



Class of '76 at the January 2008 DC Metro Area Luncheon

RSVP to Mike and Vanessa Seifert not later than April 3, 2008 at: [vmseifert@verizon.net](mailto:vmseifert@verizon.net)

(2) The Spring 2008 VA-Beach Area Get Together (TK is plagiarizing off the above and planning his Tidewater soiree) is still being planned. No details on a venue other than it should be a good time for Bourbon and Cigar lovers on Saturday, 26 April 2008. I expect "TK" will advise us most probably the night before. TK is at "TKennedy@WBBINC.COM"

#### B. LONG TERM PLANNING:

(1) Potential Navy vs. ND post game dinner in Baltimore. Now that we experienced and familiar with Baltimore after Army-Navy 2007, we should have a good feel for some decent venues to accommodate classmates who desire tailgate and/or go out afterwards.

(2) Army-Navy 2008 is back is Philly, 6 Dec 2008. Class of '76 infamous annual tailgate at "Hubbard's" Park is most definitely on. Karen and I will try to pick another unusual and fun place to dine afterwards in one of Philly's finest downtown. Details TBD.

4. OTHER GOUGE (I pass on from TK)

Fellow NAPSTERS, TK, **Elliott Bloxom**, **Tom Collella** along with fellow classmate **Craig Opel** attended Col **John Boggs**, USMC retirement ceremony last month at the National Defense University. John was TK's and Elliott's NAPS roommate. John is also a fellow Classmate who accomplished a great career after leaving Plebe summer.

John's five children were present; three of them are in the military. John will be doing exciting, and notable community projects in the future.

Bottom line: It was a nice event. TK SENDS

There was an excellent turnout for the DC Metro Area Class of '76

Luncheon to kick off 2008. [Go to <http://www.usna.com/classes/1976/index.html> to view the pictures]. ■

**CORRECTION:** In the March 2008 Class of '76 column there was a misspelling. Bill Borchardt is the Director for New Reactor Licensing, *not* Bill Burkhardt.

In conclusion, a Public Service Announcement from our Class President, **Kevin Stone**:

■ I am frequently asked by Classmates to "change my email address in your list". I'd love to make it so simple but I cannot. We use the Alumni Association's database for our "official" comms and the Class Yahoo! group for more informal emails (and for Classmate generated emails). If you're email has changed (or you are not getting any emails from me!) please go to [www.usna.com](http://www.usna.com) and after logging in select "My Profile" in the "Online Community" box. You can then update your profile and contact info. If you don't remember your login etc. call the Alumni House at 410-295-4000 and ask for help.

As for the Yahoo! group, you can subscribe by sending an email to [usna76-subscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:usna76-subscribe@yahoogroups.com). If you change emails first unsubscribe from your old account [usna76-unsubscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:usna76-unsubscribe@yahoogroups.com) and then subscribe from your new one. If you cannot unsubscribe I can delete your old address but I cannot add you.

Remember, you don't want to be in the 10% who doesn't get the gouge... **keep connected!** ■

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 LIFE MEMBERSHIP: 70%

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

**PRES:** Glen Woods  
**SEC'Y:** Vince Balderrama  
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Got an e-mail from **James Bland**

([www.jamesfbland.com](http://www.jamesfbland.com)) with an update and a request for classmates to drop him a line and look in on what he's been up to by checking out his website. I did and he's got some great photos! After nuclear power service James joined General Electric and had a very successful 17 year career. He left GE in 2001 and accepted a position as Director of Product Marketing at the joint venture between Siemens and CTI Inc. While there he completed commercial introduction of their Time Invention of the Year 2000, the PET/CT [Positron Emission Tomography] imager and developed the mobile versions of PET/CT. PET/CT has been a significant factor in the fight against cancer, heart disease and Alzheimer's Disease. The JV was bought out by Siemens which gave him the opportunity to support Karen's career and they moved to Hong Kong for a little over a year. (Karen is Vice President, Global Research & Development Laboratory Equipment Division Thermo Fisher Scientific which keeps her flying around the world.) While there he took the opportunity to learn to read, write and speak Chinese, and submitted photographic images to American Airlines, winning a finalist's prize. Moving back to Austin, he's been creating fine art images and ran another photographers business for two years. He continues to create art using traditional photographic methods, but is also looking for other business opportunities in Austin and Texas. In his "off hours" he swims daily with Longhorn Aquatics (3500 meters) and recently started playing euphonium with Austin Wonder Brass.



James Bland

No children, but we have two Scotties—Bobby and Cricket. By the way, those of you on LinkedIn (can also catch him there too (<http://www.linkedin.com/in/jamesfrederickbland>)). He also mentioned that **Mark Hughes** has started a Golden Dolphins Group on Linked In for “qualified bubble-heads and ex bubble-heads”. Thanks for the gouge, and we’ll see you at the 30th!

In March, **Duane Lafont** wrote that his fellow 15th Company shipmate **Randy Duncan** was recovering from an inadvertent “bull fighting incident in February”. Here’s how Duane explained it: “Randy was fixing fence on his “cracker ranch” when he was trampled by the neighbor’s bull. Randy was taken by surprise when the young, recently dehorned bull butted him in back and knocked him down. The bull then commenced to trample Randy until Randy’s son could rodeo the bull away. Randy wound up with several shattered lumbar and four fractured ribs with the worst part being that he had a 30% compression of the spinal column. The docs couldn’t do much but relieve the pain until the swelling went down. Randy was strapped down flat in the hospital. The good news is that Randy’s swelling went down, his back came back into realignment, and it appears that no permanent damage was done. He may need a back surgery to repair the shattered discs but the docs were waiting to see how they heal naturally first. Randy is still on heavy drugs but he has been released to home. FYI, the bull was put down and Randy says he’s getting plenty of steaks! If anyone wants to call or send a card, he is at 3678 E. Osceola Road, Geneva, FL 32732 H: 407-349-5427 or C: 407-221-6716.” I can’t help thinking part of it was my fault. I mean in all that time we lived together as young Lieutenants (along with **JB Richardson**) in the famous (or infamous) “Chiefs Club” in Folkstone, NC, I never gave Randy lessons on my Mexican Bull-fighting techniques—then again, we only had those wacky goats to use as *Ferdinand-substitutes*. Too late now! Still, glad to see Randy’s doing better and we hope the surgery goes well. Next time—keep checking your six and take a red cape. Duane ran across **Marty Drake** at a Tampa Alumni gathering. Marty’s recently taken over as Science and Technology Director for Southern Command (SOUTHCOM.) As for Duane he says he keeps “chugging along”. This month, May, will be a killer for him as all of the

following takes place: His daughter, Claire, graduates from Ole Miss; stepson, Brent, graduates from USF; his son, Douglas (1/LT, USA), returns from a 15 month Korea tour and then gets married in Mobile. He says if he “survives” May, he’ll see us at the reunion in October. On the plus side, Duane, there are two *less* colleges to pay for!

On Feb 22nd a large contingent of ‘78 Boxing Fans (plus some of **Jock’s Maloney’s** Philly Boys and Dennis “**Duke**” **Reilly** (’79) and his “Boys from Buffalo”) swooped down for the annual Brigade Championship (aka- the Boxing Smoker). [Before I go on, let me first say—I can’t find my crib sheet notes of the night so what follows will be from my aging memory. You know what that means! So, I *know* I’ll get arrows in-bound on forgotten and misspelled names and year groups. Pluck away—I’ll make corrections in the next column. Mea culpa!] The pre-match reception was hosted by our buddy, fellow-Marine, Col Dave “Irish” Mollahan and his lovely bride, Ingrid, at their quarters on CAPTAINS row. Dave is the senior Marine in the Yard. Both he and Ingrid are proud parents of USNA grads **Sean** (03’) and **Kellen** (05). Sean is a P-3 NFO and Kellen is finishing off qualification as a V-22 Pilot. **Jeff Fowler** would’ve liked to have hosted our “green alert” but he was overseas on business. Katie bravely offered to still host us at the Supe’s quarters without him but we thought it best she first meet “the gang” when Jeff was home. Besides, Dave and Ingrid were first class and great hosts and no one ever considers them “backup”. Katie did join our group at the Mollahan’s and at the matches so she is now fully “NATOPS qual’ed” on the Boxing Smoker! As for the rest of the gang present, hmm, let’s see... as memory serves (or fails) me, besides Elizabeth and me there were present: Becca and **Ray Kwong**, Marla and **Al Baker**, **Wil Kramer**, **Glen Ives**, **Craig Diffie** (with his son who might go Marines), **Anthony Cardoza** (with his son—Aaron), **Doug Diehl** (and his son, Jason), Janet and **Bob Schmermund**, Cindy and **John Rudzis**, Mary Jane and **Steve Maloney**, **Dennis “Duke” Reilly** (’79) and his “Boys from Buffalo”, Debra and **Skip Bayes**, Deb and **Bruce Latta**, Katie Fowler, **Dave Surgent**, **Scott Godfrey**, **John Cooke**, **John Kovalcik**, **Dom Berenato** (and his wife), **Howie Seeger**, **Terry O’Brien** (and his daughters), **Joe Martin**,

**Tim Arcano**, **Gini King** and great Navy friends Chuck and Linda Blue.

Stray rounds: A February Navy Press Release announced that “Rear Adm. (lower half) **William R. Burke** was being assigned as director, Navy Quadrennial Defense Review, N8, Office of the Chief of Naval Operations, Washington, D.C.” At the time, Bill was serving as director, assessment division, N81, Office of Chief of Naval Operations, Washington, D.C. The move has probably already been made by now. While on west coast I had was able to pop in and visit briefly with **Jon Kutler** in Bel Air, CA. He’s doing well and has now found the perfect balance between work and family of which most of us can only dream. He breakfasts with his son (remember their daughter is a freshman at Harvard), does dabbles in his work on-line at home for a few hours works out and then does whatever. I suspect he’s also honed up on his pool skills as he beat me best out of three in some 8-ball. My thanks especially to his lovely and gracious wife, Sara, for letting me intrude on their household on *Valentine’s Day!* Speaking of lovely brides—**John Semcken** is another lucky dog! His wife, Mee, let him take in this stray (yup- your scribe) after first feeding him a great Mexican Meal. I met up with the Semckens (including younger son Reed) at one of their favorite restaurants and then headed out to their San Marino home for the night before flying back home. We were also joined at dinner by my son’s best friend Dan Kacisnki who is in his senior year at USC. Thanks to John’s son Jack too for staying at friend’s house so I could use his bedroom (I didn’t play with his toys. But that drum set was tempting!). Speaking of Mexican dinners—on a road trip to the Dallas-Ft. Worth area I was fortunate to meet up with **Matt Elias** and **Brad Wilson** for a great dinner at a local Fort Worth Mexican Restaurant. Matt works for BENS (Business Executives for National Security). It’s a nationwide, non-partisan organization that is the primary channel through which senior business executives can help enhance the nation’s security. As for Brad, he’s a fellow Lockheed Martin employee working at LM-Aero. We were joined by my co-worker and International MH-60 PM, Scott Sinnett. It was a great meal with far ranging conversation that covered family, friends, classmates, jobs, politics and life and included a dabbling of walking down midshipmen-memory lane

and of course sea stories (ours of our military days and Scott's motorcycle racing). On the way out we ran into **Don Ward** ('87). We were introduced to him by the bartender who picked up on the fact three of us were "Navy-men" and they blurted out "Hey he's one too" and pointed to Don. After introductions we discovered (well, Matt mostly) that we had a lot of common Shipmates. Don's with PRTM. He was in town consulting for LM-Aero on performance based logistics (PBL). Small world but true to fashion—you can always find a fellow boat-schooler at the bar.



Scott, Brad, Vince and Matt

Well, I've run out of space. In closing here's a pic that was sent a long while ago by Judi Farwell of **Jon Sears, Jeff Ewin, Faris and Mike Fralen** with what look some good stogies! Sorry it's taken so long—I know there are others that I hope to get too in the same apologetic fashion. By the way—check the website for reunion news. Update you personal stuff there too! And congratulations to all of you with kids graduating this month (like our son, Michael—from Wheaton College in Norton, MA!)! May they all find employment *with* medical benefits. Launchin' Spot Four.



Jon, Jeff, Faris and Mike

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**79** ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP: 0%  
 LIFE MEMBERSHIP: 90%

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Greetings, 79ers!

Happy 29th Anniversary! Once again it's May. That means one more class shows up in the "Class Column" section after ours. It doesn't seem like it all that long ago when you could find our column by starting at the BACK of the magazine and working forward a few pages!

We begin this month with a rather informative update from the "Big Cheese", our Class President **Sean Cate**:

■ Greetings once again, to the Great Class of 1979! I have some good news to pass along. First, there are now SEVEN more stars in the O/V Constellation! On 13 February 2008 the DoD announced the promotions of six classmates from one-star to two-star. They are as follows:

**RDML Philip H. Cullom** has been nominated for appointment to the rank of rear admiral (upper half). Phil is currently serving as commander, Carrier Strike Group Eight, Norfolk, Va.

**RDML Timothy V. Flynn III** has been nominated for appointment to the rank of rear admiral (upper half). Tim is currently serving as program executive officer for enterprise information systems, Washington, D.C.

**RDML Timothy M. Giardina** has been nominated for appointment to the rank of rear admiral (upper half). Tim is currently serving as commander, Submarine Group Nine/commander, Submarine Group Ten, Silverdale, Washington.

**RDML Robert S. Harward Jr.** has been nominated for appointment to the rank of rear admiral (upper half). Bob is currently serving as deputy commanding general for operations, Joint Special Operations Command, U.S. Special Operations Command, Fort Bragg, N.C.

**RDML John W. Miller** has been nominated for appointment to the rank of rear admiral (upper half). John is currently serving as deputy director, plans and policy, J5B, U.S. Central Command, MacDill Air Force Base, FL.

**RDML Donald P. Quinn** has been nominated for appointment to the rank of rear admiral (upper half). Don is currently serving as commander, Strike Force Training Atlantic, Norfolk, Va.

Then two weeks later, on 29 February 2008, we learned that Navy Reserve **CAPT Russell S. Penniman** has been nominated for appointment to the grade of rear admiral lower half. He is currently serving as commanding officer, Navy Reserve Joint Forces Air Component Command, Third Fleet, San Diego, Calif. Russ, from 20th Company, is our 24th USN Flag Officer and 26th overall Flag Officer. If you would like to send a note to Russ, his email address is [penniman@cts.com](mailto:penniman@cts.com). Our best wishes to Russ and Carol!

Well done to a well deserved group of professionals! Once again, you have done us all proud and we salute your continued service to our great country!

In other class news, your 30th Reunion Committee has met to start planning for the 2009 Reunion. It is not too soon to start making your plans to attend. The Reunion will run from Thursday – Sunday, 24–27 September 2009. Our headquarters hotel will be the Annapolis Westin at Park Place, a brand new facility near downtown. We want to start the party early, so please plan to arrive Thursday, or even Wednesday night. (But don't call for reservations yet!)

This time around we are looking to have a Golf Outing plus a Crab Feast at a local restaurant on Thursday. For Friday we're planning Yard and city tours, plus a Class Meeting and watching the Brigade P-Rade, along with a dinner Friday evening. On Saturday we'll hold our extended tailgater inside the stadium at the Class of '53 Pavilion (same spot where we held the 25<sup>th</sup>). Beat Wake Forest! There is nothing "officially" scheduled for Saturday evening, allowing time for company parties or other activities. On Sunday we'll wrap up with a Class Memorial Service at the Chapel. (Note: all plans are still tentative at this point.)

To answer the question I get most often: there will be no package pricing this time – you'll only pay for the events you choose to attend. Please plan to come for the entire weekend.

Finally, are you receiving emails from Class President? Whenever there is Class or Academy News of interest to the Class as a whole, I will send out an email with that information. There is only one way to get these emails – you must have your email address registered on the Alumni's website. I do highly recommend everyone update your profile at <http://www.usna.com> so that you don't miss any important news, particularly as the 30th Reunion approaches.