

during Commissioning Week in May 2005. Jason is currently deployed for six months onboard CAPE ST GEORGE (CG-71), and is reportedly well on his way to earning his SWO pin in the next few months.

After having seen **Jim Berger's** sons, William and Henry Berger, in last month's issue as potential members of the Class of '27, **Rick White** wanted to make sure to include his grandson as one of their potential classmates and sent-in this photo.



Another potential Class of '27: Rick and Betty White with their grandson, Logan

And speaking of Rick White, he attended the Navy-Notre Dame game last fall with **Bill Garland, Jerry Miller** and **Frank Wagner**, and was able to get a photo op with at least three of the four of them.



Bill Garland, Jerry Miller, and Rick White cheer for Navy against Notre Dame

This past summer, Annie and **Bill Hartman** moved to Bernalillo, NM, which is just north of Albuquerque ("and a little closer to skiing in Taos"). Annie and Bill are both from New Mexico, so they're thrilled to be back home. They had been living in San Diego, CA, for the past three years, but moved for Bill to head-up ("and hopefully turnaround") a venture-capital-backed bio-tech homeland security company. They've since sold the company, but Annie and Bill will be staying in New Mexico ("We have a great Alumni group in town").

Their daughter, Molly, graduated from Duke in May 2005 and is now working in New York City with Goldman-Sachs where she's met several Naval Academy types, including **Pete Grieve**, who's been

very helpful. Their son, Will, is a freshman at the University of Arizona. Bill is hoping that his note will get **Harry Rouse, Ken Shearer, George Thompson, Everett McNair**, and others from Club 34 to respond.

The following photo is proof positive that we do indeed live in a small world. **John Gerhard** ran into **COL George Robillard '57**, the 4th Battalion Officer during our "tour" at USNA, while visiting San Francisco and the Cable Car Museum with his family on 28 December 2005.



Col George Robillard and John Gerhard unexpectedly share USNA memories in San Francisco

#### Class Communication

For those of you who read this column closely, I'm sure that you've already noticed a new name in the column header. Well, sports fans, it's really true. After writing this column for the past six years (give or take a few months), I've decided that it's time to pass-on the baton. Fortunately, the search for my replacement was much quicker than expected, and I'm please to announce that **Thom McKee** will be taking over the duties of Corresponding Secretary effective immediately.

I want to everyone to know that Thom comes with excellent credentials for this job. He's not only a former member of the 8<sup>th</sup> Wing's "Circle of Death" but he's also the current record-holder for most game show wins (43 on Tic Tac Dough in 1980), so it's easy to see why he's been selected for this prestigious position from the hundreds (or was that thousands?) of classmates who eagerly volunteered. Thom tells me that he can't wait to get started, and is really looking forward to staying up late to meet deadlines, figuring out how to make 3000 words fit into a 2000-word column limit, and coming up with innovative ways to keep everyone riveted to the column month after month. I'm sure he'll do a great job and I expect that each of you will give him the same enthusiastic support that you gave me during that

time. Good luck, Thom! I'll make sure to drop you a line from time-to-time and let you know what's new in the Sanderson household.

#### Closing Remarks

It's been a great run for me over the past six years, and I'm thankful for the encouragement that many of you have shown to me during that time. Michelle and I will still be in Annapolis, so feel free to give us a call whenever you're here, and we can catch up on old times (assuming, of course that we're not sailing our way around the Chesapeake). Thanks again for your support; keep the Sandersons in your thoughts and prayers, and as always, Go Navy! —**Bob Sanderson**

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ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP: 2%  
LIFE MEMBERSHIP: 75%

PRES: **Glen Woods**

SEC'Y: **Vince Balderrama**

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!#\$\*, I missed a column. It's a lousy way to start the New Year but usually a good way to shock some folks into writing (not to mention the benefit brought by backlog of news—Okay, so it's dated. What in this column isn't?). Anyway, let's get to it!

Some photos relating to old news: "candidate" **Kevin Liddy** (That is now "elected"—must have been the dog-factor.). There's also **Drew Nienhaus'** retirement ceremony, 31 years to the day of our I-day. You may recognize **Bob Engel, Mike Moore, Kurt Tidd, Gary Lovgren, Walt Haberland, Walt Brown, Steve Ferree, Jim Pointer, Ralph Scaffidi, Pat Curtis, Jim Carr, and Les Wallace.** (Drew, Jann and their family are back at their home in Slidell, LA.). Also belated congratulations to **A.J. Wise** who on Sept 24 relieved William S. Couch as the CO of the Reserve Operations and Plans at Pier 2 of the Washington Navy Yard on the USS Barry (DD933). Also belated congratulations to proud papa **Joe Schmitz** whose son, Nick, is among Navy's four Rhodes Scholars for 2006. Nick's a great story of what a little Marine Corps boot camp and training can do to help a high school dropout get on track and eventually become a Rhodes Scholar. There's a great article on the Christian Science Monitor site <http://www.csmonitor.com/2006/0104/p20s01-legn.html>



'78 at Nienhaus' retirement



The candidate and his dog

**Rich Polek** reported that in November Marla and **Alan "Blues" Baker** were the Richmond, VA Chapter's guests for a fine dinner event at the University of Richmond's Jepson Alumni Center. Joining Jennifer and Rich and the Bakers were Jan and **Jim Fiorelli** and **Mark James**. There were plenty of alumni and friends in attendance: Nancy & **Bob Hill '52**, Ada & **Doc Smith '52**, Carolyn & **Jim Whelan '56**, Caroline & **Jim Brown '59**, Catherine & **Bob Oakes '59**, Phyllis Theroux & **Ragan Phillips '59**, **Harry Marxen '61**, Diana & **John O'Connor '61**, Phyllis Galanti (wife of Paul '62) and friend Connie Richeson, Jane & **Will Settle '63**, Nita & **Jack Parry '67**, Kimberly & **Bill Ruch '68**, **Rob Casey '73**, Dave Faulders (University of Virginia '74), **Mark James '78**, and guest Pastor Charlie Fink (Columbia University '73), **Brook Schurman '83**, **John Driscoll '90** and guest Lenore Dauchess, **Eric Lowell '91**, **Chet Riley '94**, Bette Albert (mother of Temple '05). Al spoke about the chaplain program at USNA and its

relevance to the moral development of Midshipmen (moral development being one-third of USNA's stated mission "to develop Midshipmen morally, mentally and physically"). A recent survey of the Brigade revealed that over 90 percent of Midshipmen are interested in faith or spiritual matters. Blues also gave a status report on the physical condition of the Chapel, Mitscher Hall and the new Levy Center. (Did you know the Chapel was constructed between 1904 and 1908, so it's in its hundred-year anniversary window? Wasn't that a Plebe rate?) In appreciation, the chapter presented Al with a replica of the Gold Medal awarded by US Congress in 2000 in honor of the late Cardinal John O'Connor. (our late Navy Chief of Chaplains and the man who had Al's job and house on Captains Row when we were Plebes).



Mark James, the Bakers, Poleks and Fiorellis



Chief Martink friend and Bill Martin



Jon Will and Mike McCrabb

Billy Martin has formed his own financial group, The Martin Financial Group, Inc. It has five offices in Pensacola and one in Orlando (Helps justify trips to see his son Sean at UCF). **Jim Pointer** and **Les Burke** joined Bill and his dad, retired Chief Bill Martin, in Pensacola to watch Navy defeat Army and take the lead in the series. That same Army-Navy game day saw **Clarke Orzalli** pin on his Rear Admiral's star in a ceremony aboard Dewey's Flagship at the Battle of Manila, the USS Olympia. Clarke's dad, CAPT John B. Orzalli, USN (retired), administered the oath of office. I'm sure there were quite a few classmates present that morning at the Olympia's berth at Independence Seaport Museum in Philadelphia. Besides Clarke's post ceremony reception they would've also enjoyed the many tailgaters and the game. I'm sure RDML Orzalli appreciated the "victory gift" the mids presented him. Speaking of Pensacola (see how I tied the two themes of Bill Martin's note? It's a gift), that's where **Mike McCrabb** now calls home. He works in a civil service position at NETSAFA (along with **Dave Babcock**) and is also into his second year as president of the Pensacola Chapter of the Alumni Association. Besides helping to keep tabs of classmates and coming to know potential and current local midshipman and their families, Mike says the real rewarding part is working with our more senior grads (like the 101 year-old Class of '27 classmate of my wife Elizabeth's grandfather!). There are a lot of 78 in the area who are regulars at Chapter events: former chapter president and trustee- **Lee Price**, **Dave Babcock**, **Rich Jesmonth** (another former chapter trustee), **Kevin White**, **Jeff Clites**, **Rich Holzknicht**, **Bill Martin**, "Pop" **Warner**, and **Sam Sowell** who lives over near Fort Walton Beach. Mike admits there are others whom he is forgetting. As for 8th Company, he hears from **Brian Rochon** (works at NAVSEA) and

**Vance Moore** (Jacksonville) a couple of times a year. He got a phone call from **Glen Shipman** whom he hadn't seen since graduation. Glen's up in Towson MD. He also looked up **Jon Will** when he was in Japan in November. Jon and his wife Ellen are on their 3rd tour out of Yokosuka where he is 7th Fleet Ops after having command of the Chancellorsville. They have one son at Duke, one who's a USNA plebe, and two more sons in high school in Japan. While in Japan Mike also ran into **Steve Basford** and had dinner with him and his wife and friends. Steve's been over there since 1999 working as a contractor with various JMSDF staffs in support of some of their shipboard weapons systems. **Harry Harris** and **Bill Yeager** were visitors at Pensacola Chapter's gathering to watch the Poinsettia Bowl. Harry and his wife Bruni, Bradley ('84), were down for a few days visiting his mother. Bill lives down there and works as Chief of Staff for VADM Moran at NETC.

In closing we regret the loss of Shipmates and loved ones: In September, **Chris Nichols** older brother, Gordon "Nicky" Nichols Jr. ('65) passed away. In November, non-grad classmate, **Mike DiAntonio**, twin-brothers **Brian** and **Dennis** ('75) and brothers **Brian** ('71) and **Mark** ('84) lost their mother, Mary. In December, **Rich Holznecht's** brother-in-law, SSgt Dan Clay was killed by an IED in Fallujah, Iraq. His thoughts on duty and faith, written in his final letter to his family are entered into the Congressional record by his congressman. They are truly inspirational and give testament to the outstanding character our young men and women in uniform and of the families that raised them. Read for yourself at [http://jeffmiller.house.gov/index.cfm?FuseAction=Speeches.Detail&Article\\_id=89&Month=12&Year=2005](http://jeffmiller.house.gov/index.cfm?FuseAction=Speeches.Detail&Article_id=89&Month=12&Year=2005). Lastly, we remember, **Gerry Goodwin**. Gerry died Friday morning, 13 January, at McLaren Regional Medical Center, Flint, MI, due complications as a result of his hip replacement surgery. His death is doubly shocking for his family as just the day before, Jan 12<sup>th</sup>, Gerry's grandmother had passed away. Our sympathies go out to Gerry's wife, Paula and their children and especially to Gerry's mom, Mary, who has lost both her son and her mother. For more information please go to our class and the funeral home websites. ([www.usna.org](http://www.usna.org) and <http://www.lawrenceemoonfuneralhome.com/>)

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That's all...Launchin' Spot Four..with a prayer and the "Sky Pilot" aboard.

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ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP: 0%  
LIFE MEMBERSHIP: 90%

PRES: LCDR Sean Cate, USN (Ret.)

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Greetings, 79!

Over the holidays you all came through and sent a bunch of stuff, including some great photos! So let's get right to it.



*Sean Stackley's Retirement (l-r): Tom Gibson, Jeff Johnson, Mark Shell, Sean Stackley, Chris Cable, Scott Pursley, Mike Marciano, Dave Meeder, Sean Cate, Don Brummett*



*Sean Stackley and Family*

Checking in first is our regular Little Rock correspondent, **Scott Pursley** ([spursley@aol.com](mailto:spursley@aol.com)):

■ Dear Wiz, Just a quick update on some recent goings on. In early December some of us were privileged to attend **Sean Stackley's** retirement. It was held at the Navy Memorial in DC. Sean finished an outstanding career as an Engineering Duty Officer; his last assignment was as Program Manager for the LPD 17 program at the Washington Navy Yard. Including Sean and I, there were ten 79ers in attendance including **Mark Shell, Dave Meeder, Jeff Johnson, Sean Cate, Tom Gibson,**

**Don Brummett, Mike Marciano, and Chris Cable.** Photos from the event are attached. Sean's new job will be as a staffer for the Sea Power Subcommittee of the Senate Armed Services Committee.

**Roger Vanderwerken** just finished a year studying at UC Berkeley, and is now assigned as a Chaplain on RONALD REAGAN. Roger was originally intended to be the Chaplain for Sean's retirement; however, Navy commitments kept Roger from attending. Yours truly stood in his place, reading the invocation and benediction that Roger wrote for Sean and his family.

I just got a quick note from **Greg Parker**, who will be finishing his assignment at BUPERS in Millington next summer. It looks like Greg's next assignment will be at Duke University as CO of the NROTC unit. The Parkers sound like they are pleased with this new Navy adventure.

Speaking of NROTC, I spent a bit of time with **Mike Neller** back in November when we were in South Bend for the Navy-Notre Dame game. Mike is CO of our daughter Anna's NROTC unit at Notre Dame. Mike and his family are enjoying their assignment in South Bend. Over the holidays our daughter Anna regaled us with a few stories of Captain Neller's athletic prowess. It seems Mike is in fairly decent shape, and helps lead the Notre Dame midshipmen in their morning PT sessions. As Anna tells it, some of her fellow midshipmen foolishly try to keep up with Mike and end up puking in the grass. Who says submariners are all brains and no brawn? Cool. Go Mike!

As for us, things are just fine for the Pursley family here in Little Rock. We now have three girls in college and spent four weekends this fall attending their various school football games. Oh, we also had a lot of fun at the Navy-UALR basketball game in November. Although Navy lost, it was a memorable occasion, as it was the dedication of their new basketball arena, named after **Jack Stevens '47**. The game was my inspiration to get off my rear end and set up an Arkansas chapter of our USNA Alumni Assn. So far we have 54 of the 200 alums living in Arkansas signed up. Our first meeting is in January and February. Regards, Scott Pursley ■

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Life Members.  
For information go to  
[usna.com](http://www.usna.com)

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MEMBERSHIP**



Bill and Suzanne Meader



Bill Meader Modeling the Russian "Spring Wardrobe"

Thanks, Scott! Now on the heels of that is this email from **Bill Meader** (golfing39@aol.com):

■ Merry Christmas from Siberia! And the Siberian winter has set in. I can't complain too much as the weather was the twenties and thirties up until a week ago. It's usually below zero by now with no signs of positive digits until February. If you want to see what our weather is like, put Chelyabinsk, Russia on your weather page. Our temperature is about 10 degrees colder than Chelyabinsk.

It's been quite an adventure these past few months. I made it to Moscow to play in a golf tournament. On rented clubs and a brand new course, my partner and I missed out on winning by only a couple of strokes!

Suzanne and I went on a Mediterranean cruise in November visiting France, Spain and Italy. Beautiful countries and best of all, it was wonderful weather on our entire trip. This was a bit different than my last Mediterranean cruise when I was a midshipman on an aircraft carrier! We liked it so much we're going on a northern European cruise next summer to visit Scandinavia, St. Petersburg and London. I like this 2 weeks of vacation every 3 months.

Much more time off than I had in the U.S.!

Work is slow, steady and very challenging. As some of you mentioned to me before I came over, I have definitely had to lower my expectations of when things will get done. Not sure how long I will stay here but probably for another couple of years.

On my visa renewal trip to Warsaw last month, I was finally able to visit Krakow and more importantly, Auschwitz and Birkenau. I know many of you have visited the Holocaust museum in DC but to walk through the camps was an eerie experience. Krakow was a gorgeous city with centuries of history. I saw most of the places where the movie *Schindler's List* was filmed as well as where Pope John Paul II said his first mass.

I've attended a Russian birthday party (sit around a very small table drinking lots of vodka!) and unintentionally crashed a Russian wedding. We showed up at a restaurant and thinking it was open for business, we walked in on a wedding reception. The people had never met any Americans so they invited us to join them in their celebration, which of course include lots of vodka!

We sold our house in Richland but better yet, Suzanne found our dream house on a GOLF COURSE just outside Washington DC. She moved in a couple of weeks ago and is enjoying every minute of it. I won't be back in the U.S. until May when Briana graduates from grad school and Jon graduates from college. Keep in touch! Bill ■

Thanks, Bill! Glad to hear that masseuse is working out for you! Next up is an informative update from my flight school buddy **Gary Cerezo** (garyozerec@hotmail.com):

■ Checking in from California. I finished my last of three tours with NATO in Naples, Italy last July. I also did in-between stints in Rome and Sigonella, Sicily. My Italian was quite good particularly in the restaurants! While in Naples it was great seeing names of classmates in command steaming through the Med. **Jim Wise**, **Dave Prothero**, and **Jim Gigliotti** were just a few I remember off the top of my head but I know there were more. I saw that **Dale Carson** is XO at Naval Air Station Sigonella. It has been awesome seeing classmates rise to the leadership positions in our Navy. It's been equally inspiring seeing classmates in their pursuits outside the Navy.

On our the plane ride back to the U.S. my son told me that this guy seated next to him had Naval Academy crest on his shirt. It was **Mitch Shipley**. He had been on business in Italy. We had a nice nostalgic chat and Mitch was anxious to see his family back in Florida.

Reesie and **Jack Eggleston** picked my family up at the airport. They were lifesavers getting us to the hotel and helping us get situated. Shortly after the family and I headed on a minivan tour of Niagara Falls, New England and points south. I just missed hooking up with Diane and **John Kunert** in Newport. John was retiring and closing on a house in the Buffalo area.

We eventually wound up in Annapolis for parent's weekend. Wiz, my son **Joe Cerezo '09** was born in Pensacola just after you taught a bunch of helicopter pilots in the instructor training unit how to do an aileron roll with your hand. Remember that? The Yard was beautiful as ever and on occasion my mind drifted back to our plebe summer. All I really remember initially is that I was thirsty and hot all the time! Time passes too quickly. Jack and Reesie sponsor Joe in Annapolis so he's in great hands.

We continued our van trip west with California the ultimate goal. Mary and **Tom Forsythe** welcomed us in Nashville on the hottest day of the year. They gave us a fantastic southern hospitality welcome in a neat New Jersey way. We ventured up into my old roommate's neck of the woods in South Dakota. We weren't able to see Shirley and **Dan Vortherms** but that will be on our next road trip.

I also ran into NASA astronaut **Dan Bursch** at the NPS in Monterey in November. He is doing well and I believe he has taken a faculty position there. I saw **Phil McConkey** on ESPN2 when Navy put a whuppin' on CSU. He was being modest when comparing the '78 Holiday Bowl team to the Navy Poinsettia team. I hope to see some classmates in Palo Alto when Navy plays Stanford next September. Gary ■

Thanks, Gary. Great to hear from you again!

My thanks to all of you who have written in the last month. And just so you know, I've received more photos than I could reprint here in these pages. But you can go to the class website (www.usna79.com) and view pretty much all the photos I've received. I'll continue