

Finally, on a sad note, I just received news of the passing of another Classmate. Our hearts and prayers go out to the family of **Jeff Grover** who lost a courageous battle with colon cancer.

77 ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP: 4%
LIFE MEMBERSHIP: 70%

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Every bone in me body is a spar, and when I spits, I spits tar! I'se hard, I is, I am, I are...SIR! As the commercial used to say, we've come a long way baby! And as the journey continues, we recognize those who've reached significant milestones along the way.

First up, **Bill Daniels (32nd Co.)** informed us **Phil Wisecup (17th Co.)** was recently assigned as president of the Naval War College following a successful tour as CO of Carrier Strike Group 7 in San Diego. Talk about rough duty; San Diego...Newport. What's next Phil: taking over for Joe Walsh in Hawaii?

Next, **Mike Brunskill (25th Co.)** let us know as of 22 July, 2008, **Dirk Debbink (23rd Co.)** now answers to VADM Debbink, and has assumed duties as Chief of Naval Reserve.

Finally, Joe O'Connor (19th Co.) sent in the following photo from Joe Kernan's (19th Co.) assumption of command of the newly reestablished 4th Fleet. As Joe noted, the ceremony gave several classmates an excuse to escape to Florida and play a little golf, while at the same time honoring a most deserving member of '77.



Pictured from left to right are Jerry Miller (19th Co.), Dan McCarthy (23rd Co.), Joe O'Connor, Dave Reidy (6th Co.), Rich Stone (20th Co.), some guy selling ice cream, Jim Eberle (24th Co.), Pete Engle (20th Co.) and Pete Grieve (6th Co.).

Reidy and Stone get the prize for coming all the way from California, while Grieve and Eberle showed their Marine mettle by soaring with the eagles after hooting with the owls. Seems like only yesterday we were sitting with Stoner and Joe chillin' out listening to *Paradise By The Dashboard Light*!

But the most noteworthy aspect of the trip involved a classmate that *didn't* make it! **Bob Kautter (32nd Co.)** had every intention of joining the festivities, but a close encounter with a light pole transitioning from the parking lot to the terminal at the Norfolk airport resulted in numerous stitches and a serious headache! Fortunately, Bob has fully recovered, at least physically, and the light pole suffered only minor damage!

Sincere congratulations to all three of our classmates on these well-deserved appointments and promotions!

On the civilian front, as of November 1, 2008, **Colin Sargent (22nd Co.)** will officially join the ranks of published novelists with the debut of his book *Museum of Human Beings*. The historical novel tells the intriguing story of Jean-Baptiste, the son of Sacagawea later adopted by William Clark. Pre-orders are available, and Colin informs us early reactions have been very enthusiastic. Best of luck to Colin; here's hoping early enthusiasm translates to copious sales!

In other summer happenings, **George Lawlor (24th Co.)** and his lovely wife Maureen recently hosted a weekend get-together at Casa Lawlor in the Hamptons. Although your humble scribe didn't make the A-list, other luminaries in attendance included **Gary Gambarani (24th Co.)**, **Scott Neidhold (24th Co.)**, and **Eddie "Good Morning Mrs. Cleaver" ... Good Morning Mr. Cleaver" Canders (10th Co.)**.



Pictured above are, l to r, Mike, George, Scott and Gary, as well as Gary's wife Janet, Terri Neidhold and Maureen. Gary reports the wives supported the local economy while the men-folk "worked out" in a local establishment. Whether this means the boys pumped out sets of 12-oz. curls or actually engaged in physical exercise remains uncertain. In any event, the weekend was

by all accounts exceptional; and although George's neighbor, one Billy Joel, failed to join in the festivities, Gary plans to extend next year's visit to an entire month!

Bob Thompson (3rd Co.) used the occasion of a recent layover in the D.C. to rendezvous with three of our classmates for dinner.



Joining Bob for dinner were, from Bob's left, were **3rd Co.** shipmates and spouses **Mike** and **Lisa Frick**, **Linda** and **Mike Brock** and **Mary Beth** and **Ed Rogers**. Bon appétit, Bob!

Finally, our heartfelt appreciation to **Scott Hill (1st Co)** for abridged explanation of exactly what Tecore Networks, a "leading provider of small to medium-sized multi-technology mobile networks offering switch-based cellular infrastructure vendors worldwide the capability of delivering the same standards-based voice and data technologies available to global carriers on an IP-based architecture" actually does. Any questions...call Scott; he'll be happy to go into more detail over dinner and drinks! He may even buy!

All for now. Remember, you can't hear from us if we don't hear from you!
—Magoo

78 ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP: 2%
LIFE MEMBERSHIP: 76%

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Well, it's here- reunion month. By the time this edition reaches your doorstep many may be packing your bags for our 30th. Could it really have been that long? No way! It seems like only yesterday we were running through the halls of Mother B, sweating exams, wondering about first assignments and for some- making final arrangements for those June week weddings. (Oh, congratulations to those celebrating *two* 30-year events this year and *Happy Anniversary!*) As I said, it doesn't seem that long but the calendar is proof—not to mention that this column appears much closer to the *front of Shipmate*, a sure sign of our, um, "seniority" (Besides, we've long gone past the stapled mid-point of the magazine—if we still had staples.)

Not much in the way of the mail bag and despite my global travels I haven't bumped into anybody. I looked around Denmark while on a two-week business trip but no luck. I know I'll get a lot more news from you over the next few months. I'll *definitely* have a bunch of notes after the reunion.

Got an update from **Kim Tageson**. Kim and his wife, Jane, are finally back together full time in Wilmington, NC. He'd been a geographic bachelor for a while since he arrived there one year ago to begin work with GE. (He asks, "Any '78 CEO wanna buy a new reactor?" and then offers... "Give [him] a call!") Kim and his daughter, Liz, were backpacking in the Smokies earlier this summer. Liz is in her third year of college. Kim and Jane's son, Matt, is using his marketing degree in his work with CDW in Chicago. Kim had planned to be at the Navy-Duke game last month so some of you may have already bumped into him. If not, you'll definitely see him this month at our 30th.



Liz and Kim Tageson

Got some recent change of command news- On the 6th of August **Dan Holloway** relinquished command of his Carrier Strike Group (CSG) 12, Enterprise Strike Group in Norfolk to **John Christenson** ('81). Dan's new assignment is Director, Military Personnel Plans and Policy Division, N13, in Washington DC. During the change of command Dan received accolades, awards and recognition. In typical Dan fashion he humbly commended and recognized the warfare commanders, staff and men and women of Strike Group 12 as having done "all those accomplishments" and that they enabled him to lead from the front; and how thankful and proud he was of having been privileged to have led them. Good luck on your new assignment, Dan. Maybe now we can catch you at a tailgater. Oh, I'm sure CSG 12 will do well under your relief as I *know* he had some good firsties and a *real* Plebe Year. Dan's former boss VADM Marty Chanik ('73) retired and his job as Commander, 2nd Fleet was passed to **Mel Williams**. Mel was previously the deputy commander of U.S. Fleet Forces Command. **Bill Landay** is now the Program Executive Officer for ships (PEO

Ships), Washington, D.C. Bill had been the Chief of Naval Research and Director, Test and Evaluation and Technology Requirements, N091, Office of the Chief of Naval Operations, Washington, D.C. I'm sure everyone wishes Dan, Mel and Bill success in their new assignments.

Speaking of new assignments, **Jay DeLoach** is now the Director of Naval History and the Curator of the Navy. In July, Jay rolled out his Roadmap for Naval History to a Historical Center and Naval Historical Foundation audience gathered in the National Museum of the United States Navy's Cold War Gallery. According to Jay, "The central theme of the Roadmap is putting out historical products with a purpose... These products must be accurate and relevant, world-class history for a 21st century Navy and reflect the Navy's one message, many voices, philosophy." I liked the fact that Jay believes that the term "naval history" includes both the Navy and Marine Corps and that he wants closer ties with all the sea services. Moreover, Jay also believes the Navy and Marine Corps history customers are the Navy-Marine Corps family, active duty, reserve, civilians, retirees, contractors, families, the U.S. public and the rest of the world. His Roadmap also calls for greater coordination and outreach by the NHC from the highest levels of the Navy such as the Secretary of the Navy and Chief of Naval Operations to the deck plate forces such as the fleet and Marines. **Glen Ives** is Vice President, Aviation Programs, Sabre Systems Inc. in their Lexington Park, MD office. Sabre is a technical support and services company. According to their website news, Glen's responsible for "Sabre's strategic growth and management within the aviation community and beyond. Initially, his initiatives will focus on the opportunities and direction of the Patuxent River area and quickly expand to other Sabre offices throughout the country. His focus area will include not only the Navy but also the Department of Defense and other applicable civilian agencies."

Last month I mentioned **Dana Sales** and his visit back to the Academy for his nephew's graduation and of his daughter's graduation from NYU. After I submitted the column, Dana followed up with another e-mail that completed the rest of the story (as Paul Harvey would say). Dana's daughter is Raegan. Raegan's degree was a BA in Psychology with minors in math and Spanish.

Unfortunately, she - like a lot of our college graduated sons and daughters - is still looking for a job. And now here are the pics of Dana, **Hall Van Vlack** and **Paul Wideorn** at Morton's in Annapolis during that Commissioning Day and of Dana and his nephew, **Brandon Sales** ('08) at graduation. Brandon is now serving in the Persian Gulf on the USS BENFOLD (DDG-65).



Hall, Dana and Paul



Dana and Ensign Brandon Sales

Well that'll do for now. See you at either at "Jeff Fowler's House" for our reunion reception, at the game and tailgater or any of the various events of the Reunion Weekend. I'm sure that the weekend will be - as we use to say in the duty logs - "[a] good time [will be] had by all"! That's a certainty! Catch you at the watering hole... Launchin', Spot Four.

79 ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP: 0%
LIFE MEMBERSHIP: 90%

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Greetings, 79ers!

Right now I'm back stage, curled up in a corner, trying to concentrate amid all the hubbub and mayhem. Tonight is the tech-rehearsal for our summer performances of Gilbert & Sullivan's comic opera "The Mikado" in which your humble scribe plays a role. Things have bogged down for the moment - not an unusual occurrence as we get accustomed to our actual stage. So I thought I'd take a break