

Speaking of New Orleans, the wide-reaching effects of the devastating Hurricane Katrina have been felt by members of our Class. I've received news that **Byron Iverson** and his family safely evacuated from his house in New Orleans to his sister's house in Edmond, Oklahoma. As **Kevin Stone** mentioned in a recent Class email, we as a Class are here to help in anyway possible and if anyone out there is still struggling with the aftermath of Katrina, don't hesitate to contact either Kevin or myself and we will get the word out for assistance. This applies to any hardship – as Kevin stated, "Lend a hand to a classmate in need and, if you are in need, please ask." [As I write this column, Hurricane Rita has entered into the gulf and is now a Category 4 storm that threatens, once again, the gulf-states and is headed directly for Houston.]

On August 28<sup>th</sup>, two of our Classmates, **Steve "Gorgo" Giorgis** and myself, participated in the 3rd Annual "Old Goats" Naval Academy Alumni Run. This was a "race within a race" since it was run in conjunction with the Annapolis Ten Mile Run. I am proud to report that Gorgo won! Here are the details as reported by **Gordon Peterson '68**:

■ Led by veteran Navy runner **Steve Giorgis '76**, 125 Naval Academy alumni finished the 30th annual Annapolis 10-Mile Run sponsored by the Annapolis Striders on Sunday, Aug. 28. Giorgis, of Herndon, Va., clocked a time of 1:01:36.35 to win the Striders' Cdr. **Willie McCool '83** award as the first Naval Academy alumnus to finish. He also won "Fastest Old Goat" honors in the informal "Old Goats Run" held again this year for Naval Academy alumni graduating in 1985 or earlier. ■



*The 'Old Goat' Gorgo finishing first (photo courtesy of Don Mulligan)*



*Fastest Old Goat with his 1<sup>st</sup> place award*

Way to go, Gorgo! (I won't report my time in the event – I'm just glad I finished!)

Congratulations to our Classmates who have legacies in the Class of 2009:

Son/daughter 2009 (Father, 1976)

Conrad Bickings (John Bickings)  
James Brown (John Brown)  
Margaret Gardner (Tommy Gardner)  
Benjamin Opel (Craig Opel)

A frequent contributor to the Class column, **Tim Farrell**, provided more news from his side of the world:

■ During the week of July 10-14 I completed Blue & Gold Officer training at USNA. Classmates in my group were **William "Duke" Brown**, 12th Company and **Scott Goodson**, 34th Company. We stayed in Bancroft Hall, which is now air-conditioned, ate in King Hall, and even woke up early to participate in PEP with 2009. Heinz Lenz's replacement has a British accent.

Duke retired from the Navy Chaplain Corps and is now a Minister in Ventura, CA. Scott is NJROTC Instructor at Loudon High School in Tennessee.

On July 30 my fellow 27th Company classmates **Jim Grayson**, **John Lovasz**, **Jerry Willett**, and I were guests at a cookout hosted by Jerry's brother, Sam (**Charles Willett '79**) and his wife Kathy.

Jim is a middle school Assistant Principal in Fredericksburg, VA. John is Director, US Government Business Development, Rolls-Royce Naval Marine Inc. and lives in Round Hill, VA. Jerry is with Pomeroy IT Solutions and lives in Cincinnati, OH. I teach at Cardinal O'Hara High School in Springfield, PA and live in West Chester, PA. ■



*Duke Brown, Scott Goodson, and Tim Farrell at Blue & Gold Officer Training*



*Tim Farrell, John Lovasz, Jim Grayson, and Jerry Willett at "BroFest"*

That just about does it for me. On behalf of our Class, our thoughts and prayers go out to those who have suffered from the effects of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

**77** ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP: 5%  
LIFE MEMBERSHIP: 67%

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**78** ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP: 1%  
LIFE MEMBERSHIP: 75%

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Our class Treasure, **Kevin Liddy**, has a new job at IBM. After 8 years of being an economist for IBM, he's taken a new position as a venture capital investment specialist. He'll still be working at their headquarters in Armonk. Kevin is running for office again. He'll be the Republican candidate for Planning and Zoning Board for the 5<sup>th</sup> District (Milford, CT). He had the seat a few years back and when his term was up he was appointed to their Wetlands commission. Now he's coming full circle. The betting money is that he'll win the seat. Good luck, Mr. Commissioner!



*Scott Provw and family*

Leslie and **Scott Provw** live on Grayton Beach...halfway between Destin and Panama City, Florida. Scott recently celebrated his 50<sup>th</sup> birthday (like a lot of you other NAPSters) as well as his retirement from Delta Airlines. It was a short lived retirement as he was hired back by Delta as a contract pilot. Twins, Stef and Liz, are both going to Georgia Tech, majoring in International Affairs and Economics. Scott's also licensed as a Realtor so that's a possible fallback job. But he admits he doesn't really know what he'll do when he grows up. Fishing is his passion but he'll probably get into



land development or property management besides his listing and selling job.

**Bill Soer** (WWSoyer@aol.com) sent some belated graduation info on him and Stephanie's kids. Their daughter, Kimberly graduated from West Point ('05). She's in the Medical Service Corps. After completing the officer basic course she'll join her unit for deployment to Iraq this fall. Her twin brother, Ryan, graduated from The Wharton School at University of Pennsylvania and was commissioned 2 weeks earlier in the Marine Corps. While Kimberly heads straight to basic, Ryan rolled into the Inactive Reserves in a *non paid* status until the backlog at TBS and Flight School improves. Like many of us, Bill is coming to grips with the fact that the duty of going in harms way is passing to our children. Take some comfort in knowing that they are far better equipped and trained than we ever were and that they are especially well-led by classmates, Shipmates, squadron mates, company mates and friends. Still, we all pray for their safety. Here's a photo Bill sent of other son, Taylor, and the rest of them at Kimberly's graduation day at Ft. Putnam



*The Soers on West Point Grad Day*

Marilyn and **Tom Grodek** (MarGrodek@aol.com) sent a photo of them with their two grandchildren, Audrey Clare (20 months) and Lily Catherine (2 1/2 weeks old). They had been touring the Academy grounds with Audrey and Lily's parents (their daughter, Bridget and son-in-law, Jim Swoger). Since Tom was never able to get any of his four kids interested in USNA, he thought he'd work the next generation early! Tom retired as an Engineering Duty Officer (EDO) Commander right at the 20-year mark in 1998. For the past 6 years he's been with The MITRE Corporation, a "Federally Funded Research & Development Center (FFRDC)", (i.e., a non-profit systems engineering company for the government). He's actually gone full circle and has been supporting Aegis Ballistic Missile

Defense— essentially the same Aegis crowd from where he retired. Married for over 27 years (they started dating as high school sophomores) their four kids are Bridget, Maureen, Tom and Steve. Maureen was born profoundly mentally retarded and doing fine living at home with them and attending a local adult day support program. Tom is an artist and living the married life with Diane down in sunny Florida. Their youngest Steve is a student and baseball player. Besides keeping up with the kids, Tom (Senior) also spend a lot of time on various church and community activities. He tries to stay in shape with running; as he says— "God willing and my knees and other parts hold out." Tom reported his roomie, **Chris Cobb**, had become a Navy dentist, then was out and drilling as a reservist for years. Chris and Beth have 10 kids (four of their own and 6 adopted). A few years ago, Chris came back to active duty and made Captain. He recently deployed on USS JFK and now is in Florida awaiting Kennedy's fate. Their only boy Seamus is a very successful youngster at USNA. Besides raising all those kids, Beth fought and beat breast cancer. Now that Tom gave us the *Cliff Notes* version, how about some details or corrections, Chris?



*Marilyn & Tom Grodek and grandkids*

Jennifer and **Rich Polek** had Suzette and **Bill Timme** and their daughters, Savannah and Morgan, visit Richmond in

August. It was a trip planned well in advance by Suzette so the family could live the NASCAR experience at Richmond International Raceway— well mostly for Bill to live the experience. Afterward, the Timmes and Poleks (Rich, Jennifer, Nadilee and Cole) rendezvoused at the James household (Connie and **Mark James** and kids, Jessica and Matt) for food, drink, a long overdue reunion, and an overnight. Rich said that several late night phone calls were made to 31st Company classmates. Live connections were made with **Tony Quatroche**, **Sean Donovan**, **Dewain Forbis**, and the baby-sitter of **Rich Valenstein's** children. All recipients of surprise phone calls were definitely surprised in a good way, especially the baby-sitter. So be forewarned and go ahead and answer the phone, if you see area code 804 on caller ID, it's probably Mark and Rich calling to see how you are doing!



*Bill Timme, Mark James and Rich Polek*

**Craig Cowen** continues to fight the good fight buoyed by the strong and loving support of his wife, Lisa and their family, friends and classmates. He wrote:



*78 Families: Surgents, Mulhares, Foxes, and Cowens*



■ "...I decided that it was past time that I send something myself, for two reasons: 1) Because I'm on disability I have a lot of time on my hands and 2) to paraphrase *Monty Python and the Holy Grail*, "I'm not dead yet!"—nor do I plan to be anytime soon. To give you a brief update, I completed radiation treatment a couple of weeks ago. A follow-up MRI last Friday showed some very encouraging signs. The tumor had not spread. Given the aggressive nature of my particular disease, having halted its spread was a significant achievement. Also, the MRI showed a sizable mass of necrotic (i.e., "dead") tissue. This was also very encouraging. Who would've thought that killing brain cells could be so beneficial! I offered to just go on a WestPac cruise and do the same thing, but I don't think the oncologist understood my meaning. I will start IV chemo this Friday. That will occur one day every other week. The study in which we're participating has that routine continuing for a year. The plan is that at the end of that period, they'll declare me as being certified for another million miles. Our oldest daughter Rachel just started her freshman year at Virginia Tech. She is an Architecture major, so is attending on the five-year plan. There are several other USNA '78 kids attending and we recently had the opportunity to get some of them together. Attached is a photo from our gathering. Left-to-right in the front row is Alyson Fox, Stephanie Surgent (Dave & Kathy), Meghan Mulhare (Drew & Cheri), Rachel Cowen—holding her sister Meghan—and Lisa Cowen. Back row: Priscilla Fox, Collin Fox, Pat Fox, Neal Fox, Brian Cowen and yours truly.

To round out the Cowen clan, Brian just started 9<sup>th</sup> grade and is enjoying the high school life. He has developed into a pretty talented ice hockey player and is on two teams—one for the high school and another independent travel team. Meghan is in 1<sup>st</sup> grade and is very proud of herself for finally being a "big girl." She keeps us all on our toes with her quick-mindedness and humor. Everyone with whom we've come in contact has been so supportive. Of course, a major source of support has been our USNA '78 classmates. I cannot thank you and everyone else enough for the love that you've shown Lisa, our children and me. It has meant the world to us. That's about it from here. As Dave said in one of his updates to you, our door is always open

for a Classmate. Be sure to bring your golf clubs. I'm not a fast golfer, nor am I slow. I'm kinda half-fast!

Go Navy!!!!" Continued best wishes, Craig. ■

#### Launchin' Spot Four!

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

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Greetings, 79!

No matter how many times I have written this before, it's still just as fun: Gentlemen, we have another flag in our class. I received an email from **Jose Gonzales** (gonza004@marina.mil.pe), who sends the following update from his office in Lima, Peru:

■ Hi Wiz. I've just received the June issue of *Shipmate* here in Lima, reading the wonderful news about the new flag selectees. To all of them my warmest congratulations as well as to all 79ers leaving their legacies and making a difference in business, government, academia and their communities. Very sad about the tragedy in New Orleans, but pretty sure of the character and energy of all Americans to overcome and move forward.

Glad to let you know that I also was promoted to Rear Admiral (Peruvian Navy) in January 2005, so that makes us seventeen flag officers in our class, a record indeed!!

Anything you may need from down under the equator just let me know. I'm just a phone call or an e-mail away. Best wishes to all of you, keep up the good work!! Omnes Viri!! Jose, 7th Co. Séadog ■



RADM Jose N. Gonzales, Peruvian Navy

Jose also sent along his official bio so we could see, in his words, "what I've been up to the last few decades." After graduation he completed tours as an Engineering Officer onboard *Briscoe* (DD977) and *BAP Carvajal* (FM51). Following that, he reported to the Naval Architecture and Marine Engineering XIII-A Program at MIT, graduating with a professional degree in Ocean Engineering and a Master of Science in Ocean Systems Management in 1984. Jose then worked as Superintendent of Naval Shipbuilding, Conversion and Repair Project at SIMA's Callao shipyard, where he was responsible of several naval projects, including the construction of the fourth fast frigate for the Peruvian Navy from 1985 to 1987. After graduation as an MPA from Harvard's Kennedy School of Government in 1991, he became Secretary-General and Chief Administrative Officer of SIMA in 1992.

From 1994 to 1995 Jose was the head of the Submarine Division at the Naval Engineering Directorate, supervising major overhauls of Type-209 Diesel submarines for the Peruvian Navy. He was appointed Under Secretary of the Peruvian Navy in 1998, responsible for plans, programs and budgeting policies. In January 2000 he reported to the U.S. Atlantic Fleet headquarters in Norfolk, Virginia as Senior Liaison Officer at the Fleet Maintenance Directorate during ERP integrated management system implementation. He also was Adjunct Professor of Latin American Affairs at the Joint Forces Staff College, National Defense University (Norfolk, Virginia) and he was active in the design and implementation of the Type-209 Diesel submarines operational program with the U.S. Naval Submarine Force, Atlantic Fleet, a successful international cooperation program between Peru and the United States, currently in its fourth year of operation.

Currently Jose serves as the Director of Economics and Finance, Peruvian Navy, and Chairman of the Board of the Navy's Retirement Fund and of the Housing Fund. Additionally, he is also a Professor of Industrial Economics (Universidad del Pacífico, Lima), a Professor of Strategic Management and International Security (The Center of Advanced National Studies, Lima), a member of the Regional Advisory Board of the David Rockefeller Center for Latin American Studies (DRCLAS Harvard