

who has logged over 7000 flight hours in more than 40 types of aircraft. He is also a former astronaut having served as pilot on STS-90 and STS-106, and as mission commander on the last two Hubble servicing missions, STS-109 and STS-125. Before becoming an astronaut, the F-14 pilot was filmed in the movie Top Gun as the double for Tom Cruise in the F-14 flying scenes. In one of the movie's most memorable scenes, while flying upside down, inverted, Scott gives an obscene gesture to the pilot of an enemy plane. Scooter mentioned that he really enjoyed being able to strafe the tower, stating that he would have probably have lost his wings if he did that on his own in real life! His words during his speech at the Veterans Day event were very passionate and inspirational. ■



Scott Altman & Mark Hubbard at the NASA Goddard Space Flight Center

Well, I see I'm a little short on news. You know what that means... YES! More news about the Hubbard Family!

Barb and I traveled to Williamsburg, VA, to spend Halloween weekend with Mark's daughter, Meghan, and her husband, **Jared Marinos USMA '05**. We had fun dressing up as Bonnie & Clyde. Meghan & Jared decided to re-enact the main characters in Dumb & Dumber, Lloyd Christmas and Harry Dunne.



Mark & Barb Hubbard (AKA Bonnie & Clyde)



Jared & Meghan Marinos as Lloyd & Harry

Barb and I also traveled to Wakefield, Rhode Island, for Thanksgiving to spend the holiday with Becca & **Billy Hubbard '01** and their beautiful children. It was a much-needed vacation (although dealing with the traffic driving to Rhode Island was not pleasurable during the most traveled holiday of the year).



Barb Hubbard joins Becca Hubbard and the grandkids

The old saying, "like father like son" applies to my son, Matt. He discovered last week that he has a detached retina in his left eye and holes in his retina in the right eye, just like his Dad did years ago. He has to undergo laser surgery to repair the holes and sclera buckle surgery to repair the detached retina this week. This is another health alert to all of you – if you even suspect something is going on with your eyes, go see a retina specialist immediately! The longer you wait, the worse the consequences are to your eyesight. I lost a lot of my peripheral vision in my left eye because I waited almost a week after getting the symptoms of a detached retina.

That's all the news I have to report. Wishing all of you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

77 ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP: 2%
LIFE MEMBERSHIP: 72%

PRES: **Mr. Dan Busch**
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P: 972-423-0461; E: dan.busch@yahoo.com
SECY: **Thom McKee**
1202 Shady Creek Road, Marriottsville, MD 21104
P: 410-489-5080; F: 410-489-5071
C: 202-438-1541; E: magoo1310@verizon.net

78 ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP: 1%
LIFE MEMBERSHIP: 78%

PRES: **Glen Woods**
SECY: **Vince Balderrama**
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First off – Happy New Year to all of you. Hope the holidays were relaxing and rewarding for everyone. As with all new years we are presented with a fresh start,

the promise of better days and renewal. Twenty-thirteen certainly offers all that and a *heavy* dose of reunion as it marks the 35th anniversary of our graduation. This go-around we will hold it 12-15 September 2013. The football game on Saturday will be against Delaware. The reunion committee is finalizing the details. We have already reserved the stadium banquet room for the tailgater, and we are working on the agreement with the Loews Hotel on West Street as our headquarters and location for the other key events. More information will be provided in the coming months via our website (www.usna1978.org), e-mailings, Company Reps, Class LinkedIn and *Shipmate* column. 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. Ping those "prodigal" companymates and classmates whom you know to do the same. So, mark your calendars, get the word out to your company-mates, and start putting away a little something for the trip.

I got a "Fiorelli-gram" that told of a wonderful mini-reunion of the Bellezzas, Wilkins, and Fiorellis with their former Second Company Officer, Admiral and Mrs. Holder. They met up on 11 September at a German restaurant in Fredericksburg, VA. Jim wrote that it was great to catch up, and while together they also gave toast in memory to **Ken Waldie** and to other classmates. By the way, here's a bit of trivia I never knew – Jim and Waldo played on a Little League team together in Bethel Park, PA). Admiral Holder and Pat are still in Northern Virginia, but Jim said it sounded like they will probably be moving soon to the Jacksonville, Florida area, where grandkids and a small yacht await them. He reported that 2nd Company will have to "green-light" them once they get settled! Admiral Holder's last job on active duty was as J4, and for the past few years he has been consulting with Booz Allen. Pat is still one of the nicest ladies you'll ever meet; however, she's no longer qualified to be our den mother – while the rest of us have aged it appears she's stopped doing so. Debbie and **Jay Wilkins** live in the country in Spotsylvania County (near Fredericksburg). Jay is a GS-15 Deputy Director for Security & Program Protection for the Aegis Ballistic Missile Defense program of the Missile Defense

Agency (its largest program). Jay had an illustrious NFO career in E-2s, making five squadron tours- the last as CO of VAW-125 aboard the now out-of-service USS ENTERPRISE. After that he was Naval Attaché in Ukraine, Director of European Policy for SecDef, International Program Manager for the Joint Strike Fighter Program, and then HQ staff at the Missile Defense Agency taking his current position as Deputy Director of Aegis BMD. Jay and Deb have two grown daughters and are enjoying life in the country. Barb and **Vinnie Bellezza** are still in La Plata, MD. Vinnie commutes to PAXRIVER, where he is President and CEO of ASEC. It's a company he started up in 2004 with a handful of employees and now numbers almost 200. ASEC provides aviation systems solutions in the areas of development, analysis, test, and training for the military aviation community. The company has been growing like gangbusters and Vin travels constantly, especially to Seattle and JAX. Hopefully he'll survive the current defense goatrope with his hair and sanity. Vin and Barb became proud first-time grandparents in late August when their oldest son Michael and wife Nikki had a baby girl. Between that, his daughter Katie got married; his son John starting flight training, and the unknown state of the defense industry – all happening this year – it's a good thing he's flying a desk. He's got way too many of those life-change points they used to talk about in safety stand-downs to be flying an aircraft! Jan and Jim are still in Richmond, Virginia, where he continues to work at the Virginia Attorney General's Office. Their oldest son, Michael is a firstie at USNA and just selected Navy Air. Their middle son is on an exchange program from West Point at the French Military Academy and having a great experience; and their youngest son is in the middle of his junior year football season. Any classmates who want to reach Jim can catch drop him an email at j_fiorelli@yahoo.com.



Second Company mini-reunion

H. Scott Rodgers sent a brief report of a '78 gathering this weekend of the Troy football game. He and his wife, **Pam [Wacek '80]** attended the Alumni lunch in Pensacola that included the Supe and '78 classmates, **Byron Marchant, Rich Jesmonth, Rich Holtznecht, Mike McCrabb** and **Karen Yeager**. At the Troy game he saw **John Rudder, Kevin White, Lee Price, Fred Shutt, Scott Provow** and someone else he couldn't recall. Scott mentioned that during the P'Cola luncheon he, Pam and Scott interacted with the Navy Cheerleaders. Pam told them she was one of the first six female midshipmen cheerleaders in 1976. Scott was her partner. That led to some great discussion and sea stories but also a great photo op of a "link in the chain" – or maybe it was more like some "paper in the pom pom" of Navy Cheerleading Legacy? (Actually Pam and Scott look like they could still lead Navy in some cheers!)



Pam and Scott with current Navy Cheerleaders

It's been years since I last went but this past year I finally got to make the annual Boxing outing in New York City that **Steve "Jock" Maloney** coordinates. The event is an annual Collegiate Boxing Smoker that occurs at the New York Athletic Club the Monday before Thanksgiving. Some of the nation's best boxers show up and there is always a good showing of military Academies (Navy, Army, Air Force, and Coast Guard). We had a good turnout. Besides Jock and me also present from the Class were **John Rudzis, Kevin "Grinch" Lynch** and his aspiring actress daughter, Katrine, five-time grandpa **Bob Fallon** and his son Bob, **Eddie Reid** and Merchant Marine Academy Athletic Director **Bill Fell** and his sons Jeffrey and Bill. It was a great time and I am looking forward to making it more regularly.

SEA STORIES

Are you on active duty? Send us your Sea Stories. Please email them to seastories@usna.com

I got word that Marla and **Alan "Blues" Baker** are back in Annapolis. They are settled in temp housing off the Yard as Blues decides what is next on his list. It'll be great seeing my fellow Santa Anan (California) about the Yard. I am awaiting the "transfer of custody documents" from **Ray Luevano** who said he and "Aloha" **Phil Winters** are relieved of their "duty as Parole Officer and Caddie and have released him [Blues] under his own recognizance; Marla has unsupervised, unlimited visitation rights of course." Okay, Ray, consider me and the rest of the Annapolitan Classmates as having "Blues Duty". Here's a quick pic of Ray and Phil bidding Blues Fair Winds and Following Seas prior to leaving Palo Alto.



I close with another bit of sad news and even more incentive for you to reach out to classmates, reconnect and join in Reunion- whether it our formal one in September or *any* opportunity to meet up, share a meal, a drink or cup of coffee. In late November we learned of passing of 26th Company's and fellow Leatherneck **Byron "Buzz" Fink**. Buzz had fought a valiantly fight with cancer before finally succumbing. As his companymate, **Vinny DiGirolamo** remembered him on his Facebook page-

■ "I met Buzz Fink at the U.S. Naval Academy in 1974. We were in the same company, went on double dates together, and though he went into the USMC and me the Navy, my kids came to know them as Uncle Buzz and Aunt Wendy. We even willed our kids to them. Buzz was an avid scuba diver and collector of undersea artifacts, a maker of jewelry and a loving husband. He struggled with cancer for a few years but lost the battle yesterday. Rest now my friend - until we meet again - for we will meet again. Love Vinny". ■

Thanks for fine tribute to Buzz and for letting us know, Vinny. Please keep Wendy and the rest of their family in your prayers and thoughts.

Launchin' Spot Four.