

provide time for us adults to have our coffee and for the scouts to break camp. The day's hike ranged from 6 to 11 miles, depending on elevation changes and planned staff camp activities along the way. The trails were not necessarily steep but a few were definitely challenging. Trails also consisted of several hundred-stream crossings with the constant dropping down to the stream and then back up on the other side taking its toll and making the hike seem much longer than planned.

I awoke the second day to a beautiful mountain sunrise and more than two dozen mule deer grazing lake side just 50 yards away. On day 5, we summited Mount Phillips (11,736') by traversing a very rocky and difficult hike but with a spectacular view as our reward. Two days later we were bombarded by marble sized hail just as we were putting up tents for the evening. We had gotten use to mid afternoon thunderstorms but this was different; enough hail to cover the ground and a temperature drop of 30 degrees within minutes.

The next day we summited Trail Peak to see the wreckage of a B24 Liberator that had crashed in 1942. But the highlight of the trek was our sunrise summit up the "Tooth in Time". This is the 9,000' iconic peak of Philmont that rises prominently from the valley floor where Base Camp is located and was once used as a major marker for traders on the Santa Fe Trail who knew they had to make it to "the tooth" in time to avoid snow closures of the passes. Our wakeup call was 4:30 am and we scrambled hand over foot 400'+ to the top of the Tooth across a deep boulder field that kept the less fit at the half way mark. The reward for this half hour trek is one the most spectacular sunrises you could imagine. Grant and I shared it back in 2012 and this one was even more inspiring. There's something about this moment that awakens maturity in the young scouts and is an experience they take with them for a lifetime. It is also the moment at which many of them commit to returning with their own son someday. As I sit here back at the office, all I can think about is that "I want to go back to Philmont." ■



Ralph Scherini shares in the Philmont adventure with son, Grant

And now a final few words from Kevin Stone:

■ Well, as you read this, Navy football, and our tailgate season, are well underway. We'll have about three games left so make sure you head out to Annapolis to see your classmates. As you recall we recently honored **Mike LeFever** as "the last man standing" at his retirement. Well, it turns out we sort of still have one last flag officer on active duty: Rear Admiral Martha Herb, spouse of Mike, recently relieved **Jeff Lemmons '79** as the Director of the Inter-American Defense College in DC. Congrats to Martha! I hope to see you around the yard. ■

**77** ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP: 2%  
LIFE MEMBERSHIP: 72%

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**78** ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP: 1%  
LIFE MEMBERSHIP: 78%

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Very slow month in terms of anything. Probably also due to the fact that this edition comes right on the heels of the last one. As such, this will be a short and sweet column.

This year marks the 40th graduation from high school for most of us. I see a lot of folks have been heading out to their reunions. It also marked the 40th Anniversary of our I-day. Could that day have been any hotter, humid and those new white works any more coarse?! There were lots of memories stirring as I watched the Class of 2018 taking the oath we took four decades ago. As this edition comes to your homes the Academic year will have begun and a whole new set of experiences and memories will be forming for 2018 just as they did for us. As I now travel about in my job with the Foundation, meeting with alumni –

whether it is someone from '44 or '13 – I find many of our recollections are the same. Regardless of the changes in the makeup of the Brigade, the buildings or the curriculum, there is a constancy of the *experience* and the remembered *emotions*. Whether they are the anxieties of the Plebe, the "coolness" of the Youngster, the sense of overload of the Segundo, or the exhilaration and relief of a Firstie during graduation week these and other emotions are much the same. There is a consistency in this unbroken chain.

Congratulations to **Kim Tageson** on becoming a new grandpa. His daughter Liz and son-in-law Matt just presented him with a new grandson, James. Congrats also to the most recent Leatherneck in the '78 family- Julie and **Brad (JB) Richardson's** son, Private Will Richardson. Will completed Boot Camp in July and the Richardson clan was on hand to watch his graduation. Will is now stationed in Camp Lejeune, NC. His dad and I flew out from across the way when we were stationed at MCAS New River and lived with **Randy Duncan** at his house in Folkstone- the famous (infamous?) "Chief's Club". Since Will is still under 21 Julie was prohibited from showing or telling him about the "Chief's Club" when she drove him to his new duty station. But his *father*, Brad, might make that prohibition for life (or *maybe* until Will is a Gunny)! Congratulations to all you other new grandparents, couples on your anniversaries, heck- to all of us for just making it through each day as we slowly move to the *front of Shipmate!*



Grandpa Tage and James



'78: Richardson Family and their New Marine

Well Navy took third place in the All Academy Challenge. As for '78, you guys came through and did your best to try to give Navy a boost. At least we weren't too far off from second place Air Force. (We'll get our revenge on far distant 1st place Army with a lucky number 13th win!). As a class we place third in among the classes in donorship. I can hear Coach Lentz saying- "Not bad '78!"

Well that's all for the shallow mail bag. Send me some updates and news or I will have to make it up. Until next month — Launchin' Spot Four.

**79** ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP: 0%  
LIFE MEMBERSHIP: 90%

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Greetings, '79ers!

No news to report this month, except... As this issue hits your mailbox, we will be enjoying our 35th Reunion in Crabtown. Starting in the November-December issue and proceeding into 2015, I'll be bringing you classmate news and photos from the "grand gathering". So once you get home and get the bags unpacked, please take a few minutes to look through those pics you took with your phone and send me the best ones (I'll let you determine the definition of "best"!).

Until next month. **Omnes Viri,**  
— **Wiz...**

**80** ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP: 0%  
LIFE MEMBERSHIP: 96%

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Greetings Classmates,

Summer is almost over and the kids are getting ready to head back to school; Allie to Med School, Sam to Spring Hill College and Shaina to her senior year of high school in New Orleans. Where did the time go Mr. Wizard? Backpacks and the excitement of a new binder and pencil holder seem to be in the historical registry — replaced by iPads, phones, social media and big bills! I'm sure many of our Classmates are busy sending "grandchildren" off to the first day of school — how's that for a change of role.

Our 35th Reunion — yes that was 35th Reunion is coming up within a year. Start planning and get those hotel rooms, classmates' crash pads, airline tickets and reservations to the front of your mind. Don't know the plans yet — or the week-end — as we have tried to make this happen on off weekends. But — start thinking. If you would like to be involved in the planning — let me know that too!

On to the mailbag:  
The first note of the month came from **Dan Herrscher** baldonia@aol.com who is living the dream in San Diego:



■ **Joe** —  
Everything's great, other than my oldest daughter, son-in-law and grandkids have moved away from San Diego to New Jersey for a better job opportunity. I guess it's an excuse to make a trip to the East Coast.  
At work (San Diego Unified) we held an Ice Cream Social fund-raiser at Physical Plant Ops, and, since ragtime and olde tyme piano music is my specialty, I volunteered to play for it. The district piano tuner picked out the "tinniest" instrument he could find and they put me on the loading platform. We raised about \$300 in an hour, so that was successful. ■

A few quick updates on Classmates: Just before the break I received a note from **Brian Kosinski** bknamaste@sbcglobal.net. He and Nancy are now empty nester's. **Steve Palmer** has changed his e-mail to sfpalmer@neomailbox.net. **Ron Thompson**, ron.thompson@ge.com finished his 10+ month geo bachelor expat assignment in Brazil as Supplier Quality Manager for the GE Wind business. He is now headed back to Greenville, SC to start his next role as Technical Leader for towers and fabrications for their Supplier Quality group. **Greg Ramsay** ramfam05@earthlink.net opened an ice cream shop and named it after their grandson — Andrew's Ice Cream and Desserts. So far, his ex-roomie **Mark Vaughan** is the only classmate to have graced their humble establishment! You can check them out on YELP: <http://www.yelp.com/biz/andrews-ice-cream-and-dessert-orange-2>.

**Alan Wellesley**, wellesleyalno@verizon.net and **Frank Stagliano** went out and attacked harmless fish once again — seems they tore it up!



I received a short note from **John Huckenpoehler**, JHUCKENP@travelers.com who was pretty jazzed that he and his son Patrick coached together at the Navy Lacrosse Camp. They both were able to spend a week together in Bancroft Hall — now that's a new way for summer camp! Great photo!



Also out on the West Coast, and enjoying retirement, **Jill Votaw** jvotaw@san.rr.com sent in an update (after my pathetic pleas for news...). She is nursing a bad knee and as she says a "transformer looking knee brace...but ready to hit the road in their new RV (delivered with their specs from the factory on 1 October 2014). As she said... "We're going to spend the next 15 — 20 years traveling in it, so it's worth it. We can't wait to get it so we can go have FUN!"

Our own **A.B. Cruz** abcruz3@msn.com retired recently, but as you will read below — it didn't last long...

■ **Hi Joe,**  
My double retirement in 2013 (from Scripps Networks in January 2013 and from the Navy in October 2013) was very short lived. Emergent Biosolutions, a specialty pharmaceutical company headquartered in Rockville MD, just 10 minutes from our home, had been pursuing me (or at least my services) since late summer of last year. So, when in October 2013,