

Officer until leaving the service shortly after his five-year commitment. Since leaving the Navy, he was employed by a number of defense contractors in the DC area. Throughout the early to mid '80s Tom gave inspirational speeches for the American Cancer Society, met and married Lynn, and started a family that includes four boys. The oldest is William whom Tom adopted from his wife's first marriage. Bill is a Navy dentist (LT) stationed at MCAS Cherry Point. Bill and his wife, Lori, are expecting their first child in June or July. Tom's other sons are Adam (12th grade), Nathan (10th grade), and Phillip (8th grade). Adam, a very good athlete, will attend James Madison University this fall and has aspirations to play football (wouldn't bet against him). Nathan and Phillip are also both very good athletes and are active in football, basketball, lacrosse, soccer, and golf. Of course all this progeny was accomplished on one testicle and we always had a good laugh whenever we thought what TJ could have done with two!

Tom's life was "normal" until he suffered a serious heart attack in 1989. Again, he laughed at the Grim Reaper and survived, but the heart attack was a prelude to continued deterioration in his cardio and pulmonary systems. He finally got to the point in late 1998 where the doctors recommended bypass surgery. He had the bypass (triple, I think) in February 1999 and for the most part that went OK. The real snafus occurred during post-op in the ICU ward where Tom contracted bronchitis, pneumonia, and a host of other infections that I can't pronounce or spell. He spent close to four months in the ICU until one day he just said, "To hell with this," and went home. His quality of life was never the same. He had a permanent trachea tube installed and was constantly on a ventilator. He lost 60 pounds (at times weighing only 140-145 pounds), had no muscle mass, and looked like a Holocaust victim, but he kept fighting.

He lived to watch his boys play sports and rarely missed any of their games no matter how cold or nasty the weather might be. He took-up cooking and, like everything else he did, became a connoisseur of food and an accomplished chef (although he couldn't always eat what he cooked). Often his days were spent sitting in his family room looking out the big glass windows at the small pond he had on his property, watching the Canadian geese land and take flight, listening to the chirping of the birds, and watching the trees swaying in the wind. Over the past three years, TJ had been in and out of the hospital four to five times, always with infections in his pulmonary system. The antibiotics that he had to take were becoming less effective and had the inevitable side effect of suppressing his own weak immune system. His pulmonary system was not capable of transferring oxygen and scrubbing the CO2 so that he had an acidic build-up within his body that damaged his kidneys and liver. Lynn is sure that he succumbed to respiratory failure. Fortunately, they kept Tom sedated and he died peacefully. To say the least Tom's condition took a heavy toll on Lynn and the boys.

His memorial service was extremely well attended by different individuals he had known throughout his life. Of course his parents, all his brothers and sisters, and Lynn's family were in attendance and spoke eloquently of his impact on them as a family. I think the service did an excellent job detailing aspects of TJ's life that many were not aware of and in bringing closure to his loved ones. Many of you

have responded with some anecdotes relating various stories about Tom. They have been great reading. I have and will continue to provide Lynn copies of those stories or comments if that is OK with all of you. Thanks for listening.

Class Communication

The only two events of importance this month are the Class of '77 25th Reunion, which is being held from 19-22 September 2002, and the "official" USNA Homecoming Weekend, which is from 27-29 September 2002. As a reminder, our 25th Reunion Golf Outing will be held during the day on Friday, 20 September, and the Dinner Dance will be held later that evening at the Annapolis Waterfront Marriott. The festivities continue with the Tailgate Party on Saturday, 21 September, at Navy Marine Corps Memorial Stadium, and end when you think you've seen enough Classmates and done everything that you can in and around Annapolis that weekend. The following weekend, the All Classes Homecoming Party will be held on Friday, 27 September from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. in Alumni Hall, and you can sign-up for this event online via the USNA AA web site at www.usna.com/Events (or if you prefer one of the old-fashioned methods, you can mail-in one of the forms that are located in *Shipmate* or call the Alumni Association's Events Coordinator, Kathy deCamara at 410-263-4448, ext. 200). Hope to see many of you at one or more of these events!

Closing Remarks

I don't know about any of you, but I'm really looking forward to our upcoming reunion. Many people have worked long and hard to ensure that we'll be well taken care of, and I hope that each of you has the opportunity to personally thank them when you see them at one of the reunion events. In case you've forgotten who was responsible for what, here's the list of Committee Chairmen: Golf Outing—**Thom McKee**; Dinner Dance and Music—**Tom "Soup" Campbell**; Tailgate Party—**Carl Moore**; Memorabilia—**Dave Harding**; and Transportation—**Leon Jackson**. I hope to see many of my regular contributors at the 25th, and find out what everyone else has been up to over the past "few" years. See you in Annapolis!
—**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>

Matt Elias (MPGEE@aol.com) sent a lengthy 11th Co. Personnel. Matt managed to track **Keenan Earl Johnson** down through the Kansas State Alumni Association. Keenan is in Springfield, MO. He's worked 15 years for the Electric Cooperative system in Missouri (www.aeci.org). He manages the operations and maintenance for their gas turbine power plants. In June Keenan and his wife, Cindy, celebrated 23 years together. They have three kids: Cindy, a physical therapist for the school system in

Springfield; Kiel, an engineering major at Oklahoma State University; and Adrienne who'll be playing soccer at Southwest Baptist Univ. (a Division 2 school) in Bolivar, MO. Corey, their youngest, is 14 and eager to start high school. Keenan said it was truly hard to believe Phil and Matt turned out to be career men. Matt wished he had tracked Keenan down earlier. Cindy's folks lived in the Dallas area (Plano) until last fall when they retired and then moved near Oklahoma City. Keenan's family typically made at least one trip each year down to Texas. They could've linked up much sooner. **Rodger Welch** en route to Hawaii to the DJ-3 job on CinCPac Staff. Rodger just left CAG 17 on GEORGE WASHINGTON. We're sure Rodger left the cockpit kicking and screaming. **Phil Winters** was in Scotland for two weeks this spring where he played for the Gallacher Trophy. It's a corporate version of the Ryder Cup. Phil qualified last summer in Phoenix and was supposed to compete last September but it was postponed for obvious reasons. It was, in Phil's words "a golf boondoggle." Matt hadn't gotten the full debrief but you golf enthusiasts have to believe he thoroughly enjoyed himself. Phil did the entrepreneurial thing after he retired from the Navy with fogdog.com. Since then he has moved on to a new venture, not as high tech, but with as much potential. He says things are really heating up now. Phil and Jennifer just took the plunge into the housing market in Mountain View. They've come full circle, 20 years ago they were living in Mountain View while in the RAG en route to Barbers Point and now they're back. Their son Christopher is now a sophomore at Cal Berkley. **Jim Vanderkamp** is still with JAL and still in Hawaii. He's a DC-10 captain and JAL is back to a full schedule despite 9/11 and their economy. They really like Hawaii (except for the distance to the rest of their family in the real world). And it looks like they're going to stay - thus the recent change in residence. They're now walking distance to Kailua Beach. He and Barb have two boys; Nicholas was seven in March, and Spencer was four in March. Jim's son Cameron (14 in February) has been living with them for two years. Can you hear the theme song from My Three Sons in the background? Cameron is doing great and is quite the athlete. (In my quick trip out to Hawaii in May I got to spend a great BBQ with Vandy, Barb and the boys—they looked great!) **Scott Laser** is still living in Virginia Beach working in the IT profession. Scott says Jared (13), and Zach (15), continue to do well in school and are a blessing. They haven't really gotten hooked on the "beach" scene. Instead **Gary Lovgren** got them both interested in winter sports—skiing and snow boarding—so, the boys yearn for the mountains and the cold. The family has been to Canada over Easter for the last two years, catching the tail end of the ski season (although Scott says he would prefer a nice cruise to the Caribbean to enjoy the sun and warm weather). Their spiritual life continues to be the focus of their lives and they still attend the church they were married in. Scott had an opportunity to meet with Kathy and **Steve Brashear** in January. Steve is flying for United and admitted to Matt the other day that he is a lousy communicator but does read his emails. **Terry Wood**

is flying life flight helos for a major hospital he thinks at a hospital in Allentown. **George Billy** wrote that he's keeping busy with the kids, Elizabeth (16), a high school junior and George V (11) and trying to keep up with Thelma. George V is quite the young gnarl and took third in the Kids Nationals Greco Roman wrestling championship last summer. They've traveled around quite a bit this last year going to wrestling tournaments. George is still working for Northrop Grumman in Annapolis building underwater vehicles. **Mike Lewis** wrote Matt to break what he called his 23 years of silence. Mike took the early retirement in 1994 (a long story to be told over several beers he says). He goofed off for a few months, got bored and started looking for something to do. After taking a job with TranSouth and working through the manager PQS, he was offered a job as a police officer in Chesapeake. He says he took the pay cut, but has been happy ever since. He should make Sergeant soon with any luck. Paula is doing well as an office manager for a doctor and their son Keith is now 12. Keith has found his sports niche as a soccer player and is having a great time. Mike says he has never been able to completely figure out the rules and wants to know whatever happened to kids playing baseball? Last fall, **Gary Lovgren** wrote and had just reported into Naval Supply Systems Command HQ as the Reserve Liaison Officer at Mechanicsburg, PA (just a couple of miles from Harrisburg). **Walt Brown** had been recalled to active duty for about nine months at that time and was working the branding/public relations issues there. Gary had to leave their youngest (Matt (17)) and Holly in Norfolk till Matt finishes his senior year next June. When he's off to college, Holly will join Gary in Pennsylvania. Their older son Drew is a 3rd Class at Kings Point. **Prentiss Hall** is living in Orange County, CA. He's in the health club business (lots of fun, he says). Prentiss' three boys and wife are doing well. He's looking for others on the "left coast" and there are quite a few including our Company officer, **Mike Moffat** in San Diego. **Scott Rodgers** lives in the Atlanta area but was flying the 757/767 Internationally out of DFW until September 11th but is now back to Domestic routes, flying to all the major cities around the U.S. **Tom Crowley** is in San Diego in PCO training en route to his major command BOXER (LHD-4). Tom is coming from the Naval Warfare Development Command running the Concepts Department. Prior to that, Tom was on the Joint Staff on the Joint Staff, that's two tours if you're counting, waiting on the fun stuff—major command at sea. **Mike Kreyenhagen** (mkrey@weatherdata) ('78/'79) left Spain for his new job in Wichita, KS. He's the director of operations for WeatherData, Incorporated. Trina and the kids followed him to Kansas in mid-July. Trina says they were all getting *kinda* homesick and knows their families must be excited to have them back in the States again. They are keeping their beautiful house on the beach in Spain to go back to on vacations. So far, Mike has already bought two cars and done some serious house hunting. He's living in an apartment until Trina and the kids get there. Their oldest son, Steve, will be a junior in high



'78: 32nd Co- Nooner'02

school and is taller than Mike. Matt thought Mike's daughter Kristi will be a freshman. He wasn't sure how old Emmy and Robby were. Thanks for the news, Matt—and writing a large part of my column for me!

Bill Soer (WWSOer@aol.com) reported that 32nd Company had a little reunion 12-14 April at JD Oliver's beach home in Nags Head, NC. The operation was code named "Nooner'02." One of the many highlights was the golf outing. Bill admitted they certainly did not look as good at the end (it was probably more of beer ball than golf ball). **Roy Bookmiller's** team won the distinction of buying the beers. Besides Bill were **Billy Hession, JD Oliver, Tim "Magoo" (Group Commander) Murphy, Rand Lebouvier, Phil Brennan, Mike Kalnoske, Jimmie Loeffler, Ray "Mr. Business" Kwong** and Roy Bookmiller. Jim Loeffler won the free round of golf for coming the farthest to Nags Head—all the way from Portland, OR. All had a great time as they tried to make believe they were Firsties again!

Bob "Zool" Schwaneke's time as supply officer for commander Sixth Fleet has come to an end. He turned over to his relief, and departed to his new job as commanding officer of Naval Transportation Support Center (NAVTRANS) in Norfolk, VA. His change of command was 19 July. His new work email address is bob_schwaneke@navtrans.navy.mil. Another interesting factoid is that **Larry Price**, recently retired, is currently the acting executive director at NAVTRANS, so along with Bob it looks like '78 will be in charge of Navy transportation for the next few years. On 5 July **Ken Rooley** (at roeykp@navsea.navy.mil) was relieved as SSSD Deputy at SupShip and is now at SEA 04X1, as director of the SupShip Management Group. That's in the Washington Navy Yard. You can catch Ken on the email address above. **Scott Godfrey** wrote that he had received "the official" change of command announcement from the commanding officer, TARAWA (LHA-1). That's where on 22 July that **Jay Bowling** relieved Jim Clark as CO out in lovely Pearl Harbor, HI. Scott said that it "Looks like the contest is over and Jay has overwhelmingly won the title for Hillbilly with the biggest bass boat" We join Scott in congratulating Jay and Kathy, Shane, Sarah and Joe. Continuing this change of

command trend—In June, **George Koucherav** took over command of the Naval Support Activity in Norfolk. On 12 July, our own Class Vice-President, **Bob Novak**, assumed command of the Tomahawk All-Up-Round Program Office at NavAir in PAX River. It was a bittersweet occasion for Bob and Mary as the night before Mary's father passed away. Our condolences go out to Mary and Bob.

Drumm McNaughton (drumm@mcngrp.com) is living in Escondido, which is about 35 miles NE of San Diego. Some of you may recall, that following our 20th Drumm took six months off and went out and worked on his church's organic produce farm. Drumm says that while that was great, restful, and peaceful; for a while, but realized it was time to get back to work. Since then he's built a consulting practice, as well as gone back to school. He's a few months away from completing his Ph.D. in human and organizational systems at the Fielding Graduate Institute in Santa Barbara He's working on the dissertation, which he says is a full time job itself. As such, he's put aside the consulting until it's completed. After that, he's not sure if he'll go back into the consulting again, or if it is on to other things. After leaving the farm, he reported that he (*finally*) found his life partner, Sylvia. He said he thought that this time he might have gotten it right as "she's a good woman, puts up with my stuff only a little bit, and makes me tow the line." (*smart woman*). They're empty-nesters-between them, they have three adults "kids," 31, 29, and almost 22, who are all out on their own. Drumm says it's nice to see when your kids have grown up, and they've been productive citizens with good values and beliefs. He adds that "Maybe we did something right after all!" He still plays golf, although not as much as when he was in the Navy, and his handicap shows it. He's gone from a 2 up to about an 8—playing, blaming the fact that playing once every two weeks just doesn't cut it. Of course, he's sure that it doesn't have anything to do with getting older. He says the new technology in clubs and balls really helps a little—faster jets, longer golf balls. He pondered that the space program gave us the microwave, the SR-71 gave us titanium, and the results were better drivers and longer drives! He invited anyone out here in the San Diego area, to give him a call and you can get together.

Joe Fitzgerald retired in December 2001 and relocated with his wife, Diane, and their son, Christopher (15), to their hometown of Albany, NY. Their last duty station was in Millington, TN, where Joe was the inspector general at the Navy Recruiting Command. It was one of his four assignments in Navy recruiting. Joe wrote of his fond memories of Bill Terry. He and his parents still talk about how much they enjoyed the Christmas of 1978 when Bill stayed with them in Albany. They trimmed the tree while watching Navy beat BYU in the Holiday Bowl. Joe has just been appointed to the faculty Siena College as an instructor in the Marketing and Management Department of the School of Business. (He made no promises about helping desperate parents get their high school senior into Siena, but for a Classmate...well...)

Eric Nelson is the Naval Attaché in New Delhi, India. At the time he wrote Dennis Reilly, he reported that most of the American embassy community had left. His wife, Aneda, was still there but was probably leaving soon. He was real confident that they are plenty safe here in New Delhi but despite the recent standstill the risk of escalation is high and the State Department feels it is prudent to draw down as far as possible. Eric said it has been a real interesting tour here in India. He wondered to Dennis "Who would of thought that when we were playing golf at Drew's place just before Aneda and I came out to India that it would all lead to this. Every day has been very interesting...I just hope it doesn't get more exciting!" We all wish the same, Eric. Stay safe.

In some "stray rounds"—A belated congratulation goes out to our "Sky Pilot" Chaplain **Al Baker** on his selection to captain. I also had an opportunity to visit a few of Classmates during a business trip to Hawaii—yes that's right I did say a *business* trip. Well...okay, there was some liberty involved. You already read in this column that I was fed and entertained by Barb and Jim Vanderkamp at their home. I also got to see our returned to active duty Classmates: **Jock Maloney**, **Marty Thamm**, and **Ralph Scaffidi**. We took in the bleachers at Ralph's unit's softball game. It must have been our presence that inspired them to a great start and their best play of the season—which meant they hung close till the opposing team's bats really made some connections—but they lost by the least margin ever (something close to a ten run margin I think). It was a fun time, made so by the Heinekens and the company as we re-lived sea stories. I also saw **Hank Van Oss** and Cammy and **Loren Divers**. Jock said that somewhere on the Island were also **Charlie Dawson**, **Andy Winns**, **Rick Heil**, **Chuck Lowther**, and **Jon Kutler** (he spends the summers there) but I didn't see any of them. Hank is retired from the Navy and is a teacher. Loren is still doing the entrepreneurial stuff—coffee business.

In closing, I want to again solicit your signing up for the '78 newsgroup that **Rob Cloutier** (rob@calimar.com) created for us: usna78-subscribe@calimar.com. To date we have 60 addressees and we could sure use more. It is a great way for us (me) to send immediate type messages to the Class. We would like to use it as another tool to get word out on the upcoming

25th Reunion (besides the web site, column etc.). You can always unsubscribe if you want. But give it a try. Please make sure you are up to date on our web site too And in another attempt to foster easy communication—here's another reason to be a Lifetime Member of the Alumni Association—you can now receive a distinctive USNA Alumni Association email address that shows you are a Naval Academy Alumnus. It's free to Alumni Association Life Members! Classmail is a lifetime email forwarding service that will allow you to communicate with other members of the Naval Academy Alumni community and your family and friends without having to change your personal email address more than once. Lifetime email forwarding allows you, as a lifetime member of the Association, to register for a *free*, permanent alias email. The format of this email address will be name@Classyear.usna.com (ex, cwnimitz@1905.usna.com). Email sent to this account will be forwarded to an active email address that you provide to us by entering it yourself through the Alumni Association web site. You can forward to real email addresses anywhere on the Internet. The process is simple (Even you Marine O3 types can do it!): Visit www.usna.com and enter the Alumni Only section of the web site. Login with your USERNAME and PASSWORD (if you've never registered, follow the directions on the registration page) Click on the "Update your Profile" and it will take you to the profile form where you can activate this free service. If you're not a Lifetime Member (or you know someone who isn't) visit the membership section to join/upgrade. Get in while we're still "reasonably young" and the payback is still worth it! Okay, I'm off the soapbox now—my nose is starting to bleed in the unfamiliar altitude anyway. 'Till next month—launchin' Spot 4. Twelve months to the reunion and counting down!

79

Annual Membership: 4%
Life Membership: 88%

Pres: **LCDR Sean Cate, USN (Ret.)**

e: Sean.Cate@1979.usna.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

he: WithersJ7@starpower.net;

we: WithersJD@navair.navy.mil

Web site: www.usna79.com

Greetings, 79!

The word must be getting out. This month there was a groundswell of photograph submissions, both of the digital and analog (okay, paper) kind. It's almost as if someone was sending you some subliminal messages like, "Okay, here he goes again. In every September column, Wiz talks about only two things: school buses and football. One he likes a great deal. And the other wouldn't be a problem if he would just allow sufficient time to get to work. So let's skip these subjects this year and bombard him with so many photos that he won't be able to say much!" All I can say is "thanks." You've figured

me out—my plan is working! Well, I have a lot to pass on this month, so let's get started.

Here's a question for you: what's the first thing that comes to mind when I mention the name **Parks Stephenson**? Now you guys over in Ninth Company may be thinking of all sorts of less-than-positive adjectives, adverbs and dangling participles. But my answer would be two words: "Doktor Deal." Yep, Parks was the artist for many of *The Log's* infamous cartoons. Things like "Nuke Skyhawker" in his land speeder, which looked remarkably, like a 1979 Corvette convertible without wheels. Or an Imperial Starship that looked like an oversize Texas Instruments® calculator. Or "Captain Wood" who looked a lot like, well, Captain Wood. Unfortunately, although Parks' email caught me right before last month's deadline, my ramblings had already filled my allotted space, so I had to hold him over 'til this month. He writes:

Hello, Wiz! Haven't sent you anything in a while, so I thought an update might be in order. In February, I spent a week or so down at Fox Studios Baja in Rosarito Beach, Mexico, working as an advisor to film director James Cameron for his upcoming HD-3D documentary, "Ghosts of the Abyss." The film, due out in IMAX theatres this fall, documents Cameron's 2001 expedition to the wreck of Titanic. The shoot down at Rosarito was for re-enactment scenes that will be superimposed over the actual wreck footage. I was invited by Cameron to the shoot to advise on the Marconi wireless telegraph apparatus, but while there, I was free to work props, wardrobe, gaffing, marker...basically, I did a little of everything. I even donned the uniform of a "White Star Line Able Bodied Seaman" for a couple of scenes. I've probably never worked harder in my life (we worked virtually around the clock for a solid week), but working with Cameron was one of the most enjoyable and satisfying experiences of my life.

Cameron invited me on the expedition, but I was bumped only hours before I was to join the ship by a team of technicians that were needed to resolve some problems with the ROVs. Upon his return, though, Cameron gave me the footage he took in the Marconi spaces for my analysis. Fortunately, the room in which the Marconi transmitting apparatus survived the sinking, protecting the apparatus within. The footage was the final corroboration that I needed for a book that I have been writing on TITANIC's Marconi apparatus. The first draft of my research is being published this year by the Antique Wireless Association, Inc. in their annual review. The final will be published next year by a publishing house in England.

I am also involved these days in historical re-enactments of the World War II era, where I portray a soldier in the 21st Panzer Division. This has also led to some film exposure, as our unit is called upon to re-enact scenes for various television and video game productions. Attached is a light-hearted moment from one of the shoots. I'm wearing an Afrika Korps tropical uniform, and am dancing in front of a bunker that displays the unusual sign, "Swing dancing forbidden."

I don't mean to give the impression that my job these days is in the movie or book industry. Everything I described here took place during my spare time. My paying job is at Raytheon Naval and Maritime Integrated Systems in San Diego, where I'm the project manager for ACDS Block 1 and SSDS MK 2 Mod 0. The