

78

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

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These back to back editions throw me for a loop. Well, all of them do to be more precise. Sometimes it's hard to remember what got said before, what I read, who I saw. I am not sure if the cause of it is just the oversaturation of e-mails, tweets, texts, and postings or just the sign of advancing "seniority". That said, let's see what has been sitting in the queue for a while and what I can recall...

As we all know Navy had a great season last year. Many of you got to cheer them on up front and personal. The highlight was the 14th Win-in-a-Row Victory over Army. What a great end of the year for Navy. We had the best football season ever and beat Army for the 14th year in a row. The Army-Navy game had a lot of classmates gathering where they could- before, during and after the game. Among those I saw at the game were Cendra and **Barney Cramp** (17th Co), and Mee and **John Semcken** (2nd Co) (and John's son, Reed). Good old 14th Company was there in strength with **Bill "If" Fell**, **Fred Webster**, **Doug Meyer**, **Mark Poston**, **Mike Roban**, **Bob "Bubba" Destafney**, and **Chris "Doc"**

Dougherty. The night before for the Army-Navy boxing smoker, Mary Jane and **Steve "Jock Maloney** (16th Co), Patricia and **Peter Craig** (35th Co), **Gary Vinciguerra**, and our good buddy **Kevin "Duke" Reilly** (79). Here's a photo-sample of a lot of those aforementioned folks. As for the pic of Duke, let's just say it is representative of his preferred tailgating style. While he wanted to have his entourage of Dallas Cheerleaders with him at Army-Navy, regrettably they had other plans. But ya gotta love that style! Reportedly **Sean Coffey** (13th Co) and **Bill Duggan** (23rd Co) made it to the end of the season Military Bowl to cheer Navy on to victory over Pitt. So too were **Tommy Martinez** (19th Co), **Scott Provow** (21st Co) and **Russ Dedrickson** (29th Co). Quick story from Tommy: While in Boston on business he had the opportunity to visit a dear friend at the VA Hospital in Bedford. Out of the blue he was stopped by a "distinguished gentleman" who had noticed the "NAVY" hooded sweatshirt he was wearing. When the gentleman asked how

he came by it, Tommy responds with the fact he is with the great Class of '78. The gentleman then shakes his hand and introduces himself as a member of the Class of '61- **Joe Bellino**. Yes, THAT Joe Bellino - Navy Heisman trophy winner Mr. #27! (Though, as Tommy says, he is a friendly, cordial down to earth gentleman- who probably feels he is just "Joe"). Tommy said you could have pushed him over with a feather after that encounter and a real treat to meet him!



Kurt Tidd was promoted to his fourth star in a ceremony in Memorial Hall the Academy on Jan 2nd and assumed command of CENTCOM a week or so later. There was a good contingency of classmates and 36th Companymates present to watch the ceremony. Kurt even had a couple of his company Firsties from '75 present. I guess when you get your 4th star you can have *them* come-around. Present for the Class were 36th Companymates- **Bob Engel**, **Mike Moore**, **Drew Nienhaus**, **Mike Sears** and **Tom Trudell**. Also present were **Gerry Roncolato** (1st Co), **Tim McGee** (15th Co) and yours truly. The next morning the 36th Company gang met at Chick and Ruth's for breakfast - joined by their wives and **Jim Carr**. As I've may have written before, Kurt's promotion gave our class four four-stars on active duty at the same time, Kurt, **Mark Ferguson** (7th Co) (Commander, Allied Joint Force Command (JFC) Naples/commander, U.S. Naval Forces Europe-Africa), **Cecil Haney** (29th Co)



'78

(Commander, U.S. Strategic Command); and **Harry Harris** (15th Co) (Commander, U.S. Pacific Command). In the 170-year history of the Naval Academy, 215 graduates reached the rank of 4-star admiral. Only four other USNA classes have had four or more active duty 4-stars serving at the same time: 1897, 1927, 1933 and 1973.



Carl Jensen (9th Co), **Jim Carr** (36th Co), **Jack Fernandez** (9th Co), **Lew Wolfram** (30th Co) were present at the Dec 30th wedding of Jack Fernandez and Carin Carr's (sister of Jim Carr) daughter, Abbey Fernandez, to Todd Smith. Jack said that besides toasting the bride and groom at the reception, the '78 contingent raised a glass to CAPT. Jack Darby, without whose intervention, Carl and Jack would have been Bos'n's mates. Jack also asked God's blessings on "'78, Cloud 9, and Dr. Wu". By the way, Jack added that he also has a new grandson and dare we say a *future* Midshipman, Andrew William Stevenson (Class of '38?). He is a gift to the world and his grandparents by Jack's other daughter, **Marina** ('03) and her husband, **Edward Stevenson** ('05).



On June 22nd **Alex "Dog" Callas** (26th Co) and his team will be holding the 25th Annual Peter G. Callas Memorial Golf Day for MDA. This year's tournament marks the 45th year that the Callas family has - in honor of Alex's late brother, Peter Jr. - conducted fundraising for the Muscular Dystrophy Association (MDA). You can find event details on their website: www.golfdayformda.org. Over the years many of you have supported the event with prize contributions, donations to MDA and participation as golfers. I hope you can repeat your support but reinforced by many others. Last year they raised \$20,000. Let's all help make this year's Tournament the best ever!

Well, with pics and all I am done.
Launchin Spot Four.



Instagram

Alumni Association on Instagram

We have started posting pics as USNA alumni, but really want to post *YOURS*. Show us what you and your fellow grads are up to in the fleet and around the globe. Consider it "Insta-Grad," a photo app just for you. Send your shots to instagram@usna.com.

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ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP: 0%
LIFE MEMBERSHIP: 91%

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Greetings, '79ers!

I know it's spring, but I've been getting some updates from last year's Army-Navy celebrations. First up is this hit from **Dick Tobey**:



24th Co Army party: **Leo Jones, Lyle Mueller, Mike Feidt, Dick Tobey, Ed Huyer, Rick Marrs, Joe Ciano, Paul Reese.**



Doug Bartlett, Bob Melcher and Chris Cobb '09 rain on the *Woops'* parade

■ This Army-Navy, Vicki and **Rick Marrs** hosted a viewing and victory party at their house for members of 24th Company from '79. We had 8 company classmates, wives, and a few others. In the picture left to right: **Leo Jones, Lyle Mueller, Mike Feidt, Dick Tobey, Ed Huyer, Rick Marrs, Joe Ciano, Paul Reese.** Good victory, GREAT PARTY!

— Dick ■

Then **Bob Melcher** emailed from Naples, FL. Seems that he, **Doug Bartlett** and **Chris Cobb '09** decided to crash the wake, er, party at the Naples West Point Chapter. Over 60 Woops experienced "Groundhog Day" once again, watching Bob, Doug and Chris celebrate yet another Navy win.