

we saw and with whom we spoke, the tall tales we heard both old and new; so we'll give you what were for us the weekend's highlights. Please note the stories you are about to hear are true, only certain names, for obvious reasons, have been changed to protect those in positions of prominence.

First, let's talk golf. The long drive contest was won by **Jim "Bomber" Bethmann (33rd Co.)** who smacked his tee shot so far on #15 that the only guy close to him was lying two! In truth, **Joe Christofferson (4th Co.)** may well hit an even more prodigious drive, but like certain aspects of Jose's Boat School academics, his performance lacked accuracy! In any event, the point is moot as Joe's entire team failed the post-tournament urine test.

Closest-to-the-pins were won by **Rich Snead (7th Co.)** on #4 (a respectable 14' 7" on a nerve-rattling tee shot over water to a difficult green!), **Ron Hertwig (13th Co.)** on #7 (an incredible 5' 11" on an uphill, 190-yd+ shot!), and Battling **Bert Seither (16th Co.)** on #17 (a literal 120-yd dart downhill to 2' 11-1/2" on what is essentially an island green!).

And finally, the team winner, with an amazing low net of 48, **Rich** "I really haven't been playing a lot of golf...no really, I haven't!" **Snead (7th Co.)**, **Dave** "Now which end of the club do you hold?" **Jones (4th Co.)**, **Colin** "as in Montgomery" **Mackenzie (8th Co.)** and **Joe** "What's a sandbagger?" **Barnes (15th Co.)**.

Congratulations to all the winners, particularly Team Snead, as anyone who's played the Navy course knows how well those boys had to play to post a net 48! Now, on to the stories.

We had a dinner at the Chart House in Annapolis following the golf outing and while in the midst of announcing the winners of the various contests, we were approached by on **Thomas Behrle (14th Co.)** who explained why **Scott Thomas (12th Co.)** hadn't really won the closest-to-the-pin on 17. Since the big Mazu had played (thankfully!) in our group and we had witnessed his shot, we were somewhat confused; and Burls blood-alcohol level at this point in the evening wasn't helping us grasp the facts of his story any better. We were finally able to utilize our training in ESL (English as a Second Language) to decipher Bert Seither, as previously detailed, had actually hit his shot to 2' 11-1/2". But Burls, obviously uncomfortable with

his inability to match Bert's display of testosterone-laden athletic prowess, added a "1" in front of the "2", making his tee shot of 11' 10-1/2 inches winner, winner, chicken dinner....until of course Mazu hit to 7' 6".....at which point Burls carefully laid plan began to unravel.

Anyway, Burls confessed, a hastily-assembled honor board found him guilty of failing to lie after cheating, and he was sentenced to repeat the Nav final until he gets it right!

Next, **Scott Neidhold (24th Co.)** related how a certain company mate approached him Friday evening and inquired why he hadn't seen Scott at the golf dinner. Scott stared at Frank.....er, this classmate who shall remain nameless, and said "Frank, I sat next to you!" Any question we had fun at the Chart House!?! It's also worth noting not only had Scott sat next to Frank the entire evening, they'd played in the same foursome all afternoon!

Finally, we chanced to speak with one of our classmates at the tailgate on Saturday, whereupon this officer of flag rank asked us from where we knew him. Several snappy answers came to mind, but out of respect for his rank we limited our response to a tongue-in-cheek "I'm not sure, ...where'd you go to college?"

Our thanks again to everyone who attended the festivities, and a special note of appreciation to everyone involved in the planning and execution of a near-perfect 30th Reunion. On a personal note, you guys are a special group, and it is indeed a great honor and privilege to be counted among your number.

In other class news, **John Spencer (21st Co.)** has been named Director-Business Development for the Fluid Power Group at Eaton Corporation in Cleveland, OH. Please join us in wishing John the best of luck in his new position.



Five "star" classmates

And in a follow up to an earlier item, **Phil Wisecup (17th Co.)** sent the following photo of five of our "star" classmates. Left

to right we have **Phil, Dirk Debbink (23rd Co.)**, **Sam Locklear (7th Co.)**, **Joe Walsh (10th Co.)**, who incidentally never did provide us a submarine at the reunion, and **John Bird (27th Co.)**.

In closing, by now most of you are aware we lost classmate on Labor Day when **Dave Burdine (26th Co.)** died in the crash of a Yak-52 near Chicago. Dave was survived by his wife Yvonne and children Josh and Caitlin. Yvonne's address and phone are: 4911 Thornbark Dr, Barrington IL 60010, ph 847 202 5958.

We're sure the family would appreciate hearing from those of us who knew Dave. Go Navy, Beat Notre Dame!

**78** ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP: 2%  
LIFE MEMBERSHIP: 76%

PRES: **Glen Woods**

SEC'Y: **Vince Balderrama**

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As promised last month we have news of Nancy and Dick Boehme (boysandnancy@comcast.net). Got Dick's first ever writing. After a five year post graduation stint in the nuclear submarine service went to Medical School at the University of Alabama and Graduate School at UAB. Dick graduated with a PhD in Biomedical Engineering in addition to the MD degree. He subsequently completed his Internship in Surgery and Residency in the subspecialty of Neurology at Bethesda Naval Hospital. Dick finally retired as a Captain from the Naval Reserve in 2005. On the civilian side, he became President and CEO of the largest multidisciplinary subspecialty group in North Florida about 10 years ago and retired from that shortly after he retired from the Navy. Currently, Dick has an outpatient Neurology practice that engages him about three days a week and he continues to consult on a part time basis in the Biomedical Engineering field. He maintains a balance in his life by devoting most of his energy in pursuit of his three main passions in life: family, playing the piano, and flying airplanes. He's got his Airline Transport Pilot (ATP) rating and flies Nancy all over keeping up with their sons, John and Parker. Dick extends an invitation to any classmates who might find themselves in Jacksonville, FL. You have his e-mail above. Guess we'll also see you on the B-Ball court at our 30th, Dick.





Joe Stanik and '08 Mids on Mt. Sinai

**Joe Stanik** sent me a note on “how he spent his summer vacation” this past summer. It sounded like a heckuva lot of fun. Working for the Naval Academy language studies department, he escorted five first class midshipmen to Egypt (Class of '08's: **Sara Miller, Ben Fehr, Valerie McDermott, Stephen West, and Nadia Brouillette**), where they studied Arabic at the American University in Cairo. The midshipmen were all participants in the new Language Study Abroad Program that permits intense study of foreign languages and cultures as part of the summer training program. They spent four full weeks in Egypt and when not in class they explored every inch of Cairo. On the weekends they took major out-of-town excursions to Luxor, Alexandria, and the Sinai. The midshipmen had a great time practicing Arabic at every opportunity and getting to know the Egyptian people. When not helping out the Academy, Joe teaches social studies at New Era Academy. It's a small public high school in south Baltimore but Joe lives in Arnold, MD. He's been teaching high school in Baltimore ever since he took early retirement in 1994. He says teachers like to land a good summer gig but that one to Egypt will be hard for him to top in the future!

Okay, I knew it was only a matter of time until someone displaced **Bruce Gearey's** daughter as the “Anchor Baby”. Now the distinction goes to 29th Company's own—**Joe Vazquez**. I got the word from Joe's former roommate and brother-in-law, **Chris Wright**. Anthony Joseph Vazquez was born to Joe and his wife, Elin, on 30 Jan of this year in Miami, FL.



Joe Vazquez and his “Anchor Baby”, Anthony

Congratulations – 11 months later. As for Chris, he's a Public Librarian for Orange County Public Library in Irvine, CA. He'll be retiring from the Marine Corps Reserve in April 2008.

Speaking of retirement from the Marine Corps, I got an e-mail from **Brad James** that announced his on November 1st. That marks 20 years and 5 days of credible service for his retired pay multiplier—or so the orders said. But the reality is Brad has 35 years, 7 months, and 28 days since he took his first oath of enlistment in the USMC, in San Antonio (including Mother B time). As for that 20 year pay time, to say he collected that time the hard way is an understatement; but I am sure it echoes some similarities to many others. Here's his tale of time so to speak— “After 12 years as a reservist, Brad was mobilized in Aug '04 and went to war at the age of 50. He celebrated the 51st birthday at Camp Fallujah. He was in Iraq from Sep '04 to Sep '05 [12 months 18 days]; six months was with the Seabees at Camp Fallujah and six months with the Marine Logistics Brigade [which was then commanded by **John Wissler** and where **Bob “Bubba” DeStafney** was one of his commanders]. John approved/forwarded the request for an extension that took Brad over 18 years of service creditable for the retired pay multiplier. As soon as that extension was approved, Brad got a call from HQMC that invited him to work at the Pentagon with the Joint IED Defeat Organization [JIEDDO]. It was a tough choice, stay in Iraq with John and Bob for another 8 months, or go to work at the Pentagon. So (obviously) he spent six months at JIEDDO headquarters; followed by 18 months in the stand up and operation of the JIEDDO Joint Center of Excellence at Fort Irwin, CA. The last 80 days was spent on permissive TAD/Terminal Leave with his lovely bride, Jeannette, in Torrance, CA. Today he says, “I am blessed be able to achieve this belated

active duty retirement. Frankly, God answered my prayers” and that on Nov 1st he left “our beloved Corps in the hands of the current and coming generations.” Another retiree was **Bob Guy**. Bob retired on Sept 21st. Apologies too, Bob for not catching until it really was too late your Admiral's aide's e-mail asking for stories on you for the Admiral to use in his speech. Then again, think of the stories that *could've been told by classmates*. In that event, maybe you *owe me a beer!*

Got a press release that announced in September **Keith Bennett** was named Special Agent In Charge (SAC) of the FBI's Cincinnati Division. After joining the Bureau in '87 (following a stint with the management consulting firm of Booz Allen Hamilton in Washington D.C) Keith's first assignment found him at the Salt Lake City Division in Utah, where he investigated white collar crime and drug matters. The years that followed were bouncing between San Diego and FBI Headquarters. In San Diego he continued to investigate drug matters. In '98 he was promoted to FBI Headquarters as a supervisory special agent in the Criminal Investigative Division's Program Management and Coordination Unit. In '00 he was promoted to field supervisor in the San Diego Division and supervised a drug intelligence squad and a counterterrorism squad. He then headed back to Headquarters in '03 as a team leader in the Inspection Division; and back to San Diego in '04 to supervise an alien smuggling squad. In '05 there was break in the ping-pong assignments when he was promoted to Assistant SAC of the Phoenix Division (later as the Acting SAC). Then he went back to headquarters as the special assistant to Director Mueller. Geez, Keith, that's more frequent reassignment than active duty!

On some stray rounds—heard that **Vic Guillory** is no longer “acting” Director of the Surface Warfare Division, N86, Office of the Chief of Naval Operations, but is now officially *the* Director. **Carl Abelein** is flying as a Capt. on the B-737-800 for Delta Air Lines. In another case of *small world*, Carl had a flight where he flew with a friend of mine from high school – **John Christ** a retired Air Force officer and zoomie grad (USFA '77).

Well that's all the room for the month. Hope you have a Happy Holiday and get ready for the 30th reunion in 2008!

*Launchin' Spot Four.*

**Best Wishes  
for the New Year**  
from your  
Alumni Association  
& Foundation

**Happy  
Holidays**