

had to give up her job in Atlanta to move to Virginia, the trials and tribulations of reentering the job market in a new location were a challenge. Their Daughter, Erin, is finishing high school in Georgia. Older daughter, Colleen, loves the struggle to make her way in the LA film biz. Her name will be on the credits list of a film next spring, so at least she's on the ladder, ready to move up.

**Craig Quigley** sifted through all of the lucrative post-Navy job offers that come the way of first-rate retiring admirals and settled on a position as vice president for communications of Lockheed Martin's Naval Systems business unit. He and Bindy plan to relocate near his new office in Manassas.

Three new volunteers have stepped forward as company reps: **Mike McDermott** for First Company, **Gary Lundeen** for Third Company, and **Don Steel** for 15th Company. (We're still only about half way there, and in need of someone from 2, 4, 5, 11, 13, 16, 18, 19, 21, 24, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 34, and 36.) Here is Don Steel's quick wrap of 15th:

**Paul Siedsma** is the head of Hidden Valley dressings for Clorox, living north of Chicago. One of the five Siedsma kids is at USNA. **Phil Tomkins** retired in Hanford, CA, where he is teaching and coaching water polo. **Norm White** is flying corporate in Sacramento. **Bill Ferris** is flying for FedEx and living in Annapolis. **Dave Thompson** flies for Delta and lives in St. Augustine, FL. **Mike Engler** still helps with Class matters and is doing well in the financial planning business in Baltimore. **Jim Hanna** is still on active duty as the COS at Fifth Fleet in Bahrain. **Ken Willett** is a senior vice president at Compaq (now Hewlett Packard) in Houston. **Rick Church** was last seen teaching in Colorado. **Cliff "Bulldog" Collier** is in the oil business in Texas. I own an investment firm and a trust company in Indianapolis; hosting Navy Alums for the Indianapolis 500, the Brickyard 400, and the U.S. Grand Prix. I work with many other grads in my side job as one of the national vice presidents of the Navy League. We are expecting our first grandchild. Four of our kids have gone to Hanover, Miami of Ohio, and Depaul, but I'm still hoping the youngest will look at USNA!

Mille grazie, Don. I'm trying to collect a Ninth Company summary for the next issue. Hey, if you would like to receive emails on Navy athletics, you can subscribe to the Navy Sports

email list by contacting the Sports Info Director, Scott Strasemeier (sstrasem@usna.edu).



Burd and Klee enjoying the best part of Navy football

Speaking of Navy sports, **Carl Klee** enjoyed the tailgate at the annual Homecoming debacle.

The game was another rout where Navy made a mediocre Duke team appear magnificent. We owe **Rick White** a debt of gratitude for picking up tailgate responsibilities in recent years. (By the way the Class treasurer should send some funds Rick's way.) Although we could only assemble a motley crew this year we all had fun and plenty to drink. Other tailgate revelers included Joyce and **John McTighe**, **Les Edgar**, **Dave Gray**, and his clan of women, **Bernie Bailey**, and **Joe Delpino**.

I saw Nancy and **Jamie Burd**, and their son, **Andy Burd '03** at the game. The picture of Burdman is with one of his recent paintings of Bancroft Hall. Jamie painted a large naval scene for me that I display in my family room.

I met a very special lady this summer while having dinner at the 57th Street Ramada at Virginia Beach. Lilia is "over the top" on the Navy and USNA. She is the president of the Central Virginia USNA Parents Club. Her eldest son, **Justin Mayer '03** will marry Mary Meg after graduation.

**Carl June** says Navy's Sprint football is once again doing better than the heavyweights. Carl hooked up with **Bill Konrad** and Bill's middle daughter ("trolling for Mids") to watch as Navy trounced Penn. Carl's son is a DB for Penn. Ray had an interception and was second on the team in tackles (not a good thing when you're a safety).

Can you believe it? Out of column-inches again! That's two months in a row that I get to carry forward quality material, thanks to your sharing the wealth. Tune in next month for the latest Stufflebeem sighting and a picture of "Pops, Rico, Boomer, Salty Sam, and Groot." '75 Sir! —Larry

## 76

Annual Membership: 14%  
Life Membership: 36%

Pres: **Kevin Stone**  
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Sec'y: **Chuck Dirienzo**  
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## 77

Annual Membership: 9%  
Life Membership: 63%

Pres: **CAPT Richard "Rick" White, USN**  
1404 Hunting Wood Road, Annapolis, MD 21403  
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Sec'y: **Bob Sanderson**  
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## 78

Annual Membership: 3%  
Life Membership: 73%

Pres: **Arch Griffin**  
Sec'y: **Vince Balderrama**  
45 Little Fawn Drive, Shelton, CT 06484  
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web site: http://usna1978.org

The past year has been especially bittersweet for the Class of '78. With every joyful recounting of our personal successes, family triumphs, and humorous reminiscences of our collective youth also came news of the death of one of us. Lately, it seems as though each month I've written about the passing of a parent, a child—a Classmate. The repetitiveness of it all has come with such frequency that Tom Wolfe's book *The Right Stuff* comes to mind. In it, he wrote of test pilots "auguring in" at Pax River. He described how after each crash, the dark, broad shouldered bridge coats were diligently removed from closets, carefully, almost ceremonially, brushed off and donned by surviving naval aviators to march respectfully in a cemetery procession of honor for the fallen shipmate. This winter brings us an occasion to once more brush off those bridge coats. On 17 October, **Phil Brennan** brought me news that we lost another great source of strength and inspiration in good times and through his brave struggles with illness, as **Doug Miller** passed away in cardiac arrest. He had been through a lot recently and suffered greatly with complications and pains from his leukemia. His wife, Becca, described how like a true Marine, he fought for life up to the end and never gave up. Phil, **Ray Kwong**, and **Roy Bookmiller** were among Doug's 32nd Company brothers in attendance at services for Doug. Doug's wish was that in lieu of flowers that donations be made to The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints in Orchard Park, NY, for their general Missionary fund, worldwide



'75: R to L: Carl Klee, Lilia Mayer, Justin Mayer, and Justin's betrothed—Mary Meg

humanitarian aid fund or the perpetual education fund (that helps education people in poverty areas of the world.) Becca mentioned that you could get donation slips at any of the LDS congregations throughout the world to make these donations if you wish. Becca thanks everyone "for your love, support, friendship, and non-ending source of non-intelligible emails for me...although DD did understand every word of them." I know that all of you will keep Becca and the family in your prayers.

In happier news...it looks like **Kevin Liddy** has more company at IBM. Some quick "hit and run" emails show that **Todd Tracy** (Todd D Tracy/Bethesda/IBM@IBMUS) 25th Company started with Big Blue the day he retired from naval service—1 August '01 to be exact. Today he's with the Federal Business Development group of IBM's Global Services in the Washington, DC, area. **Mark Honeck** is also with IBM nowadays. **Mike "Whitey" White** (Whitecm@ndu.edu) is at Ft. McNair. He's on the Capstone Staff but anticipates retirement sometime this spring. **Mike Moore** (formoores@cox.net) sent an update and proof that you can run into your old Firsties in some unusual circumstances. In his case, he spent almost an entire day in October escorting then BGEN (select) **George Flynn '75**, USMC. (George pinned on the star in November.) Mike is the XO at EWTGLANT and George was visiting his command. Mike must have been "impressive" during that Plebe Year because George certainly remembered him and even recalled Mike's "I'm not God" moment from Plebe Summer. Whatever that means—looks like there's a sea story there best recalled under the influence of fine hops! **Tom Crowley** is enjoying life as CO of **BOXER**, despite the fact that being CO means that at times it seems as if someone is intentionally trying to make it a "short tour." Tom described the experience where **BOXER** participated in Fleet Week 2002. The weekend was fun not only for the crew but for the entire Crowley family as well. Gretchen and kids stayed with her sister, Kelly, in Berkeley. The entrance to San Francisco was quite dramatic with **BOXER** leading a column of six ships in through the fog. Although the harbor was clear, visibility from the sea bouy to the Golden Gate Bridge was 100-500 yards. The first time they saw the Golden Gate Bridge was when Tom looked up from **BOXER**'s bridge and they were directly underneath it. Tom declared that if they are asked for something more exciting in 2003, he thinks he'll take a pass.



**BOXER** passing through the Golden Gate Bridge

It has been at least a decade since **Scott Darling** (sdarling@handi-lift.com) had written input to *Shipmate*. He made up for it in fine fashion. Scott retired from the Reserve on 15



'78: The Crowleys



'78: Scott Darling's retirement

September 2002. He had a great ceremony on **INTREPID** in New York City. The ceremony was put on by his old Reserve unit, NR PMS Wash 302 Bronx, NY. Scott's first boss aboard **ENTERPRISE** during his active duty and his current CLF Maintenance Officer, ADM **Dale Baugh '72**, spoke and sent him on his way. One of my old roommates, CAPT **Walter Brown**, and his lovely bride, Diane, were in attendance as were Scott's wife, Anne Reinert, and the four kids, Christopher (20), Michael (19), Rachel (15), and Hannah (11). Scott provided correction to one of my last articles. In that column I mentioned Fred Butterfield's DC luncheon. Well, Scott clarified that he was also among the attendees. Since he had driven from his home in Madison, NJ (30 miles west of New York City), he also believed he deserved the distinction of being the Classmate who had traveled the furthest to attend. Scott gets down to DC quite often for business and to visit with his three older kids who attend college at Maryland and Howard County Community college. As for Walt, Scott reported that he was activated (for the third time) and is running the Business Services Office for NAVSUP in Mechanicsburg. The 20 second sound bite on Scott's 25 year Naval career goes like this: Surface Nuke and spent his entire active career on **ENTERPRISE** (three year overhaul in Bremerton and then sea trial and a follow-on WestPac). He got out in late 1983. In early 1984, he decided to go in Reserve and switched his designator to engineering duty officer. He had a few years of broken service when he went through a divorce in 1987-1989 but got back in to close out a naval career. His civilian career started out at Calvert Cliffs Nuclear Power station, about 50 miles south of Annapolis. He got his SRO license and was the maintenance manager. Still he longed for a smaller and more entrepreneurial environment.

Hence, when he went through his divorce he moved to California; and ended up starting, growing, and selling a couple of businesses. In 1995 he moved back to New Jersey and became a partner in a small management-consulting firm, UMS Group. Two and half years ago he helped found a venture backed Telco company, iNetDecisions. Things have been tough and he recently completed shutting that business down. Subsequently, he became president of a privately held handicap accessibility contracting company, Handi-Lift (www.handi-lift.com). When he was CEO of iNetDecisions, he started attending a monthly CEO peer group called "Let's Talk Business Network (LTBN)" in New York City and Northern New Jersey. That experience continues to provide Scott great relationship development and has afforded him the opportunity to continue to grow both professionally and as a person. One of the practices within LTBN is to really take the time to place oneself in the shoes of other peer business owners, listen to the challenges they face, and then work as a group to share real life and business experiences (not ungrounded ideas or beliefs). One outcome for Scott has been the realization of the vast network of relationships he's built over the years that could help friends, Classmates, and business associates. He confessed that in the past he had done a poor job in sharing it with others. As a result, he made a pact with himself to do a better job at helping others. To that end Scott has recently helped several Classmates in job hunting and identifying specialty companies or individual experts that are helping Classmates solve a pressing problems as they manage their businesses. Scott offers that if he can be a help to anyone else just email him. Thanks for the update and offer, Scott. I got dibs for first in line to help!



Scott and Anne Darling

**Welling "Well" Clark's** (mail@holdenhouse.com or welling.clark@icare-consult.com) last day at ITT was 15 November. He's now with L-3 Communications as a staff systems engineer out at the Joint National Integration Center located at Schriever AFB, just east of Colorado Springs. In the interim between ITT and L3 Well apprenticed with the Chief Scientist of the Missile Defense Wargaming and Analysis Resource (MDWAR) program. Until he sends out an L3 work email, you can catch him at his home email. **Marty Thamm** (MartyThamm@aol.com) got back to work at Lockheed Martin after having been on active duty with the Marines at MarForPac in Hawaii. You may recall that he and **Jock Maloney** were working together out there. Jock was released from active duty a little earlier than Marty. When he left Marty to return home, he mentioned (in typically Jock fashion) that "Marty finally had to do some work." Well, Marty thought he would set the record straight by being amazed at Jock's imagination and inquiring if Jock had also mentioned that "he single-handedly won the fight at Tora Bora (well, he and John Wayne)?" Marty is probably one—if not *the* last bachelor in our Class. **Scott Provow** (Navalaviators@aol.com) sent me some snail mail and great photos that I am embarrassed to say I left at home and consequently will have to save for next month's edition of *Shipmate*. (Sorry, Scott. In my haste to run out to Southern California for some active drilling in support of the First Marine Expeditionary Forces' preparation for "desert contingencies" (this wasn't a mobilization!) I left the stuff at home.) Mea culpa, Scott—I owe you a beer or two, or three. Suffice it to say that for all you 21st Company folks, Scott is putting together your email list and working on a company suite for homecoming this year. **Ted Null** (tnull@cca-corp.com) is still in Richmond, VA. He works in the industrial automation business. He sold his company a couple of years ago but is still on contract to run the business. He still spends as much time as he can in the woods hunting or fishing, so he maintains those great skills he demonstrated at flight school survival training. I recall that if it weren't for Ted's proficiency with a gig (and a fortuitous sighting of fresh road kill) some of us city-boy pilot-wannabees would've really starved out there. Ted's greatest piece of news is that he and Sheli are going to grandparents this spring. (Okay, Class poll—is he the first or are any of you already grandparents?)

**Larry Galvin** snuck out to Japan to be a surprise attendee at **Harry "Binkley" Harris'** Change of Command as Commander Patrol and Reconnaissance Wing One and Task Forces 57

and 72. The ceremony was held on 12 September 2002, in Kamiseya, Japan. Harry's relief has a big pair of flight boots to fill as Harry had an incredibly successful tour. Among his end-of-tour awards was a Bronze Star—not bad for a P-3 guy! Larry said that Harry actually had planted the seed for his being there in Japan when, four years ago, he flew from Kamiseya to Annapolis for Larry's retirement ceremony at Memorial Hall. Larry was thus compelled to return the honor. Harry's wife, **Bruni Bradley '84**, conspired with Larry to make his attendance a complete surprise. Fortunately, two partners at Larry's law firm in DC, **Chris Foley '75** and **Dave Hill (Woop '69)**, put him on a plane to Japan to visit clients, timed to coincide with the change of command. Along with Larry at the CofC were **CAPT Bill Yeager** (Harry's Chief of Staff), **CAPT Don Aiken** (CO of NAP, Atsugi, Japan), and **RADM Andy Winns** (ComPatReconForPac in Kaneohe Bay, HI). Harry is now N3/N5 at ComUSNavCent in Bahrain. As for Larry, he's an Intellectual Property attorney in Washington, DC. Fortunately for Navy personnel, Harry and Don are now geographically separated, which means the elimination of identity confusion—Yes, because of their mutual resemblance there were numerous problems with people not being able to tell the two of them apart, including at least one member of Don's staff!

"CAPT Harris?"

"No, I'm CAPT Aiken."

"Morning CAPT Aiken!"

"Morning. But I'm CAPT Harris."

Larry sent along a photo of the occasion. You guys tell me—did I get the caption right? Don is really Don and Harry is really Harry? As for Admiral Andy—guess you never found the business card I left on your back porch screen when I was out there for your neighbor's change of command (MAG-24).



Bill, Don, Harry, Andy, and Larry

This column marks less than eight months to go until our 25th reunion. Here's an update correspondence from our Reunion Committee Chairman, **Glen Woods** (gowoods@aol.com or gwoods@pmainc.net):

Time to mark your calendars for our 25th Homecoming celebration. The dates are set, hotel rooms have been reserved, and a committee has been formed to make this a great weekend to renew old friendships and catch up on where we have all landed. Our 25th Homecoming will be held during the weekend of 19-21 September 2003. Rooms are reserved for us at the Annapolis Radisson Hotel (410-224-3150) and only a two night minimum stay is required. We are asking Class members to make their own hotel reservations directly with the Radisson. We have 150 rooms reserved for Friday (19th) and Saturday (20th) nights and a small number on Thursday and Sunday of that week. Please go ahead and make reservations as soon as you know your travel plans.

All the weekend details have not all been worked out, but a tentative schedule is listed below:

**19 September:** Registrations, Mid store open, Prayer Breakfast, Memorial Service (morning), USNA Class of '78 Golf Tournament (USNA golf course) (early afternoon), Parade, Dinner Party at the hotel (Radisson)

**20 September:** Tailgater, Football game

**21 September:** Chapel Services, Departures

So far, a great group of folks have volunteered to join our committee; we welcome anyone else that would like to join us. Please drop me a note if you would like to volunteer or you have an idea or suggestion to pass along.

Also, check out our Class web site (www.usna1978.org). It has been updated to provide a new look and to provide you with lots of information about our Class, the Academy and what's happening in the Navy. You will also find information on the Class reunion and soon will be able to register online. We are additionally working to provide a link so you can purchase Class souvenirs directly using your credit card.

Make your plans now; Hope to see you all next September.

Fair winds...

I also add that while we show the golf tournament as a specific event, it's not the only athletic event that could be held. Like in reunions past, if you would like to have a basketball tournament, sailing, squash match or some other event, we certainly invite you to volunteer to help put it together. The committee will help promulgate it and can put you in touch anyone at the Academy with whom you need to make arrangements.

Well I've bagged my limit of words for the month. Launchin' Spot Four until the next edition

# 79

**Annual Membership: 1%**  
**Life Membership: 89%**

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

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Sec'y: **LCDR John "Wiz" Withers, USN (Ret.)**

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web site: www.usna79.com

Greetings, 79!

**Alert! Alert! 25th Reunion Extravaganza Information!**

Right before the holidays I received an important communiqué from the 25th Reunion Committee. Can you believe that we're less than two years away from what will likely be the largest reunion in the history of our Class? The committee has asked me to relay the following. Please read it thoroughly, as there is an audience participation request at the end. Okay? Here goes:

Plans for the 25-Year Class Reunion are coming together and we can now announce some important information. The reunion is scheduled for 23-26 September 2004, with Navy playing the VMI Commodores. Please note that this is not the official USNA Homecoming weekend; rather, the reunion committee felt that this was a