

Jay also reports that support from the States has been terrific. They are receiving many emails and care packages from people that don't know them but want them to know they're solidly behind them. In Jay's own words, "Makes a big difference!"



Jay MacKercher and his command master chief crouching over two TLAM cells that were successfully opened and checked in the Red Sea

**David Raunig** (RaunigD@aol.com) finally wrote to *Shipmate* after a very long dry spell. Dave had a great time at the 25th Reunion and says, "It was great to see what everyone has done as many of us have gotten on with our second careers." Dave has included a picture (on previous page) of his son, **Jeff Raunig '02**, who is now at nuclear power school in Charleston, SC, and will be joining the submarine service next spring. Also in the picture are Dave's father, **David R. Raunig '54**, and his other son, Colin, who will be joining the Class of 2007 this July after a year in the Foundation Program at Northfield-Mount Hermon. That will be four legacy Midshipmen from 15th Company.

Dave and his wife, Robin, are still in New London, CT, with their daughter, Kate, who has not entirely ruled out USNA. Dave retired from the Reserve in 1998 and has been working at Pfizer as a Research Mathematician. Dave's looking forward to being at Navy events for at least the next four years and hopes to see many of you there.

#### Class Communication

It seems that many of you found the names of a few of our Classmates while perusing the 9 May 2003, flag officer announcements (some people had an easier time finding names than others, as indicated in a remark by **Mark Sobczak** (msobc@lexclin.com), "In my medical opinion, it appears that the Class president may have become senile."). Anyway, here are the new rear admiral (lower half) selectees from the Class of '77:

CAPT **Mark A. Hugel**, who is currently serving as commanding officer, Norfolk Naval Shipyard, Portsmouth, VA; CAPT **Mark W. Kenny** (mcskenney@aol.com), who is currently serving as executive assistant to the director, Force Structure, Resources and Assessment, J-8, Joint Staff, Washington, DC; CAPT **Kevin M. Quinn**, who is currently serving as executive assistant to the commander, U.S. Atlantic Fleet, Norfolk, VA; and CAPT **John M. Bird** (john.bird@js.pentagon.mil), who is currently serving as chief, Central, South, and Southeast Asia Division, Joint Staff, Washington, DC.

Being the ever vigilant person that he is, **Jim Childress** (JimC@ckhlaw.com) observed: "Wait

a minute, John Bird made admiral! Isn't he from Florida? Do we have to have a recount?" In any event, our heartiest congratulations to the latest set of Classmates to enter the Admiral ranks, and let's hope the trend continues!

#### Closing Remarks

Hope your summer's going well and I'll see you again in the fall. Go Navy! —**Bob Sanderson**

# 78

**Annual Membership: 3%**  
**Life Membership: 73%**

Acting Pres: **Bob Novak**  
Sec'y: **Vince Balderrama**  
45 Little Fawn Drive, Shelton, CT 06484  
e: VBalderrama@SIKORSKY.com  
web site: <http://usna1978.org>

Many of you noticed that the two fellows in one photo in my May *Shipmate* column captioned as "Rich and Fred" bore a striking resemblance **Jim Pointer** and **Kim Tageson**. Well, that's because they were Jim and Kim. It's nice to know you guys actually read the column and pay attention enough to note the error but the downside was the amount of "Hey—'Delta Sierra'" emails I got. As Jim jokingly wrote:

Imagine my surprise and that of Kim Tageson to find out we each have a twin somewhere! And that they were in the Class of '78! I mean, I know Mother B was a big place, but you'd think we would have run into them sometime during our four years. And hey, imagine our further surprise at seeing them wear the same clothes that Kim and I wore when he visited me in Huntsville earlier this year. Spooky! Well, maybe we'll meet them at the Reunion in September.

Well the mix-up was the result of my confusing caption and numbering system that I'm sure threw off the *Shipmate* editor. Rightfully, she made me stay in my box and go back to my Marine simple system (Photo 1. Photo 2). Guess that's what happens when I try to stretch beyond my GPA. Anyway, I apologize for the mix-up, Jim and Kim (and all your 36th Company mates who also wrote me). I guess I should also say sorry to **Rich Holzknicht** and **Fred Butterfield** whose names were part of the mix-up—I'll let you four fight over who took the greatest, umm, exception to it. Just tell them it was I, "Larry," who goofed it up. As for pictures, Kim provided a little bit of '78 nostalgia—two photos of 36th Company, during our days at Mother B. You'll recognize the one of all of them with Deke Forbes taken outside his office after they "reconned" it. He sent another photo that didn't have enough resolution for this column. Check it out in the Class web site, "July-August *Shipmate*" link. See if you can recognize all the '78 Plebes of Club 36!



Deke and 36th

From **Tim Dowding** (Timothy.Dowding@business.uconn.edu) you can see that he is associated with the home of the Huskies, the University of Connecticut, or UConn as we lovingly refer to it. No, Tim's not a student. After having his own business for the past seven years he now finds himself on full-time faculty, teaching mostly undergrads business technology, database design, and web design. He also works in the research lab they share with G.E. in Stamford. He says he's busy a lot but it's a less stressful workload than having a small business.

**Mark Fox** provided what he called his "once every five year" update. On 19 April he wrapped up his tour as CAG aboard *CONSTELLATION*. The change of command was in the middle of the Arabian Sea for reasons that are obvious to all (unless you've been setting a *Guinness Book of Records* for spelunking!) Mark went full circle from when he took command of Air Wing Two in a ceremony aboard *CONNIE*'s flight deck in August 2001 in Hong Kong. Since then, he spent 18 of the past 32 months at sea aboard CAPT **Fozzie Miller '79s** *CONNIE*. He described his recent experiences as an epic time for the *CONSTELLATION*/Air Wing Two team and he was "humbled to have had the opportunity to serve as 'Broadsword One.' Like they say in West Texas, 'If they don't buck, it ain't a rodeo'...well, we've had a rodeo..." At the time he wrote, he hadn't received orders. He and Priscilla were going to rendezvous back east when he was interviewing for a job in Washington, DC. Regardless of the outcome of the job interview, Mark said they expect to move to the Northern Virginia area this summer. Besides, as he says, there's certain to be plenty of O-6 grenade-catching jobs out there! Another reason for his certainty is the fact that his third son, Mason, will be among this year's batch of Plebes. Mason will join his older brother **Colin Fox '05** who is now a Firstie. That should make for an interesting year. With two sons at the Academy, you can also expect to see the Fox family occupying some prime tailgater turf this fall. Mark passed on a couple of photos from his cruise, one of which I include in this column. (See next page.) It's of him standing next to "Switch" 300, VFA-151's "CAG" Bird. I don't know if you'll be able to see it clearly, but inscribed on the fuselage in the upper right portion of the photo are the words, In memory of **Ken Waldie '78**. The squadron had dedicated their deployment to those who lost their lives in the September 11th terror attacks, and when they asked Mark if he knew someone who should be remembered, he knew Waldo was a clear and easy choice. It's a fitting tribute, Mark—an avenging Hornet.

*The 2003 Register  
of Alumni is coming!*

see All Hands for the details





Carol Waldie and '78 on dedication day



'78: USNA at Prince Sultan Air Base, Saudi



Mark Fox by Waldo's Strike

In other tribute to Ken, on a beautiful and sunny 3 May, a memorial was dedicated to his memory in his hometown of Methuen, MA. Situated between two baseball fields in Veterans Park in Methuen, the memorial consists of a beautiful granite bench, inscribed with his name. Set before the bench and inlaid in the earth is large granite plaque inscribed:

*Dedicated to the memory of Kenneth E. Waldie*

A native of Pittsburgh, PA, a veteran and a 1978 graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy, Ken settled in Methuen in 1984 to raise his family and pursue his career at the Raytheon Corporation. A devoted husband to Carol and father to Andrew, Jeff, Meredith and JT; Ken was also an avid sportsman and sports fan, especially of his beloved Pittsburgh professional teams and Penn State University. He was a fixture cheering for his children and

coaching at virtually every youth sports venue in the greater Methuen area. Ken was a passenger on AA Flight 11 on September 11, 2001 when he was lost in the senseless acts of violence that day at the World Trade Center. This bench is dedicated to Ken's memory by his Naval Academy Classmates in cooperation with his loving family and the city of Methuen.

Classmates who joined Ken's family, Carol and their kids Andrew, Jeff, Meredith, and JT, his mom, brothers, and sisters, nieces and nephews, as well as the Mayor of Methuen and representatives of the Methuen Public Works Dept., and the community were **Craig Diffie, Glen Ives, Bill Yeager, John Kovalcik, Brian Kirk, Jock Maloney, John Ehlers**, and me. I had the honor of being the emcee for the occasion in which the Mayor and Carol spoke. Glen Ives was the keynote speaker. Jock summed up Glen's speech as "magnificent" and reflective of "everyone's feelings." Glen recalled memories of Waldo and tried to explain for the crowd what it is about '78 that compel us to honor and cherish Ken—even after 25 years have passed since we left the confines of Mother B (and I might add how we also honor and cherish others who have left us; as well as one another). As Glen put it:

When you're 17 or 18 years old and fresh out of high school, that commitment, those sentiments, are there and strong in your heart, but they surely aren't the ones that carry you. It's something more—it's your Classmates, they carry you, they help you—to not only make it through, but to make it a life experience you

can never ever forget, an experience that inspires you even 25 years later, an experience that blesses you with the greatest gift of all—the gift of enduring friendship with the truest, most wonderful guys you'll ever know.

When you are 17 or 18 years old—to share an experience that very few people understand—that experience we call the United States Naval Academy—well, it forges friendships, a brotherhood, and a determined confidence that carry you through those four years there, and forever. Ken Waldie was our leader—he drew us together as a team, a Company, a Class, as friends. On the court, on the field, as a friend, as a professional—in every aspect of life that really matters—Ken Waldie represents the very best, the most compassionate, the most loyal, the most committed.

You can find the rest of Glen's speech on our Class web site. It's especially relevant as we approach our 25th Reunion next month. The memorial is the culmination of the generosity of those who contributed to its funding, maneuvered through the approval bureaucracy, inspired its design, and sweated in its construction and last minute finishing touches. Most especially, it is the fruit of **John Ehlers'** labor. He was its inspiration and champion. Of course, it was also due to the thoughtfulness of Carol Waldie and her children, who allowed us as a Class to find some closure to our grief and honor our Classmate, shipmate, and friend in such a manner. If you ever get to Methuen, stop by Veterans Park. Watch kids play some ball as you sit on the cool bench and feel Ken's presence. It's in a perfect spot, conveniently located beside the new concession stands and restrooms, between two ball fields—everything you need to watch kids at play in a simultaneous double-header. It's just as Ken would've liked it.

**Marty Thamm** finally got back up on email a couple of months ago. He lamented that he sure missed those beers we shared at Pearl last summer when I was out for some business. He, Jock, and Ann and **Ralph Scaffidi** had a cookout over at the BOQ that I had missed. But I did make it in time to hit the package store for "refreshments" for the softball game we saw afterward. It was Ralph's unit's intramural game. While they didn't win, they did score the most runs they had ever scored before going down by—let's just say—a large margin. But boy they were in it for four innings! It must have been the '78 cheering factor. Anyway, it was now a "dry" Marty who lamented that while they were honoring their Saudi hosts by not allowing any alcohol (which is culturally the right thing to do) he admitted to moments when he just felt it just didn't seem right! By the way, Marty was one of those "double whammy" guys. In late October 2002, he de-mob'd after a year of active duty with MarForPac. He said it was tough duty too—especially since he had to keep his fellow mob'd Classmate, **Jock Maloney**, "in the box." Once released, Marty took a few weeks off, and then returned to work at Lockheed Martin, in Sunnyvale, CA. At the end of his fourth week back at work as a civilian, he once again received the call—this time to join the Fourth Marine Aircraft Wing's CFACC liaison officer team representing I MEF at Prince Sultan Air Base, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. Marty was designated a "purple guy" and assigned as the



## Class of 1978 Elections

### Instructions:

Check off the box beside the candidate of your choice or, if you desire, provide a write-in vote. Submit the ballot to the Class Secretary for tabulation no later than 1 September 2003. Ballots may be sent in any of the following ways:

By mail to:

Vince Balderrama  
45 Little Fawn Drive  
Shelton, CT 06484

E-mail: An electronic version of the ballot (scanned or pulled from the link on the class website ([www.usna1978.org](http://www.usna1978.org))) sent to either: [canoec78@aol.com](mailto:canoec78@aol.com) or [vbalderrama@sikorsky.com](mailto:vbalderrama@sikorsky.com)

### Class of '78 Election Ballot

President: Glenn Woods  Vice President: Sean Coffey

Write In \_\_\_\_\_ Write In \_\_\_\_\_

Secretary: Vince Balderrama  Treasurer: Kevin Liddy

Write In \_\_\_\_\_ Write In \_\_\_\_\_

### Trustees at Large (5 Positions):

Rob Cloutier  Matt Elias  Glen Ives

Bob Novak  Eddie Reid  Write In \_\_\_\_\_

Write In \_\_\_\_\_ Write In \_\_\_\_\_ Write In \_\_\_\_\_

VOTERS NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

more than one game a year (maybe even another National Championship). Good luck, "Professor." Terry O'Brien was scheduled to relinquish command Amphibious Squadron Two (PhibRon Two) on the first of July aboard NASSAU back home in Norfolk, VA. It has been a long tour for Terry—28 months (instead of the planned 18 months) and two deployments. This last deployment was a record setting nine months! In fact, it is the longest deployment of an amphibious group in 13 years and only 13 shorter than LINCOLN's. Of course the last few days of the float were darkened by the loss of a sailor off the coast of Virginia. If any of you caught Terry explain on CNN what went on and how the crew swiftly reacted in their attempts to locate and rescue the sailor, you saw a polished and capable officer; in full command of the situation. In other words—"he done good" and didn't let the press get the best of him and inflate the situation.

In other stray rounds: Sean Coffey has been seen recently on NBC "World News Tonight" giving "good quote" as he called upon his experience as a former U.S. Attorney to opine on Martha Stewart's case. He was also seen on a PBS "Frontline" show that featured the WorldCom fiasco. (Sean is the lead attorney for his firm's representation of investors bringing suit against WorldCom.) Ken Bowersox finally made it down safely from the International Space Station. He returned to earth aboard SOYUZ. In landing in Russia, he and his American teammate became the first Americans to return to earth in such a manner. (That is the first non-paying Americans—remember the millionaire who paid to fly with the Russians?) Joe Leidig has reported to the Academy as the deputy commandant of Midshipman. On 30 May, Gary Lovgren retired from the Navy in a ceremony in Memorial Hall (there'll be more on this in next month's column). On 25 June, Alex "Dog" Callas held the 12th Annual Peter G. Callas Memorial Golf Day for the Muscular Dystrophy Association (MDA) at Andrews AFB. (I hope to have more on it in upcoming columns; but I'm sure it was even bigger, better and more successful than the previous 11.) Finally, congratulations go to '78s latest admiral selects: Bill Landay and Mark Ferguson!

Before I close, don't forget to check the Class web site and get those last minute details on next month's 25th Reunion. Make your room reservations and event registrations. In advance, I'd like to thank Glen Woods and the reunion committee and sub-committees for all their hard work! They truly have done an outstanding job. While we recognize that not everyone will be pleased with every facet of the reunion, we know that you'll find the overall event rewarding and fun. Besides, we heartily invite critics to volunteer to help with the 30th! As a last piece of business, with every reunion comes a Class election. Attached is this year's ballot and list of candidates for the offices. The instructions are so simple even an oh-three (infantry) Marine can follow them. If you like the person(s) whose name(s) appears beside an office, put a check or X in the box. If you prefer someone else, vote them as a "write-in." As for members-at-large, chose five people, either by voting for all the available candidates, naming a write-in, or a

deputy chief of the CFACC Strategy Division. He said the conflict was fast and furious and kept his strategic airpower thinking cap working overtime. He said he'd heard from Chuck Lowther. Chuck was also mob'd. As Marty put it, "Chuck seems to love Bahrain having left MarForPac early last year for MarCent and extending through this summer." Marty's gang did the typical deployed Alumni photo op. Here (see previous page) you see him along with the rest of the Navy grads assigned to the PSAB CAOC. From left to right you'll recognize Col Marty and then Capt Greg Ezell, '94, USMC, CDR Paul Becker '83, USN, CAPT (sel) Mike Smith '82, USN, LT Scott Smith '95, USN, Maj Jeff Stutz '91, USAF (yup, USNA '91... go figure), Capt Dawn Ellis '96, USMC, LtCol Ron Rives '80, USMC, CAPT Ken Calise '73, USN, and CDR Noel Davis '82, USN. Not pictured but part of the gang were: Maj Bob Friedman '91, USMC, LCDR Doug Carpenter '91, USN, Mathew Cutter '96, Jason Winn '96 and Christopher Reyes '94. By now, Marty hoped to be home and back at his desk in Sunnyvale. We

hope that's happened and that he'll join Ann and Ralph Scaffidi and the rest of us at next month's festivities.

Chip Walston had his change of command on 22 May at Naval Air Station North Island in San Diego (home of the San Diego Padres, also known as full-time cellar dwellers). Chip's next assignment is to Ohio State University. He'll be known as "The Professor," of naval science that is, as well as the CO of the NROTC unit there. Seems Chip was able to convince the Ohio State Deans that his Navy GPA was not representative of his vast knowledge of the naval sciences that he honed through his 25 years of active duty! What a sad state of affairs when a lifer has to explain his Naval qualifications to a civilian academician! Regardless, he got the job; so he, Susan, and the kids, should be living there for the next three years. He offered that if anyone finds themselves in Columbus, OH, for whatever reason, look up the Walstons. He added that depending on the time of year you visit, you may even get to see a football game played by a college team that actually has a shot at winning



combination of listed candidates or write-ins. All the candidates listed submitted the required number and names of Classmates who supported their candidacy by the deadline. Some of you had sent in nomination emails supporting **Jim Fiorelli** for a member-at-large. Unfortunately, those endorsements came in well after the deadline and that's why Jim's name doesn't appear as a listed candidate. The results of the election will be announced at our reunion dinner.

Well, that's it. I am outta here—Launchin' Spot Four and I'll see you at the Reunion!

# 79

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

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

e: Sean.Cate@1979.usna.com

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

22445 Bluebird Ct., 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!

You all amaze and astound me yet again! I ask, and you provide. I sound the call, and you respond.

Both of my faithful readers out there will remember last month's "slightly" tongue-in-cheek "Hilarious Comedy Intro." Classmate mail had been in one of its temporary lulls, and I was trying to fill space while simultaneously encourage a few more of you to drop me a line. So I embarked on a discussion of the smashed mailbox in front of our house (since replaced, by the way), and ended it with a plea for help. I figured I might get two to three notes asking that I knock off the cornball stuff and get on with the bolded names.

Well, whatever the reason, it worked! I have been deluged with emails, phone calls, and some photos, and my box is literally overflowing. Time and space won't permit me to go through all the stuff this month, so I'll report what I can in the order I received it. Okay, enough chatter—on with the program!

A couple issues back, I had the honor of informing everyone that '79 had our first Reserve Flag Selectee, **Jon Bayless**. At that time, there were several rumors floating around the active duty list would also contain the names of a Classmate or two. Well, for those of you that have not already heard or have not visited the Class web site recently, the list is out, and we are indeed well represented. Two '79ers, **Artie Johnson** and **Ray Spicer**, are among those most recently selected for rear admiral (lower half)! Artie (arthur.johnson@js.pentagon.mil) is currently serving as chief, East Asia Pacific Division, J-5, Joint Staff, Washington, DC, while Ray (spicer.ray@cnsf.navy.mil) is the chief of staff to the commander, Naval Surface Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet (ComNavSurfPac) in San Diego.

The announcement prompted the following email from Class President **Sean Cate**:

On behalf of the entire USNA Class of 1979, I offer my sincere congratulations on your selection for promotion to flag. The cream has risen to the top. Your service to our great Navy is greatly appreciated and we all wish you every continued success as you continue to lead the world's greatest Navy. Looking forward to a colossal wetting down!

I also echo Sean's note and extend my heartiest congratulations to Artie and Ray. If you all get the chance, drop Ray and Artie a line. Now we'll have yet another reason to celebrate at our upcoming 25th Reunion next year!

It's tough to follow two new admirals, but here's just the guy what can do it. **Peter Johnstone**, M.D. (peter@radonc.emory.org) took a few minutes out of his busy day to let me know he retired from the Medical Corps earlier this year. Peter and Meg have settled in Atlanta, where he is a professor of radiation oncology at the Emory University School of Medicine. He writes:

I've been out of touch awhile. Now that I'm retired, and life is getting geared up here in "Hotlanta," Meg prevailed on me to send you an email to bring things up to date for the USNA Alumni crowd. I'll include the brief bio from the retirement program, updated with the new job data. I've also appended a few photos from the retirement ceremony. The flag in the picture is RADM James A. Johnson, MC, USN (commander, Naval Medical Center San Diego, and the best boss anyone could hope for). **Mike Muldoon** is also on staff there; due to retire soon.

Thanks for keeping us all up to date every month. Looking forward to seeing everyone at the 25th anniversary.



Meg and Peter Johnstone and their sons



Johnstone retirement ceremony

As a means of bringing us up-to-date, Peter also attached a copy of his retirement ceremony bio, and it reads like a veritable *Who's Who in Medicine*. After tossing his cover in the air with the rest of us, Peter started his career as a surface warrior, commissioning INGERSOLL as navigator and also serving as her as gun systems officer. He also found time to marry Meg in 1980. This was followed by an assignment as a public affairs specialist on the Navy's chief of information staff

in the Puzzle Palace, ultimately joining Navy Secretary John Lehman's personal staff. During this tour he was selected as an Olmsted Scholar and offered the opportunity to study at the University of Montpellier, France. However, Peter decided to change his career track, and declined this honor for medical school.

He received his M.D. degree from the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences in 1989, completing an Internship at Bethesda followed by Residency in Radiation Oncology at the National Cancer Institute, National Institutes of Health. He is also a graduate of the UCLA training program, Medical Acupuncture for Physicians, and as such is a certified physician acupuncturist. He reported to Naval Medical Center, San Diego, in 1993, and later served as chief of the radiation oncology service between 1996 and 2001. During his tenure the hospital's Radiation Oncology practice was twice accredited by the American College of Radiology (the sole DOD practice to have earned this honor).

Peter was also the program manager for the Defense Department Southern California Breast Health Initiative and was designated the inaugural Head of Breast Health Care at the Medical Center. In late 2001, Peter was selected as director for ancillary services at the medical center, coordinating business and managed care aspects of radiology, laboratory, pharmacy, and physical therapy services at the hospital and associated clinics. He was selected for captain in early 2002, but decided to retire prior to assuming the rank.

In the latter part of his Navy career, Peter served as the radiation oncology specialty advisor to the Navy Surgeon General. He also served as associate clinical professor at the University of California, San Diego, and as medical advisor for the radiation therapy option of the health science department, California State University, Long Beach. He was named editor-in-chief of the journal *Current Problems in Cancer* in mid-2000.

Upon retirement earlier this year, Peter accepted his current position as professor of radiation oncology at Emory University. In addition to his clinical practice at the Emory Clinic and Crawford Long Hospital, he assumed program management responsibilities at the Georgia Cancer Center of Excellence at Grady Memorial Hospital, and at the Avon Foundation Comprehensive Breast Center. And somewhere in all of that, Meg and Peter find time to keep track of their two sons who attend college in Northern California. Thanks, Peter, for the great update and the photos. Congratulations on an exceptional first career, and good luck as you begin the next one!

Well, time to switch from one doctor to another. In this case, it's from an MD to a Ph.D. However, in this case, the Ph.D. really needed the M.D. Confused? I'll let our own Dr. **Kevin Delaney** (kjdelaney@ieee.org) explain:

Glad to read our Class has its first flag officer. Subject to prior claims by Classmates, I claim a Class first also—our first heart attack! I felt crushing chest pain a few weeks ago and went to the emergency room, where blood work confirmed I'd had a mild heart attack. Further tests showed I had three blocked arteries, requiring triple bypass surgery a few days later. I'm home now (late April), recovering quickly and expect to return to work soon.