

Now we know why **Tom “TK” Kennedy** has not been making the trek up to Navy

Tailgaters this past fall. In between playing serious golf he has been quite the social schmooze. Here he is with Former SECDEF and VP Dick Cheney at the Gerald Ford Foundation commemorating the christening of CVN-78 who seems humbled in TK’s presence!



Tom Kennedy with Dick Cheney

Milt May recently published two books for anyone that likes reading thrillers and humorous poems. Both books are related to fly-fishing:

The Guide, a novel. <http://www.amazon.com/The-Guide-Milt-Mays-book/dp/B00HBH6B4Y>

Take the F..ing Fly, an irreverent poem on the frustrations and wisdoms of a bad day fly-fishing. Illustrated in color. http://www.amazon.com/Take-ing-Fly-Milt-Mays/dp/0991329791/ref=sr_1_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1390507708&sr=1-1&keywords=take+the+f-ing+fly

Greg Vaughn participated in the “Honor Our Fallen Heroes” weekend in November at USNA. He, along with other members of the Class (and 36th Co. in particular) hosted the surviving family members of **Doug Deem** who was killed along with his crew on 17 November 1981 in an S-3 crash while operating off NIMITZ (CVN-68) in the Med. The Deem family members in attendance were Doug’s Mom, Patricia Deem; sisters Karen Tutwiler and Sharon

DiFilippo; Doug’s niece, Francesca Deem (daughter of his brother, Bill, who was unable to attend) and close family friend, Michelle Bizzak.

Gary Greenfield continues to explore the world, this time in Antarctica:

■ *As I write this I am at sea returning from a trip to Antarctica. I had visited the area a few years ago, but had not had a chance for a variety of reasons to actually set foot on my seventh continent. This year we did where we visited King George Island, which is part of the Shetlands, after traveling to Palmer Station (the U.S. station) as our most southern point. Donna and Brittany were, of course, part of the visit to this magnificent part of the world. It is, of course, hard to beat Mother Nature. While summer temperatures are still quite harsh (though I must admit warmer than Boston this past few days). For those who followed, we were in visiting Antarctica while the research vessel was trapped in the region.*

While just off of the coast, we still had to fly in – which we did from Punta Arenas – about a two-hour flight to the Chilean Air Force base, which is shared by all eight stations on King George Island. We were hosted by Bellingshausen Station, which is the Russian Antarctic station at Collins Harbor. The Russian station is adjacent to the Frei Montalva Station, which is Chile’s station there (separate from the air strip). A highlight was to visit Ardley Island a protected island, which however, is accessible by Zodiac for small groups. This is one of only 5 islands where multiple species of Penguins co-habitat. Among others you have the Gentoo and Chinstrap Penguins here. The penguins were protective of their young, but still allowed us to wander quite close to them.

I do have one side story. We departed Bellingshausen Station for Ardley Island driven by two members of the local station via Zodiac. We were on the island for perhaps an hour during which the tide went out. When we came back to the Zodiac to return it was aground! I can’t make this up – and the result from where they had pulled in was they could only take

only a small portion of group back even walking the boat out. Though terrific hosts, I was surprised they did not anticipate tides. I used our time on the island to scout deeper water for when they returned. That USNA training certainly has not gone to waste!

We learned a day before the trip that Brittany would be joining the Class of 2016 at the Sloan School of Business at MIT this coming fall. Having attended another Cambridge-based business school; that is akin to her saying she is going to attend West Point! ■



Donna, Brittany, and Gary Greenfield at Bellingshausen Station with directions to other Russian locations

It’s time to buy or renew your season tickets for football next fall. If you are changing the number of your existing tickets, more or less, or are buying tickets for the first time and want to be in the “class section” please contact Kevin Stone and let him know. He’ll then add your name to the list to “negotiate” with NAAA and get you close to the action.

GO NAVY!

77 ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP: 2%
LIFE MEMBERSHIP: 72%

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78 ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP: 1%
LIFE MEMBERSHIP: 78%

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Congrats to **Will Kramer** on his new job as a Price to Win Analyst with AAI. I met up with Will for a little chat at Surface Naval Association (SNA) “Blackshoefest”. Besides Will and me there were quite a few classmates and alumni attending, among them: **Glen Flanagan** (NG), **Bob Novak** (BAE), **A.J. Wise**, **Dan Holloway**, **Joe Martin**, **Terry O’Brien**, and **Tom Kilcline** (’73), **Bob Walsh** (’79), and **Jeff Napoliello** (’88).



’76: The Deem family, friends and Classmates honor the memory of Doug

While many of us have walked daughters down the aisle, stood in as best men for sons how many of us can lay claim to having officiated at their child's wedding? Well that's what Will did for his son Andy and daughter-in-law, Malia. Actually, as Will explained it, the kids were already married but this was a ceremony for family and friends. Consequently, Will "officiated" but did not have to "marry them" – or as he said, have pay twenty bucks on some internet site and become a Minister of the Church of the Celestial Nebulae or something like it. The ceremony took place the end of last year in Centralia, WA.



Will Officiating the wedding

Mike Shumaker dropped me a line at the beginning of the year. Over the Christmas holiday he and his family visited with fellow 13th Company mate, **George Tyree**. They rendezvoused at the monument to "Women of the Southern Confederacy" in Confederate Park. As a longtime Florida resident George wore pants, a long-sleeved shirt, & a wind breaker for the 62F weather; the Shumakers all wore shorts. All parties were comfortable! They talked about their kids. Mike reported that **Joe Britain** (also 13th Co.) plans to visit George and his family in the spring. (It must be that fine Florida weather!). George clarified that it'll be more like in May that Joe will visit. Then he'll join the Tyrees at their youngest son, Matthew's graduation and commissioning ceremony at the University of North Georgia (UNG). (Joe had done the same thing for George's two older sons when they graduated from Annapolis [**Michael '04 and Timothy '12**]). George says his boys always look forward to seeing their "Uncle" Joe!

By the way, George educated me that UNG is one of the six senior military colleges established by the Army to provide the additional career officers they need above those that come from West Point. Most people have heard of the Citadel, VMI, and Texas A&M, but aren't usually aware of the other three.

(Okay, George, what are the *other* two?) He added that Matthew is scheduled to graduate with a degree in Physics and a minor in Mathematics, along with receiving a commission as a Second Lieutenant. He is currently one of two cadet battalion commanders in their "Boar's Head Brigade." Mike is getting around his 13th Company mates as he also hooked up on the phone with **Ernie Sanchez** (13th Co) on New Year's Eve. As for Mike, in October, he moved to the new US Coast Guard HQ at the St. Elizabeth's campus in Washington, DC. He is in his 12th year of supporting the Office of Maritime Security Response Policy. During Army Week, he wore his "Get the Point" button every day. **Chris Jensen** (also 13th Co) and Mike both work for General Dynamics Information Technology. Chris is a lawyer.



Mike Shumaker and George Tyree

Congratulations also go out to my Plebe Summer roomie, **Bart Buechner** – I mean, *Doctor Bart*. This January Bart successfully defended his doctoral dissertation and was graduated from the Fielding Graduate University.



Doctor Bart Buechner

Not sure if any of the following is repeated information from previous columns. If so, please accept my apologies for the duplication. That being said,

congrats also go to **Mark Ferguson** and **Bill Burke** on their new jobs. In December Mark was confirmed as the Commander of Naval Forces Europe-Africa and Allied Joint Forces Command in Naples, Italy. Tapped to replace Fergie as VCNO was **Michelle Howard** ('82). Mark will do his usual great job. He and Laure will enjoy Italy – its history, sites, cuisine, wines and closer proximity to their kids in Scotland. Also in December **Bill Burke** was appointed to the newly created position of Chief Maritime Officer, for Carnival Cruise Lines. Bill will report directly to Carnival's Chief Operations Officer and will have oversight of the company's maritime operations around the world. He will be responsible for maritime quality assurance and policy, shipbuilding, ship refits, and research and development. Hmm, perhaps we should rethink the venue for our 40th or *maybe* a special 78 Love Boat Cruise may be in order. **Bob Vogt** is now Branch Manager, Policy Analysis at Transportation Security Administration

Jeff Fowler was on the job search road after having completed two enjoyable years at Strayer University. Due to downsizing, he is looking for career number three. Katie participated in the first float off of "her submarine" NORTH DAKOTA and officially christened her as the sponsor.

Their daughter Britt and her husband, Joe, are doing well in Vienna. Britt recently was published as she is completing her three-year fellowship at the National Institutes of Health. Joe was promoted and is now a supervisor at Navy Federal Credit Union headquarters. Younger daughter, Lynsee, was promoted to Communications Manager at the National Fisheries Institute and moved into an apartment in Arlington with two roommates. Son, Connor, is halfway through his sophomore year at James Madison University and is considering a major in business. Jeff and Katie will move out of their rental in Haymarket, VA but to where depends on where that "3rd career" takes them.



Katie Fowler christens NORTH DAKOTA

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Greetings, 79ers!

Well, Spring is here. The Dark Ages are in the rear view mirror, and we're all starting to plan for some excitement this summer and fall. But before the book on the Dark Ages closes completely, I have some last football-related items to pass on.

First up, fellow Zanesville, Ohio natives Sheri and **Judd Knecht** sent a photo from a Tidewater (VA) area Army-Navy party. Joining in the celebrations for the victorious Mids were hosts Ann Cary and **Nevin Carr**, Jill and **Doug Mitchell**, Betsy and **Eric Sweigard**, and B.J. and **Jack Kasiski**. Thanks, Sheri!

Later in December, Tom Rychlik (tmr005@verizon.net) met up with roomie **Ray Luke** in Ft. Worth, TX to watch the Mids defeat Middle Tennessee in the Armed Forces Bowl. Providing adult supervision for this duo was Ray's wife Tawni, daughter Peyton and son Parker. Ray's other son Preston was unable to attend. Thanks, Tom, for the update.



Tom Rychlik (center) with Ray Luke and family at the Armed Forces Bowl.

Rounding out 2013 are two '79er stories on usna.com: <http://bit.ly/1eezHn>.

Roger Chapa recounts his experience singing Handel's *Messiah* with Nick Harris. Also, **VADM Bob Harward** gives a stirring account of "Operation Goat Rope" – the delivery of a Navy goat to General Petraeus in Afghanistan. Both are good reading and highly recommended.

We hit 2014 running with a flag update: **VADM Joe Mulloy** was nominated for his third star. He will then be assigned as deputy chief of naval

Jim Shulson posted on Facebook a great photo of him and other Navy LAX greats **Tom "Mitch" Mitchell** ('61) and **Karl "Rip" Ripplemeyer** ('60). All three are coaching the Green Valley Gators High School men's lacrosse team in Henderson, NV. Tom and Rip were 1st team All-American attack men. Rip is also in the U.S. lacrosse Hall of Fame. (Of course our classmate, Jim, is no slouch either having been selected to play in the annual North - South College All-Star Game our first class year.) Jim says it is an honor to coach the team with them and "a blast working with them. So much to learn from them. An awesome experience so far." You LAX enthusiasts can follow the Gators under your classmates tutelage on their website <http://www.gatorslax.org/Page.asp?n=63976&org=gatorslax.org>



Navy LAX Greats, Tom, Rip and Jim

Gary "Iceman" Eisenman provided an update on his family. Their sons are definitely busy carving out their own lives and careers. Karl is still in the Corps. He's close to home stationed in Quantico and leading Marines in the Motor Pool. Brian is out of the Army and still in college. After a sting at NOVA he is now a junior civil engineering major at George Mason University (GMU). Alex is a Federal Economist – more specifically with the Bureau of Economic Analysis in the Commerce Department. He lives in Alexandria. Joe is also a student at GMU and shares an apartment with his brother Brian. He's an International Affairs major which has afforded him the opportunity for global travel and have him considering a State Department job after graduation. The Iceman is still working at the services and consulting company, Whitney, Bradley and Brown (WBB). The standard corporate habit of continuous reorganization has had him "demoted" and "remoted" in 2013 with changes in titles. He expects things not to change much in 2014 and thinks he may even see himself "remoted"

this year. The admitted "love of his life" with whom he is living in Leesburg, Betty (aka- "Boop") is still working at the high school. Like many of us she wonders about life in retirement but wants it to be "close to her boys" (Gary included). She gave everyone a scare in 2013 with some chest pain and an overnight in the hospital. The diagnosis was nothing serious but included four ulcers to which Gary quickly diagnosed a connected as "...so, four ulcers and four boys..do the math". The Eisenmans lost two family members in 2013. The first was their loving pet, Red. Who had ingrained himself into the family since he was a puppy ten years ago. The other, more significant loss was Gary's mom- Joan Marie. She passed away last October and was memorialized in an intimate family Mass that took place in the church where she experienced many major moments that shaped her life – her baptism, first communion, confirmation, and marriage. Gary, extolled us all to call your mom but I would expand that to *anyone* whom you care about- mom, dad, brother, sister, son or daughter, favorite cousin, roommate, Shipmate, Squadron mate. That life is too short and that we need to treasure every moment and everyone special to us –especially those moments with ones we love becomes ever more evident the longer I write this column. As the years pass, notice on the loss of a classmate or classmate's loved ones or someone who has played a major role in our lives filter more frequently onto the pages of *Shipmate*. Even as this column is submitted we remember and console in our prayers, **Ray Milton** on the loss of his dad in November and remember our former Supe, **ADM KinnardMcKee** ('51) who passed away in December.

With that, I am Launchin' Spot. Going up high to get better COMMS with someone I haven't talked to in a while. No more regrets of "I should've called or stopped by...."

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