

reconnected after all these years for a special visit to Hawaii. Bill, who had been the Best Man at Rob and Betsy's wedding, graciously invited them to celebrate a belated 25th anniversary in Hawaii. Bill and his wife, Ellen, opened up their home in Oahu and a time share credit on Kauai in mid-February, which was a great time for Rob and Betsy to leave Detroit. They spent a week in Kauai and had a wonderful time. Rob and Betsy then went on to the Big Island for another week, again taking advantage of a wonderful time share.

Bill, who retired a while ago from active duty, left private IT consulting to go full time with Microsoft to support a number of Air Force programs. He has a very cool (no literally, it's cold) mini data center at his house. He and Ellen live in Honolulu and overlook Pearl Harbor. They were in California this year for their oldest daughter's college graduation. One of Bill's claims-to-fame was a two-week trip to the Philmont Scout ranch with his son last summer. Apparently he was able to keep up the all those scouts!

When not vacationing with generous old roommates, Rob and Betsy live in Troy, MI. Rob is still with Proctor & Gamble, but is now off the Kmart account and is in Sales Training. All three of their daughters are in college at the same time now, which explains their new-found appreciation for low cost, but wonderful, vacations!



Rob Wilson and Bill Stiles on the bow of a catamaran off the Napali coast. "What do you expect when you ask a bubble head and an airdale to station the special sea and anchor detail?"



Former USNA Roommates celebrate a 25th Wedding Anniversary in Hawaii (L-R): Ellen Stiles, Betsy Wilson, Rob Wilson, and Bill Stiles

Class Communication

No news in the communication area; maybe someone with some good class communication ideas will think of something good to include in next month's column.

Closing Remarks

Nothing more to say except that Michelle and I are just waiting for Baby Sanderson #2, who should arrive any minute now. I hope to have something more tangible that I can publish next month, since I know that every one of you is sitting on the edge of your seat in anticipation of our newest arrival. Hope you have a great month and I'll see you in September! Go Navy!—**Bob Sanderson**

78 ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP: 1%
LIFE MEMBERSHIP: 75%

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Congratulations to **Kim Trundy Elliot** [kaecolorado@yahoo.com]. After 23+ years, she remarried. On March 25, she wed Rod Elliott in Colorado Springs, CO. Rod served in the Navy during Viet Nam—so even in that Army/Air Force city, she managed to find "a bit of Navy". They'll continue to live in Colorado Springs.. Kim and **Dave Trundy's** daughter, Elizabeth Marie Trundy graduated this year from the University of Colorado at Colorado Springs with a degree in English Literature with an emphasis in Writing. (I could use her help!) We wish Kim and Rod all the happiness in the world. You're always a part of the '78 family!



USNA 78 at Ft Meyer

The Washington DC area gang's April luncheon was at the Ft. Myer O'Club. It was jointly held with our plebes from '81. **Mark Fox** was the guest speaker. **Fred Butterfield** reported that Mark captivated the audience with his extemporaneous talk (a skill he probably has honed during this White House tour).

Fred said Mark also kept them cooled with the air flow generated by his aviator hand movements, as the below picture will attest.

Also attending from '78 were **Glen Woods, Pete Flynn, Kevin McGhee, Mark, Jay DeLoach, Eddie Reid, Tom Abernathy, Tim Arcano, Vance Berry, Michael Johnston, and Kurt Tidd.**



Mark Fox

I trust that **Rich Anderson** has long since been reunited with his class ring. This spring, after the USNA-Lehigh lax game, someone at Lehigh U found a '78 class ring inscribed as belonging to Richard Dale Anderson. They contacted our webmaster, **Rob Cloutier**. Thanks to many of you who helped Rob track down Rich. In the last column **Cecil Haney** promised a photo of the '78 Navy flags who attended the Flag Symposium at the Academy. I hope the picture quality is adequate enough to make *Shipmate* print standards. If not, no matter, I'll also have Rob posting it on the website. I'll send a prize to the first one to e-mail me with the correct names of all the guys in the photo - in order. By the way, congrats also go out to **Jeff Fowler** and **Mel Williams** on their nominations for their second star. **Paul Russo** updated that **Clark Orzalli** is now on the East Coast. He's on the CNO staff as Deputy Director, Fleet Readiness Division (OPNAV N43B). (Hey look, I've already given you some gouge toward that prize!) As for Paul, he's slugging it out as a Ship/Submarine Readiness Programming Analyst in N431G in the Pentagon until retirement next year.~

After a year "hiatus" with L3, **Alex Dimitrew** is back working for Lockheed Martin. He's at our Manassas, VA site. On June 9th, **Dave "Duncan" Heinz** transferred command of his AV-8B Program Office and was frocked to Brigadier General. Duncan will be joining the NMCC duty crew for a while until a longer term assignment is given (probably to an acquisition commands).

Kudos to Leslie and **Scott Provow** for sponsoring one of the Tailhook Foundation's many scholarships, specifically, the *Leslie and Scott Provow Scholarship*. In searching for potential sources to "augment" the future cost of college, **Matt Elias** and his junior-in-high-school

daughter, Sarah, were looking at the Tailhook scholarships. That's where they spotted the great write-up. Check it out at <http://tailhook.net/FndSch04.pdf>. It's the only other scholarship sponsored by a classmate for college, besides the one **Rich Polek** has for, I think, physical therapy majors at Wisconsin. Thanks, Matt for the pickup; and Bravo Zulu to these great benefactors from '78!



Time Sprague and Rich Polek

Speaking of **Rich Polek**, he reported that "Captain **Tim Sprague, USN**" stopped in Richmond to meet him. Tim was driving from the Pentagon to his home in Virginia Beach. Though Friday the 13th of May, Rich said there were no black cats or bad luck evident. Tim, who was dressed in khakis, observed that he knew he was far enough away from the Pentagon, when a customer in the restaurant asked him, "How's it going *Colonel?*" Tim and Rich met in 31st Company, where Tim lived for one of his years in Bancroft Hall. They'd not seen each other since midshipmen days and that for the brief time they visited they had a great time of memories accompanied by ear-to-ear smiles.

Sunday, Memorial Day eve, (Chef Ann and **Mark Nault** were joined for a group dinner on the patio of their *Taste* restaurant by Joanne and **Shawn Tallant**, Barbara and **John Cohoon**, Elizabeth and **Jim Jones**, Dianne and **John Weidner**, and **Clark Orzalli**. **Ken Eckman** also stopped by for a few minutes on his way back to Delaware after visiting USNA with his 12 year old son Shawn. Mark also forwarded news of Shawn Tallant's retirement. On 15 July, at 1300 at Ely Hall/Breezy Point at NOB, Norfolk, Shawn becomes as he said "another member of 16th Company who makes the walk towards the civilian light - there he too shall learn to color coordinate clothes each work day (and you wondered why I stayed in uniform so long!). Leaving only a couple of us standing tall!"



78's Navy Flag Os

Welcome to the "Club", Shawn and best of luck!

Jim Carr's ship, USS Anzio (CG 68), was this year's recipient of the Battenberg Cup Award. It's presented annually to the ship or submarine in the Atlantic Fleet that is deemed the best all-around ship in the fleet, based on accumulation of crew achievements. I say some credit goes to Jim's outstanding leadership, but he would be the first to emphasize selection is based on "CREW ACCOMPLISHMENTS" and that "credit goes entirely to the proud Sailors wearing ANZIO ball caps." As for his part, he'd say, "every dog gets his day. Right place at the right time!" I know these quotes, 'cuz that's what Jim wrote me when I tried to heap e-mail praise on him. (Which I contend proves my point.). But CO fun is over for Jim. He was headed to the Pentagon. His good news (he guessed) was assignment in the E Ring. The bad news, it's N70F in the basement of the E-ring (the deepest darkest salt mine **Dan Holloway** could find for him)! Good luck, Jim. If I get to the bowels of the Pentagon, I'll bring you a loaf of bread and some water.

I end this column asking for your prayers and words of encouragement for our classmate and friend, **Craig Cowen**. As this goes to print Craig is just starting what we hope will be a curing treatment of Temador and radiation for a brain tumor. **Dave Surgent** reported that at the end of May, Craig had a series of seizures one morning while driving his six year old daughter Meghan to school. Between the seizures and the ensuing accident, Craig's condition was quite serious. Resilient Meghan came out of the vehicle flip just fine. In Allegheny General Hospital, Pittsburgh, he was evaluated from every angle, and eventually regained consciousness. Unfortunately, the MRI results uncovered, and the biopsy confirmed, a large brain tumor. The tumor is in the hippocampus, in the left middle part of his brain. This is an area

central to "understanding and speech and memory are two of the main things affected. It is a glioblastoma, and because of the location, is inoperable. Over the course of weeks there's been more positive, hopeful word on the history and promise of his course of treatment. Craig has had his ups and downs but prayers to date have contributed to more of the former than the latter. On the positive side, Craig is still pretty sharp in terms of understanding financial stuff, business issues, and according to Lisa, you almost wouldn't notice the "tumor effects" if you didn't know he had it. He does have to work harder and it takes longer to think some through things, like doing his payroll today. All things considered, Lisa sees his ability to do this kind of work at all as a miracle, and is thankful for the prayers that are definitely keeping him going! Life certainly has changed for the Cowens. Craig and his family lived in Annapolis while he was assigned to what is now MDA (Missile Defense Agency). He then became the Director of Navy Sailing at USNA. On his retirement from active duty in 1998, Dave hired Craig as a Financial Advisor with First Command Financial Planning. He served as a registered representative in Annapolis and within two years was promoted to a District Manager position. A few years ago, they moved to western Pennsylvania where he now serves over 1800 clients for our firm. His wife of 21 years, Lisa Weber, is a computer scientist working for Oracle, and her current position causes her to be on the road in Toronto working issues for Hudson Bay Manufacturing. Rachel (17) graduated this year and will commence her studies at Virginia Tech this fall as an architecture major. Brian (14) is an active teenager who enjoys hockey, lacrosse, and golf. Their Navy "retirement gift", Meghan (6), immediately captures your heart when you meet her. Thanks to **Dave Surgent** and Craig's bride, Lisa, for keeping us

informed. So classmates, light those candles, and send encouraging cards, letters and e-mails to Craig and his family. You can reach them at chcwen@firstcommand.com (Craig), or to Lisa at lisa_e_weber@hotmail.com. Their address is 4101 Fairway Drive, Gibsonia, PA 15044. Let's repeat with Craig the same miracle of love and support that our class has performed for many other '78 family members in their time of need.

Launchin' Spot Four.

79 ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP: 0%
LIFE MEMBERSHIP: 90%

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Greetings, 79! Normally I begin with a section of fun and frivolity to "set the mood". But this month I have so much stuff that, to the dismay of many, I am forced to forgo my usual witty opening banter. Let's get to it!

Checking in to start this month is **Allan Kuong** (akuong@pol.net) from "Upper-Upper New England":

■ Hi Wiz, just an update for Shipmate. I recently was inducted as a Fellow in the American College of Emergency Physicians and am currently an emergency medicine attending physician at Mid Coast Hospital in Brunswick, Maine.

Since Brunswick Naval Air Station is in town, I still get to treat active duty navy and dependents like I did when I was a GMO at the air station branch medical clinic. I also have monthly get-togethers with **Mike Weiss** who also lives in town. Mike is currently a high school teacher at Yarmouth High School, Maine. Take care and Omnes Viri, Allan Kuong, DO, FACEP ■

Congratulations on a truly significant accomplishment, Allan!

Not too long after the last issue went to press, The Piedmont Club in Haymarket, VA played host to the Second Annual DC Area Service Academy Class of 1979 Golf Tournament (whew!). **Rick Hyde USMA '79** reports that **Dale Nees** and three Woops beat out a four-some which included **Tom "T.P." Phelan** and **Rich O'Donnell** by the narrowest of margins – a tiebreaker. **Steve Smith** won the longest drive competition. A total of 16 Navy types joined up with 24 Pointers and three

Zoomies – all Class of 1979 – for a highly successful tournament, and plans are already underway for next year. Other classmates playing included Scott Gray, Ken Kropkowski, Bob Buttrick, Scott Bruce, Steve Brooks, Skip Larsen, Andy Adamshick, Sean Cate, Brad Zell, Fred Gerheiser and Bob Huddleston. This was most likely the biggest gathering of 79ers since last year's reunion.

Rick also passed that when all the tournament bills were paid, there was about \$800 left over (some Army accounting method, perhaps?). Anyway, the group unanimously voted to donate the proceeds to the Fisher House, an organization that provides "a home away from home" to military family members that that enables them to be close to a loved one at the most stressful time — during hospitalization for an illness, disease or injury. Once again, a class act by representatives from the Collective Class of 1979. If any of you out there would like to participate in the next event, drop an email to the Navy POC **Kirk Michealson** (kmichealson@earthlink.net). There's some discussion about having a second "unofficial" tourney in the fall – stay tuned to this column and the class web site for further details as they develop.



Defense Secretary Rumsfeld and Steve "Coolie" Voetsch



l-r: ADM "Timbo" Keating '71 (CO NORAD), Homeland Security Chief Tom Ridge, Steve Voetsch

Everyone remember that "giant" flag announcement that I reported last month? Well, right after I sent that column to Alumni House, I received a great note from Libby Voetsch, the very proud wife

of flag selectee **Steve "Coolie" Voetsch**. Steve is wrapping up his tour at NorthCom in Colorado, and by now should have arrived at Pearl Harbor, HI. Steve is/will be the new Operations Officer for PacFlt. The family will be residing at 33 Makalapa Dr, Pearl Harbor, HI 96860-3131. In her gracious note, Libby also included were two great "action photos" of Steve with notable figures at Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld and former Homeland Security Chief Tom Ridge. Thank you, Libby, for your note and the photos. Congratulations again to you both, and best of luck in Hawaii!

Also arriving in this month's "snail mail bag" was a card from class stargazer **Alan Whiting**, who reports that he expects to leave Chile's Cerro Tololo Observatory in September. At the time of this writing he did not know where he was heading next, but he had applications to openings in seven different countries, but didn't list what they were. I imagine he will let me know where he eventually ends up. Alan mailed the letter as he was heading back home from a visit to Crabtown. He participated in the second Midshipman-Alumni Fencing Meet back in May. Although he "duly went down in glorious defeat against National Champions," he happily reports that the Navy Fencing Club is growing and doing more all the time. (Now if we can just get their varsity status back...)

Alan sent along a few photos from the 25th Reunion, including one of the 1979 "D&B'ers". Missing from the photo was **Dan Hammill**, who "came down with something that weekend, spending the reunion in the Emergency Room." Alan later visited him in San Diego, and passes that Dan works as a tester for Nokia. Also included was a photo of **Frank Dombrowski** with Cheryl and **Felix Hernandez**. Frank, Felix and Alan were running mates at SWOS during the summer of 1979. Alan included a third photo with the admonition, "you are directed and required to publish in *Shipmate*." I do it with great caution, and only on direction. If it doesn't appear, you know the censors at Ogle Hall (isn't that a great name for Alumni House?) deemed it inappropriate for these pages. Alan closed with the comment that there may be a 26th Reunion of 26th Company sometime this year – now THAT should prove really interesting! Thanks a lot, Alan, for taking time away from your telescope to say hi.