



77: Golan Heights



77: Dead Sea

Finally, we close on two exceedingly sad notes; first, our heartfelt condolences go out to **Sean Carroll (7th Co.)** on the passing of his wife Vicky, who will be laid to rest later this year in the Academy Columbarium.

Second, we just received word **Chris Ryan (19th Co.)** passed away today, Sunday, June 2nd following a brief but brave battle with pancreatic cancer. For those of you lucky enough to know Chris, he maintained an even strain, along with his stellar sense of humor, right up to the end. Gone but never forgotten, he will be missed.

Our thoughts and prayers are with both families.

— Magoo

78 ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP: 1%
LIFE MEMBERSHIP: 78%

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This is the last column before we gather next month for our 35th Reunion. For the procrastinators among us –you can still go to our class website and follow the links to register for all the events (not to mention order any '78 Reunion clothing and paraphernalia you'll want to wear and put in your "I love me room."). Class Officer Elections are also ongoing so

follow the link also located on the website. Not much news happening but I am sure there'll be a lot of stories to tell after the Reunion. Here's what I've got.

Mike Shumaker wrote that while on a business trip to San Diego in mid-May for the US Coast Guard allowed him to have lunch with his former 13th Co. roommate, **Ernie Sanchez**. Ernie sings in the choir at Sacred Heart Roman Catholic Church on Coronado. He was kind enough to drop off Mike at the airport for his flight back to Washington, DC. A couple of days in late May saw Mike and his wife, Donna Lynn, get together with Jenny and Dr. **Sean Donovan**, MD (27th Co.). (Sean and Mike had met shortly before I-Day in 1974 when Sean lived in Palo Alto, CA, and Mike lived in San Jose.) First there was a Donovan-Shumaker supper in beautiful Fairfax, VA followed the next day with a little "get together" after the 9am Tridentine Mass at St. Athanasius Roman Catholic Church. This was Sean's and Jenny's parish when Sean was a Navy radiologist at Bethesda 11 years ago. Later that day Sean and Jenny drove 14 hours back home to Wisconsin where Sean has a radiology practice in Milwaukee. Sean's son, Jack, is in the ROTC Marine option at Notre Dame. (Which is where I *would've* been had I not gotten my appointment.) Their daughter Eileen is

studying Russian while her sister Marie is studying Farsi. As for the Shumaker progeny, Mike's oldest son, Michael, earned his master's degree in education from George Mason University (Fairfax, VA) on May 18, while his middle son, Greg, graduated magnum cum laude the next day with a business degree from Marymount University in Arlington, VA 19. Greg will spend the summer working at the accounting firm of Dixon-Hughes-Goodman LLC. Mike's youngest son, Paul, completed his sophomore year at George Mason University where he majors in biology. Like his older brother he is active in Phi Kappa Theta. Mike confessed that in a fit of generosity, he bought Paul a Ford 150 pickup but then again it's the only thing that comfortably accommodates a 6' 7" guy like Paul. Paul *does* repay the favor by driving his dad to the gym and being his personal trainer.

Marty Drake sent a recent picture of him and my lightweight crew teammate and #7 man, **VADM Bob Harward ('79)**, standing in front of a Vietnam-era OV-10 Bronco. Marty is the Science Advisor for US Central Command, where VADM Harward is the Deputy Commander. Marty is using a recently updated version of the OV-10 to conduct experimentation on new and innovative ways to provide air support to ground combat elements. The experiment is called COMBAT DRAGON II, and takes the name from a similar experiment conducted in 1967 with the A-37. The aircraft stopped by Tampa on their way to Fallon, NV, and Marty's about to put VADM Harward into the back seat for a familiarization ride. Marty also reports of a recent 'intervention' he and **Prentiss Hall** conducted on **Rusty Cone**. Rusty underwent successful prostate removal surgery. He and Prentiss RDVU'd in Dallas to make Rusty the butt (pun intended) of a few jokes, and see him through his surgery. Marty reports Rusty came through with flying colors and taught him two things – stay in shape and get checked early. Rusty was up and walking within hours of his surgery, and was discharged 24 hours later." Marty is still living the dream in Tampa, roaming the globe looking for the next best technology, and occasionally blowing stuff up legally. He was just up in China Lake, CA conducting a military utility assessment of a new type of 2.75in guided rocket. He shot against fixed and moving targets with good success. As Marty put it- "[He] Couldn't ask for better."



Marty and Bob Harwood

Mary and **Bill Burke's** retirement was a large affair. Held at the Navy Yard it was attended by numerous flags, dignitaries and of course the "special guests" from '78. It was speculated that were probably something like 50 or so classmates and family in attendance. As best as I can recall- and with apologies to those I have forgotten or didn't see - among the '78 contingent to bid Mary and Bill "Fair Winds and Following Seas" were: **Jack Christensen, Rob Hanckel, Ron Brownley, Ray Kwong, Jock Maloney, Bill Landay, Mark Ferguson, Tim Hanifen, Mark Fox, Brett Ayotte, George Wadzita, Rich Cellon, Dan Holloway, Bill Hession, Glen Flanagan, Byron Marchant, Dennis Reilly, Eddie Reid, Bob Zalaskus, Terry O'Brien, Jock Maloney, Mark James, Craig Diffie, Roy Cranford, Dave Eycler, Ron McNeal, Jay DeLoach.** Mary and Bill's son, Will ('08), was there as one of the sideboys. Will reports to the Academy this summer as the 25th Company Officer. The first time I met Will and Mary was at a dinner in Connecticut for high school seniors accepted into the Academy. Wow, time sure flies! As to what are the Burkes' future plans - no one knows. For now it a long awaited vacation touring- the Canadian Rockies, Eastern Europe and, I think, Russia. Regardless, Mary and Bill are hitting the road! Enjoy, relax and we'll see you when you return to CONUS and our reunion.



Maloneys and Burkes



Algeos and Brownleys



'78 at Bill's retirement



Ives, Diffie, O'Brien, Reilly



Bill Burke's retirement



Zalaskus



Fox, Cellon and Hanckel



John Wissler

As Reunion time is also a time for remembrance, fittingly- but sadly so - we take time to remember another Classmate. At the end of May, **Glen Woods** reported the sad passing of another of our '78 brothers and his 13th Company-mate, **Mark Mooney**. The burial services were held at Fort Rosecrans Cemetery on Point Loma in San Diego, on Friday, June 7th. I am sure Mark's wife, Carolyn, would appreciate hearing from classmates (markdana@juno.com). Our condolences, prayers and sympathies go out to her and their family.

We'll see you next month at the Reunion... Launchin' Spot Four.

79 ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP: 0% LIFE MEMBERSHIP: 90%

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Greetings, 79ers!

Last month I mentioned that **Steve Walsh** (Steve.Walsh@traxys.com) had attended a dinner at the Explorers Club in New York City. Also at the dinner was our own **Dave Olsen**, who he was being honored for a trek with combat wounded veterans to the summit of Kilimanjaro. I forgot to include the photo that Steve sent - which is now printed in this column. Steve is the Chief Restructuring Officer / CEO of Traxys Power Group, a metals and mining company. Steve - please pardon my oversight!

Sec'y Column Deadlines

(send columns to classnews@usna.com)

ISSUE	DATE DUE:
Sept.-Oct.'13	30 July 2013
Nov.-Dec. '13	30 September 2013

2013 Shipmate Deadlines to note...