real guy's clearance straightened out," quickly came and went. So did the revised 30- and 45-day "targets." I began to wonder if I would ever go back to N-6 and started telling anyone who asked that I was on "indefinite loan." Finally, in March, a relief was found and I will be allowed to return to the job I had just started around the end of April (this year)...if my new relief can get passed the clearance hurdles.

This is an interesting job. I do get to see what the Navy is doing all over the world. The CAT charter is to collect and disseminate Navy-related information concerning Operations Noble Eagle (homeland defense) and Enduring Freedom (anti-terrorism). The watch schedule, at present, has team members on for 12 hours, which reminds me of some of those JO shipboard days, except I didn't have to commute through Washington, DC, and Annapolis at the end of those watches. During one of the watches, a familiar face was in the room. After some back and forth "Where do I know you from?" **Tom Gorman** (GormanT@md.adelphia.net) and I determined that we were '77 Classmates that hadn't seen each other since Academy days. Tom was standing NDDO, Navy Department Duty Officer, that day. In "real life," Tom is a business manager at Northrop Grumman.

And another little input from **Richard Maurer** (Richard\_Maurer@onr.navy.mil):

I just received my copy of *Shipmate* and enjoyed the inputs from Al Seither. It was good to hear what was going on with some of the other "Black Sheep-ers" from 16th Company. I laughed out loud about **Bob Condry's** (CondryR@ONR.Navy.mil) book entry. Bob works down the hall from me at the Office of Naval Research (ONR). Didn't know him well at school, but have seem him a lot in the last year.

Linda and I live in Northern Virginia at 730 Miller Avenue, Great Falls, VA 22066; w: 703-688-0073. I've got three kids (all from my first marriage): Brandon (21) at the Merchant Marine Academy in New York, Lauren (19) at the University of Georgia, and Tom (16) who is a sophomore in high school. Linda and I have two dogs together (and a third is on the way). I worked at Booz-Allen in the same group

(Defense) as **Neil Gillespie** (gillespien@bah.com). I left Booz and joined a small company in Arlington called Noesis on 1 February 2002. **Keith Haney** is with Noesis as well, and is living in New Hampshire (big surprise). Have run into **Pete Hyers** (104376.1654@compuserve.com), **Skip Miller**, **Neil Gillespie**, and **Jay MacKercher** over the years. A 16th Company dinner sounds interesting. Don't know if we'll make it, but would like to stay plugged into any details.

### Class Communication

The 25th Reunion is now only three months away and I'm sure something new will be coming out soon, but until that happens, I'm gong to repeat everything I've been saying for the last eight months. The dinner dance is scheduled for Friday, 20 September 2002 at the Annapolis Marriott Waterfront, and the tailgate party will be held at Navy-Marine Corps Stadium on Saturday, 21 September 2002. The estimated cost for the combined dinner dance and tailgate party is \$150 per person, and the cost of the tailgate party only will be approximately \$60 per person (which covers the food, tables, open bar, servers, tent, buses, and bathrooms). We've reserved rooms for Friday and Saturday nights at both the Annapolis Marriott Waterfront (410-268-7555) and the Sheraton Barcelo Annapolis (410-266-3131), and reservations should be made early. Feel free to contact **Tom "Soup" Campbell** (Tom.Campbell@longandfoster.com; 703-293-6368) if you have any specific questions about the reunion.

### Closing Remarks

Summer's finally here, Annapolis and the Chesapeake Bay is alive with activity, and we're all enjoying a nice relaxing time before the Navy football season starts again in September. Speaking of football, I've heard that the new coaches are finally making the players work during their practices (imagine that!), and that they expect them to maintain a high level of intensity and attention to detail with every activity they perform (they're even supposed to sprint to the line of scrimmage from the huddle before each play or they return to the huddle to do it right!). I'm sure the results of their efforts will be seen in due time, so here's hoping we see our first home game win in over two seasons this year. See you in July! —**Bob Sanderson**

# 78

**Annual Membership: 18%**  
**Life Membership: 70%**

Pres: **Arch Griffin**  
Sec'y: **Vince Balderrama**  
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Class web site: <http://usna1978.org>

Lots of hard work has finally paid off for **John Curtis'** (basic5@juno.com) son, Nathan. He received an appointment to the Naval Academy and an NROTC scholarship. The grueling process of making *the* decision concluded when Nathan chose to attend Mother B. (All you folks with kids who'll be Nathan's upperclassmen can start making those "spooning" deals with John.) As this column goes to print the decision looks like it's holding. As such, the (proud, happy, ecstatic)

Curtis parents were making reservations for flights, hotels and rental cars for that 28 June Induction Day. As John put it, that also "means they pretty much know where the *family* vacation will be this year: Annapolis, DC, and Ocean City." For now their plans have them flying out to the "right coast" on 25 June and stay (probably) over the 4th of July, returning on the 6th or so (of course it all depends on how far the funding stretches). Anybody wanting to link up with John while he's in the area, drop him a line. Congrats to Nathan and you, John—now start saving for that First Class car!

In March **Fred Butterfield** (fred.butterfield@gsa.gov) was detailed to GSA to assist the Office Of Homeland Security. The job scope is for Fred to help with starting-up and managing the President's Homeland Security Advisory Committee (PHSAC). Hmm, I have a few suggestions I'd like you to advise Mr. Ridge on, Fred. Now about those lines at the airport...

**Will Kramer** (wiliam.kramer@baesystems.com) sent me a copy of a press release that shows we have another admiral in our midst! The restricted line list came out and one of this year's nominations from the "Crossed-Bananas" (Civil Engineer) Corps is our own **Rich Cellon** (cellonre@efdsouth.navy.mil)! Rich is currently serving as commander, Southern Division, Naval Facilities Engineering Command, in North Charleston, SC. He says he can't believe the message real and is still pinching himself to see if this all a dream from which he'll soon awake. Just keep pinching Rich, you'll soon realize it's not a dream and you're not in Kansas anymore. That'll be especially true when the RHIP (rank has its privileges) and the more awakening RHIR (rank has its responsibilities) kick in. The former, just enjoy, the latter—you *can certainly* handle (after all you're a '78 man!). Congrats and now we wait to see who'll join you from the unrestricted line list.

In the flurry of congratulatory emails to Rich from his Sixth Companymates I gathered the following: **Sale "Bubba" Lilly** (slilly@ceragonus.com) was contemplating on what a difference 24 years make. First Class Summer, he went Garmisch, Germany, to learn Russian to fight the cold war. Today, his son gets to go to Moscow for summer school (government expense) and gets college credit for an economics course! Times sure have changed that's for sure. These days Bubba is still traveling. He finds himself on the road about 50-60% of the time. The telecom business is tough. While he finds there is fruit to harvest out there, it is no longer "low hanging." He's got to climb higher and higher for the same yields. Good luck with the climb, Bubba (keep firm grips on those branches on the way up!) **Ray Luevano** (raymoon78@yahoo.com) reflected that "...man are we getting old with admirals in our Class...I still feel like a Plebe very often." He also has declared that his son's room in which I stayed is his "Marines' Memorial Suite (aka **Vince Balderrama Suite**)." He now wants me to send him my bio so he can post it outside the VB Suite. (Does a brass plaque go with that too?) Oh, all of you take note of Ray's new email address.

Early this year **Sean Coffey** (Sean@blbglaw.com) was in Phoenix. He had moved

there after New Year's to prepare for a trial against some company that you may have heard about—Arthur Andersen. Yup, the trial was supposed to begin on 4 March and go for three months. Sean was lead trial lawyer for a bankrupt non-profit (the Baptist Foundation of Arizona) that had sued Andersen, its former auditor, for a series of badly blown audits. This was the largest non-profit bankruptcy in U.S. history and the case was extensively covered in the media, including front page stories in the *Wall Street Journal* and a piece on "60 Minutes II" (Yeah, I read about it too...well, Elizabeth read it to me after we got through the funnies.) Sean's team was seeking several hundred million dollars for 11,000 elderly and retired Southern Baptists who lost their retirement and life savings due to a "ponzi scheme" fraud that Andersen failed to detect and (his firm alleged) even helped to cover up. On the last business day before trial Andersen agreed to pay \$217 million to Sean's clients. That was twice what Andersen had ever paid before and the second biggest Big Five settlement ever in private lawsuit. With that settlement and liquidation of BFA, the victims would get back about 75% of their losses—a bit better than the typical 14-15% recovery in these situations. Of course that was then, and after the latest Arthur Anderson-Enron fiasco he's now just hoping Andersen doesn't go into bankruptcy before the check clears! Sean told his wife and kids that the move to Phoenix was "just like going on deployment, and that he was lucky enough to come home three months early." That excuse was more successful with his kids than with Anne...

**Billy Martin** is recuperating from back surgery. In early April he underwent a four and a half hour operation to fix the back mess his doctor said was caused by years of hobbling along on the bum knee (which he also had recently fixed). Bill's dad, Chief Martin, reported that all went well and the Doc removed the L3 disc and replaced it with a cage of metal and chips from Bill's hip as spacers. He was only in the recovery room for about an hour and then to his room. The report is he didn't have the back pain that he has had for so long, only the pain from the surgery. We all wish Bill a complete recovery and look forward to seeing him at the '78 PEP drill on our 25th.

**Rand LeBouvier** (LeBouvier.Rand@hq.navy.mil) is leaving his job as the Head, Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Section. That's too bad for me since it looked like I might be working in that arena in my new Reserve job. It would've been nice having some work contact with Classmate—especially Rand. Next month he reports to War College. Don't know in what capacity he'll be there (student, instructor, working stiff) but one thing for certain, the Newport pubs will see an increase in revenues! Speaking of Newport, my roomie, **Tom Crowley**, is departing that area. Well, actually he's got a few months of black-shoe 101 refresher training at SWOs before he heads out to San Diego. He'll take command of **BOXER**. While it's better than a PCS to Bahrain, Tom bemoans that the down side is putting up with Marines running around his ship for several months at a time. (That's funny 'cuz Marines usually feel just the opposite.) Hey, if Tom could

put up with *this* Marine for all those years, a couple of *thousand* shouldn't matter (besides, at least he won't have to help *them* with their homework!)

Well, that looks like all the pickings from the mailbag. I want to thank **Kevin Olsen** for helping me out in my recent field trip to DC. During my son's high school spring break we took he and a couple of his friends to the District. Among their sites of interest were the Naval Academy and the FBI Academy. Kevin arranged for some members of his team to help me out with a tour of the FBI grounds at Quantico. I gave the tour of good old Mother B. Needless to say my old sea stories of life as a Mid almost 30 years ago didn't quite compete with weapons training area of the FBI in Quantico. Oh well, I cast the line but didn't quite reel them in...I have about a year and a half to still work it. Thanks again, Kevin (and thanks to Ray and Rich too!).

Well, that's all *you wrote* so that's all *I'll print*. If you inferred that I'm begging for mail, then you made the dean's list for this marking period. With that said I'm looking forward next month to a bulging mailbox and a notice from my Outlook and AOL that I've "reached my limit." So *Adios!* Launchin' Spot 4!

# 79

Annual Membership: 4%  
Life Membership: 88%

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Greetings, '79!

Y'know, back in November of 1999, I had several telephone conversations with **Ken Russell**. At the time, I had just been elected as the corresponding secretary for the Class of 1979, and I was conducting a turnover with Ken, who was about to complete his tenth year of writing in these pages. We talked *ad nauseam* about deadlines, formats, and the like, and were just about to "pass the baton" when Ken brought me up short. Paraphrasing a bit, he told me that I was about to learn a lot about the character of our Classmates. He said I would see and hear things that would *really* make me proud to be a USNA Alum, and especially proud to be a member of our Class. I would meet, chat with, and hear from Classmates that I had not yet met, and I would be astounded at what I would learn about them. I acknowledged what he said, but I quickly became engrossed with composing my first column and forgot about it.

In the last two and a half years, I've slowly begun to realize just what Ken meant. I now get emails from guys in combat zones. I watch two Classmates fly together into space, and one stays there for four months. I get announcements from Classmates that are taking command and others that are relinquishing it. I hear from guys who are successful in the business world, and others