



*'77 Classmates and spouses at George and Monique's Wedding: (Back Row, L-R): George Herning, Bill Daniels, John Read, John Geary, and Kathy Geary; (Front Row, L-R): Monique Herning, Carla Daniels, and Janet Read.*

Paul Croisetiere (croiseti@earthlink.net), Zachary "Bo" Henry (zhenryjr@earthlink.net), David Wade (davidswade2002@yahoo.com), and Dane Swanson were in attendance on 15 November 2004 when VADM Wally Massenburg promoted Mark Skinner to RADM, and Paul provided the following photographic evidence of the event. Congratulations again to Mark!



*VADM Wally Massenburg adding another star to the Class of '77 courtesy of Mark Skinner*



*'77 Attendees at Mark Skinner's Promotion (L-R): Bo Henry, Paul Croisetiere, RADM Mark Skinner, David Wade and Dane Swanson*

#### Class Communication

Here are two photos from recent Navy home games. The first is the collection of classmates who stayed to the bitter end of the Navy-Rice Game, including Owen Thorp (thorp@usna.edu), Lee Geanuleas (Ljgeanuleas@aol.com),

Rick White (rick.white@1977.usna.com), yours truly, Bob Vogel (robert.vogel@1977.usna.com), Victor M. "Corky" Gardner III (corky.gardner@1977.usna.com), Dave Frederick (david.frederick@sbcglobal.net), and Richard "Tug" McGraw (mcgrawjrr@saic.com). And the second is a shot of 31<sup>st</sup> Company-mates Bob Vogel, Pete Varsanyi '76, and me in front of the '77 Crest and Plaque on the concourse level at the north end of Navy-Marine Corps Memorial Stadium. You should make an effort to check it out at our next home game.



*'77 Class Balloon (L-R): Owen Thorp, Lee Geanuleas, Rick White, Bob Sanderson, Bob Vogel, Victor M. "Corky" Gardner III, Dave Frederick, and "Tug" McGraw*



*'77 Crest and Plaque at Navy-Marine Corps Stadium (L-R): Bob Vogel, Pete Varsanyi, and Bob Sanderson*

#### Closing Remarks

Even with the column-length limitations, you can be sure that there will always be room for . . . Go Navy! See you next month!—**Bob Sanderson**

Are you on active duty?  
Send us your  
Sea Stories.  
Please email them to  
seastories@usna.com

**SEA  
STORIES**

**78**

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP: 2%  
LIFE MEMBERSHIP: 76%

PRES: Glen Woods

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Katie and Jeff Fowler (fowlerj@cnrc.navy.mil) went "tech" this year and e-mailed their annual Christmas newsletter. Here's what I gathered: In charge of all active and reserve Navy recruiting, Jeff's tallied been a travel agents dream—71 trips in 69 weeks. In between substitute teaching, local Millington spouses club, swimming at the Y and coordinating all the kids' activities, she's still managed to accompany Jeff on a few trips. It looks like Jeff may stay in the job for a while longer. As for their kids: Brittany (17) is a junior in high school at Millington Central High School. She's a varsity cheerleader and hopes to someday be a veterinarian. Lynsee (15) is a freshman and also a cheerleader for the freshman team. By now she's gotten her driver's permit. For Jeff that means a much bigger USAA insurance bill despite he and Brittany, being good students and probably good drivers. As for Connor (11), he's an active 5<sup>th</sup> grader—shortstop, soccer player. Now Connor's getting better with the "skins", aided by drum lessons from some of the best at the origin of Rock and Roll and the Blues in Memphis. He may be a budding Keith Moon, John Bonham, or Buddy Rich. In the meantime, sounding proofing and ear plugs might be good stocking stuffers for the parental units.

Andy Funke sent in his second submission in 26 years to belatedly announce his retirement from the US Public Health Service (to his knowledge, he was the only USNA grad in the PHS). It happened last year on April 1<sup>st</sup> (Are you sure it's valid?—April Fools!) He had transferred from the Navy to USPHS in 1987 while in medical school after he had asked a PHS Captain what the PHS was all about. His reply, "All the benefits of the Navy without the hassle" seem perfect for Andy. He said he certainly had no complaints about his career. He went from 6 PCS moves in his first 6 years in the Navy to 3 PCS moves in 17 years with the PHS. Two years ago he transferred to Panama City, FL to develop and

run an indigent medical clinic for underserved people in the area. He was also a member of the DHHS "Ready Responder" program—a contingent of medical personnel trained in bio-chem-nuke warfare ready to provide a rapid medical response to terrorist attacks. While in Panama City, he hooked up with the CO of the Navy base, our own **Fred Shutt**. Fred attended Andy's retirement ceremony. The family is back in Abbeville, SC, where Andy had previously been stationed for a "number of years." Back then, Andy thought the PHS had forgotten about him—but if he learned one thing at USNA, it was to not make waves if the sailing was smooth—hence, the long assignment. I think the Funke boys may be some sort of record for most siblings at USNA—aside from Andy there were **Bill '73, Chris '71, and Alex '80**. Then there's the black sheep of the lot (there's one in every family)—Carl. He's a '70 grad from that trade school on the Hudson. In closing, Andy reported that, by the grace of God, Debbie is doing well with her fight with breast cancer. She was diagnosed just before he retired. He says they have learned much, been blessed more, and cherish each day that God gives them. We all send our prayers and best wishes for a full recovery and a long retirement together. Don't be another 26 year stranger, Andy.



*Fred and Andy on Retirement Day*



*Funke Brothers—Navy versus Army*

Gleaning some 36<sup>th</sup> Company news from "Doc" **Jim Pointer's** [jamespointer@hotmail.com]—**Duane Schoon** watched the Army-Navy game at his apartment, from which he and Kelly were to have moved into their new house in mid-December. Janis and **Mark Strasser** hosted a friend who graduated from West Point. Ever the gracious host, Mark treated his visitor to a recording of "Anchors Aweigh" every time Navy scored. Jan said Mark had the whole place properly decorated for the occasion, with Navy towels, throws, flags, and even Navy glasses. While the pilot union's 15% pay cut concession took a bite out of the take home pay, he's grateful to still be flying for Northwest. **Paul** (aka R-O-2-S) **Ross'** and many of his fellow workers at US Air didn't fare as well. He was among the victims of that airline's bankruptcy and cutbacks last year. Now he is one of only five senior Duty Watch Officers (or some such) at the Transportation Security Authority's national headquarters. He says it is a lot like being back in the military, with lots of standing watch while nothing much happens most of the time—but you better be ready to act quickly if anything does. Later this year, when he turns over command of his Norfolk reserve unit, Paul plans to retire. The "Cinnaminson, NJ kid", **Bob Engel** had the BEST seat for the game. He was on a 40 yard line seat. He said the President was going to have to pass by him during the halftime crossover. By now, **Kurt Tidd** should be home with Eileen in Annapolis. His orders have him working at the National Security Council. While he's not at the West Wing, he is next door in the Old Executive Office Building. He'll be working war on terrorism issues, so it looks like it's out of the frying pan and into the fire! Thanks for the company update, Jim.

**Jeff "Goose" Gagne** [gagne\_jeff@hotmail.com] has been settled in the Detroit area now for 10 years. He said he's been "playing computer geek / team lead" for auto supplier, Visteon. Visteon is a group of auto component plants that were part of Ford up until 1999. He and Pam have three daughters, 21, 18 and 10. The 1st one is a senior in a small college in Wisconsin and the 2nd is a freshman in a small college in Clearwater. She's also in AFROTC. Goose says AFROTC

shouldn't be too bad, as the Air Force isn't really the military or anything. That leaves them with one in the household—a fifth grader. **Ray Luevano** (ray@luevano.com) said the Emerald Bowl was a great game. He said **Sean Coffey** hosted a pregame reception in his suite and that it was great to see some old timers — **John Sturges, Pat McCormick, Glen Woods, Eddie Reid, Schmerm**, etc. I also heard that **Steve "Jock" Maloney, Terry O'Brien, Joe Martin, Kevin "Grinch" Lynch** and **John Semcken** were among those in attendance (not to mention Academy Officials, **Brice Latta**, and I'm sure, **Joe Leidig**). I didn't hear if **Cindy** and **Reny Pili** made it and linked up with **Mike Sears**.



*A toast to Navy at the Emerald Bowl*



*'78 and guests pre-game at Emerald Bowl*

**Roger "Kappy" Kaplan** (Roger.Kaplan@navy.mil) reported in. He accepted a position in the PMA-282 program office and started work job on 10 Jan 2005. Guess that means he'll be the scientist supporting **Bob Novak** and his Tomahawk team. Thirteenth Company's **Mike Shumaker** is a Senior Technical Director with Anteon Corp. He supports maritime homeland security efforts at US Coast Guard Headquarters (CGHQ) next door to Ft. McNair, in Washington, DC. In December, Secretary Ridge presented Mike's team with a Department of Homeland Security Team Award for

smoothly implementing the Maritime Transportation Security Act. In January, Mike was named Anteon's Center for Security Strategies and Operations employee of the month. Twenty-eight months of working with the Coast Guard in the Office of Defense Policy (G-OPD) has Mike speaking fluent Coastie. He explains that, for a Navy officer, it's sort of like an American talking to a Canadian. You can understand about 90% of what is said. It's an interesting organization—no staff corps, lawyers are line officers and can command a cutter, cutters have deck and engineering officers like the Royal Navy, a few cutter-types will remind you of the worst "we eat our young" SWO, while their pilots are just like Navy airdales. The biggest difference is that the Coast Guard Commandant performs the same functions as the CNO, but is still the senior operational commander.

With all this month's photos I'm running out of my word limit. In closing, save June 15<sup>th</sup> on your calendar. That's the time for this year's Alex Callas' 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Golf Day for MDA at Andrews AFB. Go up on our class website for more info as well as the tournament site at [www.golfdayformda.com](http://www.golfdayformda.com). I'll have more in next month's column as well as additional info from some Christmas newsletters.

#### Gotta roll—Launchin' Spot 4.

**79** ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP: 0%  
LIFE MEMBERSHIP: 90%

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Greetings, 79!

As you all know, one of our five basic responses is "No Excuse, Sir!" (*Sidebar: did you know that our Brethren on the Hudson actually have a sixth response? "Sir, I do not know" is an acceptable answer. Thanks to Wes Kimata USMA '80 for that trivia item.*) So rather than make excuses, I'll just tell you that I procrastinated in drafting this column. Now, confronted with an upcoming week-long trip to Toronto and a fast-approaching deadline, I realize I've waited just a bit too long. So rather than

intersperse this month's chronicle with my usual witty repartee and sea stories (*cue the applause, fireworks and wild shouts of glee*), I now present the first (and hopefully only) installment of:

#### ■ '79 Headline News

Dateline Baghdad: **Steve Walsh** ([Steven.Walsh@CPA-IQ.ORG](mailto:Steven.Walsh@CPA-IQ.ORG)) emailed me recently and passed the following:

Wiz: here is a photo of CAPT **Rob Wray** and myself here in Baghdad getting some range time with the AK-47 and M-4 carbine. Rob is a reservist assigned to the Program and Contracting office of security here at the US Embassy in the international aka "green" zone. He was drilling with a reserve unit at the Pentagon when asked to come back on active duty for a quick six months. I, on the other hand, was working with AES, the global power company (run by **Paul Hanrahan**, another 79 classmate) as the country manager in Bogota, Colombia of 3 AES power stations when I was recalled to the colors from the retired list (I retired in 1999 from the Joint Staff in Washington after 20 years and have been with AES ever since). I run the electricity program here for the Program and Contracting office. We handle most of the new construction and rebuilds of the power sector here, some \$5 billion of your tax dollars. Also over here is Col **John Ballard** USMCR, my roommate from 12<sup>th</sup> company, who is the CO of the 4<sup>th</sup> CAG, assigned to the I MEF here. Another 79er arrived here last week: **Kyle Kaker** from 6<sup>th</sup> company. He is a Navy commander working in the NATO liaison office here in Baghdad. 79ers are soon taking over this place! O/V, Steve Walsh, LtCol USMC (Ret, sometimes), 12<sup>th</sup> Co ■



79 Det Baghdad: Rob Wray and Steve Walsh  
"Armed and Dangerous"

In a related story, I reported last month about **Dan Lyons** ([nosurfhere@hotmail.com](mailto:nosurfhere@hotmail.com)) and his "close encounter" with a spent bullet in Baghdad. With a subject line of "Safely Home", Dan emailed this month with the following news:

■ I returned home to my family on Friday, 17 December here in Annapolis. It has been great to decompress and to start getting back to normal. I have been truly blessed to have so many pray for my family and me during my deployment. Please remember to pray for those still serving as well as the Iraqi people that peace and stability will come to their land. I will write more once I have unpacked. Dan ■

In yet more Navy news, the Navy Chief of Information website ([www.navy.mil](http://www.navy.mil)) recently ran a photo of CAPT **Jim Gigliotti** on its front page. Jim, the CO of the aircraft carrier HARRY S. TRUMAN, was helping to serve dinner to the crew during the Christmas celebration on the aft mess decks. The photo can be found on the class web site, [www.usna79.com](http://www.usna79.com).

On the national front, **Chad Sain** ([chadsain@cox.net](mailto:chadsain@cox.net)) checked in from Virginia Beach to let me know that he is scheduled to retire from active duty on 1 June 2005. He plans to be on terminal leave before that, and says he hopes to be employed somewhere as early as 31 March. Chad attached a photo from the 25<sup>th</sup> Reunion, which included fellow 21<sup>st</sup> Co. classmates **Tom Arenz** (New York City) and **Mike Mowins** (Carlsbad, CA). The photo's resolution precluded printing it here, but it is posted in the 25<sup>th</sup> Reunion gallery on the class web site.

Also from Virginia Beach, **Kirk Michealson** ([kmichealson@earthlink.net](mailto:kmichealson@earthlink.net)) checked in with the following report:

■ (On New Year's Day)... I took my first "Polar Bear Plunge" — may be my last! Yes it was about 40-50 degrees here, but that water was cold. It was still warming up from the 10 inches of snow & ice we received the day after Christmas. Our subdivision does it in their swimming pool. You go down the 100 foot circular slide and splash into the water. I flew down the slide and WOW! I'm glad an