



Carl Butler and fiancée, Carrie Scott, prepare to sail the high seas

Chuck Trude sent me an update on a recent ski trip with the Boys Scouts:

■ On March 10th, Chuck and 46 Scouts and parents from Troop 175 headed off to Canaan Valley Resort for their Spring Ski Trip. After an early breakfast on SAT, the group hit the slopes right after they opened and kept on going until the lifts stopped running. Fortunately, no one missed the last shuttle back to the lodge and dinner. The only injury was to a pair of glasses that did not survive a fairly spectacular wipe out. Duct tape and paper clips to the rescue! After about 20 minutes of work the glasses were back in-service and the Scout was back on the slopes. Sore, but wiser. The Spring Ski Trip proved once again, it doesn't matter how old your body feels, Ranger Candy works wonders. This '76er plans to keep on snowboarding until he can't lace up the boots and strap into the bindings. ■

Congratulations are in order for **Derwood Curtis** who has been assigned as commander, Naval Surface Force, U.S. Atlantic Fleet, Norfolk, VA. Way to go, Derwood!!!

I have a Hubbard Family update: my son, **Billy Hubbard '01**, and his wife, Becca, recently found out that they will be having a girl in the late July, early August, timeframe. Just call me "Gramps"!

Thanks for the updates from my Classmates – I hope that more of you can contribute with your news and pictures in upcoming Class columns. We'd love to hear from you!

Please see our Reunion Ad that didn't make it into last issue for '76 Reunion information.

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78 ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP: 2%
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No pictures this month so let's see if I can't catch up on some news without too much use of the editing scissors. (Every pic cuts my verbiage down—of course some of you might not mind it.)

There was another large gathering at this year's Brigade Boxing Finals. Thanks to **Steve "Jock" Maloney** for setting up this annual excursion (complete with an LOI etc.). Fortunately for Jock, he got everyone to the Field House on time so our reserved, ringside seating was used. This also meant that he didn't have to do the push-ups Coach McNally threatened him with for our usual tardiness. Besides Jock (and his brothers and other "Philly Boys") and yours truly, present were:

Tim Arcano, Marla and **Al Baker**, Debbie and **Bruce Latta**, **Bob Schmermund**, **John Cooke** (who has a Plebe daughter), **Doug Diehl** and his sons, **Eddie Reid**, **John Rudzis**, **Craig Diffie**, **Ray Kwong**, **Mo Tose**, **Dave Surgent**, **Rich Jesmonth**, **Gary Vincinguerra**, **Bill Timme**, **Clarke Orzalli**, Sylvia and **Deke Philman**, **Willy Kramer** and his son, the "twins"—**Joe Martin** and **Terry O'Brien** (and Terry's daughter and friends), **Bill "If" Fell** and his sons, and **"Duke" Reilly** ('79). (**Glen Ives** made it to the next morning's basketball games.) Now that Meg and **Joe Leidig** are on Guam, the Bakers took over post-boxing "green alert" duty. Besides munchies, soda, beer and camaraderie, Blues also served up "absolution" for any transgressions that may have been committed at McGarvey's earlier that evening—or was it "pre-absolution" for those we might commit when we left his Chaplain's quarters on CAPTAINs Row? Anyway we had a great time. You guys have got to join us next year. By the way, there is no truth to the rumor that I broke my glasses on purpose at the Boxing Finals so I

wouldn't have to embarrass myself and have Jock harass me for any poor play and air balls at the next day's roundball pick up game. Why, you might as well believe that the Leidigs took orders to Guam to escape the Boxing swarm green alerts. Well, at least that denial is Joe's story and he's sticking to it. For those of you whom I forgot to mention—and I *know* I forgot to mention somebody—accept my apologies and just drop me a correction. I'll make up for it in the next edition.

At the beginning of March, **Ken Roey** transitioned from his job as Vice President and Chief Operating Officer for PMM Companies to being the Executive Director for Facilities Planning and Management for the Howard County Public School System. Ken works out of the Board of Education Offices in Ellicott City, MD (about 30 minutes from the house). As the Executive Director for Facilities etc., he's responsible for school planning, construction and maintenance. Among his duties will be to oversee the boundary line adjustment process. As he sees it—"I'm sure to be extremely popular with parents of high school girls who have just been moved away from their boyfriends." Hey, Ken, you're with the Public School system now—that already qualifies you as "popular". Best of luck!

Also changing jobs was **Vinny DiGirolamo**. In February he accepted an offer to work for The Steel Network, Inc. (TSN) and its subsidiaries (ASI, TSNE) as its President. They are experiencing significant growth in the light steel framing building industry and DoD vulnerability assessment programs. Their CEO, Vinny's brother Ed, sought him out to help lead them into a very promising future. It's a departure from his normal area of expertise in the strategic and professional C4 community with L3 Communications but he was looking forward to the challenges of leadership—which are similar.

Scott Godfrey reported that **Eric Lindstrand's** father, Col. Carl Lindstrand, USAF (ret.) earlier this year won 5 gold medals in the Florida Masters Swimming Championships. Not bad for a guy who had a stroke about a year ago and is now 94 yrs old. What a stud!! He swims about three days a week and works out at the club the other days. He plays poker once a week with the young guys (75 year olds) and takes their money to supplement his retirement. As for Eric, he's a Southwest Airlines Capt based at BWI and lives close by in Millersville. I'm sure he also wishes those good genes he got from his dad

continue to keep him in an “up status”! **Jeff Dickman's** (Jeffrey.Dickman@dyn-intl.com) been keeping me up to date on interesting news and jokes lately. Jeff had recently transitioned out of the Navy. He signed up with DynCorp Intl and works in Ft Worth, TX. Like a lot of you newly transitioning guys, he's trying to figure out how this contracting world works. I ran into **Jim Koslow** in Crystal City underground while I was getting shoes shined. He's doing fine and working as a contractor in support of the Air Force— or so I think. A looong while back I saw **Bruce Carter** at a Naval Institute/Marine Corps Association Symposium. After retirement he now works as a Business Development guy for BAE in Nashua, NH (where **Mike Shinego** also works for them). **Gerry Roncolato** was at that same symposium, standing in as the sacrificial CAPT for his boss on some panel. Actually he did rather well, silver tongued, coherent, and “on spot”. Even this Marine understood what he was talking about.

Like the rest of our company reps, **Matt Elias** (11th Co.) has been searching for our lost souls—both grads and non-grads. He recently had a little success. One was my Plebe year roommate, **Bob Eggleston**. Leaving after Plebe year, the Navy briefly sent Bob to Naples Italy for 11 months or so. He was stationed on a supply ship before he was released to reserve duty in N.J. Bob moved to California 25 yrs ago and works for Southern California Gas Company as a service tech. He's married with 4 kids. The other check-in was **Paul McIntyre**. Paul wrote that he was “alive and well”. He lives in South Jersey. He's been happily married for 25 years and has two teenage daughters. Paul is presently the Lieutenant in charge of NJ Parole Supervision for Camden County, NJ. He reported that since Camden has the distinction of having the highest crime rate in the country—even ahead of St. Louis and Detroit—it makes for *interesting* parole work!

It's that time of year again— **Alex “Dog” Callas' Golf Day for MDA!** Actually, it's next month, June 21st to be even more precise. As usual, it'll be at the Andrews Air Force Base Golf Course and kicks off with a shot gun start at 8 a.m.. For more detailed information, take a look at our website or you can contact the MDA directly at (703) 476-5780 or www.golddayformda.com. I'm sure Alex would appreciate any contributions or

items for door prizes that you or your business/corporation can contribute. Pass on the word, it's a day of fun and golf (not usually the same thing the way some of us golf) wherein the *real* winners are those for whom a cure is being sought. To date, your support of Alex's tournament has helped him raise several hundred of thousands of dollars. Lets him make this year's tourney even more successful than previous ones!

Another humanitarian we'd like to congratulate is **Steve Howell**. Steve's been selected as an Ambassador for the American Cancer Society's *Celebration on the Hill 2006* event in Washington, D.C. this September. This is a huge event and quite an honor for Steve to represent the Southeast Division of the American Cancer Society. He'll be meeting with Georgia's Senators and his Congressman to try and convince them to increase their commitment to battling cancer through additional research, education, advocacy and patient services. A longtime advocate since his own successful battle with cancer, Steve has volunteered for the American Cancer Society at the local and national level. Locally he contributes throughout the year and most notably as the committee chairman for the Gwinnett County Relay for Life. This is the most successful relay in the country and they have eclipsed the \$2 million fund raising mark in just one weekend each of the past two years. Steve's committee is responsible for the organization and care of cancer survivors and provided comfort and hope for over

1700 individuals PLUS their families for last year's event. On the national level, he travels to assist any of the other 12 divisions of the American Cancer Society, giving a three hour presentation highlighting the Cancer Survivors program several times over the course of a weekend. His presentation is so well received that he is constantly in demand and has recently made the trip to Denver and Nashville to provide encouragement to hundreds of deserving and determined men, women and children. If any of you are in the Atlanta area this May 19-20 check out The Gwinnett County Relay for Life. Congratulations on the honor, Steve!

On other good news, your prayers, cards and calls have had a positive effect on **Craig Cowen's** own battle. Lisa's most recent Feb report (it's March as this is typed), via **Dave Surgent**, was that the

9-month treatments (through Dec 05) had not only stopped the growth of the tumor, but actually shrunk it by 30%. Craig is now undergoing continual chemo treatments every two weeks through August. He is in good spirits, just bored, so keep him occupied with a phone call or quick e-mail. Hell—have him “come around”. That'll keep him alert! While you're at it keep Lisa and their kids also in your thoughts and prayers. They're with him in the trenches and battling along his side too. You can catch Craig at 4101 Fairway Drive, Gibsonsia, PA 15044, phone 724-625-4417; or via e-mail at either craig.cowen@1978.usna.com or chcowen@connecttime.net.

On a sadder note, cancer sometimes succeeds in overcoming our loved ones. This was especially true for our classmate and friend —12th Company's **Larry Whitmeyer**. Larry passed away suddenly on Tuesday morning, March 14th from a rare form of pancreatic cancer. One form of pancreatic cancer is usually a slow and painful (and generally lethal) form of cancer. The other type is more aggressive and can be lethal in a matter of days and weeks, often without showing any symptoms until it's too late. For Larry it was the latter form; so death came swiftly—so swiftly in fact that many in attendance at his memorial service had the distant, numbed, shell-shocked look of detached disbelief in their eyes. For everyone else, their eyes were tear-filled. Several classmates were in attendance— from 12th Company, Maura and **John Rudder**, Jackie and **Dennis Koehl**, **Jim Rennie**, and Margaret and **Fred Sheehan** along with their infant son, Freddy (Frederick III); also present were **Steve Petri**, **Mark Hubal**, and **Les Wallace**. I was there and proud to stand in for the 11th Company half of our Plebe Summer “Foxtrot” Company. Larry's wife, Toni, was also supported by a very large contingent of her fellow MSC officers from Bethesda. In fact, it looked like the entire mid and senior level staff of the hospital. As John recounted “The memorial service in Bethesda was beautiful (and difficult). We were all blessed to have Larry in our lives and the memorial service was certainly a testament to that. Dennis gave an eloquent eulogy and battled his way through it. As you might appreciate, there weren't many dry eyes.” Larry's roommate, Dennis, was able to continue on and attend the funeral in Bucyrus, Ohio that

following Monday. John added that "Toni stated over and over that Larry's Academy and Navy experience were the most important and rewarding aspects of Larry's brief life. I'm sure she and their boys Alec and Kevin would love to hear from all of us in 12th Co who might share a wonderful memory. There was a video of Larry's life after memorial service. One thing is for sure (and we often don't realize it until later), Larry LIVED a full and rich life while he was here on earth, it was just too short!! Let his life (and death) be a lesson for all of us. Live today like you may not many tomorrows. I'll say it again, don't be "dunderheads". Get your physicals and your PSAs and your colonoscopies!! We need no more than Jim Rennie's magnificent smile to prove that early detection can make all of the difference. I'll leave you with the following observation from Jim. As we would see one other at a reunion or a luncheon or an airport, we would always say, "let's keep in touch" and then we get caught up in our lives and don't follow through. Jim accurately assessed that Larry was always one of those guys that did follow through and in fact would help connect the dots for others. Let's re-commit to trying a little harder to a little part of each other's lives. God Bless." I could say it any better, or end this column any more positively than with those words of recommitment to keeping connected.

Launchin' Spot 4...with **outbound** mail to my buds. Semper Fi!

79 ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP: 0%
LIFE MEMBERSHIP: 90%

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80 ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP: 0%
LIFE MEMBERSHIP: 95%

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Greetings Shipmates! As I write this I am at 33,000 feet on my way back from a Medical Fleet Surgeon's Conference in Pearl Harbor. It always seems glamorous to have a meeting in Hawaii, but I now realize that when you're in a conference room without windows all day -

it doesn't matter if you're in Wyoming or Honolulu - and to top it off - we were there during a rainy stormy week. Such is life!

On the flight I'm reading my e-mail and got a note from **Mike Zieser** who is the Commander of Submarine Squadron One in Hawaii, offering to get together. Should have sent the note earlier that I was there! Sorry Mike, my loss!

Had a chance to visit with Lisa and **Mike "The Mad Greek" Grieco** last week. They are doing well, still living in Millersville. Mike is a Senior Program manager for Lockheed Martin on the programs we can't talk about.

Brian Burlingame sent in a photo (Ed. note: photo did not come through) taken at the 50th (yes that is the 50th) birthday party for **Dale Gordineer**. Now - I'm really feeling old! They were in NYC for the big bash. As Burls puts it - "...it was just 30 short years ago that they met at Prep School and have stayed very close friends ever since..." Did you read that? - thirty "short" years ago? Where did the time go? Anyway, Dale and his wife Beth are both Doctors in Edgefield, SC. Burls is currently the Director of Australian Naval Programs for Lockheed Martin. (seems to be a trend with the class here...) His wife Susan is busy renovating their home and honing her artistic talents.

Now to further add to the evidence that is piling up that we are really getting old - Leslie and **Karl Bunker** announced that they are the proud Grand Parents of Maya Ray Bunker, born to their son Gabe and his wife Jennifer! Congrats! Do we have any great grandparents out there? Don't think so...however....

On the home front, Sherri and the kids are back in the house in New Orleans and things are going well. Lots of work to do as we recover from the storm. We have had a host of people staying with us who lost their homes. However, it is really kind of fun to have a "family in the attic." Every meal is like Thanksgiving Day - lots of kids, talk and "family." To add to the pack, Karen and **Jeff Munson** and their daughter Sara stopped by the house in New Orleans last week. I wasn't there, but from all I've heard they are doing well and they are enjoying life.

In the last column I had a note about **Jeff Able** and his wedding. Here's the shot - couldn't fit it in with the word restrictions:



Able wedding

Brad Peterson, one my shipmates on board the USS Grayling (SSN46) in Charleston sent in a brief note about one of our Classmates, **Tom D'Agostino**:

■ Joe, Wanted to make sure that both of you and the Alumni Association were aware of the accomplishments of one of our own from the class of 1980. This position is at the same organizational level as the Director of Naval Reactors within DOE. Obviously a big deal and something our class and the Alumni Association can take pride in. Please let me know if you need any more information. When I get the pictures from Tim Evans I'll send them in along with a short write-up for our Shipmate column. I went to the swearing-in and it was very inspiring. Brad ■

WASHINGTON, DC - Secretary of Energy Samuel W. Bodman today announced that **Thomas P. D'Agostino** has been sworn in as deputy administrator for Defense Programs in the Department of Energy's (DOE) National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA).

■ "Tom D'Agostino's highly valued experience and leadership will be critical assets as we continue to transform our nuclear weapons stockpile and respond to our national security needs," Secretary Bodman said.

President Bush nominated Deputy Administrator D'Agostino on January 27, 2006, and the U.S. Senate confirmed him on February 17. He previously served in NNSA's Defense Programs office as the assistant deputy administrator for Program Integration. He has more than 29 years of military service in the United States Navy and is currently a captain in the U.S. Naval Reserves.