

77 ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP: 2%
LIFE MEMBERSHIP: 72%

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78 ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP: 1%
LIFE MEMBERSHIP: 78%

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Greetings all! Geez are we already well into 2014?! It seems like just yesterday we were wishing each other a Happy New Year. By the time this hits your doorstep it'll be summer. The way this year has been going lately perhaps all the snow will be done by now! It better be.

Congratulations to Classmates with sons and daughters who are now newly minted Ensigns and Second Lieutenants: **Tom Rentz's** son, **Conor ('14)**, **Ray Kempisty's** son, **Mitchell ('14)**, **Tom McElwee's** son, **Tom Jr. ('14)** and **John Rudzis's** daughter, **Britta ('14)**. I haven't had a chance yet to see who enters from the '78 family to take their places with the next Plebe Class. I *do* know that with any luck, **Jim Fiorelli's** son, John may enter with the Class of 2019 the next year. An update from Jim reported that John will be going to NAPS first. So too we hope to see **Michael Sears's** son, Matthew in the Class of '19. Matthew was invited to attend a Naval Academy Foundation school next year. He and John may wind up to be classmates like their dads. By the way, on one of John Fiorelli's college visits to Princeton, he and his parents, Jim and Jan, literally ran into Barbara and **Glen Ives**. They had a great visit. (Jim noted that Glenn's nephew plays for Yale.)

Jim also reported on a visit to Pensacola with our classmate **Rich Holz knecht** and his family. He and Jan

had gone down to visit their oldest, Mike (also in the picture), who was just starting Primary at Whiting. They got together with Rich for 3 meals, including one at the Cubi O'Club at the Museum. Jim said it was great to see Rich. For nine years Rich has been doing an amazing job as a single, working dad raising his four kids (Rich, Dan, Nate and Savannah). We have to believe their mother, Rich's late wife, Jennifer, has been watching over them from heaven. They also spent a little time with **Gail Ohler**. Gail is the widow of Mike **Ohler ('77)**. Mike was one of Jim's Primary roommates at Whiting. A Marine helo pilot, Mike was assigned as the Forward Air Controller (FAC) with Alpha Company 1/8 when he was killed by a sniper in Beirut on Oct 16th, 1983. By now, Jim and Jan have a new Second Lieutenant in the Army as the "Black Sheep" of the family, middle son, Matt, was graduated from West Point... Matt is headed to Ranger School this summer and then eventually is slated to serve with a Stryker unit in Hawaii. Jim and Jan are "looking forward to the free housing in Paradise" but Jim now wonders if he "could just figure out a way to retire!" Jim also passed on news that **Vinnie Bellezza's** son, John, got his wings at NAS JAX and is just starting his first NFO tour in P-8's there. Jim also saw **John Semcken's**, Rebecca. She is a young attorney/wife/Mom and just recently moved to Richmond from the DC area. He and Jan look forward to getting to know her and her family better as they settle in here. Jim wondered aloud at hard it is to believe that our kids are grown up and having families and starting careers. His recent time in Pensacola reminded him how unbelievably fast the years have flown by since we were new ensigns [and Second Lieutenants] down there.

Speaking of the **John Semcken**, congratulations to his son Reed who ran the Boston Marathon. It was relief for all the family and especially John. Reed had earlier run the Los Angeles Marathon in

hopes of qualifying for Boston. At mile 18, John pulled him aside to take a picture with the family before Reed set off to finish the race. The "photo op" took all of less than 10 or 15 seconds. But it was enough to impact Reed. He finished in a time of 3 hour, 5 minute and 6 seconds but qualifying time for Boston is 3 hours, 5 minutes or less. Reed had missed qualifying by 6 seconds and John was devastated with guilt. But Navy man that he is John didn't accept defeat or wallow in pity. John had father contacted Boston Marathon officials, who told him they needed someone to run with a blind participant, 36-year-old multi-marathon runner Adrian Broca. Reed would be able to run Boston as one of Adrian's four guides. Blind runners are guided by a guide's voice, some use a tether system that connects the two runners. Adrian and Reed used a string tied to each of their wrists. By the way, Adrian finished the race in 2:58:42.

Congratulations to **Michael Sears** who is retiring. As he wrote,

■ "Friends: After almost 6 years at Siemens Venture Capital, and more than 35 years of professional life, I'm heading home to retirement. I'm looking forward to having no plans for a while. We'll see what the next few months have in store. I've got no great words of wisdom to impart, except for this: It was only "yesterday" that I walked across the stage to collect my college degree. In the blink of an eye, I've come to an ending, and a beginning. Many of you helped me get here – and I thank you. I find myself lucky enough to still be "locomotive". All the best to all of you in your journey. I'll look forward to hearing from you." ■

Larry Easton departed Lockheed Martin in February. His last day of work was Feb 14th. He doesn't expect to be looking for another full-time gig but perhaps something part-time. He wasn't even looking for a job when we saw each other. He had always planned to "go early" so saved to give himself a nice cushion to relax for a while. His wife, Cindy is still working so they are "good". Of course, I bet Cindy would *love* to trade places with him. In the meantime Larry is fixing up their place in Maryland that their son, Kevin, occupies. **Ed Henkler** is progressing but still not quite there. He's been doing a variety of coaching & consulting for individuals and companies in transition. He's especially focused on employee engagement initiatives and



'78: Jim and Mike Fiorelli with Gail Ohler and Holz knechts in Pensacola

improving quality of life for folks who are “differently-abled.”

As for me, I am now working for **John Rudder** (and **Byron Marchant**) as a Major Gift Officer for the Naval Academy Foundation. I started on April 8th. Thanks for all the well wishes, recommendations and words of encouragement from you guys along the way. Elizabeth noted that John was instrumental in getting my first post-active duty job with Sikorsky Aircraft when he was a head hunter for Career Development. Now he hires me for what *could* be my last job. We’ve come full circle.

Well, that’s a quick look at what’s been happening. Launchin’ Spot Four.

79 ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP: 0%
LIFE MEMBERSHIP: 90%

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Classmates:

Mike Pedersen

(MDPedersen@aol.com) checked in from the sunny coast of southwest Florida with this update:

■ Wiz, I’ve been a “Blue & Gold Officer” for several years in the Fort Myers / Naples, Florida area and have been regularly attending the local USNA Alumni luncheons. The guest speaker at yesterday’s luncheon in Naples was Navy’s Athletic Director, Chet Gladchuk. For years I was essentially the sole ’79 grad at these luncheons, but lo and behold, guess who also shows up at yesterday’s lunch? **Bill McKinney** (15th Co.) and **Bruce Hanson** (20th Co.).

We moved to SW Florida upon my retirement from the Marine Corps in ’98 (that NAPS year finally paid off!). I was lucky enough to fly 16 years of my career as a RIO in the backseat of the F-4 Phantom and as a WSO in the F/A-18D Hornet. Honored to have gotten the chance to do “Desert Storm” as a FastFAC over Kuwait from the 50-yard line, front row seats.

Upon retirement, went into something completely different – pharmaceutical sales. Was recently laid off after 15 years due to a takeover. Have had plenty of time to stay busy now as a volunteer Assistant Wrestling Coach for a high

school here in Cape Coral. Trying to land another sales type of job in SW Florida to avoid a family move but could maybe end up back in the Miami area where I was before heading to NAPS. Mike ■



Mark Heinrich (mark.f.heinrich@gmail.com) carved out some time to describe the first few months of his post-Navy career:

■ I’m into my third month as a Managing Partner at Alvarez and Marsal Holdings, LLC. My office is in Washington, DC, and I love it so far. I spent the first two months in our New York City office to learn as much as possible about the firm, since it’s HQ’d on Madison Ave.

As I learn Alvarez and Marsal’s history, I find it amazing. We’re a global, performance improvement firm, anchored in a thirty year heritage of solving complex troubled situations. The firm has a strong focus on Corporate Restructuring and performance improvement, and Brian Marsal made a name for himself as the Chief Restructuring Officer for Lehman Brothers, when they went bankrupt in 2008. The amount of work we’ve done for financial institutions could fill pages and pages! Our culture isn’t very ‘military’. There are less than ten people with military backgrounds among the firm’s 2,400+ people, and I think I’ve met them all! Irrespective of the lack of military talent, we are a rich mix of world class industry operators and consultants...

On some days, I feel like a plebe on I-day. Our Financial Industry Advisory Services team is one of the best in the country, and our Corporate Restructuring team is THE best in the country. Finally, our private equity team is amazing, and I’m learning from each one of these amazing professionals. Many of our people have served in the C-suites of the firms that we’ve restructured... some for many years.

So right now, my focus will be on Restructuring, Business Consulting, and Private Equity. I think the most important thing that I’m learning is that we give results, not advice, and we roll up our

sleeves to work alongside our clients, so I like A&M – if for no other reason than I get to get my hands dirty! It’s pretty neat.

I’m renewing my Navy football tickets this year, and hope to get to a few games this year. Moreover, now that I’m in DC, I’ll see more of everyone! Best regards, Mark ■

In flag news, **VADM John “Fozzie” Miller** will take over as deputy chief of naval operations, operations, plans, and strategy, N3/N5, Office of the Chief of Naval Operations at the Pentagon. He currently is serving as commander, U.S. Naval Forces, Central Command and commander, Fifth Fleet, Bahrain.

In case you’re counting, this means that Class of ’79 currently occupies the positions of N2/6, N3/5, N4, N8, and N95. Plus, **Sean Stackley** continues serving as the Asst. Secretary of Defense for Research, Development and Acquisition. No doubt about it – this is the Class of 79’s time at the helm!

More flag news: **RADM Peg Klein ’81** will serve as the Senior Advisor for Military Professionalism to the Secretary of Defense. Peg is the spouse of our own **Frank Klein**.

And of course – the other matter of consequence is our upcoming 35th Reunion, 25–28 September 2014 in Annapolis. Get all the latest gouge by going to the class website – www.usna79.com – and clicking the “35th Reunion” link at the upper left of every page. Some of the important stuff you’ll find:

The latest schedule of events;

Link to make hotel reservations at the Annapolis Westin (our HQ hotel);

Information/link to order football game tickets in the ’79 section (Note – everyone attending the tailgater MUST have a game ticket.);

Link to the Class Store for ordering/purchasing “79” clothing and merchandise;

Finally, Lisa and **Dan Morio ’91**, owners of Orion Travel & Leisure, LLC, have blocked some rooms for us at Historic Inns of Annapolis, which are within walking distance of the activities at the Westin. If you’re interested in staying at one of these inns, please email **Sean Cate** at Sean.Cate@1979.usna.com.