

department. I also recently received an award from the Harley Owners Group for 60,000 miles on a Harley. Overall, I now have over 200,000 miles on motorcycles. I am now making plans to attend the Sturgis Motorcycle Rally next year, if anyone is interested in meeting there. Semper Fi! Chuck ■

Way to go, Chuck! I guess you can say, when it comes to what Chuck does for a living, "IT happens" (sorry, couldn't let that one pass...). I ride my Yamaha Virago the 50 miles to work occasionally but I can't imagine putting 200,000 miles on motorcycles. That's a tremendous accomplishment in itself (Chuck must have calluses on his backside!). I understand Sturgis is quite an event, having heard from my father-in-law, Bill Staup, who made the trek this year with a friend. Maybe I'll consider riding there with you next time, Chuck, but I'll need extra padding on my seat.

As I had mentioned in a previous column this year, many of us from our Class have, or will be, reaching that major milestone in our lives this year: our 50<sup>th</sup> birthday! **Tom Bakke** made a great suggestion in this regard. He suggests that at one of our Class tailgates we host a 50<sup>th</sup> birthday party for all of our classmates to celebrate the milestone. Thanks for the suggestion, Tom! Hopefully, we can put your suggestion into action.

Finally, two of our Classmates have been given new assignments:

RDML **Dave Venlet** has been assigned as program executive officer for Tactical Aircraft Programs, Patuxent River, MD.

RDML **Mike Lefever** has been assigned as Commander, Expeditionary Strike Group ONE, San Diego, CA.

Congratulations on your new assignments, Dave and Mike! Until next time – keep me updated on the news about your lives. Take care and God Bless!

**77** ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP: 6%  
LIFE MEMBERSHIP: 66%

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#### *From the Yard*

We've got a pretty slim column this month, which I can only attribute to the

fact that most of you must have taken my advice from a few months ago and decided to take the rest of the summer off from sending me class news. Also, you probably had to spend some extra time reading all of last month's column to see if it mentioned anyone you knew, since none of the names were printed in bold (I've been told that it was due to production difficulties with the first month of the new *Shipmate* format). Hopefully, that little glitch has been corrected so you won't have to read this whole column. And speaking of the column, I'm sure you're as anxious as I am to get to the Mail Bag, so here it is . . .

#### *From the Mail Bag*

After having read the July–August 2004 column, **Dave Williams** (williamsdt@hotmail.com) noticed that his current state of affairs needed some tweaking, so he thought he'd add an update for this month's column. First, he was in London, United Kingdom, not London, CT, and as of 25 July 2004 he's back in Chesapeake Beach, MD. Dave says that the Navy, in its bid to downsize and transform, decided to decommission the Naval Security Group Detachment he was working with in London, so he exercised his Return–Rights to PAX River, and is once again working for PMA-208 (Aerial Targets) NAVAIRSYSCOM. Dave's wife and boys never did move over to London, but they did manage a four-week vacation there. Dave just chalks it up to a ten-month opportunity to work at a major Navy Command HQ and sample the local pubs.

**Harry Rouse** (hvrouse@aol.com) reports that while taking his nephews on a July baseball trip to Fenway Park and Yankee Stadium, he paid a visit to his former 34<sup>th</sup> Company Officer (then) Major Barry Murphy. Harry reports that the Murph and Beverly are alive and well at 1416 Wapping Road, Middletown RI, where they've been living since the early 1980's. After graduation, Major Murphy made Lt. Col. and became the 6<sup>th</sup> Battalion Officer. He was shipped to Norfolk for his last tour, then retired and moved to the Newport, RI, area, where he's been applying his USMC EOD expertise to Navy torpedoes for the Naval Undersea Warfare Center (NUSC) for the last 20 years. Murph and Bev bought an

historic farm house that they renovated, and have been using it as their residence for the last 20+ years. Bev works in the College of Education (teaching future teachers) at Salve Regina, while Murph is planning to retire at the end of the year. Harry says that they both look great; Murph's not much older than he used to be and looks ready for the next PRT. They occasionally hear from **Everett McNair**, who's still down in Hickory, NC. Harry says that next time members of Club 34 are in southern New England, they should stop by the Murphys, although he notes that his visit was delayed by a few hours because the Company Officer had to go to Cape Cod that morning to attend a duck decoy show. Harry's advice: plan ahead if you're heading to see them.

#### *Class Communication*

Football season's in full swing now, so make sure you look for the USNA '77 helium balloon at your next home game, and catch-up with some old friends and classmates over a few cold ones.

#### *Closing Remarks*

All for now; hope to see you at a Navy game soon! Beat Army!—

**Bob Sanderson**

**78** ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP: 3%  
LIFE MEMBERSHIP: 75%

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John "Newk" Newcomb (jnewcomb22@comcast.net) sent me a "hey Roomie" e-mail. (During flight school days, he and I shared a house with a series of classmates as the "Boys from Anchor Lane" and then we shared a duplex together. He reminisced a bit about our security deposit troubles in a fit of flashback that he said seems to be the norm these days as he watches himself "get older" through his children. He and his wife Judy, along with their last one at home, Zachary (16), live about 7 miles on the DC side of Dulles airport in Reston, VA. Zach will be an 11th grader next year. Newk is in his second year at work for the Missile Defense Agency as the Liaison Officer for USSTRATCOM (Oklahoma based). He's located in the old Navy Annex in Arlington. As for Judy, she works for

FEMA at DHS HQ so Newk may just do his time and maybe learn to play golf when the Navy someday gives him a permanent liberty chit. He also asked to be added to the list of “Exactly 30 years later Dads” with a kid at Canoe U. Yup, their son, Thomas, is slogging along as a member of the Class of '08. Newk observed that when they stopped by the Supe's shindig just prior to the Swearing-In Ceremony on I-Day, that it was more of a “'78 Reunion” than VADM Rempt bargained for. (By the way, he *also* observed that the Supe's house is pretty nice inside and that it looks a lot different than from when as mid you were sneaking around it in the dark.) At Rempt's reception he also saw *our* long-ago retired Supe, Admiral McKee. Newk said that he thanked him for “allowing” him to stay for four years back in the '70's. He assured Admiral McKee that his academic record at USNA were absolutely safe as “Son of Newk” had inherited his mother's and his paternal grandfather's smarts (It skipped a generation.). Consequently, Thomas' academics shouldn't be an issue. Of course, Newk was speaking his academic “record” as in the Guinness Book sense. For example among his accolades is the fact that he's the only guy to have had *both* Wires I and II in the second semester of First Class year and still graduate on time! (Thank God for Professor Leydorf.). Of course, Judy wonders what might become of her son at Annapolis after her contact with most of Newk's pals like Russ Gordon, Mike Warner, Steve Kinney, Jay Bowling, ... me. She first met Gordo 20 years ago before they were ever married and it was downhill from there. I mean, come on, the Navy made Jaybo a flag, causing Judy to comment in wonder, “And now our son is at *that* school?!?” Just kidding, Gordo and Jay. Seriously, Judy and Newk couldn't be more proud of Thomas and are glad that he's following in the footsteps of those who've passed through the gates of Mother B—even us. Newk passed on a couple of photos of I-day. By the way, the good looking



CDR Newcomb & Plebe Newcomb

young lady in the photo is Judy and not Newk's only daughter. Thanks for the fun e-mail, Newk. I'll give you a holler when I head down you way. (Next time you see Admiral McKee, thank him for me too!)



Before Swearing In

**Mike Kalnoske** [karnoske@comcast.net] sent me a photo of the family and some guy at the Supe's Commissioning Week garden party. You'll see Ensign **Justin Kalnoske** ('04), Mike and Holly, their daughter, Kaitlyn (2017??) and that sailor—oh yeah—**Joe Leidig**. Hey, how come Joe keeps showing up in those photos folks take around the Yard? He lives there or something? Thanks for the shot, Mike.



Supe's Garden Party

Speaking of **Joe Leidig**, Commandant of Midshipman, (oh that explains all the photos) and Admiral-select Joe Leidig sponsored a Plebe summer parade in honor of the Class of 1978 on 23 July. As you may have read in a previous column of mine, '78 Flags and Flag-selectees were invited to be the reviewing officers and they rest of us were invited to sit under the reviewing awning. **Glen Woods** said that sitting under that awning is certainly a view most of us have never seen before! He also reported that the 4<sup>th</sup> Class Regiment looked superb, and that they “seem to look younger every year.” Anyway, seven of our flag

classmates were able to adjust their schedules review the parade. **Admirals Rich Cellon, Jeff Fowler, Bill Landay, Bill Timme, Andy Winns** and Admiral-selectees **Vic Guillory** and **Joe Leidig**. I think **Joe Schmitz** (DOD Inspector General) was also there. As our Class President, Glen also stood in review of the P-rade and represented the rest of us. In all, we had about 50 other classmates in attendance for the parade and then a post P-rade reception at the newly remodeled sailing center. Thanks for the honor, Joe.

With that, let's put forth a little class news advertising—The class officers and trustees have been working to put together a 30<sup>th</sup> Reunion class gift project with which we hope all will be pleased. Our Vice President, **Sean Coffey**, has taken the lead and is working hard to put together a balanced package that supports both the Superintendent's priorities and puts an emphasis on developing the leadership qualities our Navy needs from our graduating Mids. More specifics will be coming out in the future both in this column and the website. Please note that if you are in the area during football season be sure and stop by our tailgate spot. We will be there! Same place as always along Taylor Blvd at the back of the Gold side parking lot. The stadium looks great. The team looks great, and we are ready! BEAT Duke!

**Glen Wheless** [wheels@vrco.com] continues with the entrepreneur's constant struggle between billable hours and overhead with his company, VRCO (website is [www.vrco.com](http://www.vrco.com)). VRCO is a small business focusing on advanced visualization for the visual simulation and decision support areas. He's also set up a Service Disabled Veteran Owned Business as a sister firm of VRCO. This was, as he put it, “so he can take advantage of that set aside good deal”. Wheels said being a small business owner is “great but damn, it's a lot of work!” So he went off to the bushes for the hidden golf orbs. **Ed Reid** paid him a visit a short while ago. Eddie was in town doing some sort of damage control for his new job with Siebel. Apparently they were supposed to do a Navy-wide install of some CRM software that has been totally boogered up – so Ed was playing fixer-upper. Glen doesn't envy his life right now!! Having been in that same situation many times before myself, I

don't envy Ed either. Of course when you succeed there is a great sense of accomplishment, but it's a pain in the tail along the way! But there is a side benefit in that he gets to see his twin nieces who are "haze gray and underway" types. During his visit, Ed and Glen were able to share a few (well, more than a few) drinks with **Glenn Flanagan** at Oceana. Wheels said that now that Glenn is no longer "Mr. Monterrey" he has time for that laid back approach to life. .

**Tim Stark** (timothy.stark@usmc.mil) attended Blue and Gold Officer training at the Academy this summer. While there, he and **Bob Gulley** actually got up and "did" PEP with the class of 2008. He sent along a pic of them standing on the "Turf" Field.



*Good Morning '78!*

Tim said that "doing" PEP was relative, as the activities were optional for "us old guys". At least they were awake at that time of day and showed support for the class of "aught eight." Bob's daughter is there as a Plebe and doing well. Tim left updates on her to Bob. He also said that being a Blue & Gold Officer is a very rewarding way to give back to the old Alma Mater. I echo that comment and encourage you guys to participate on the Program.

Got a "flag spotting" from fellow coxswain, **Jill Votaw** ('80). She spotted RDML (Sel) **Mark "Benz" Boensel**, wandering around San Diego. He was there as part of his site visit whirl-wind tour of environmental programs in Navy Region SW. It's all part of his new job as CNO N-45 (Director, Environmental Readiness Division). In July I spotted **Bill Timme** on very late night Connecticut Public Television. It wasn't "Bill's World" — with his plethora of e-mail jokes he probably could have such a show. He was on as part of an industry day that Sen. Dodd had sponsored at General Dynamics. As head "undersea guy" Bill presented on the state of Navy submarine programs. Well, that's as much as I gathered. I was still a little groggy from falling asleep on the couch while watching TV (That happens a lot in our older age).

Sorry I didn't stay for your whole pitch, Bill, — a softer bed beckoned me.

Last notes— Julie and **Rand Lebouvier** are now in Newport. **Steve Sutton** is now Chief of Staff for Congressman John Klein from Minnesota. I'm at the limits— **Launchin' Spot 4!**

**79** ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP: 0%  
LIFE MEMBERSHIP: 89%

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Greetings, 79!

Hello once again from the "Land of Pleasant Living" on the shores of the Chesapeake Bay. You've heard me say it before, but I think fall is a great time of year. Changing of the leaves, NFL football, crisp nights, college football, comfortable days, more football, golf... Yep, it's a great time of year (did I mention football?).

One of the few things I remember from my Plebe Year theme-writing class (I think this column proves that I don't remember much!) is that it's usually not good to start with an apology. However, in this case one (actually several) is warranted. Some months back, I was in a rather unusual position in that I as Class Scribe actually had more material submitted by classmates than I had publishing space. So I printed what I could, and held the remainder over for the following month. Only problem was (and here's where the apology comes in) that the following month, I didn't go back to that file. Indeed, several months had passed before I opened that file, and I realized that I had some stuff held back for quite some time.

And so I want to apologize to those of you who wrote me back in the late spring, and are wondering why I have not mentioned you in this column. I assure you, the fault is all mine. You all turn to these pages to get the latest gouge on our classmates, not ancient history. I'm going to print the items anyway, for even though some may be a bit dated, the info is important nonetheless. Please rest assured that I have taken steps to preclude that from happening again. You all can

help me test my system by sending all of your reunion gouge — I'm looking forward to the deluge!

OK, let's get started with the good stuff. First up is an update from **Pete Parsons** (peter.s.parsons@boeing.com):

■ **Wiz**, First of all: Great work on the column. Your ability to make an input for '79 each month is incredible. We should DOUBLE your pay!!!

The happy news I'd like to share with you is that I got married earlier this month (April) to the former Leanore Logiovino. We met a couple of years ago and have been engaged since last summer. We took a week's cruise in the Caribbean after the ceremony. It was the first time I've been on a ship that wasn't painted gray and wasn't full of men! We had a great time and we'll cruise again when we can find the time.

Hopefully my next assignment with The Boeing Company will soon be determined (I finished up working on Chinook Programs in Philly last summer and have been working on a missile system proposal for the last 10 months) so Leanore and I can consolidate our households under one roof — and that roof be located in the same city as our jobs! Leanore has worked for the US Government for 25 years — mostly in Army Aviation. So she's been around a lot of Academy grads — all from the wrong Academy!!

We are looking forward to the Class of '79 25th Reunion. We've hooked up with Debbie and **Nat Green** and Jean and **Dave Krueger** from First Company to get the momentum going. I just finished registering for the event, the football tickets are on order, and the hotel room reserved — all that remains is airline reservations (hard to do when I don't know where our journey will start from) and locking in balmy weather for the weekend (I certainly have no influence in that department). Thanks! Pete Parsons '79 ■

Well congratulations, Pete! Thanks for letting us know — and I'm sorry it took so long to get this into print (you're almost half way to your first anniversary by now!). And I really appreciate the pay increase! Thanks for the kind words.

Another email that falls into the same "better late than never" category is