



Talk about taking one on the chin!

That's a wrap; until next month, remember, keep those cards and letters coming. We can't publish what you don't contribute.

Mago

78

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP: 2%
LIFE MEMBERSHIP: 77%

PRES: **Glen Woods**

SEC'Y: **Vince Balderrama**

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This is a quick and dirty column—these back to back issues always throw me for a loop. This is especially true since recently I have found myself half the time out of the country and at the mercy of the IT goons who always seem to throw in some new update that confounds me and corrupts something in the process (**Dave Roberts**, that's a plea to re-re-send that e-mail.)

Congrats to 24th Company's **Gordon "Gordo" Hunegs** who in February was announced by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) as being selected as Chief, Projects Branch 6, Division of Reactor Projects (DRP). Gordo joined the NRC's Region II office in 1986 as a Project Engineer and transferred to Region I in 1988. He held a number of progressively responsible positions including Resident Inspector at Indian Point 3, and Senior Resident Inspector at several resident offices, including Indian Point 2, FitzPatrick, Nine Mile Point, and Ginna. Congratulations, Gordo!

Classmate and fellow Leatherneck from Golf Company TBS, **Dave Dailey** ended a long absence. He, Barbara and their three sons have been in Texas since he left active duty in 1987. He works for Raytheon in Plano and often bumps into 21st Company's **Charlie Love**. Charlie heads the Quality organization for Raytheon's Combat Systems business unit. **Charlie Pangburn** was in Texas

visiting a while ago and so he and Dave finally got a chance to meet up again - 32 years since they were last together at Fort Sill in their field artillery days. Dave said it was a great time reminiscing about younger, crazier days and catching up on the years in between. Dave wrote "Charlie has had an outstanding career including service as a Marine colonel in Iraq and a partner in a law firm, and recently became Vice President & General Counsel for UC Health in Cincinnati - another great example of a 78er who has done well!" Here's a pic of the Daileys and Connie and Charlie.



Reunion-Daileys and Pangburns

February also marked the annual Brigade Boxing Finals excursion that "**Jock Maloney**" coordinates and hosts. This year was a lower key event as there wasn't a house on the yard to "Green Alert". Instead we all gather (crammed?) against the downstairs bar at the O'Club on the Yard. While the club is definitely nicer décor that when we were firsties that partition between the bar and the dining area really makes for a tight channel (but then I think we were "narrower in the beam" 30+ years ago.). Elizabeth felt a little sorry for some of the dining patrons who must have thought to themselves earlier that night, "Hmm, let's have a *quiet* dinner at the O'Club tonight" but only to find our *enthusiastic* group of pugilist patrons! Oh well, that's their error 'cuz when have we *ever known* O'Club to be quiet for a *Friday*

night Happy Hour?! Why, that's not "Navy". It was a great turnout. Among those seen were **Glen Ives, Craig Diffie, Ray Kwong, Bob Schmermund, John Rudder, Rob Cranford, Jock Maloney, Duke Reilly ('79), Doug Diehl, Bruce Latta, Brett Ayotte, Terry O'Brien, Rich Jesmouth and Eddie Reid**, and **Al "Blues" Baker**. Elizabeth and I brought our neighbors Grace and Mike Soderberg (both USMA '07). Apologies if I missed anyone.

As mentioned in a previous column, **Deke Philman** retired on 10 February. Actually, to be more accurate and in line with Deke's whole theme and life- the *Philman Navy Family* was retired that day in a touching ceremony in Memorial Hall. "**Blues**" Baker gave the invocation and Deke's boss, and Plebe year firstie-ADM Kirk Donald ('75) officiated. Memorial Hall was packed with family, friends and other well wishers. Besides Blues and me other '78 there to see Deke, Sylvia and their daughters Mallory and Bailey piped ashore were: **Tim Arcano, Ray Kwong, Terry O'Brien, Jock Maloney, Dave Sargent, Fred Lyon, Joe Martin, Bob Novak** (looking well in his recovery from back surgery), **Glen Woods, John Rudder, Tim "BT" Hanifen, Chris Hassler, Charlie Hautau, Mike Fralen, Shawn Tallant, Eric Lindstrand and Tom McElwee**.



Some '78 Well Wishers and Deke

Congratulations to **Bruce Latta**, Naval Academy Dean of Admissions.



'78: The Philman Family

In mid-January Bruce received the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Drum Major Award at the 24th Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Awards Dinner, in Glen Burnie, Md. The Drum Major Award is presented to individuals and organizations who have demonstrated, through their words and actions, a commitment to the dream of Dr. King. The award is given annually to recipients locally and nationwide. The award recognized that the Naval Academy student body has become increasingly diverse during Bruce's administration of the Admissions Department. Minority applications increased from 2,300 in 2006 to nearly 6,900 in 2011. So far, minorities make up nearly a third of the applicants for the Class of 2016. Minority participation in the department's summer outreach programs also expanded. Forty percent of the applications for the 2011 Naval Academy Summer Seminar came from minority students. Minority applications for the Science, Technology, Engineering and Math Camp increased from 397 in 2009 to 1,714 in 2011. The awards dinner, hosted by the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Committee, provides an opportunity for the community to focus on the visions and ideals of Dr. King, and to share those values with each other. The dinner was founded in 1988 by Annapolis Alderman Carl O. Snowden to honor Dr. King's legacy. The event included a keynote speech by King's daughter Bernice A. King, and performance by the Naval Academy Gospel Choir. Congrats, Bruce!

Well, this global traveler wishes you well. The month of March has me from DC to JAX to Qatar and Denmark in between. I hope to see **Mark Fox** at a Trade Show in Doha the region and gives up his command in May. Most especially—I hope to see *my family* in between all the traveling! Perhaps there'll be more news to print next month. Launchin' Spot Four!

79

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP: 0%
LIFE MEMBERSHIP: 90%

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Greetings, 79ers!

It's been one of the mildest winters on record in the mid-Atlantic. We've had

trees in bud and spring flowers blooming since mid-February. So let's close the books on winter with these last few '79er Christmas letters.

Pam and **Kevin Derbin** checked in from their (now former) home in Kentucky. Kevin had been a long time manager of the pharmaceutical glass packaging division of ALCAN. Last summer the division was sold to another firm, and so Kevin was taking a breather prior to starting his next project. During that time they enjoyed a "boating adventure with Mary and **Kevin Boyd**.

Pam wrote that she was continuing her work as a nursing case manager with Humana, that is when she wasn't redecorating rooms or creating quilts! All the kids are doing well, but the family is most grateful for the safe return of their son Chase after his tour in Afghanistan. During his tour Chase was awarded the Bronze Star and the Army Commendation Medal with Valor.

Although they were still living in Kentucky at the time of his letter, I believe Kevin and Pam relocated to New Jersey in early 2012. Hopefully Pam will drop me a quick note with the latest. Thanks, guys, for the note – and good luck on your next venture!

Cindy and **Pat Dennis** also sent a copy of their annual Christmas letter. Pat's big news was the ending of his long-term involvement with the Missile Defense Agency, and beginning work with TSA. The mission is quite different, and that has taken some time to get used to. One adjustment that was easy to make, however, is a reduced business travel schedule. That's freed him up for ... well ... more travel. In addition to visiting family in North Carolina, Texas and Montana, Cindy and Pat also took their granddaughter (and her parents) on a Disney cruise to the Bahamas.

When not working or traveling, Pat is an adjunct professor with Strayer University, teaching both graduate and undergrad courses. He also has taught a few grad courses with Central Michigan University as well. Cindy continues her work with the American Inns of Court, a legal foundation. She is also a leader at the weekly Confident Woman Workshops. Thanks, Cindy, for the great letter!

I also received a Christmas note from Janet and **Sean Cate**. Sean is still working for Technatomy Corp. as their Director of Quality Programs, while Janet keeps the books for Fastware, a company that

supplies auto repair parts to many local dealerships and smaller auto shops.

Daughter Emily is enjoying her junior year at James Madison University, and she will be part of a research project that will take her to South Africa this summer.

One of the highlights for Sean was joining his son LTJG Stephen Cate for a Tiger Cruise onboard COMSTOCK (LSD 45) as they returned from WESTPAC. During the deployment Stephen picked up his OOD qual and was designated a Surface Warfare Officer. In a small twist of fate, Sean was the Squadron Operations Officer when COMSTOCK was commissioned in 1989.

Not long after Christmas I received a brief note from **Gary Cerezo**. Some time back Gary and his son were driving to Key West, and stopped in Pensacola, FL. While there they had lunch at the Cubi Bar & Café at the National Naval Aviation Museum. As luck would have it, Gary chanced upon the plaque that my helicopter detachment had presented to the Cubi Point O'Club back in 1987 – and sent along a picture. Thanks, Gary!



Gary Cerezo at the Cubi Bar, Pensacola, FL.

In other news, **Kirk Michealson** emailed to say he was named President of the USNA Alumni Chapter in Orlando, FL in January 2012. The chapter had been dormant for a couple of years, and Kirk has been charged with injecting some new life. I can think of no one more qualified to do just that. Congratulations, Kirk – and good luck!