

remembered to bring his camera. Thankfully, the camera was not used to track rule infractions. TK also provided a picture of his son, Sam, and grandson, Sammy.



76ers on the links at Sewell's Point



Three generations of Kennedys: Sam, Sammy and Thomas Samuel

Barb and I spent the Thanksgiving Day weekend in Wakefield, RI, with the extended family of Becca and **Billy Hubbard '01**. On Friday, Becca's parents, Audrey and Dennis Bell, took us antiquing in the Antique Mall in Pawtucket and we were surprised to find operating a booth in the corner of the mall was none other than actor James Woods!



Mark & Barb Hubbard antiquing with James Woods

**Michael Seifert**, our 35th Class Reunion coordinator, provides the following announcement:

■ Save the Date – Our 35th reunion is just around the corner, 1-4 SEP 2011 (Labor Day Weekend). The planning

committee is already working hard to make this a weekend to remember. The Annapolis Westin Hotel will be our base of operations and the site for our Friday evening dinner. The link to discounted room reservations (\$299/night) is at <http://www.starwoodmeeting.com/StarGroupsWeb/res?id=1012062949&key=AEEB9>. Plan on a dinner at a local seafood restaurant on Thursday evening, many events on Friday to include golf, class meeting, memorial service, meeting with the Supe and a P-rade. Saturday there will be a super tailgate in the N Star room at the stadium as we watch Navy beat Delaware. Plan on a brunch on Sunday. Stay tuned for more information. Go to [usna76.com](http://usna76.com) for the latest reunion information. ■

That's it for now – BEAT ARMY!!!

**77** ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP: 3%  
LIFE MEMBERSHIP: 71%

PRES: **Mr. Dan Busch**

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SEC'Y: **Thom McKee**

1202 Shady Creek Road, Marriottsville, MD 21104

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C: 202-438-1541; E: [magoo1310@verizon.net](mailto:magoo1310@verizon.net)

**78** ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP: 2%  
LIFE MEMBERSHIP: 77%

PRES: **Glen Woods**

SEC'Y: **Vince Balderrama**

3402 Van Wie Dr. East, Baldwinsville, NY 13027

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WEB SITE: [usna1978.org](http://usna1978.org)

I open the New Year with an apology for missing the last column of 2010. At the time of submission a lot was going on in the Balderrama household- not the least of which was *moving* the Balderrama household! After a long delay - and almost 2 years of being a geographic bachelor and bachelorette - we finally made the move to Annapolis. It wasn't without its trauma. The packers and movers came on 13 October to our Baldwinsville, NY home. In the process of packing one of them left a door ajar and our cat—well, Michael's cat (Homer) got out of the house. We almost caught him but he got spooked by a neighbor's dog and bolted. (There have been a couple of sightings and searches since then but today he remains "At Large".) Two days after Homer's "Great Escape" our buyers closed on the purchase of our house. The following Monday *we* closed on the purchase of our Annapolis home (That has a nice ring to it, doesn't it?) It was an all Navy affair as our realtor was our good friend, Denise

Lovelady (better half of **David Lovelady '66**) and we purchased the home from Ona and **Dan Truax '59** and their *Academy Realty* realtors. After signing more documents than we ever did when we first "mustered aboard" as Plebes, I appropriately announced to CAPT Dan, "I relieve you sir!" and he responded "I stand relieved" Of course we both thought our wives should have made the pronouncement since they *really* were in command but Ona said "No we let you [XOs] perform the ceremonies." We are the 4<sup>th</sup> Navy family to own the house. The only real change I may make is to repaint the blue mail box with the "N star" and "NAVY" markings to the more fitting Navy-Marine Corps markings. If you ever get to Annapolis look us up! On a melancholy note, we made the move in time to spend it as a family with Elizabeth's parents before her mom, Betty Veit Dean, finally succumbed to her fight with cancer on Oct 28<sup>th</sup>. Betty was the daughter of Virginia and **Fritz Gleim '27**. Moreover, she was a loving wife, caring mother, nurturing grandmother and the best mother-in-law a guy could ever wish for. We all loved her dearly. Fortunately, I see a lot of her each day in my wife and son so she's not really that far away. Well enough of the 3Bs' news - on to your mail bags.

Author, author! In October **Tom Algeo** had his novel, *The Gitmo Mission*, published. The synopsis read, "In *The Gitmo Mission*, Tom Anderson joins a naval reserve intelligence unit to raise some extra cash for his struggling law practice. His previously uncomplicated life is turned upside down when he's ordered to investigate the death of a detainee in Guantanamo Bay. Things get worse when a young Marine's suicide leads to the discovery of a mysterious ship in Havana Bay, and Tom's small band of warriors find themselves trapped behind enemy lines. Will they make it home alive?" If you are a bit curious, check out Tom's website [www.thegitmomission.com](http://www.thegitmomission.com). You'll learn about how he came to write the book, discover some details about him that you may not know (like what languages he speaks and what world record he set). Of course there's also the link on how to get your own copy. I can't help wondering, Tom—are there some *autobiographical* elements in the book? Hmmm. Keep enjoying the good life in the Bahamas, flying helos (and still dabbling in the law?). You are the envy of us all.

Ray “Ray Moon” Luevano sent a quick “didjknow-note” that “Aloha **Phil Winters** started the PWGA (Phil Winters Golf Academy) at Stanford University Golf Course? One of his disciples followed the master into the Stanford Men’s Club 2010 Championship following a summer of intense instruction and practice.” I think Ray was referring to himself because the result was Aloha Phil Winters, 3rd Place winner, A Flight, and his lowly disciple (Ray), C Flight champion. Phil reported that “Raymoon is very ‘trainable’”. He also opined that Ray’s story “may be featured in an upcoming episode of ‘Golf in America’ on The Golf Channel about underemployed, middle-aged, technical school grads turning to golf...watch for him to go far...and give him strokes at your peril!”



Golf Zen, Ray Luevano and Master Phil Winters

**Bart Buechner** dropped me note and copy of a press release that reported that The President’s Council on Fitness, Sports & Nutrition (PCFSN) chose **Joe Schmitz** to receive a 2010 PCFSN Community Leadership Award. The award is given annually to individuals who improve the lives of individuals within their community by providing or enhancing opportunities to engage in sports, physical activities, fitness or nutrition-related programs. Joe was one of 28 people across the nation recognized for this honor. A lifelong advocate of physical fitness, Joe was noted for his leadership role in a number of organizational and community fitness activities, including wrestling, distance cycling, and aquatics. He serves as an Advisory Board Member to the Bike to the Beach Foundation (B2B), established both to raise awareness in the fight to cure Autism and to promote “mental and physical health through social activity, physical exercise, creativity, hard work, volunteering, and of course biking.” Joe was also noted as a staunch advocate of the benefits of amateur wrestling through his support of the National Wrestling Coaches Association (NWCA).



Tommy Schmitz and dad, Joe Schmitz at Bethesda Triathlon for Autism

Back in April, Denise, daughter, Cailyn and **Dennis Reilly** visited their youngest son, Brian in Peru. Brian was spending nine months living in the Andes in Urubamba, Peru. Brian was doing community-service work (installing water purification systems and properly ventilated stoves and assisting in a medical clinic) with the Princeton Bridge Year Program. While in Peru they spent some time in Lima home of Veronica and **Tony Balestrini**. Dennis said that their home is absolutely gorgeous and that they were the most gracious of hosts. It was thrill for him to see the Balestrinis in their home country. Tony (tonybalestrini@yahoo.com) is with Bear Creek Mining where he’s the Manager of Corporate Public Affairs. Bear Creek is developing silver mines in Peru. Veronica is a school teacher. Dennis reported that Veronica and Tony would like to see more classmates come to Peru to visit them and see Machu Picchu. (Dennis gave special thanks to **Jorge Ortega** (jbortega@prodigy.net) who facilitated the reunion.



Reillys and Balestrinis in Lima

Don’t know anybody who didn’t follow the rescue of those trapped Chilean miners. But did you know there is a classmate connection? I do- and now you will, thanks to **Dick Hollenbach** (’54) who first brought it to my attention. The rescue pod that was used to bring up the miners was designed from the work of a

NASA team that was led by our classmate, **Clinton Cragg**. After a nuke career, Clinton joined NASA in 2003 as a founding member of the NASA Engineering and Safety Center (NESC). This troubleshooting safety team was set up in the wake of the 2003 Space Shuttle Columbia disaster. So when the Chilean rescue authorities settled on a plan for reaching the 33 miners trapped 2,400 feet below a desolate desert, they needed a contraption to bring them to the surface. Clinton and his team were the right guys with the expertise to help. They came up with the critical elements of the design, from shape, materials and human factors and provided them to the Chilean authorities who incorporated most of them into the final capsule. The proof of the design was in the 33 men now living to tell their heroic tale of survival. Great job Clinton!

Well, that’s all for now. Boxes and boxes to unpack and files to get organized so I can cover mail I know I have missed. For now, Launchin’ Spot 4 — from Annapolis!

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

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Greetings, 79ers!

It’s never good form to start an article with an apology – but this month I’m going to anyway. I do apologize for missing the last issue of *SHIPMATE*. The deadline caught me amidst a lot of work and travel – my editor held out as long as she could, but I just wasn’t able to get the column to Alumni House in time. So since I have a lot of stuff this month, let’s get right to it.

The oldest item in my inbox is an email that **Pete Parsons** (peter.s.parsons@boeing.com) sent back in August:

## SEA STORIES

Are you on active duty? Send us your Sea Stories. Please email them to [seastories@usna.com](mailto:seastories@usna.com)