

We had a good turn out at the Army-Navy tailgater at "Commodore Hubbard" park, which is officially known as Franklin Delano Roosevelt Park conveniently located adjacent to the sports complexes in Philadelphia. Pete Varsanyi brought the cigars and we had plenty of food and beverages to share among the Classmates and their families.

Speaking of which, I need to sign off and get this to Maria O'Shea at Shipmate before I turn into a pumpkin. Thanks for all the news and pictures this past year. Keep 'em coming in 2007!

Here's wishing all of the Class of '76 and their families, HAPPY NEW YEAR!

**77** ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP: 4%  
LIFE MEMBERSHIP: 67%

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Shiver me timbers! Being as time and tide wait for no man, (and we no longer worry about making formation!), I would call everyone's attention again to our upcoming 30<sup>th</sup> reunion. Participation in two events, the golf tournament and the Friday night reception, will be limited, so sign up early. Remember too if you have recently changed emails, or Rick White's all-hands messages haven't been reaching you, please send corrected addresses to either Rick or me at bettyrick@comcast.net or magoo1310@comcast.net. So much for the administrative work; on with the show!



Bill and Billy Garland

Bill Garland (23<sup>rd</sup> Company) sends his regards and the photo of son Billy on Induction Day of the Class of 2010. Here's wishing Billy the best of luck as he kicks off his Navy service. Now that Billy's saved his old man significant money attending boat school, I'd say the first round of drinks at the 30<sup>th</sup> are on Bill!



Graduation and commissioning of Ensign Jim Schall '06

And shortly before one Son of '77 began his time at USNA, another was completing his. Bill Schall (29<sup>th</sup> Company) celebrated the graduation and commissioning of Ensign Jim Schall, Class of 2006. Ensign Schall, pictured above with Pam Locklear, Tom Vechiolla, Jack Bernard, Jon Sears ('78), Mike Vitek and his proud father, begins flight training in Pensacola January '07. Best of luck to Jim, and congratulations to Bill.

Mark Gardner sent an intriguing tale story concerning Rob Lamb I hadn't heard before; as it concerns a retired naval officer I was privileged to know and hold in the highest regard, I felt it worth passing on. It seems Rags, Dave Coss and Rob were apartment mates while stash Ensigns at VF-124. Ensign Lamb had a brown '76 Vette he traded even up with then-Cdr. Jack Snyder for green '74 Vette, straight up! Mark swears Rob was actually sober at the time he concluded this particular horse trade, which while not on a par with the sale of Manhattan for \$22 worth of beads, is certainly close! Rumors Jack threw in some magic beans to seal the deal appear unfounded!

Regarding the next photo, while I can't support the sentiments on either side, I totally agree with the thought in the center!



Finally, Eric Wright sends his greetings along with a photo of his retirement ceremony back in December '05 at the National Defense University at Ft. McNair. Eric and his wife June were honored to have a strong showing of '77

classmates, including La Selle Booker, Ron Booker, Cary Hithon, Bill Lester (former roommate), Greg Reuss, Dave Ziemba and my guest speaker, Ken Trass. Also in attendance were Tim McGhee and John Page ('78) and Steve Camacho ('80). Eric's naval career took many turns after graduation, starting as a submariner and finishing in the Oceanography/Geophysics community. He and his family were blessed with two tours in Japan, three in Hawaii, one each in Charleston, Monterey, Newport, Brussels, Belgium and his final tour in DC at NDU. June always said, "Home is where the Navy sends you", and in case, she wasn't kidding! He's already started a second career as Deputy Director for two Federal Advisory Boards with the Defense Threat Reduction Agency, located just outside Ft Belvoir. He invites anyone visiting or in the area to please look him up, either at DTRA or at his home at 7009 Cold Spring Lane in the Stoneybrook subdivision just off Telegraph Road. Congratulations to Eric and June on a well-deserved retirement, and sincere thanks for serving our country. By the way, was Hithon's customary toothpick present and accounted for?



Eric Wright's retirement

Here's wishing everyone a safe and prosperous New Year! Go Navy, Beat Hopkins!  
Magoo

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

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The Dec 06 Shipmate had an article on Dr. John Barry Talley retiring after 35 years as the Naval Academy's Music Director. Barry Talley was a big part of life for a lot of us during our time at Mother B. For those of us who sang for him—whether it was in the Catholic or Protestant choirs or with the "big



78 Says Farewell to Dr. Talley

leagues” of the Glee Club and all its various groups—he’s left an especially indelible mark. I particularly recall the little bit of normalcy and calm that singing offered us as Plebes. For the hour or so of rehearsal and the hour of church service performance, upper classman treated us as singing partners and not lowly Plebes to harass and brace up—we were for the time “human”; and it helped us survive. Our own **John Semcken** played a large role in the farewell honors to Dr. Talley. For Dr. Talley’s final Glee Club concert John clandestinely recruited as many former Glee Club members as he could gather to join current members in a surprise performance. He had almost 100 Glee Club alumni on stage (and few of us choir types—like me—could be heard singing lowly from the stands). Present from 78—were **John Semcken, Jim Vanderkamp, Rick Nielsen, Dave Brown, Chris Powers, Charlie Nickell, Chris Jensen, Dave Lauriat, Fred Butterfield, Ed Henkler, and Blues Baker.**



Chad ('10), Charlie, and Ryan ('07) Nickell

Speaking of Charlie Nickell, “Nick” followed with an update. He admits that

for 25 years he didn’t see much of Annapolis, but now with a Firstie (Ryan, '07) and a Plebe son (Chad, '10) he and Dana have made lots of SC to MD excursions in the past 3 years. Ryan was one of only 24 mids who to get SEALS during service selection. Chad is considering medicine and is having a “blast” in Plebe year (that can’t be possible!). Middle-son, Cole, is a Junior at Covenant College in Lookout Mountain, GA and wants to be a pastor. But that might be later in life as I understand that Cole now is applying for a commission in the Marine Corps through the USMC Platoon Leaders Course (PLC). He almost maxed everything during the entrance physical. It could be that Dana and Nick may have a couple of Naval Officers and a Marine Officer in a few years. That would be wild. The only girl of the group, Julia, is in 7th grade. To hear Nick tell it she “will be allowed to date when she turns 35!” Uh-huh, yeah, sure. And what other fatherly delusions are you holding on to for dear life? I have two words for you—shotgun (helps chase boys away.) As for Nick, he’s still with Washington Group International where he currently is the Area Manager for the Spent Nuclear Fuel project in Aiken, SC. Dana has home-schooled all four of our children. As a result, Nick *thinks* he may be the only one in our class who can say that all of his children have graduated first in their high-school class (with 3 now in college)! Um, if that’s the criteria, I don’t think so as we’ve quite a few other home-schooling families.



Holly, Matt and Gary Lovgren

In early November Holly and **Gary “Nils” Lovgren’s** pin on new Naval Aviator’s Wings of Gold on their son, Drew at Pensacola. Drew’s in Norfolk now undergoing training to fly H-53s with HM-14. By the time this column reaches you, their youngest, Matt, has graduated for Plymouth State University and hopefully has found gainful employment with a marketing position with one of the New England Ski resorts. As for Gary, he’s part-time teaching at the high school. He said it’s “sort of a job sharing agreement.” This spring he’ll be full time. In the meantime, he teaches skiing at the resort out their window (Cranmore... Holly teaches there too) and run the Troops to Teachers Program for New Hampshire (part time from home). He’s said it is “just enough to keep me busy”—but *didn’t* say it’s enough to keep him out of trouble. Well, here’s to staying out of trouble, Gary—or like Youngster year, not getting caught!

Some loose end items from previous months—Currently in the lead for the “Anchor Baby” is Noah Preston Gearey. He was born to Robin and **Bruce Gearey** appropriately enough on Thanksgiving Day, Nov 23<sup>rd</sup>. At 8lbs 30z he’s small by Butterball standards but big enough by baby standards to be hearty and healthy. The hard part will be for Robin and Bruce to one day explain to him that the Macey’s Parade is *not* in his honor. That’s *not* a conversation I’d like to have—anyone remember the Easter Bunny and Santa talks?

## Sec’y Column Deadlines

(send columns to [classnews@usna.com](mailto:classnews@usna.com))

| ISSUE          | DATE DUE:         |
|----------------|-------------------|
| April 2007     | 13 February 2007  |
| May 2007       | 14 March 2007     |
| June/July 2007 | 15 May 2007       |
| August 2007    | 13 June 2007      |
| September 2007 | 10 July 2007      |
| October 2007   | 14 August 2007    |
| November 2007  | 12 September 2007 |
| December 2007  | 15 October 2007   |



*Sleeping Anchor baby and tired dad, Bruce*

In other stray rounds—here's a pic of **Martin Bushika** from when he visited a contractor here in Syracuse back in Oct. We did have that lunch—Chinese Food (and as a result I have a new favorite Chinese Restaurant!)



*Martin and me*

Last month I had apologized to **Ed Henkler** for not putting up info on his Drexel oarsman daughter, Kelly. Here's a pic of Ed and Kelly at the Head of the Charles. Daughter Mandy is also an up and coming oarsman. She attended Navy Women's Crew Camp this past summer so there's a chance at least one might be rowing for Navy!



*Ed and Kelly Henkler at the Head of Charles '06*

As this goes to print, I close with some recently received sad news of the passing of two classmates and former Napsters—**Bruce Owen Powell** and **Bill Countryman**. Bruce passed away peacefully at home on Oct. 30<sup>th</sup> from

colon cancer. Bruce is survived by his wife Debbie and their son Joseph. In lieu of flowers, Debbie asked that a memorial donation to Oakland Kaiser Hospice, 235 West MacArthur Blvd, Oakland, CA 94611, or Noll Soll, 5693 Cabot Dr, Oakland, CA 94611. Bill passed away on Nov 20<sup>th</sup> and is survived by his wife Phyllis, sons, John, Christopher and Michael; and his daughter, Caroline. Bill's family asked that in lieu of flowers, donations be made to Antioch Community Church, 1600 Powerline Drive, Elon, N.C. 27244 for the Countryman family. You can still send condolences to Phyllis and the kids via [info@lowefuneralhome.com](mailto:info@lowefuneralhome.com). More information can be found on our websites. Please remember Bruce and Bill and their families in your thoughts and prayers. Launchin' Spot Four, with a prayer and words from *Eternal Father* echoing in my ears

*And when at length her course is run,  
Her work for home and country done,  
Of all the souls that in her sailed  
Let not one life in Thee have failed;  
But hear from Heaven our sailor's cry,  
And grant eternal life on high!*

**79**

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP: 0%  
LIFE MEMBERSHIP: 90%

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Greetings, 79ers!

I know we're already a month into 2007, but since this is my first column of the year, I'm gonna say "Happy New Year" anyway! I have a ton of stuff to get out this month, so let's just jump in.

Sean Cate was kind enough to forward a snippet of email conversation he had recently with **Bob Dupuis** ([bob.dupuis@pgnmail.com](mailto:bob.dupuis@pgnmail.com)). Here's Bob's note:

■ I attended the Beirut Memorial service yesterday morning (23 October 2006) for the 23rd anniversary (of the embassy bombing in Beirut). Not sure if you know, but 3 years after the bombing, not only did the Jacksonville (NC) community plant 241 Bradford Pear trees on the main road to Camp Lejeune (one for each killed in the bombing), but they also built a beautiful monument—"They Came in Peace"—to the 273 soldiers, sailors and Marines killed in Lebanon. They put

their names and service affiliations on the wall, to include our classmate/shipmate **Mark Lange**. Something I read a while back made me think that we had a classmate on that wall—and yesterday gave me the inspiration to find out. Glad I did. My squad leader from first set our Plebe year is also on the wall.

I have been taking my family out there on Christmas Eve for the past 5 years now, even more reason knowing that our classmate is remembered there.

Go to <http://www.beirut-memorial.org/monument/plaza.html>. It takes you to a picture, but it's even more beautiful in person. Great day, Shipmate! Bob ■

Thanks, Bob and Sean! Speaking of Mark Lange, I happened to come by a brief description of his last mission over Lebanon. Check out the link [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Robert\\_Goodman](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Robert_Goodman) (Bobby Goodman was Mark's B/N in the A-6, who was captured and later released).



*In the UK: RDML Michael Mahon, CDR Jack Spiller, Ray Kutch*



*Retirement Ceremony: CAPT Steve Matts '80, Rosemary and Jack Spiller*

Next up is this note from **Ray Kutch** ([kutchr@bellsouth.net](mailto:kutchr@bellsouth.net)), who had recently returned from a trip "across the pond":

■ Wiz, I just want to share some photos and info after attending the retirement ceremony of CDR **John H. "Jack" Spiller III**, U.S. Naval Activities, United Kingdom on 8 June 2006. It was nothing less than a grandiose affair full of typical British pomp and circumstance. It was a celebration of an exceptional naval career