

77/78 CLASS NEWS

wedding of the daughter of **Tug McGraw (22nd Co.)**. Left to right below are the pride of Southern High, **Bobby Holman (22nd Co.)**, Tug and Owen:



Bobby, Tug & Owen

We can only assume from the following Tug was either unhappy at his daughter's selection of a husband...



Unhappy Tug

...or the alcohol ran out!

Next, Melinda and Joe Christofferson (**4th Co.**) recently celebrated the arrival of twin grandsons with their oldest daughter Lindsey. We're pleased to introduce Parker Joseph (7.4 oz.) and Grant Bradley (6.2 oz.), shown below with their pleased-as-punch grandparents:



Melinda & Joe With Grandsons



Melinda & Twins

Last but not least, '77 was well represented in the recent Navy Homecoming golf tournament, as the fearsome foursome of **Chris Feeny (11th Co.)**, **Jim Kelly (11th Co.)**, former 32nd Company officer/Class of '69 **Eric Utegaard** and **Leo Latonick (26th Co.)** (featured below with Navy golf coach Pat Owen) took 1st place in the Thursday scramble...



Winning '77 Team

...while Leo and Jim upheld '77's tradition for excellence by placing 1st and 2nd place respectively in the low-net division of the championship flight:



Kelly & Latonick

So in closing, congratulations to Tug on his daughter's marriage, Melinda and Joe on the birth of their twin grandsons and Messrs. Feeny, Kelly and Latonick on their laudable links prowess!

P.S. Our 40th is fast approaching, and by the time you read this, the online registration system (<http://www.signupnow.events/usna1977>)

for all reunion-related events will be up and running. If you want to stay updated on the latest reunion gouge, you have four options: first, there's the '77 Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/usna1977/>).

Second, you can visit our class website www.usna1977.org.

Third, you can register at the Alumni Association website and receive periodic email updates. Just go to <http://www.usna.com/> and click on the "Stay Connected" link on the upper right of the home page to create an account. In "Your Email Subscriptions" you can specify what sort of email you want to receive, including getting the gouge via class emails. If you don't want to be solicited by the Association, you can uncheck "Solicitations" in the same section.

The good news is, you can register at the Alumni Association site even if you're not a member or don't wish to be. And while we encourage everyone to join, we fully appreciate some of our beloved brothers are old and salty dogs adamantly opposed to learning new tricks.

Lastly, for the completely computer-illiterate or those trying to stay off the grid, we're always available via phone at (410) 489-5080 or through our email: magoo1310@verizon.net.

— Magoo

'78

Life Membership: 79%
Donor Participation: 29.88%

Pres: **Glen Woods**

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As this issue is released to your homes the Yard has now entered the "Dark Ages". Remember them? Please help me shed some light into it with some e-mail news and pics.

For now, here are a few items I scrounged around.

Following **Cecil Haney's** change of command from STRATCOM at the beginning of November was his

retirement ceremony in Mahan Hall on December 16th. While only '78 stalwarts, **Brett Ayotte** and **Mel Williams** were able to make the Change of Command at Offutt Air Force Base near Omaha, Nebraska, the retirement was another story as there were "tons" present in the Yard. Let's see if this old brain can remember some '78 attendees: **Brett Ayotte**, **Mike Fralen**, **John Rudzis**, **John Cooke**, **John La deman**, **Kurt Tidd**, **Ray Kwong**, **Joe Lynch**, **Steve Petrie**, **John Rudder**, **Byron Marchant**, **Andy Winns**, and **Mark Ferguson**. Apologies to unmentioned wives and girlfriends as I am just lucky to recall all the guys I could see (there were others I probably missed as the place was packed). It was a great family affair with Bonnie and Cecil's children and grandsons, not to mention Cecil's sisters and Bonnie's 90 year-old mom. Cecil's 90+ year old mom couldn't be present but he was to review the video with her afterward. There were so many friends and dignitaries that as I left the reception I think Cecil was still in his receiving line. And then there were three... Cecil's retirement leaves only, **Harry Harris**, **Kurt Tidd** and our lone Marine, **John Wissler** left on active duty.



Brett, Cecil and Mel



Betty "Boo" and **Gary Eisenmann** sent a family update. Their son, Karl is still an active duty Marine. Now a

major, he got to spend some time with the family before he had to deploy again. He's the Combat Logistics Battalion Ops Officer for the Special Purpose Marine Air-Ground Task Force-Crisis Response-Africa (now that's a mouthful!). We wish him and his men safekeeping and maybe next Christmas home with the folks. Son, Brian, and his wife Angela are living in their first house in Leesburg and made Gary and Boo first-time grandparents with granddaughter, Ailish. Brian works for the Department of Transportation (DOT) and Angela is an ICU nurse. Son, Alex, and Storm are renting house in Arlington. As Gary says, they gave he and Boo their first "grand-dog" in lab puppy (now adolescent) Mae. Final son, Joe, works as a Member Service Rep with the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA). He deals with a lot of us concerned retired guys over a variety of issues. As for Boo and Gary they are now living at their lake house. They sold their Leesburg home this time last year [March]; did a large purge (13 years without a PCS move since retiring from the Marine Corps had them accumulating a lot of things); and - with family help -moved the remainder. As Gary wrote, Boo then retired from the high school and started working fulltime on turning the house into a home..when she is not gaming on the computer, engaging friends and family on social media, taking pictures of the water fowl, changing leaves, beautiful sunrises, fog on the water, etc." He knows she'll turn their "diamond in the rough" house into a lovable home just as she had with their Leesburg place. While Boo has retired, Gary's part-time work for WBB has turned more into 7 or 8-hour days as he is still in demand. He says on the plus side at least he can telecommute from his recliner and doesn't have to make the physical dive. He says he *does* see the end in sight. Hope it is nearer than you think, Gary. He says at the lake house they have already hosted some good parties, have plenty of room and look forward to visitors.

Over the football season a lot of you had traveled long distances to make the games and cheer Navy. At a bar in Hawaii, mainlanders **Steve "Jock" Maloney, Frank Behm, Eddie Reid and Reny Pili** joined locals **Hank Van Oss, Harry Harris and Loren "Muff" Divers** to watch the Army-Navy game. That's one heck of a way to go to see an Army-Navy game but given the choice of a cold Stadium in the east or a warm bar in Hawaii I'd chose the latter!

At the USF game in Tampa were quite a few '78 fans. At the tailgate, I ran into **Rick Salvadore** and his girlfriend, Jill. Rick looked great. He hadn't changed a bit since school or The Basic School except - as we both joked- the hair was smaller than the old red 'fro days. They had come up from the West Palm Beach area. Rick is VP of Sales for iTrade Network. He mentioned that his last active duty stint was a Marine Captain was in Tampa as an Aide to the Commander of CENTCOM. After that he left active duty and went on to earn an MBA and worked for various companies in consulting, B2B, network solutions and e-commerce and such (as I recall).

Mo Tose was at the tailgate and game with his son. Sitting behind my seat at the game I spied **Ray Kwong and Bill Hession**. In the section to my lower left I first caught glimpse of first **Doug Meyer** then saw a bunch of his 14th Company bubbas and their ladies: **Ray Baltera, Don Beverlin, Chris "Doc" Dougherty, Fred Webster and Ben Richter**. They had all converged from points all over for another mini-company reunion and football.



Rick Salvadore and Jill



'78 Watching Army-Navy from Hawaii



Ray Kwong and Bill Hession



Speaking of Company miin-reunions, in September **Bob "Zool" Schwaneke** reported and sent pics a while back that Fun One (1st Co) had their Annual Fallfest in Sandbridge, VA. It was their 12th annual event with 11 companymates attending at various times. They were: **Ken Heffernan, Warren Krull,**

Dale Allison, Bruce Carter, Bill McAlpine, Jack McCourt, Mark Hubal, Bill Landay, Bob "Zool" Schwaneke, Eric Rosenlof (not pictured) and **Frank Hunt** (not pictured). Bob reported it was another grand time! They "had a lot of fun as usual... cooking, eating, having a few beverages, beach swimming, sailing on Frank's boat, hanging out at the pool, Warren fishing and shooting old shotguns, working out, watching movies....the standard fair! Had Pizza Night, Shrimp Night, Steak Night, Crab Night, Pasta Night, and of course Burger/Brat Night! And certainly discussed all sorts of STUFF (world hunger, etc.!) We christened a new rental this year, newer, bigger and even had an elevator for us old guys (it was three stories!). But no pantry (a critical space for the Suppo in me... ..Ha!). Rooms were nice too, but think we actually like the older place better. It was only two stories! We'll see next year!" Bob closed with future 1st Co plans for events to get together over 2017- the Winterfest



'78: Fun One in Sandbridge

78/80 CLASS NEWS

at Bruce Carter's house last month in Nashua, NH then possibly at 10-day Med Cruise June-July 2017! Sounds like a great plan, guys.

In closing, congratulations to **Mark Peterson** who in December married his lifelong partner Wayne.

**Until next month,
Launchin' Spot Four.**

'79

Life Membership: 91%
Donor Participation: 21.40%

Pres: **LCDR Sean Cate, USN (Ret.)**
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Sec'y: **LCDR John "Wiz" Withers, USN (Ret.)**
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Social Network Links:
<http://www.linkedin.com/in/wizwithers>

Facebook Group: **USNA Class of 1979**

Website: www.usna79.com

Greetings, '79ers!

This has been one of those rare months when the mailbox is empty. I get it - holidays are over, days are short, and work is gearing up. I don't have any classmate news *per se*, but there is one item of note.

Last fall, class president **Sean Cate** represented us at the annual Council of Class Presidents. As he always does, Sean sent out a detailed summary of items pertinent to '79 to the class email list. I don't normally reprint those; however, Sean did touch on one item that I thought worth mentioning here - reunion planning.

As most everyone is aware, Navy now plays football in the American Athletic Conference (AAC). One unanticipated consequence of this is the impact on planning for individual class reunions. Navy's football schedule used to be coordinated years in advance - therefore classes could choose their reunion dates and book hotels/venues 3-5 years before the event.

Not so any more. The AAC sets its schedule a mere 6-7 months prior to the start of the season. Only the non-conference games - Army, Air Force, Notre Dame, and the first game of the season - are set further

in advance. Navy still has an official "Homecoming" game (usually in October), but the opponent isn't released until the official AAC schedule is published. Hence the new challenge in reunion planning.

To counter this, classes are looking at all sorts of options. Some have selected a Spring Reunion date built around a lacrosse game. Others are having theirs in conjunction with the Notre Dame game (2019 will be at ND). One class just picked a fall weekend when the team was on the road - they "tailgated" at Navy-Marine Corps Stadium and watched the game on TV in the N-Star room (where we held our 35th Reunion).

For our 40th Reunion year, the only 2019 home game dates we know are September 7 vs. Holy Cross (the weekend after Labor Day) and Homecoming on October 26th. The question before the Reunion Committee is whether pick one of those dates; pick another weekend and take our chances with the schedule; hold the reunion at a different time of year; or look at other options. No final decision has yet been made, but as we learned Plebe Year, "time, tide and formation wait for no (reunion)."

That's about all I know - I'll keep you informed as things develop. Clearly, our 2019 Reunion could - repeat, "could" - look a bit different from years past. I'm not speaking for the committee - but if you'd like to weigh in on this, drop me a line and I'll make sure it gets to the right people.

Take care, Classmates. And if you have anything interesting going on, please drop me a line.

See you next month!

**Omnes Viri,
Wiz...**

CLASS SECRETARY COLUMN DEADLINES

Send to classnews@usna.com

ISSUE:	DUE DATE:
May 2017	27 Feb 2017
Jun-July 2017	24 Apr 2017
Aug 2017	30 May 2017
Sept-Oct 2017	24 July 2017
Nov-Dec 2017	25 Sept 2017

'80

Life Membership: 96%
Donor Participation: 19.23%

Pres: **Tim Kobosko**

Sec'y: **CAPT Joseph A. Grace Jr., USNR**
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Website: www.USNA1980.org

Greetings Classmates and Happy 2017! Another year gone by and another year older! Classmates are retiring, moving to new jobs, sailing around the world, driving around in RV's, playing with grandchildren, marrying off their kids and just enjoying life! It's good to be us! Tonight is New Year's Eve - so when you read this it'll be well into the New Year. 2017 should be an interesting year of change for all.

I always put in a request to be on everyone's Christmas List (that never happens) and their Christmas card list - (that sometimes happens). I'm going to start lobbying for both more diligently in 2017. This gives me a view into the worlds of our Classmates. Fortunately, some folks included me in their stocking stuffers. Well - on to the mailbag:

Barbara Geraghty barb.geraghty@cox.net, sent in a Christmas letter with a good update on her life of 2016:

✉ Joe,

This was the year for international travel experiences, with the first opportunity in Berlin, Germany in May. This was my first visit and our hotel actually straddled a line that represents where the Berlin Wall stood until 1989. We were not far from the Brandenburg Gate, famous for being in the background when President Reagan encouraged Gorbachev to "tear down this wall." We visited Checkpoint Charlie, the egress point for Germans to leave the West. There were many other wonderful sites to see, but the vestiges of the Cold War were particularly poignant to this Cold Warrior.

In June I flew to Istanbul for a 30-day excursion that ended in Amsterdam. We spent a couple of days in Istanbul visiting mosques,

churches, palaces, and taking a cruise on the Bosphorus. There was a bombing in the city while we were there; fortunately, we were about 5 miles away. We went into the countryside to see the ancient city of Troy and included the Trojan horse used in the recent movie. A major highlight of this portion of the trip was a visit to Gallipoli, a very famous World War I battle for the Australians and New Zealanders. Our tour company was from Australia and our traveling companions were mostly Aussies and a couple of Kiwis. Visiting Gallipoli with them was quite an honor (similar to them accompanying an American to Normandy) and we saw many of their family's names on the war memorials in the park.

From Turkey we traveled to Bulgaria and experienced the Bulgarian Orthodox churches complete with gold-leaved icons and a beautiful performance of the chants sung in their services. We toured the parliament building in Romania that is the largest building in Europe before embarking on a river cruise ship for 21 days. We cruised the Danube and visited Croatia, Slovenia, and Hungary. I fell in love with Budapest and can't wait to get back there. We also visited Austria and traversed the Main-Danube Canal, which had 64 locks that took us up to the continental divide before lowering us to the Main River. The Main took us through Germany, lots of towns with the medieval walls and cobblestoned cities. More castles, churches, palaces and beautiful scenery! We moved to the Rhine and finished our trip in Amsterdam. I enjoyed the luxury of the cruise ship where our "butler" took great care of us. Quite the magical vacation!

I continue to keep very busy with volunteer work. Through the credit union, I was able to visit Boston and take in a game at Fenway Park and see Big Papi hit a home run in his final season. I was also in San Diego twice for conferences. We had a very successful PurpleStride in April to raise awareness and funds for pancreatic cancer research. For those who have donated when I've