

the A-6/AEDO community, and short stints with USPA, Lockheed Martin and Perot Systems in the DC area. I serve with the Network Admin team in FamilyLife's I.T. department. In 2002, Jeanne retired after 22 years Active and Reserve service as a Navy Nurse. In 2010 she completed homeschooling our two children and now works in our ministry's mail-room part time, mentors other women and teenage girls in our ministry and community, and continues to pursue her life-long interest in photography, specializing in portraiture. Our daughter Karis and son Rusty, both live in Arkansas. Karis is in graduate school (MBA) and Rusty is a college junior studying music. Some USNA classmates will be interested to hear my mom just celebrated her 88th birthday, is in great health and still lives in Annapolis with my step-dad, Cal Roberts (USNA '49). ■

Next, Bob and Kathy Kennedy:

■ Bob spent 22 years in the Active and Reserve components of the Navy after graduation; his 8 years of active time was spent piloting P-3s in the VP community (VP4 & NRL), and his 14 years reserve time was with the Naval Reserve Intelligence Program, serving in a variety of units supporting the National Maritime Intelligence Center in Suitland, MD. Since leaving active duty, Bob has worked in the DC area for Lockheed Martin as a systems engineer in data-intensive systems, with one break of 4 years working in North Carolina. Bob and Kathy married in June 2006. After several years as a consultant with CSC in Philly, Kathy changed careers and is now a certified medical records coder for Loudoun Inova Hospital and loves working daily from her office at home! Bob has two grown children (from a previous marriage): John, living in Orlando, and Lauren, in Cincinnati. ■

Finally, Rusty & Robin Eckstrom:

■ Following graduation and flight training, Rusty completed tours with VP-6 and recruiting in Milwaukee, WI. Rusty and Robin married in Annapolis in 1978. They left activity duty and moved to Minneapolis where Rusty first worked for Honeywell, then moved to a small business start-up that has grown into ASI DataMyte, Inc. He's been with them for the past 26 years. Rusty stayed active in the Navy Reserves joining the Reserve Intelligence community in the Minneapolis area. When he realized that

you can only have so much fun in one lifetime, he retired after 26 years of total service at the rank of Captain. Robin is an educator at Regency Beauty Institute and teaches all aspects of Cosmetology. She is a gifted teacher and loves to be around people. They have four children: Ryan – a Marine Corps Veteran now finishing up his education, Jonathan – serving in the Air Force at Holloman AFB in Alamogordo, NM, Shari – a senior at the University of Minnesota, and their youngest Austin – who is studying Fine Arts at a local community college. ■

Before moving on, here's a quick story we heard at the 35th tailgate detailing Dempsey's daring-do during his days in the venerable Intruder. Once upon a time (Yeah, we know every good Navy story begins with, "This is a no-sh*tter", but this is a family publication!), Demps was heading off the deck when his nugget pilot, feeling they'd gotten a cold cat shot, decided to shell out without either consulting or informing his B/N. Next thing Dempsey knows, his aircraft is missing a critical element of its aircrew. And though not yet out of airspeed, he's definitely out of ideas, so he too hits the silk...in plenty of time to enjoy the sight of his crewless A-6 continue to comfortably climb to an altitude of about 1,200', whereupon it gently rolled over before pitching pilotless into the Deep.

Finally, Cam Blake sent his regrets at being unable to join us for the 35th (like so many, his parents in Norman, OK are at the age where they're requiring his frequent attention), and then provided the latest on life in sunny San Diego, where Chris and he have been living and loving it since Cam retired as an O-6. Cam went to work for Boeing a scant 6 months after he left the Navy, and has since been focused primarily on the C-40A program. Though initially an S-3 pilot (we almost cruised together on the *Kitty Hawk* in '81), Cam switched to C-9s. This was followed by a squadron OIC tour, TYCOM staff in New Orleans, squadron CO tour in Jacksonville, the Pentagon, ICAF for a Masters, and then to NAS JRB Willow Grove, PA, for his air station CO tour before hanging up the spurs after 26 years.

He closed by noting his Boeing gig and annual attendance at the Navy League Sea, Air and Space Symposium and Tailhook have enabled him to work with and see a number of classmates, including the ubiquitous **Dirk Debbink (23rd Co.)**.

While it was great to hear from Cam, his email does evoke one serious thought: now that Dirk's retired, how *ARE* we going to fill these columns? After all, can anyone recall a column since we took over the duty from Bob Sanderson which *hasn't* featured the pride of 23?!? Just so you know Dirk, I'm still using your coin for a ball mark; it always reminds me to keep my putts on a proper heading and speed!

— Magoo

78 ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP: 1%
LIFE MEMBERSHIP: 78%

PRES: **Glen Woods**

SEC'Y: **Vince Balderrama**

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Congratulations to a lot of classmates with accomplishments and significant "life moments". The first is to fellow Annapolitan, **John O'Neil**, who was named Chief Pilot for Delta Airlines in Atlanta. (I think I remembered that right, John. After all, it was mentioned at a *Tailgater!* My Foxtrot companymate and 12th Company's, **Dennis Koehl**, has been selected to be Chief Executive Officer and Chief Nuclear Officer of the South Texas Project Nuclear Operating Company. Congrats also to **Tim McGee** who in late August was named President of Sea Education Association (SEA), the Woods Hole, Massachusetts based educational institution. The Board of Trustees selected Tim after a national search. Tim is only the fourth person to occupy this position in SEA's forty-one year history. Belated congrats and best wishes also go out to Maggie and **Prentiss Hall** on their wedding in July. **Rusty Cone** sent a great photo given to him by the new Mrs. Hall of her, Leigh Drake and the "Three Amigos" – Rusty, Prentiss and **Marty Drake**. Rusty notes that union forms a "true Brady Bunch" with Prentiss and his boys joining this wonderful woman and her family (3 girls and a son). We wish them the best!



Maggie and Prentiss Hall Wedding

Also belated congrats on retirement from the Navy to **RADM John "Clarke" Orzalli** back in middle of the year. **John Martin** reported that besides himself 23rd Companymates **Joe Stanik** and **Jim Butler** were also in attendance. It was a grand affair with Clarke delivering a wonderful retirement speech.



Clarke Orzalli Retirement with 23rd Co. Mates

Many of you went to Ireland for the Notre Dame game and I am sure there were a lot of stories, min-reunions and funny incidents. The only one I've gotten so far comes from **Steve "Jock" Maloney**. While at the game he was talking to **Bill Burke** at halftime. They both went to the concession to get a beer (Well, actually Jock got the beer. Bill got a soda). While standing there they see **Bob Schmermund** who comes over carrying two beers filled to the top. While the three of them are talking someone knocks into Bob's arm and one of the beers spills on Bill's - the Admiral's - shoe (he was in uniform). WITHOUT MISSING A BEAT, Billy says "Jock, stay here for a second I am getting my camera. Jock asks 'What do you need a camera for' and he immediately replies 'You are going to take a picture of Schmerm cleaning off my shoe'". While Jock is not the best photographer you can get the gist of Schmerm performing penance. Speaking of Schmerm, I got a word from Bob Novak that he made the *Sports Illustrated* on-line. Those of you who have seen Bob in his Navy jersey, PT shorts and face paint know that he *definitely* stands out in the stadium crowd!



Schmerm, Bill Burke and Jock Maloney



Schmerm cleaning off the Admirals' Shoes

Jim Pointer wrote that as part of dealing with the ongoing budget problems, Alabama closed Greil (State) Psychiatric Hospital in Montgomery at the end of August. As a result, Jim transferred to work at the North Alabama Regional (State Psychiatric) Hospital in Decatur to be closer to his mom and family in Huntsville about 45 miles away. In September Elizabeth and I hosted **Jon Kutler** at our house for some good homemade Annapolis crabcakes. Jon was in town for a Board of Directors Meeting for **Mo Tose's** company, TSC. More importantly, Jon was *really* on the east coast to steal a day or two with his daughter, Caroline. The recent Harvard graduate is living in Manhattan and working for ESPN. It's a job she enjoys and in the business she's dreamed of getting into-sports. I speculate that perhaps one day we may see her in front of a camera but more likely - as a chip off the old block - she'll probably instead be running the place or some pro team. It's tough having a continent between you and your kid but if you ever come out again you and she can always rendezvous at our place, Jon. **Roscoe Godfrey** checked in after a long absence. "Scoe" is settled in Charlotte, NC and runs the Maintenance for the Headquarters at Family Dollar. He reports that it's a good gig and a lot of fun. (Of course, those of you who know Scoe believe he could make *any job* he has fun!). Scoe's been married and divorced a couple of times but reports life is good. He did a life style change and lost a lot of weight and met a new lady and the world is right. His son (and former Marine), Eric, is working for the FAA at Hartsfield in the ATL and now buys his dad beer and dinner. As for the twins- Leigh is living in South Florida and Robin is a CPO in the Navy at Ft Meade! Scoe will be at the 35th so look for him!

Speaking of the reunion, save the following dates on your calendar. Our 35th Reunion will be held 12-15 September 2013. The football game on Saturday will be against Delaware. Your reunion committee is forming soon to finalize the details, but we have already reserved the stadium banquet room for the tailgater, and we are working on the agreement with the Loews as our headquarters. So, mark your calendars, get the word out to your company-mates, and start putting away a little something for the trip. Every Reunion Year we hold Class Elections which means 2013 will be an election year for Class Officers and Members at Large. The positions that will be open for election are: President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasure and five (5) Members at Large. Altogether these officers make up our Class Board of Directors.

There have been recent changes to our by-laws that change the way we will conduct elections. For starters, we will have a three-member Nominating and Election Committee whose job it will be to receive nominations, validate eligibility and conduct the elections (receives and tallies the votes). As a qualified member of the Class you may nominate yourself or another qualified class member for office by contacting a member of the Committee and placing the name in nomination for a certain office. Look on the website sometime early next year (Jan/Feb) for the names and contact information of the Nominating and Election Committee along with other election information. Nominations will likely run through the first part of next year and elections will be held in late summer- just before our Class reunion - so that the results will be announced at the Class Meeting Held during our Reunion (weekend of 13-15 Sep 2013). More information will be provided in the next year via our website (www.usna1978.org), e-mailing and *Shipmate* column. If interested, please also check the website for the link on our Class By-Laws to better understand the duties and responsibilities. Please also update your personal info on our website but most especially with the Alumni Association as their database is the source for our mailing and information to be sent to you.

In closing, belated prayers and condolences go out to **Mark "Pin" Bolin** and his family on the death of his wife Annie. Annie passed away in August after a recurrence of cancer. Donations

can be made in her name to Special Olympics through the following link:
http://www.specialolympics.org/Sections/Donate/Ways_to_Give_to_Special_Olympics.aspx

Launchin' Spot 4.

79

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP: 0%
LIFE MEMBERSHIP: 90%

PRES: LCDR Sean Cate, USN (Ret.)

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

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WEBSITE: www.usna79.com

Greetings, 79ers!

I start this month with this appeal from our class president **Sean Cate**:

■ Greetings Class of 1979: I hope everyone is having a good summer. Last month I set out a challenge for the class to support the Captain Gerald F. DeConto USN Veterans Memorial Stadium in Sandwich, Massachusetts. The non-profit Sandwich Sports Complex Committee (SSCC) was formed to raise funds to build the stadium. Our Class Goal is \$12,000 for the Flagpole and Base Stones in the Entrance Plaza. Our class will be suitably recognized for this donation.

Well, since that initial blast, we have had some generous support from classmates and have raised \$3,000 toward that goal. To those who have already contributed, I want to pass along the thanks I have received from the SSCC and the DeConto family.

We have to raise more funds to meet our goal. The purpose of this message is to renew my call for support. August 17th would have been Jerry's 55th Birthday. As a tribute to our classmate, I am asking each of you to send a birthday check for \$55 or \$79 – or whatever you can afford – so we can quickly close out this project and come through with our pledge. (Note: details on the class website here: <http://tinyurl.com/Fish79>)

If your company matches charitable contributions, please let them know to match your offer. If your company would like to step up further, the SSCC is seeking corporate sponsors. The non-profit has been working hard to raise corporate donations but the sledding has been difficult! The Sandwich Sports Complex Committee (fund raising arm for the DeConto USN Stadium) is a non-profit and any donation is tax deductible.



'79: USNA at Colorado Springs remembers 9/11. Vince Bousa (2nd from left) and MGEN Bob Walsh (3rd from left).



'79: The Bousa clan (Vince is 3rd from the right)

I am confident all of us can support this project. Please – send in your contribution TODAY! Happy Birthday Jerry! You are missed! Sean ■

Last month I included an update by **Jeff McFadden** about **Artie Johnson's** retirement ceremony. Jeff's email included a long list of '79ers that attended. However, your class scribe (that would be me) accidentally left two names off the attendees list: **Tim Hancock** and **Alex Urrutia**. Tim, Alex, and especially Jeff: my apologies, that was an admin error on my part. Next time I see you guys, first round's on me. (Offer limited to Tim, Alex & Jeff – I know how some of you other guys are...)

Fellow "Cloud 19" member **Vince Bousa** checked in this month from Colorado Springs, CO, where he has been working in support of NORAD and US Northern Command:

■ I trust this email finds you well. First, attached is a recent photo taken in front of the 9-11 Memorial at NORAD-USNORTHCOM, Peterson AFB, Colorado Springs. An attempt was made to have all of the USNA graduates supporting NORAD-USNORTHCOM together for a photo opportunity; only half were able to attend while the others were called away for last minute meetings... In all there are 17 USNA graduates in support.

In the photo from left to right; Scott Kuykendall '92, **Vince Bousa**, **MGEN Bob Walsh**, Rich Hansen '77, RDML Hank Bond '83, Michael McCool '83, Chris Earl '85, Teague Laguens '97, and CAPT Michael Leupold '89.

Missing from the photo are Bernd "Bear" McConnell '65, RDML Jim Schear (Ret.) '67, CAPT Dale Horan '85, Jim Degree '78, William Beary '78, Dan Hansen '77, David Little '91, Frank Lugo '89, Corey Plocher '97, and Dick Eason '84.

On a personal note, I have been working as the TSA LNO to the Commander NORAD-USNORTHCOM since January 2008. Colorado Springs and the Command have been a magnificent place to live and work; always great to be with the men and women in uniform. Longer term, it appears Mary Ann and I will return back east to retire, hoping 3-4 years at the most. Simple decision based on our families' locations on the east coast. Going to miss the weather and outdoor activities in Colorado Springs but...

Changes that have occurred since I last communicated; total of four grandchildren now, 2 currently in Germany with #1 son (USAF), and 2 locally, a mile down the road with #1 daughter whose husband is former Army SOF. #2 daughter was recently engaged to an Army tanker out of Fort Carson, here in Colorado Springs.