

times and locations for class meetings, brunch, golf, etc. If you are not on the email list (i.e. if you don't get my Tailgate signup emails) then you need to go to www.usna.com and update your profile. ■

77 ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP: 2%
LIFE MEMBERSHIP: 72%

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78 ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP: 1%
LIFE MEMBERSHIP: 79%

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Mea culpa, mea culpa, mea maxima culpa...apologies for the missed issue last time. No excuse sirs! Still there is redemption going forward by trying to make the rest. While I still have a pretty good "batting average" over the last three plus decades—it always the one column you missed that is remembered. What was that about one "aw sh_t" can replace a thousand atta-boys?

What has happened to 2015? I can't believe it is just about over and that this is the last issue of the calendar year. Happy (belated) Birthday to my fellow Marines and an early Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to everyone! That said, I hope 2016 goes equally as fast. I have a couple of things I want to be done quickly. One is the arrival of those Reserve retired benefits and the other is something we can talk over a beer sometime. Now on the news.....

Ken "Sox" Bowersox (19th CO) sent a note from Houston, TX, to say that all was well. Next year, he and Annie will

have three sons in college— one at Texas A&M, one at Baylor, and the third at Colorado School of Mines. Sox retired from the Navy and NASA and did a little stint at SpaceX. He's fully retired now and enjoying family; conducting lots of personal projects; and having an occasional opportunity to do a little technical/management consulting.

Ed Henkler (20th CO) reported that a lot has changed since he last sent a mass communication. He voiced his thanks for those who helped his wife, Diane, wins last year's *Better Homes & Garden* March Makeover Madness contest by voting for her entry. As for Ed, he recently launched a new website (edhenkler.com) and wrote an eBook, "*Blindness: Coping with Vision Loss*". His goal is to improve quality of life and employability of individuals who are blind or visually-impaired. Take a look.

Scott Provow (21st CO) mentioned that he enjoyed reading in a previous column about fellow NAPster, **Herb Nyberg**, and his company New Mountain Innovations and Acoustic Larvicide. He said Herb has been down his way working sales of mosquito killing acoustic device. Scott's former NAPS roommate, and a frequent attendee at **Jock Maloney's** Brigade Boxing gatherings, **Gary Vinciguerra**, also visited him at Santa Rosa Beach. Gary was down there in July. They both had been trying to get together for years and finally did it. Gary had been running his dad's formal attire company called "Tuxedo Junction" in Philadelphia since he left the Academy in 1975. He recently sold his 30-acre equestrian farm called "Formal Acres" after living there for 27 years in Shamong, NJ. Gary is now living the good life on the water on the Eastern Shore of Maryland. Scott and Gary had a blast with their "Roomie Reunion"— riding

stand-up paddle boards in the Gulf of Mexico and looking at pictures from over 40 years ago! As for Scott, he is currently the Broker of LAH Real Estate at the Beach, here on Scenic Highway 30A near Seaside, FL. In April he had his 60th birthday party on the beach with over 250 people. Classmates who helped him usher in his sixth decade were **Jerry Swartz** (21st CO), **John Simmons** and **Jeff Carpenter** (21st). (Jeff owns a house near Scott.) **Brian McGee** ('83) hosted the party at his brand new house on the beach. It was epic— but civilized enough to not require the riot police or bail. Scott says the next time I get out that way we can go fishing. I may just have to take him up on it as I only have gone once when I was a very little kid. Besides, from the look of the Black Snapper, Jeff Carpenter caught with Scott on his birthday in August I could do well. Actually, I *was* recently in Scott's region. I was in the Pensacola area for a business trip at the end of August. While there I was able to visit **Pam** ('80) and **Scott Rodgers** (11th CO). I had dinner with them in their home in Navarre, FL. Scott retired from the airlines and has been working for Pam in her medical practice. Pam was in the process of dissolving her practice but retaining the Wellness portion of her business. She and Scott are RV owners and love it! (So too are **Mur** and **Roy Bookmiller** (32nd CO)) Also while in the area I got together with local P-Cola attorney, **Rich Jesmonth** (35th CO). He has his practice in old Pensacola near Seville Quarter. His practice is in a nice, restored old house. We had a great lunch on the beach. I also got to see some of my new Ensigns whom Elizabeth and I sponsored from 2015. (**Trey Hernandez**, **Marc-Antony Julia** and **David Brainerd**) who are now in the NFO training flight training. I met them for dinner on P-Cola along with my fellow UCONN Huskie EMBA classmate and USNA '76, **Steve Kelly** and his wife, MaryAnn.





Alan “Blues” Baker reported about the '78 attendees who witnessed the Sept 5 wedding of Barb and **Scott Eckert’s** (22nd CO) daughter, Elizabeth, and Tyler Bolin. The ceremony took place in Charlottesville VA. Among the attendees, as reported by Blues were: Barb and **John Cohoon** (16th CO), Marla and **Blues Baker** (10th CO), Sheri and **Drew Mulhare** (22nd CO), Carmen and **Rich Cellon** (6th CO), Denise and **Dennis Reilly** (22nd CO).

Mark Miller (2nd CO) wrote about graduation week for his daughter **Julie** ('15). Julie graduated back in May with a degree in Systems Engineering and will be joining the Silent Service. As a home base for Commissioning Week Mark chartered a sailboat and kept it on the town dock. They flew the signal flags for “Go Navy”, a '15 and a '78 flag for our classes, an N star flag and a Navy Goat flag. In honor of her graduation Mark flew the '15 above the '78. They anchored off the Academy sea wall for the Blue Angels practice on Tuesday and performance on Wednesday and had a fantastic view! It was good weather for both days! Thursday it rained for the Color Parade, water was pouring off of the covers and down backs of all the midshipmen. Mark commented that it was an appropriate reminder of how miserable those parades really are. The weather Friday morning for Graduation was incredible, cool, and not a cloud in the sky. Vice President Joseph Biden handed out the diplomas to every graduate. The entire ceremony was streamed over the internet and Julie’s grandparents who could not make it were

able to watch everything. As he summarized, “It was quite the day, and the four years were definitely more fun as a parent than it was as Mid.”



We welcome to the “neighborhood” our newest Annapolitans, Evonne and **Ray Bracy** (25th CO) and Julie and **Mike Sears** (36th CO). Evonne and Ray came from China where Ray had been an executive with Walmart. Mike and Julie came from Palo Alto, CA. Elizabeth and I are sponsors of Mike and Julie’s son, **Matthew** ('19). But now that mom and dad are local we might not be seeing much of Midshipman Sears around our house.

In closing, it is with a heavy heart that I report the loss of Terri and **Don Brutzman’s** (13th CO) 26-year-old daughter, Becky Brutzman. **Don Free** (29th CO) sent me an e-mail informing me of her death. He and Don teach at the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey. Becky died on 16 September after making the most valiant effort to recover from a drowning accident in the Trinity River in California. I can’t begin to imagine the pain that Don and Terri are still feeling. A parent should never have to bury a child. Those of you who have had that heartbreak especially understand. Our deepest sympathies and prayers for consolation go out to Terri and Don, their remaining children, Hilary, Sarah and Patrick and Becky’s young son Judah. You can read more about Becky’s life here <http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/montereyherald/obituary.aspx?pid=175872220> and celebrate the time she had in this world and what spark she brought to it. A Custodial Account has been established for her son. Contributions can be made to Ashanti Judah Enriquez, at the Navy Federal Credit Union (NFCU).

Launchin’ Spot Four.



79 ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP: 0%
LIFE MEMBERSHIP: 90%

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Greetings, 79ers!

I was at a 79 tailgater recently, talking to a number of classmates, when all of a sudden I realized – I finally understood Einstein’s theory of relativity. Not the $E=MC^2$ formula: I mean, I actually understood it. You see, as the according to the calendar, 40 years ago on this exact date, we all were doing chow calls counting down the days until our first Christmas leave. Yet when I look in the mirror, I’ve only aged about 10–12 years since those chow calls. Must be Einstein’s relativity. (My wife actually refers to it as a delusion, but I know better – I was a physics major!)

We have a couple of items for this month’s flag report. One of the more unique “end of tour” awards went to our own **VADM John “Fozzie” Miller**, commander, U.S. Naval Forces Central Command, US 5th Fleet and the Combined Maritime Forces. Fozzie received the Bahrain Medal of the First Class from His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa during a visit to the kingdom’s Al-Sakhir Palace. The presentation came when His Majesty received US Ambassador to Bahrain William Roebuck and our classmate to mark the completion of the admiral’s tenure in Bahrain.

An interesting factoid: On any given day, Fozzie led more than 15,000 US and coalition Sailors, Marines, Coast Guardsmen and civilians ensuring maritime security and stability throughout 2.5 million square miles of area including the Arabian Gulf, Gulf of Oman, Gulf of Aden, Arabian Sea, the Red Sea, parts of the Indian Ocean, and in 20 countries. Congrats, Fozzie! Best of luck in your new assignment.

On the subject of three-stars:

Ed Patterson and other classmates accompanied our resident Marine general on a trip to the 49th state:

■ Sending some pictures of a recent cruise my wife and I took with our classmates to Alaska the end of May. It was