

While a number of classmates who've enjoyed significant financial success have generously supported USNA over the years, let's make this an All Hands operation and achieve 100% class participation.

I respectfully urge everyone to consider providing support at whatever level may be appropriate. While it wasn't always fun and certainly not easy, USNA provided each of us a tremendous foundation for our lives. We've reached the point in our lives where it's time to give something back to ensure those who follow us have a similarly strong foundation. If you have any comments or questions, please call me at 703-362-0845 or e-mail me at lee.geanuleas@gmail.com. We will provide Gift Project updates in future Shipmate columns and via class e-mail – stay tuned! ■

Magoo

78

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP: 1%
LIFE MEMBERSHIP: 78%

PRES: **Glen Woods**

SEC'Y: **Vince Balderrama**

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Let's open with a rousing congratulation on a great 35th Reunion! Let's also thank all the Reunion Committee for all their hard work and planning that went into making it such a huge success. Most especially thanks to the Reunion Committee Chairman, **Brett Ayotte**, who kept us on track and managed all those "Alphas" during all our planning meetings. It was kinda like herding cats sometimes but he kept us focused and we got through it all. If you haven't seen the reunion photos taken by our official Debbi Latta (Bruce's better half), you can them out at <http://lattaphotography.zenfolio.com/p796809058>. You can download any photo for free or you can choose a photo and order a professional print. Enjoy! One extra photo was thrown my way by **Bruce Gearey**. It shows the winners of the Reunion Golf Tournament: **Lew Wolfrom, Ray Luevano, Bruce Gearey and John Hueseman**. Ray gives thanks for the win to some lessons and earlier practice he had with my 11th Companymate (and former Navy Golf Team Captain) **Phil Winters'** "Golf Academy". I hear Lew got his graduation cover back at our Reunion. A few days before **Ty Glasgow** had posted on his Facebook page a photo of a garrison cap that his sister had recovered after our graduation toss. He couldn't quite make out the name but had the Alpha Code. It was Lew's cover. Thirty-five

years later the cap and the "not-so-brand-new" Ensign who tossed it were rejoined. Besides personal updates lots of other neat stories like that were shared Reunion weekend. It appears the most dominant question asked throughout the Reunion weekend was not "What have you been up to?" but rather "Vince isn't gonna play basketball, is he!?" Well, no I didn't. I had Reunion duties- not to mention that **Jock Maloney** had me banned this year. But just wait. I have five more years to get in shape and work on getting back my shot. See you at the 40th!



A Winning Foursome

Okay, now to clean up on some outstanding news that is long overdue and had been waiting in the queue.

Very belated congrats to **Dick Richards** for winning the summer the 2013 National Fencing Championships in the Vet 50 Men's Epee Event. Dick won the title with a 7-6 victory over Mark Segal of San Diego, in sudden death overtime. He went undefeated the entire day, through the seeding rounds and the direct eliminations leading up to the finals. He is now the first alternate for the 2013 Veteran World Championships in Varna, Bulgaria, in October. As this goes to print we hope he got bumped up to the team and not just as an alternate- and that he comes back with some "hardware" (maybe gold in color?). Dick learned how to fence sabre Plebe year under Navy's Head Coach Andy Deladrier and Assistant Coach Steven Bujnovsky. Since then, he's been on several sabre and epee national teams in both the open and veteran categories. He now trains at DC Fencers Club (DCFC) in Silver Spring, MD, which has a national and international reputation as one of the best fencing clubs in the United States. Dick also offers occasional coaching to the USNA men's and women's fencing teams.



Dick Richards (l) and Fellow Veteran Fencing Champs

Got a great note from **Rick "Pogo" Reece** who reminded me that he was one of **Randy Duncan, Brad (JB) Richardson** old frequent visitors to the "Chiefs Club" at New River! Pogo noted that on the first of June he became the state of Virginia's oldest newlywed. The former Seana Murphy became Seana Reece at a small ceremony. Just family and a few friends attended - all wearing tropical attire. Their blended family is now a six pack! Besides Pogo and Seana it also consists of Rick's daughter, Eryn who is finishing up graduate school at Emory & Henry; his son, Patrick, starting his 3rd year at West Point; and Seana's two sons, Sean, in 10th and David who is in 8th grade. Pogo had to have some 78 representation, so **Bill Fell** was in attendance as well as one of their favorite firsties from Club 34, **Steve Curlee '75**.



Seana and Rick Reece

Congrats to **Tim Stark**. On Aug 2nd he retired from 30 years of Civil Service. Adding USNA and Active duty, he figured he had just a bit over 39 years of total gov't service. He's hung up his ties and has transitioned to being a full time clown and family entertainer. Yes, you heard that right. For years Tim has on the side been bending balloons into dogs and hats and entertaining kids. Now he's going "pro". Hey, Tim, perhaps we'll see you one Saturday morning on television entertaining our grandkids and introducing cartoons. Oh, sorry, that's old school. Perhaps I should have said see you on cable or a podcast. Attending Tim's

retirement was LtGen **Richard Tryon** ('75). He is now COMMARFORCOM and was gracious enough to take time out of his day to participate in Tim's retirement ceremony. He joined Tim in recreating a '75 Firstie bracing up '78 Plebe Tim Stark for old times' sake. Despite the brace up he had some nice things to say about Tim (which Tim joked was the first time he heard anyone from '75 saying anything nice to someone from '78).



Richard Tryon, Mr. Stark and Tim



BRACE UP!

In closing, we remember our valiant comrades in arms, Shipmates and especially our fellow Marines as we observed in October the 30th Anniversaries of Operation Urgent Fury (Invasion of Grenada) and the bombing of the Marine Barracks in Beirut, Lebanon and celebrated in November, 238th Birthday of the Marine Corps. "Some people spend an entire lifetime wondering if they made a difference in the world. But, the Marines don't have that problem." (Ronald Reagan). Semper Fidelis. Launchin' Spot Four

79 ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP: 0%
LIFE MEMBERSHIP: 90%

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Greetings, 79ers!

I asked, you responded. Lots of news, lots of photos, lots of bold print.

Let's get started with a 9th Co. update from **Scott Pursley** (SPursley@aol.com):

■ Hi Wiz: On 12 September, nine of 9th Company's 79ers and their spouses gathered at Terry & **Doug Patton's** lake house in Heber Springs, AR, for four fun days of boating, fine dining, a bit of drinking, and a lot of laughter and fellowship. In attendance at the Patton's lake house were Peggy &

Paul Price, Terry & **Sean Stackley**, Annie & **Greg Costello**, Anne Marie & **Mike Marciano**, Jacque & **Roger Vanderwerken**, Terese & **Mark Shell**, Chryl & **Don Brummett**, and Beth & **Scott Pursley**. Highlights included:

- Mass quantities of seafood and libations on Friday night followed by a DJ playing music from the late '70's and early '80's. Don Brummett and Greg Costello executed a precisely choreographed dance to "Kung Fu Fighting." Fortunately for them, no photos were taken.

- Various at-sea exercises aboard a fleet of watercraft including jet skis, pontoon boats, kayaks, sail boats, inner tubes and a couple of water wings. Naval Aviator Doug demonstrated his former SWO expertise by executing a perfect Williamson turn to rescue Oscar during a man overboard drill.

- A moving church service by Roger Vanderwerken based on Jesus's parable of the Prodigal Son. I am sure Roger was a



'79: 9th Co. Reunion (l-r): Anne Marie & Mike Marciano, Terese & Mark Shell, Beth & Scott Pursley, Peggy & Paul Price, Chryl & Don Brummett, Annie & Greg Costello, Jacque & Roger Vanderwerken, Terry & Sean Stackley, and Terry & Doug Patton.



'79: 79ers at the Navy-Delaware tailgater (a few missing from photo)