

77ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP: 2%
LIFE MEMBERSHIP: 72%PRES: **Lee Geanuleas**

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SEC'Y: **Thom McKee**

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78ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP: 1%
LIFE MEMBERSHIP: 79%PRES: **Glen Woods**SEC'Y: **Vince Balderrama**

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Cindy and **Larry Easton** were visited by Robin and **Bruce Gearey** at the end of December. With them also was Robin's mom, Judy and their son (and a one-time "anchor baby"), Noah. Robin's folks live about an hour west of the Eastons in Lebanon, PA so their visit has become somewhat of a holiday tradition. Bruce is the Executive V.P. of Global Operations for Liquidity Services Inc., Capital Assets Group. Larry recently brought down from his folks' house in NY his main retirement project, a 1961 Corvette. His dad got it as an unfinished restoration project for a song during our Second-Class year but it never quite got to the top of his long queue of award-winning restorations. Now it has been handed off to Larry to complete. Robin liked the car and asked Larry for a ride. Which as Larry put it, "Since I don't expect many more chick-magnet moments in my life, how could I refuse?" It's the car, Larry, it's always the car. By the way, let the record that Cindy got the first ride weeks before so don't be making a space in the doghouse for Larry! The weather was nice that day so, despite the lack of seats, dash, ignition switch, etc. they hot-wired the car and took a few passes up and down our street. After a great day catching up, they went to dinner at Stoudt's brewpub and had a lot more laughs over dinner.



The Class of '78 had a strong showing for the Army-Navy game festivities held at Santa Barbara Yacht Club as reported by **Tom Rentz**. He says that was a "sure factor in yet another Navy victory".

The gang was pretty well split between both "sides of the world" - 1st and 2nd Regiments so maybe Tom is right.

Those cheering Navy on to victory were **Marv King** (34th Co), Anne and **Ralph Scaffidi** (36th Co), **James Oldham** (8th Co), Cindy and **Reny Pili** (36th Co), Anne and **Tom Rentz** (5th Co), and Patti and **Rob Westberg** (7th Co).



Congratulations abound for '78: first off, congratulations and best wishes to Donna and **Dave Buss** on his Change of Command as Commander, Naval Air Forces and retirement after 36 years of service to our nation and Navy. **Bob Novak** reported that it was a very moving and classy ceremony and was held aboard USS JOHN C. STENNIS (CVN-74), which Dave had once commanded. It featured a fly over by the Blue Angels that no one - including Dave - was expecting. Well, when you are leaving as the Navy's "Air Boss" you rate it! As part of the

ceremony, their son LT (j.g.) Matt Buss ('13), read the poem "The Watch" and Dave passed his sword onto Matt to carry on the family legacy. Attending from '78 (or as best as Bob could recall seeing or speaking with) were **Harry Harris** (He presented Dave his retirement award.), Jean and **John Sturges**, Kathy and **Don Beverlin**, **Charlie Hautau**, **Brian Roby**, **Dave "Deke" Philman**, Mary and **Bob Novak**.



Continuing with the Bravo Zulus, congrats go out to **Glen Ives** for his promotion to Chief Operating Officer at Sabre Systems, Inc. **Don Hamblen** is now the President of Wings of Hope. Wings of Hope is a non-profit that is known for its U.S.-based Medical Relief and Air Transport Program that provides free air ambulance services. It also works to develop infrastructure and self-sufficiency in poor and needy regions in 47 countries, providing assistance with health care, education, and sustainable food and water. **Lee Yarberry** is now a Senior Manager at Intelligrated. The company is a leading North American-based, single-source provider of intelligent automated material handling solutions.

The New Year again brought sorrow to the '78 family with the shocking news of the sudden, unexpected death on January 8 of Janis Strasser, wife of our 36th Company classmate **Mark Strasser** and mother of their son Alex. Both Mark and Alex were with her when she died after suddenly complaining of trouble breathing. Janis was cremated in accordance with her wishes. A memorial service was held on January 23 at

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Our Lady of The Lake Catholic Church in their Mound, Minnesota. Mark, son Alex, and all the family said to thank everyone for all their messages of love and support; those really help. Memorials are preferred to the Ada Lake Association, P.O. Box 202, Pine River, MN 56474. Please continue to keep the Strassers and all their family and friends in your prayers. And please keep each other close. Never lose a moment to treasure each other and live life to its fullest.

Launchin' Spot Four.

79

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP: 0%
LIFE MEMBERSHIP: 90%

PRES: LCDR Sean Cate, USN (Ret.)

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80

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP: 0%
LIFE MEMBERSHIP: 96%

PRES: Tim Kobosko

SEC'Y: CAPT Joseph A. Grace Jr., USNR

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Greetings Classmates
and Happy Mardi Gras!

The floats are starting to roam the streets of New Orleans, how about those Patriots (and what was with that play call?) and the north east is under 3 feet of snow; What more could anyone want from early February? On to the Mail-Bag

(Secretary's Note: *We're limited to 2,000 words (including photos which count for either 200 or 100 words depending on size). So if your note isn't here – look for the next one – and if it's cut down in size and wording – apologize in advance).*

Many of our Class from 19th Company and the USNA Swim Team from 79'-82' remember trips to **Joe Heil's** house and Mama Heil. Joe, jphssh1@aol.com, sent in this picture of himself, **Nick Katsiotis** and Mama Heil on her 93rd Birthday. Joe started work in November at the US Patent and Trademark Office (Alexandria) as a Mech. Eng. Examiner.

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Log into Online Community at usna.com to update your profile when you visit.



Al "Dad" Wellesley, wellesleyalrobin@verizon.net, also sent in an update on 23rd Company:

■ I received the following input about the Navy-South Alabama game from fellow 23rd Company Wildman **Rick Atwood**, who hooked-up with several other classmates at the game.

There was a nice showing of Navy Fans from the Gulf Coast at the Navy-USA (South Alabama) game in Mobile, AL. I had a chance to have a quick word with VADM Carter, 81. It is really a strange feeling to be chatting with a Super who graduated after you did.

It was good to see **Mark (Bridge) Lethbridge**, **Lee (Luther) Futch** and **Kris (K-ris) Elliott** at the tailgater. Mark's sons, Jake and Matt both Class of 13 also made the trip.

I was honored to join **Lee Futch** and **Fergie Ferguson** on a dove hunt in West Texas. Besides the shooting and storytelling, other memories from this hunt that will likely fuel future embellishments were Ferg's run-in with a rattlesnake and my run-in with a wasp nest.



'80: Pat Castleman, Ed Dempsey, David Foy, Jeff Maynard, Mike Sonnefeld, John Taylor, Tim Kobosko, Andrew McCawley, Jeff Johnstone, Michael Lopez-Alegria, Greg Mislick, Mark Crook, Rey Heatherington, Andres Otano, Mike Brown, Eric Heidhausen, John Kirby

My fishing adventures with **Frank Stagliano** continue. This year Frank moved into 'semi-retirement' mode, now working, mostly in a consulting role. Frank and Linnie's big news in 2014 was the birth of their first grandbaby Addison, along with the wedding of their son Michael.

Mark Lethbridge works for a national civil/environmental engineering firm that is based outside San Francisco and leads their business development in Metro Atlanta. Bridge and Linda live in Tyrone, GA where Linda owns a real estate investment LLC, Lethbridge Properties LLC. Their three sons are all doing well.

In an earlier SHIPMATE letter I mentioned that I was working part-time while conducting "an experiment to see if the extra money is worth giving up my freedom of being able to do whatever I darn well please whenever I darn well please." Well, I can now report that my experiment is complete, I have come to the conclusion that I enjoy freedom more than money, so my working gig will be ending soon. ■

We always have great Army Navy pictures. One came in from Kathy and **Ed Dempsey** that I wanted to include in this column! 80' Sir!

The west coast is always hopping with '80 Activity. **Jill Hawkins Votaw** jvotaw@san.rr.com wrote in with this update:

■ Our class is always good for parties and I ran in to quite a few at the San Diego USNAAA chapter's Army-Navy Party. We were joined by Molly and