



USNA Alumni

By the way, from another picture Turl sent of his daughter Megan, by the time she's 16 Craig's head will likely bear a striking resemblance to Behrle's! Craig, thanks for 30 years of dedicated service to your country!

Clinton Hallman (8th Co) checked in from the Windy City where he recently took a job as chief patent counsel with Kraft Foods in Northfield, IL. He states thus far he is thoroughly enjoying learning the mystery that is Velveeta cheese, and experiencing the differences between winters in Richmond, VA and Chicago! We just want to know if the Kraft's recipe for macaroni & cheese is proprietary! Clinton attended law school at George Mason University in Fairfax, VA while working as an engineer for Mobil Oil. Since graduation he's had a series of positions in private and corporate practice, working with Philip Morris in Richmond prior to his move with Kraft Foods. Clinton and his wife Angie went through a recent battle with breast cancer, but as the doctors believe they caught it early, Angie's prognosis is very, very good. Clinton, please accept our best wishes for success in your new position and our prayers for Angie's continued recovery. Anyone visiting the Chicago area is invited to look the Hallman's up and enjoy a drop of fine port; Clinton can be best reached at his email, clinton.hallman@kraft.com.

Next up, **French Caldwell (20th Co)** forwarded this photo of **Mark Kenny's (24th Co)** COC last October. The featured speaker was none other than '77's own **Julius Caesar (17th Co)**, which leads us to believe our nation faces a serious shortage of qualified orators! Mark was Commander, Submarine Group 2 and Commander, Navy Region Northeast. At one time, Mark was also Commander, Submarine Group 10, holding down three flag billets at one time... which means Mark is either one helluva an officer, or leads us to believe

our nation faces a serious shortage of admirals! French noted having had all those commands, Mark had a lot of people to thank, and must have spoken for an hour without mentioning himself. As both Mark's and JC's speeches were full of football analogies, the audience got to relive four years of mid-70s Navy football, which we recall for our plebe year was "up the middle, up the middle, up the middle...PUNT!". French sent the photo below showing the '77 members who attended Mark's COC; pictured in front of the USS Annapolis, are, l to r, **Fred Litty (24th Co), Mike Cohn (24th Co), Ron Miller (5th Co), J.C., Mark, French and Greg Gullette (24th Co).**



Class of '77 members in front of USS Annapolis

Josh Cohen ('96), flag aide for **Kevin Quinn (16th Co)** sent the following photo taken aboard the USS John C. Stennis, flagship for Kevin's command, Carrier Strike Group THREE. The Stennis left Bremerton, WA earlier this year, and has recently started its trip home after spending five months in support of coalition ground forces in both Afghanistan (Operation Enduring Freedom) and Iraq (Operation Iraqi Freedom). Kevin and wife Barbara will detach from his current command in late September, returning to Washington, DC with orders as Director, Surface Warfare Division, N86. A hearty welcome home to all the Squids pictured below (Kevin, by the way, appears to be in pretty good shape for a senior citizen!), and wish

Kevin and Barbara the best of luck in Washington.

Finally, we had the distinct pleasure of meeting **Eli Turner (18th Co)** for breakfast at the world-famous Double-T Diner in Ellicott City, MD recently. The food was great, the conversation stimulating and Eli looks like he can still run a respectable time in the 40! And as we were late owing to a faulty run-flat tire, we even paid for breakfast! It would be great to make this a more regular event, so anyone else in the general vicinity of Columbia/Baltimore wishing to participate, please feel free to call and we'll be happy to let you know next time we get together.

'Til next month, go Navy, beat Hopkins like a bass drum!

Magoo

78 ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP: 2%
LIFE MEMBERSHIP: 76%

PRES: **Glen Woods**

SECY: **Vince Balderrama**

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Some news of '78 in Iraq culled over last few weeks...I hope **Mark Fox** got that stateside R&R in May. He had planned to make #3 son, Mason 's, graduation from the Naval Academy and his wedding the next week. All three of his and Priscilla 's sons are wearing Naval Officers uniforms—William (oldest) is the intel officer in VFA-81 (deployed aboard Nimitz.), #2 son, Collin, is an SH-60 pilot in Jax, and Mason is now in Pensacola for flight training. Priscilla is the prototypical strong Navy wife and doing well despite getting the full dose of empty nest with all sons gone, daughter Abigail in her freshman year at the College of Charleston and Mark in Baghdad for the past year. By the time this *Shipmate* arrives Mark will be able to pull it from his HOME mail box. He 's looking forward to spending time with Priscilla and the family and making a few Navy games and tailgaters. In March he 'll take over Carrier Strike Group 10 (the Harry S. Truman Strike group). In July **Marcus Fisk** returned from a year in Iraq working the Disarmament and Reintegration program for militias and illegal armed groups. He was at Multi-National Force Iraq and worked for LTGEN Bill Caldwell on the Strategic Effects staff. Their job was to research other DDR programs over the past century and develop one for Iraq. They put together a program for the

Government of Iraq (GoI) with draft Termination Agreements between the GoI and sheikhs, VoTech staffing, security, trade courses, ID systems, budget, stipends, life skills courses, all the way down to staples and paperclips. Marcus said he had a great team of creative, joint-service active and reserve folks. When they weren't building the program, they were out in town meeting with Ministers from the PM down to the Minister of Valves and Hydrants (at least he felt there *seemed* to be a Minister for *everything*). All said, aside from an occasional mortar or an IED—he said it was a “fun year”. Marcus says '78 was handsomely represented in Baghdad. **Mark “MRT” Fox** became Deputy Strategic Effects, **Lee Yarberry** (on his 2nd tour) served as XO to the Multi-National Corps Commander, **Brian Roby** was the CoS for Multi-National Security Transition Command, and **Bob Laughlin** was the senior law enforcement guru in country. Last word was that Brian was due to retire in FEB but was held-over filling-in for his Army GEN boss who went home due to illness. Thanks for the new Marcus—welcome home to you and Mark (and I hope soon Lee, Bob and Brian). While they may be home or homeward bound, **John Casey** was outbound to Baghdad in August. A true patriot, John wanted to feel like he was doing more to help so he volunteered to exchange his contractor's “rear support management” of Iraq reconstruction projects for the in-country program manager position for all reconstruction projects and capacity development, country-wide, for facilities and transportation. His contract extends 'til 30 April, with two possible 6-month extensions. He hopes to run into any '78ers who may still be there—especially around Army-Navy time. The last time he was in Baghdad he had to watch *The Game* in a room full of Army and Air Force guys—he could use the reinforcements. Stay safe, John. You're my hero.



Fellow O'Neill Clubbers, Brian, Marcus and Bob



Marcus and Lee



Mark and Marcus at Al-Faw Palace

Loren “Muff” Divers had an “interesting night” out with his eldest daughter Soho a few months ago. They met Sean Hannity at KHVH radio studios and **Oliver North** at the Freedom rally in Honolulu. A KHVH newscaster (and personal friend of Loren's) was nice enough to comp them two tickets. Muff printed out the boxing smoker photo showing then Capt. North as referee. He had Soho deliver it to Ollie because little girls can always jump right in front of *very long* book signing lines with impunity. With their youngest, Madison (3) now in pre-school Loren pondered the end of having a child at home every day, and the interesting change—dates with his wife, Cammie, peace and quiet, more work done sooner, and more free time during the day (yeah, right!).



Ollie North, Soho and Loren Divers

Rich Polek wrote of a 31st Company “mini-reunion” in Richmond, VA back on 19 May. Present were Vikki and **Ron Brownley** (with their daughter Olivia);

Connie and **Mark James** (with children Jessica and Matt); Jennifer and **Rich Polek** (with children Nadilee and Cole); Janeen and **George Wadzita**. The “James Gang” graciously organized and hosted the affair with plenty of great food, drink and conversation (I'm sure some classmates' ears were burning from the sea stories!) The Brownleys drove from Maryland and the Wadzitas from Virginia Beach.



L to R: James, Polek, Wadzita, Brownley

Fellow lightweight cox's 'n, **Rusty Chang** dropped an update and photo. Rusty reported Silvia will retire next year from the Naval Reserves—excuse me—that's now the “Reserve component of the Navy”. Rusty attended **Paul “Munch” Mansfield**'s sister's (Teresa) 50th birthday party there in San Diego, where almost the entire Mansfield clan attended. Teresa was Rusty's Ring Dance date and it's been fun keeping in touch with her over the years in their global travels. Munch and Barb have two kids and are the happiest Rusty's ever seen them. He also saw Flora and **John “Woody” Woodward** last year when he went to his nephew's graduation in Annapolis (**Jeff Whitsett '06**). According to Rusty they have a stunning, newly renovated house right on Pax River near the base. (Now he knows how the rich and famous lived!) Rusty provided a pic of the graduation that shows **Randy Goff** ('76) who was Rusty's brother-in-law's roommate at USNA, **Danny Whitsett** ('77) (Rusty's brother-in-law's brother—and *my* 11th Company mate), Rusty's brother-in-law, **Neal Whitsett** ('76) brother, graduated nephew and Neal's son, **Jeff Whitsett** ('06), as well as Danny's son, Neal, and Rusty's brother (another retired Navy Captain). After the graduation, Rusty stayed an evening with his old company mate, **Stan Labak**, and his wife, Janine. He and Janine are really enjoying life living in the woods in Falls Church. Rusty retired in '06 out of Millington, TN from the Base XO job. It was a great last tour! Before that he was CSO for COMFAIRWESTPAC in Japan which he

says was even more fun. While in Millington he often saw **Laurea and Mark Ferguson** and **Katie and Jeff Fowler** when Mark was at NPC and Jeff was the Recruiting guru. He was especially appreciative of Jeff being able to make his retirement on the day of Jeff's pack out for Italy. Rusty went out with style—Memphis style dry rubbed baby back ribs and barbecue chicken *with all the fixin's* (as they say down South) along with 200 or so of my best buddies on the base. Now Rusty's permanently in San Diego trying to maintain his two houses after decades of renters. You can imagine the work to do—whew! Thanks for the update and pic Rusty. You look *much* closer to "race weight" than I do these days!



Goff, Whitsetts and Changs

With that, I guess I should be off to hit a treadmill someplace after I finish my Lean Cuisine. Launchin' Spot Four (at not quite max take off gross weight).

79 ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP: 0%
LIFE MEMBERSHIP: 90%

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SECY: LCDR John "Wiz" Withers, USN (Ret.)

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Greetings, 79ers!

Usually about this time the flow into my inbox slows to a trickle. What with all the school activities, the beginning of the new government fiscal year, and thoughts starting to turn toward Christmas, the task "write to Wiz" often gets bumped down on the priority list. Well this month I had a real flurry of activity.

I had a nice "electronic conversation" with fellow 19th Co. bubba **Gary Rossi** (twoaichs@pacbell.net), updating me on the latest in San Diego. Gary was recently recognized by the Rancho Family YMCA as its "Volunteer of the Year" for 2007. An avid cyclist, Gary logged over 2000 volunteer hours and headed up the YMCA Bike Club and the Ride Across California (RAC). And all this while maintaining his full time job AND coaching high school

soccer! (*What do you do in your spare time, Gary?*)

I thought the Ride Across California was a very interesting story. About 120 cyclists—over half of them elementary and middle school students—took part in the 7-day, 265-mile ride from Yuma, AZ to Carlsbad, CA. The trek begins with the riders touching their rear tire in the Colorado River, and ends with dipping their front tire in the Pacific Ocean. High winds and heavy rains made it especially challenging! All in all it was a great time. Speaking of which—Gary says he's fired up about attending our 30th reunion. Thanks, Gary, for the news. And congratulations on your award!

From the southwest to the northwest, from the ocean to the mountains! Time now for an email from a fellow helicopter driver, that all around good guy **Mac Silvester** (mac.silvester@usps.gov):

■ Hey Wiz—Greetings from your old "across the hangar" LAMPS buddy! Hope things are going well.

My son Scott and I just returned from Seattle where we met up with **Chuck Wright**, his dad Matt, brothers Brad and David and some other climbing buddies. Our goal: to summit Mount Rainier. Being the rookies on the team, Scott and I were ably instructed with a crash course in glacier travel, equipment, rope teams and self-arrest. Despite being "flatlanders" from the east coast, we huffed and puffed our way to the 14,411 ft summit over the course of 4 days. I have attached a couple pictures. The first is Chuck and I at the summit with the '79 Crest. (I hope you can make it out). The second is Chuck in the middle of his backswing while hitting golf balls into the crater with a 3-iron.

This was a fantastic experience for us. My thanks again to Chuck and his family for organizing this climb. Special recognition needs to go to Matt, Chuck's dad, who made the climb and summited at 75. Mac. ■

Way to go, Mac and Chuck! Congratulations on that significant achievement! Mac—when you and I were both piloting the whirligigs, we never even THOUGHT about flying at 14,000 feet. Heck, I always got nervous above 1400 feet! And yet there you were at that altitude—on foot! Of course, to someone like Chuck, such altitudes are just slightly lower than "pattern altitude", so it was probably no big deal to him. A big "attaboy" to Chuck's dad—summitting at 75. He just took away the last excuse I

had! I'll have to remember that when Karen and I go hiking later this year in Yosemite. Thanks, Mac, for the news and the photos.

A little closer to home, I received an email from Kathleen and **Brad Rohrs** (OK, it was from Kathleen, but I wanted to give Brad a little credit!). Brad, Kathleen and son Michael just attended this summer's Plebe Parents Weekend at USNA. Why were they there, you ask? Well, they were visiting their younger son **Sean Rohrs '11** who had just completed Plebe Summer. Brad retired from the Reserves a while back, and he currently is a first officer with American Airlines, flying the MD-80 out of Reagan National in Washington, DC. Michael, the older son, is completing his studies at St. Mary's College of Maryland (a mere 15 miles from the home of yours truly). So our congratulations to the Rohrs family as we welcome another legacy. And as you can tell from the pictures, Brad is a proud Dad indeed! And special thanks, Kathleen, for the email—so much of my email comes from spouses, and without your collective efforts this column would be a LOT smaller!

Also in my inbox this month was an email from **Pete Kurzenhauser** (pkurzenhauser@cox.net), who wrote of his recent job change. Pete was recently appointed as the chairman of the Director of National Intelligence (DNI) Weapon and Space Systems Intelligence Committee (WSSIC). In Pete's words, "The WSSIC produces analysis on foreign weapon and space systems that incorporate the consensus or alternative views of the whole intelligence community for the senior decision and policy consumers. It also provides the primary conduit for collaboration with our Australian, Canadian, and UK allies on these topics." Thanks, Pete, and congratulations on your new position!

I'll wrap up this month on a personal note. Like many (probably most) of you, I celebrated my 50th birthday this year. Several months ago I told Karen that, since this year is a round number and milestone of sorts, I'd like to do something "different". Well, be careful what you ask for! This year's birthday was VERY unique—about as unique as having my 18th fall during Plebe Summer. This year I found myself on stage . . . singing . . . in an opera. The Light Opera Company of Southern Maryland (www.LightOperaMaryland.org) performed Victor Herbert's "Naughty