

take in all its glory, it's painted in Blue Angel blue and gold, with depictions of all the various branches of the service. Needless to say, anyone passing this baby on the street will know who's driving.



Ray Simmons emailed to say Sue and he are still living in Northern Virginia, where Ray recently merged his firm with ManTech, a larger public company. His oldest son Adam lives with his wife in Gainesville, VA, and both currently work for Ray. The bigger news is by the time you read this column, they will have likely made Sue and Ray grandparents! While I can't speak for Ray, Sue is far too young to be a grandmother. Lindsay's in Fairfax, VA selling software to the USG, and Sean is a junior down in Blacksburg facing off for the Virginia Tech club lacrosse team. Connor (the youngest) is in 8th grade and playing lax as well, with Ray now a 13-year veteran of coaching the youth program in Fairfax County. He started with 3rd graders, (which is of course akin to herding cats!), and for the last 10 years has helped with the local high school program. Congrats to the entire family on the arrival of the newest Simmons.

Everyone should now be able to access the '77 site on the USNAAA website to register online for the 30th reunion. Please keep in mind certain events have limited capacity, so participation will be on a first-come/first-served basis; this includes the Thursday golf tournament, so anyone interested in having the chance to pelt Langman's Vette with Top Flites, contact me! Speaking of the golf tourney, rumor has it Club 16 has been holding secret golf clinics in the Midwest. But while practice generally makes perfect, those familiar with the players doubt Thomas Harvey Hutchinson, III's back, however broad, can carry the relative golfing games of Neil Gillespie, Pete Hyres and Al Seither! Recent intelligence indicates the next clinic is scheduled for somewhere in the Southeast.

In closing, I truly regret to note the passing of another classmate, Steve Lessard. I know everyone joins me in offering our thoughts, prayers and deepest condolences to the families of both Steve and his wife Kathy in this most difficult of times. —Magoo

78 ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP: 2%
LIFE MEMBERSHIP: 75%

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First let me apologize for missing last month's column. As this column comes to you I will have left Lockheed in Syracuse to sunnier climes southward (still with Lockheed). Well "sunnier climes" is a slight exaggeration as I only moved about an hour and half south to work with our helo bubbas in Owego, NY. While it is arguably sunnier, it is **definitely** well below the lake effect snow line! Now on to the news.

Here's a name that reaches well back in the past—**Ron Lovelace**. Ron sent me an update e-mail and pics taken from his son's wedding. He wrote that since his retirement the family has resided north-east of Philadelphia, just outside Doylestown, PA. While he says it's a great place to raise a family, he still misses the warm weather climes of the south. (I know, that's why I'm in blistering Owego instead of Sibera-cuse. Hey, it's all relative!) Ron says he does get to enjoy the tailgater at the Wachovia Center, Army-Navy game and alumni events sponsored by the Philadelphia chapter. As for the wedding, it was last June. Debbie and Ron's son, Stephen was married to Allison Suter in Long Island, NY. In attendance were Ron's 1st company classmates **Doug Grau** and **Jack McCourt**. Doug was there with his wife Lori and their two children Erica and Kyle. Jack's adult supervision was his wife, Kay. As for Ron's son, Stephen, he's a 2004 Virginia Tech grad in 2004 and now a pilot in VP-45 in Jacksonville, FL. (Right now he's on a detachment to Iraq.) Both Ron and Jack McCourt are proud "Pelican" alumni. Ron noted with irony that Stephen was born during Ron's first squadron tour in VP-45 — 25 years ago. Younger son, Eric, was recently selected for a navy commissioning program, the Bachelor Degree Completion Program. A Mechanical Engineering student at Temple University, Eric will graduate next year and

commence OCS the summer of 2008. Regrettably Ron noted that Eric joined "the dark side" in opting for the Nuclear Power Surface, much to the dismay of his aviator dad and brother. While the Lovelace men will have had three different paths toward their Navy commissioning, and sing different alma maters, they all sing *Anchors Away* and share the mantra of BEAT ARMY!!



Doug & Lori Grau, Ron & Debbie Lovelace, Kay and Jack McCourt

Dan Topolewski ran his first half marathon for time on January 13th. He finished in just over 2 hours 5 minutes but declares the next time he'll break 2 hours! Toppie had been running a little over the past few years - just for the fun of it. But after he had a tumor removed from around his prostate last summer, he decided to really take a serious approach to health maintenance including, like the advertisements all say, "diet and exercise". Subsequently, he took 1st place for our age group (50-54) at the Robins AFB Veterans' Day Museum of Aviation race last November 11th, and came back to finish the RAFB Half Marathon in January. [Did anyone else wince when they saw that age group? Is that *really* us?!] Dan's inspiration when he runs has been his fellow 8th company mate, **Kevin Walsh**. Dan can still envision him running away from the pack when we were at Quantico. He hopes to one day run like Kevin! He realizes that will never happen, but can still dream it. He thanks Kevin for being his inspiration.

Congratulations to **Bill Yeager** who relieved Captain Fred Smith as Commander of Naval Education and



Dan Topolewski- 2hr Running and Still Standing!

Training Security Assistance Field Activity (NETSAFA) in an official change of command ceremony at the National Museum of Naval Aviation on board Naval Air Station (NAS) Pensacola. For those of you who don't know, NETSAFA is the U.S. Navy's agent for coordinating training and education support to our international allies around the globe. As a field activity of the Naval Education and Training Command (NETC), NETSAFA serves as a focal point for all security assistance training programs. So, ironic as it is, I guess that mean Bill is the Navy's head "teacher to our world allies". Hold that thought— now get a beer. Seriously, congrats, Bill!

I got a very belated Christmas '06 Newsletter from Katie and **Jeff Fowler**. (Hey, I'm still working on mine from 2004!). Jeff put on his second star in '06 and left Recruiting Command last summer after three years in Tennessee. Two weeks later, he took four jobs in Naples—in charge of plans and operations for the Navy in Europe and Africa; Deputy Commander of the Sixth Fleet; Commander of NATO submarines in the Mediterranean, and Commander of US submarines around Europe and Africa. Katie made the big overseas move, and once again moved in by herself as Jeff had to go to sea during the Israeli/Lebanon war. The family lives in Pozzuoli halfway up an extinct volcano in a villa overlooking the sea about 10 miles northwest of Naples. Because of her many social functions, Katie was not substituting this year. Katie and Jeff have visited Cannes, Sicily, Tuscany, and Paris so far, with Turkey and Germany on the horizon. As for the Fowler offspring: Brittany (19) graduated from high school and was accepted at all four colleges where she applied. She chose the University of Mary Washington in Fredericksburg, VA but took a one-year deferral to so she could join the family in Naples. She works, takes Italian classes, and dates an Italian boy, Joe! Since you have to be 18 to drive in Naples, she has become the taxi driver/nanny when Katie and Jeff travel. Lynsee (17) is a junior at Dept of Defense Naples High School. She is co-captain of the cheerleading team, class secretary, Homecoming Princess, member of Future Business Leaders of America, Venture Crew and Club Beyond. Her activities have taken her to Germany three times, white water rafting and all around Italy. Her bedroom window overlooks Pozzuoli Bay and

nearby islands. Needless to say, life is good. Connor (13) is in 7th grade at the same school as Lynsee, growing like a weed, and just became the third teenager in the house. He recovered from breaking his arm in April skateboarding and continues to enjoy skateboarding with his friends. He is an electronic whiz, with a laptop computer, playstation, PSP, Ipod with Ihome—he likes the high tech world. Thanks for the news, Katie ('cuz I know you probably wrote it!).



Fowler Family Thanksgiving 2006

Whoa stop the presses!!! This news flash just came in as this column goes out to the *Shipmate* editor. Guess who will be the new Supe?— **Jeff Fowler!** Jeff has been nominated for his third star and appointment to replace VADM Rempt as the Superintendent!! Congrats to Jeff and Katie and the entire Fowler family— because we know he couldn't have gotten to where he is without all of you behind him (as is true with *all* of us and our families!). You will be great role models of a supportive, successful and loving naval family for our future Naval officers to emulate. That's a lesson that will pay even bigger dividends than the basic fundamentals of seamanship. Best of luck to you all—(especially fending off classmate Red Alerts!)

Speaking of stars—congratulations also to 78's other latest three star, **Andy Winns**. Andy was also nominated for Vice Admiral and selected for assignment as the Navy's next Inspector General. Meg and **Joe Leidig** will be leaving their place as "King and Queen" of Guam (a.k.a. commander, Navy Region Marianas/U.S. Pacific Command Representative, Guam, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Republic of Palau/commander, U.S. Naval Forces, Marianas, Apra, Guam) for Naples, Italy. Joe is being assigned as director, U.S. Naval Forces Europe-Sixth Fleet, plans and operations/deputy commander, Sixth Fleet/commander submarines, Allied

Naval Forces South/Commander, Submarine Group Eight. It sounds like Joe is Jeff's relief.

BrigGen **John Wissler** hosted me for lunch in the Executive Dining room in the Pentagon. (No, I did not embarrass him by exploring my nasal cavity with my index finger! Mrs. Marshall taught us better!) John is Senior Military Advisor to DepSecDef. Sue and John live in the DC area while he is at the Pentagon. Their three oldest are out of the house, a son makes *major* coin with a large firm (No really, he makes as much as *Major* but at the youthful age of a 1st Lt!); their eldest daughter is a speech pathologist and one son is a 2dLt of Marines now stationed in either Iraq or Afghanistan (I forgot John!). Regardless, we pray for his safekeeping. Their 19 year old daughter is at home and is— like a lot of her contemporaries— trying to seek her path. Elizabeth and I also saw Sue and John at this year's Navy-Marine Corps Ball in DC in support of the Navy-Relief Society. The chairperson of the ball (which raised over \$500,000) was Laure? Ferguson, **Mark Ferguson's** better half. Besides Laure? and Mark, also attending from '78 were Marla and **Al "Blues" Baker, Dave Buss, Barney Cramp, Alex Dimitrew, Brice Zimmerman**, also present were Karen and **Julius ("JC") Caesar ('77)**, and 11th company mates **Lee Geanuleas ('77), Scott Gray ('79) and Tim Giardina ('79)**.

In closing, we send our condolences to Mary and **Bob Novak** and all the Kilclines and Novaks on the death of Mary's mom, Mary Kilcline. She was a grand Navy lady—wife, mother, mother-in-law and grandmother to a long line of Naval Academy and Navy men. Her legacy lives on in those men in Navy Blue.

'Til next month, I'll be launchin' Spot Four.

Sec'y Column Deadlines

(send columns to classnews@usna.com)

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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