

Judy followed in 1999. We'd been living about 6 miles apart the entire time (we're still in Alexandria, VA) until Chris and Judy pulled chocks at the end of July last year and moved into their dream home in Scottsdale. I can't emphasize what a big move this was for them. Chris and Judy had both been working here for the entire 15 years and they had only made frequent, short visits to Arizona as they cemented their plans to make the big move.

Since we had spent most of the last 15 years together at Thanksgiving, it was not a huge surprise when they asked us if we'd like to come visit them in Arizona for Thanksgiving, 2014 – and of course we said yes and promptly bought our tickets. (In hindsight, Chris thought that was a brave gesture – not knowing what was left to finish on their home. Chris emailed about three weeks before Thanksgiving and asked if we were 'still coming'. I'm not sure what answer he really wanted to hear, but were already committed!)

As I mentioned, we had a great visit! After a quick detour to Sedona, Susan and I joined Chris and Judy the Wednesday before Thanksgiving. Chris (the consummate chef) succeeded in making the best Thanksgiving turkey dinner that I think he and Judy had ever served, we did power walks and saw indigenous wildlife galore, we hiked the famous Pinnacle Peak Trail (and realized that even though it's only 3.5 miles round trip we weren't 25 anymore), we got a tour of Old Town Scottsdale and we also visited the Phoenix auto show. Sunsets were spectacular and the nighttime sky was so clear and unpolluted that you had difficulty making out familiar stars because there were so many other stars in among them.

Anyway, Chris and Judy will tell you that the work on the house is not yet done, they are still working some exterior details and finishing touches – so I have no photos of the dream house, but I have a couple others of us during our Pinnacle Peak trail hike and some of the flora and fauna out there. There is a photo included of them and their cats, Mason and Garfield, relaxing in the den and a photo of their beautiful Thanksgiving spread.

We miss Chris and Judy here in Northern Virginia and are jealous of their new home and wonderful surroundings. We see Chris occasionally in the DC area when he comes back for some consulting work and we hope to see them both at the 40yr reunion in 2016 – if they haven't grown very deep roots by then.

It seems that many of our 36th Company Mates have moved from the DC area in search of greener pastures or already live somewhere in their own paradise. In addition to Chris and Judy Earl's departure, **Mike Donnelly** and his wife Candy moved not too long ago to St Augustine; **Gary Greenfield** now spends most of his time in Boston, and Janet and **Brad Speer** and Chris and **Randy Large** constantly taunt us with tales of their idyllic life in San Diego (my favorite duty station!). We wish them all the very best and hope to see them and the majority of our friends and classmates at the 40th reunion.

In the meantime we'll continue to hold down the fort in the DC area with 36ers Val and **George Puddington**, Cathy and **Brad Little**, Gerri and **Frank Wysocki** and the rest of our many other local classmates, and watch Navy continue its football success this fall. ■



Greg & Susan Vaughn in Arizona



Chris & Judy Earl at home in Scottsdale

Just a quick note: my wife, Barb, and I spent a recent week at Grand Bahamas and Barb completed her PADI open water scuba certification with legendary diver, Nick Rolle from Sunn Odyssey Divers (Freeport, Grand Bahamas) as her instructor. My daughter, Meghan, and her husband, **Jared Marinos USMA '05**, joined us for the week. You can see the YouTube video of the gin clear waters and sea life at <https://youtu.be/39y8IuLoZIO>. We also snorkeled with Meghan & Jared and ran into a couple of spotted

eagle rays off of Taino Beach (see <https://youtu.be/XgnPIGe7STk>).



Barb & Mark Hubbard scuba diving off of Freeport, Grand Bahamas, in April 2015

A Classmate me asked to mention that a recent Shipmate contains the obituary of CDR **Stanley Jerome Carter '65** who passed away on November 8, 2014. CDR Carter was the 10th Company Officer from the beginning of our Plebe Year through the end of our Second Class Year and was well known around Bancroft Hall. We offer our deepest sympathies to the Carter family. May he rest in peace.

77 ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP: 2%
LIFE MEMBERSHIP: 72%

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78 ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP: 1%
LIFE MEMBERSHIP: 79%

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It was a great Brigade Boxing final again in February of this year. Once more **Steve "Jock" Maloney** and **"Duke Reilly ('79)** coordinated and hosted a gathering of predominantly '78 fans of Navy Boxing. The evening started with many gathering around a local watering hole of choice for a light dinner. Most met for the pre-match reception at Preble Hall (that's the Museum for those of you who have forgotten your Yard gouge.) Visible in attendance were Mary Jane and **Steve "Jock" Maloney, Mary and Bob Novak, Glen Ives, Craig Diffie, Karen and Brett Ayotte, Gretchen and Tom Crowley, Rusty Cone, Doug Diehl, Ray Kwong, Mike Brown, Gary Vinciguerra, Julie and Brad Richardson** (and their Marine son Will), **Ginger and Doug Meyer** (and their daughter, Erin), **Ray Cranford**,

Duke Reilly ('79), John O'Neil (looking dapper in a tuxedo). Apologies to those I missed.

Jim Fiorelli provided another family update. Jan and Jim's "prodigal" son Matt (USMA '14) was married to Miss Andrea Hasik in the St. Louis area the weekend before Christmas. Jim sent along a great pic of him, his bride of 30 years (this September) Jan, the new groom and bride (Matt and Andrea), soon-to-be Plebe son, John ('19) and Mike ('13). As this goes to print John has finished NAPS where he had a great year of football and NAPS beat USMAPS 18-2. Not only will the Naval Academy be getting another Fiorelli this summer but Navy football will be getting another good linebacker. Jim had visited Mike in flight training down in Kingsville. He found it "interesting to be back after 35 years!" While there they met up with Jim's nephew Nick in San Antonio. The three saw the Spurs play and had a chance to visit with **David Robinson '87**, the newest and youngest Distinguished Graduate. David has spoken in Richmond, and did a great job. Jim reported that he was certainly very gracious to him in San Antonio. Jim strongly recommends classmates' kids (and grandkids) read the book *The Admiral: The David Robinson Story*, by Gregg Lewis. While written for young people Jim says he thoroughly enjoyed and would highly recommend for all of us and that David truly sets a great example of leadership and humility. (I agree Jim, he was very gracious when he was here receiving his DGA recognition and the Mids really could related to him and his message.) While at NAPS, John reported to his dad that they had a visit from **Art Athens**, who did a great job talking to the Napsters about leadership. Like, David, he set a great example and lesson. The Fiorellis had a nice visit with Barb and **Vin Bellezza** in mid-January. They had come down to Richmond for a reception for the newlyweds Matt and Andrea. Everyone enjoyed dinner together – pizza, just like old times! Their son, John, is a P-8 NFO (chip off the old block) and by now is settled at home after his first deployment to Japan and East Asia. Vin is doing a great job leading his company, Aviation Systems Engineering Company, Incorporated (ASEC or ASEC Inc). It is an engineering services firm headquartered in Lexington Park, MD that specializes in aviation system development, analysis and test, with focus on the United

States Department of Defense (DoD) as a customer.



A Fiorelli Wedding



Meeting David Robinson

Fred von Ahn (fgvonahn@zoominternet.net.) came out from the cold. He never made the 35th. He confessed that he – like many of you – has been pretty dismal about staying in touch with anyone. He occasionally hears from **Glen Woods** and **Sean Coffey**, but other than that he flies below the radar screen. He heard from **Frank Klepacki** out of the blue about a year ago. He's glad to see some people on linked in so he can reach out to them [A reminder to all we have a Class LinkedIn site <https://www.linkedin.com/grp/home?gid=1774208> and Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/groups/USNA78/>]. Fred has been working for the same company for the last 25 years – FirstEnergy (and its predecessors CEI, Centerior – lots of mergers and acquisitions). He and Paulette have two kids. Their 27 year old son, Ryan, recently got married and lives in Akron. Their 23 year old daughter, Rachel, lives in Boston. Sounds like empty nester to me! Fred was a "5 and outer" Nuke. After spending time in Bremerton (Puget Sound naval shipyard – 2 years) and in the Mediterranean, he then worked for GE for 5 years. He lived in Switzerland for 2 years with GE and then moved to Northeast Ohio. He's been there for the balance of time. Fred reported that life was pretty uneventful except for 4 years ago when he was rear ended by an 18 wheeler while entering a

highway. He got knocked out, crossed the median and had a head on collision with an SUV. He was in a coma for a month, not expected to live, and as he said "unsure if [he] would be paralyzed or a vegetable". But he *fully* recovered. I wholeheartedly agree with him when he said that experience will "change your perspective on what's important in life". So glad that story had a miraculous ending, Fred. We expect to see you guys at the 40th- or even before at one of our Class Tailgaters! By the way, Fred invites classmates to stop in and visit him if you are ever around Poland, Ohio (It's just slightly southeast of Youngstown.). Drop me a line and I'll pass you his address and other contact info.

Got some update from my 11th Company mate, **Marty Drake**. Marty's still the Chief of Science and Technology in US Central Command in Tampa. He says he has the "best job". He says he "gets to roam the globe looking for the next best technology and occasionally blow stuff up legally. How cool is that?! I'm growing old . . . just not up." Part of his job involves conducting technology and future warfighting concept experimentation. They're conducting some experimentation on how air power supports the ground element from both a technology and conceptual framework. They participated in an Exercise in Central Florida recently and were able to bring the aircraft by MacDill AFB to give CENCTOM's Deputy (our classmate), **VADM Mark Fox**, a FAM (familiarization) ride. **Don Aiken** was also present. According to Marty, Don is still at NOAA as the Head of Aircraft Operations. They operate from MacDill. Don had graciously provided hangar space for Marty's aircraft while they upgraded some of the electronics after the Exercise. Marty said Don claimed he's going to retire for good this fall, strap on his motorcycle and head out on the road to tour the US. Actually, Don clarified his status. His title is the Deputy Director for NOAA's Aircraft Operations, the group frequently referred to as the "Hurricane Hunters". Don reported it too is a great job as he manages a fleet of 10 aircraft and an unbelievably talented staff.



Mark- all grins

Despite this, his intent is to retire (again) in November and work on his *golf* game. The guy who had the most fun in this “78 micro-reunion” was Mark. He got to ride in the aircraft. As such he was grinning when they strapped him in and grinning when he climbed out after the ride!



Marty, Mark and Don

As for Marty, he reports it is all good with him in Tampa. Leigh’s still with CISCO. She’s the Director of Sales for Managed Services for the Central US - 13 States - carrying a huge quota. She and her team get it done though. Both boys are doing well. The oldest is about to move from Pittsburg to Asheville, NC. His wife is completing her Residency for Emergency Medicine in a couple of months and will be an Emergency Room Doctor for the regional medical hospital. They are the proud parents of Marty and Leigh’s Grandson - The “Jammer” (Jameson - which Marty claimed is partly named after his favorite whiskey.) While they are moving closer, it still is not close enough for Marty and Leigh. Jason, their youngest, is still in Seattle and engaged to marry. The date hasn’t been set. Both offspring report to be doing well. In late April, Marty had been in touch with **Rusty Cone** and **Prentiss (PJ) Hall**. April 22nd was PJ’s birthday so according to Marty that now makes him “the Old Man of [their] room”. Both are reported to be doing well. Globetrotting Rusty was able to make it out to CA and visit with Prentiss. In late April, Rusty also was home in Texas to surprise **Matt Elias** on his “make-up” birthday party. It was a surprise party and Rusty said that Matt’s daughters, Claire and Sarah, did a great job of putting the surprise together, which of course could not include their mom, Brenda. Also attending from ’78 were Leslie and **John Marrinucci**. Rusty sent a great pic of the gang. Unfortunately, Matt’s dad, passed away on his actual birthday at the end of March so there was not much celebration of Matt

that day, but rather of the life and remembrances of a great man and father. To close out on some 11th Company news- Gretchen and **Tom Crowley** have bought a house in Annapolis. They still live in Arlington, VA but bit by bit they come over to stay in the Annapolis home until eventually (probably after retirement) it will be their “permanent” home. It’s good having my roomie nearby. Also, by now “Aloha” **Phil Winters** should be fully recovered from his triple bypass in March. He’s probably back to being a scratch golfer. Glad you made it through with flying colors! **Pam** (’80) and **Scott Rodgers** are part of a “RV gang”. They bought one of those “ginormous” RVs and tool about the country. I am trying to measure if it will fit in front of my house when they come out for Pam’s 35th Reunion.



Matt’s Birthday Surprise

Congratulations to those classmates with Firsties graduated this year: **Mark Miller (Julie)**, **Tim McGee (Ryan)**, **Frank Behm (Sarah)**, **Stephen Jones (Andrew)**, **Roy Cranford (Thomas)** and **Rich Valenstein (Grant)**. Stephen and Bob Tuohy have one in the Class of 2016 (Jeremy and Rylan, respectively). **Michael Sears’** son, Matthew, will join John Fiorelli as a member of Class of 2019. Matthew had been at one of the Foundation schools this past year. Anyone else out there?

That’s it for now. Launchin’s Spot Four!



’79: Micro-reunion in VA (l-r): Mike Kennedy, Rick Fitzwater, Mark Edwards, Bob Smout, Pete Kurzenhauser, George Wilson, Ted Branch, Chris Brehany, Ralph Quarles, Nick Harris.

79 ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP: 0%
LIFE MEMBERSHIP: 90%

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Greetings, 79ers!

Well, the boxes are (mostly) unpacked, and the house is (mostly) organized. As I mentioned in the last column, Karen and I relocated to northern VA. Karen has been on a tear getting the house all put together. The one room that I’m responsible for - my office - still “needs work”, to put it politely. So I’ve escaped to the family room and, laptop in hand (lap), bring you the latest from the Land of ’79.

First up is this update from **Ralph Quarles**, also in northern VA:

■ We might be a little older and not up to everything we could do as mids, but 10 of us verified this week that we can still sit down to a long rectangular table together and chow down! After running into each other at the last DC alumni meeting where our own **VADM Ted “Twig” Branch** gave a great talk, **Chris Brehany** and I thought we’d see who could get together on short notice from 79ers in the DC area. I’ve attached the “Rogue’s Gallery” of who got together at J. Gilbert’s in McLean, VA. We had a great time catching up, though the short notice meant we missed many who could not make it.

All agreed that this sort of ‘micro-reunion’ is not done enough considering how many of us live around here. We plan to try again in a couple of months with more notice and see if we can at least double this.