

## '77

**Life Membership: 73%**  
**Donor Participation: 4.64%**

Pres: **Lee Geanuleas**  
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*"Twenty years from now, you will be more disappointed by the things you didn't do than those you did. So throw off the bowlines. Sail away from safe harbor. Catch the wind in your sails. Explore. Dream. Discover."*

- Mark Twain

Yo ho, me hearties, yo ho!

Before we begin, a quick administrative issue: here are the links for registration <https://www.signupnow.events/usna1977/> and the on-line class store <http://www.usnaclasstore.com/77store.html> in connection with our upcoming 40th Reunion. Keep in mind by the time this column is published, the greatest reunion in '77's august history will be a mere six months away; so please, if you haven't yet registered, time, tide and formation aren't the only things which wait for no man.

Now, on with the show.

First up, **Benny Garcia (24th Co.)** informs us he hosted **Elsa and Jim Eberle (24th Co.)** at the Downtown Crown Wine and Beer in Gaithersburg, MD this past January 21st.



Benny, Jim & Elsa Eberle

Pictured above are former roommates Jim, Benny and Elsa enjoying the day after the presidential inauguration. The Eberles came up from Myrtle Beach so Jimmy, a native Tennessean, could attend the festivities courtesy of Senator Bob Corker. Benny's wife Colette was not in attendance due a prior commitment, but she otherwise kept the group well-fed and amply

served at Casa Garcia with copious amounts of Dominican cuisine and spirits, including shots of Benny's home-brewed Manajuana, a potent rum-based Dominican concoction both Jimmy and Benny assure us we'd all enjoy. Perhaps if Benny provided a sample for each of us at the 40th tailgate...?!?

In a second submission, Benny sent the following photo of the Garcias enjoying the hospitality of **Laura and Jerry Miller (19th Co.)** at the Navy-Houston game this past October 8th. Shown below, left to right are: **Lee Geanuleas (11th Co.)**, **Bob Kautter (32nd Co.)** and his wife Lin, and Colette and Benny.



Lee, Bob and Benny

Benny had a great time catching up with Jerry, Bob, Lee and rest of the '77 contingent in attendance, which we understand also included **Sam Locklear (7th Co.)**. We only hope Benny had time to watch the game, which you'll recall was one of Navy's finest football performances in recent memory...outside of course the 46-44 triumph over the Irish, recorded by Jerry Miller...



Notre Dame game

...as it happened.

Speaking of Sam Locklear, Fluor Corporation recently elected the retired 4-star and former top Sea Dog (though Aero, Head and Zeppo would argue **they** deserved the title!) one of its directors, effective Feb. 1, 2017.



'77: Jeff Weddle's Memorial Service



Sam Locklear

BZ to Sam on his appointment...and for bringing new meaning to the term "Flour board".

Finally, we end yet another offering on a solemn note. **Brad McDonald (28th Co.)** forwarded the following from the February 11th funeral of **Jeff Weddle (12th Co.)** in Virginia Beach. In attendance were, from left to right below:

**Brad, Bob Sinibaldi (9th Co.), Doug "Snuffy" Smith (19th Co.), Bob Kautter (32nd Co.), Dave Skocik (12th Co.), Ron Brinkley (12th Co.), Scott Thomas (12th Co.), Steve Giesen (12th Co.), Denny Simon (12th Co.), Fre Kinkin (12th Co.), Johnny Vuolo (12th Co.), Jeff Patterson (12th Co.), Steve Weingart (12th Co.), Scott Jameson (12th Co.), Peter Engel (20th Co.) and Dave Paddock (11th Co.)**

As Brad noted, it seems, particularly of late, we gather far too often to bid our classmates farewell. And although at our age it increasingly, and understandably, comes with the territory, such acknowledgement doesn't make writing about the subject any easier. So as we honor Jeff's passing, let's

celebrate his life, service and devotion to his shipmates by taking the time to reach out and staying in touch with those he left behind.

Magoo

## '78

**Life Membership: 79%**  
**Donor Participation: 5.82%**

Pres: **Glen Woods**

Sec'y: **Vince Balderrama**  
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Website: [usna1978.org](http://usna1978.org)

Can you believe how fast this year has been zipping along? For the Class of 2017 it appears that four years have flown by as this month is their graduation and commissioning. Remember how that felt? Well if you do, you can talk about it next year (as well as tell other sea stories and tall tales) when we celebrate our 40th Reunion. Wow, never thought I would say it. But here were on the edge of our 40th; eight years away from welcoming our link in the chain class (2028); and into our 6th decade on the face of the earth. While those numbers may seem daunting, they are just numbers. We still look pretty good; many are staying very active; and 60 is the new 40. Speaking of the 40th Reunion, we are doing pretty well on the Class Gift that we will present to the Academy. You may recall that our goal is \$1.5M with 60% split equally to support programs that our Classmates oversee, **Art Athens** (Stockdale Center for Ethical Leadership (CEL) and **Bruce Latta** (Admissions- STEM support).

## 78/78 CLASS NEWS

The balance is divided between Athletic Excellence and the Annual Fund. While we tracking well toward our total gift goal at 76% of the total, we are short of the goals to help out Art and Bruce at 67% and 54% respectively. While we are kicking butt on the Annual Fund we are also shy of the Athletic Excellence goal with only 61% of the target. We still have another year plus to go. (Check writing pens-down is Dec 31st of 2018.). While I am confident we will meet- and exceed - our targets donations the one I want to see go up significantly is the **amount of donors**. As this column goes to submittal (circa end of Feb (on or about)), only 325 out of 934 of us who graduated in June 78 have thus far contributed. That's just about 35% of the class. We have always shown our strength and singleness of purpose as a Class and we should demonstrate that as well in our Class Project. If you haven't given yet please do so. (Perhaps pledge some variation on our class year like \$78 a month until the end of 2018 or \$197.80 every two months, or just \$1,978.). Easy instructions are located on our Class Website [www.usna1978.org](http://www.usna1978.org). Click the 40th Reunion tab and connect to the 40th Gift Instructions. If you have any questions drop me a line. I'll get off the soapbox now and pass on some news.

**Herb Nyberg** (34th Co) is still globetrotting touting his company's products and technologies to fight mosquito transmitted diseases. In February he was invited to Geneva, Switzerland, to attend a World Health Organization (WHO) meeting to discuss his company's already proven success against Zika. His New Mountain Innovation company's equipment was used last summer in Rio de Janeiro as part of the integrated approach to control Aedes (Aedes is the mosquito that transmits Zika.). While in Switzerland, he rendezvoused with my Navy Lightweight Crew teammate, **Steve Kinney** (3rd Co), for a little skiing around the Matterhorn.



Steve Kinney and Herb Nyberg

February 6-13, **Pam** ('80) and **Scott Rodgers** (11th Co) were attending the Naval Academy Alumni Association RV Chapter's Annual Key West "come-around". They were in charge of 16 RV's from the classes '59-'81 who participated. Yup, Pam and Scott are RV owners. Scott mentioned he is looking to try and recruit some classmates with RV's to join the Chapter. He said you actually don't need a RV to join (double check with **Dave Church '67** at the Alumni Association). I am sure there are more than a few of you out there with an RV. I know **Mur** and **Roy Bookmiller** (32nd Co) have one. They use it to travel down from their home in Ohio to attend Navy home games. This month Scott's eldest daughter, Kelsey, gets married in Pensacola.



Scott and Pam Rodgers

Ninth Company's, **Loren "Muff" Divers'** daughter Soho visited the Academy in February for a prospective candidate weekend. She was also applying to go to summer session (a week-long taste of the life of a Plebe). With any luck she'll be here during one of those training sessions. Soho hopes to apply for the Class of 2022. Muff said she is also a novice wrestler in school. We wish her luck in the Summer Session application and then the later application process.

Back in January, **Andy Mohler** (18th Co) sent a note that showed he and **Martin Bushika** (35th Co)

had been in sunny Orlando. He said "Martin and I don't often appear in magazines, but when we do we prefer the 1978 section of Shipmate!" Well, you got it now, Andy and Marty. They had been in Orlando for the IITSEC 2016. That's the annual Interservice/Industry Training, Simulation and Education Conference (I/ITSEC) - the largest modeling, simulation, and training event in the world. I used to go there in the late 80's when I was the Non-Standard Aviation Training Device Officer and a plankholder at what became the Marine Corps Systems Command. Andy is the business development and capture lead for Navy and Marine Corps Simulation and Training in Orlando for Booz Allen. Martin attended in his capacity as Product Manager, Live Virtual and Constructive Training Environments for the Marine Corps in Orlando. During the Conference they got to catch up with a number of classmates, including **Dave Buss** (34thCo). Andy sent proof in a picture of him and Martin from a capability demonstration on unmanned aerial systems training that Andy's company had presented at IITSEC 2016.



Andy Mohler and Martin Bushika

The end of February brought the annual Classmate contingent to the Brigade Boxing Smoker. Among those I saw were: Karen and **Brett Ayotte** (29th Co), Gretchen and **Tom Crowley** (11th Co), Mary Jane and **Steven "Jock" Maloney** (16th Co), their son **Chris Maloney ('04)**, **Ben Richter** (14th Co), **Fred Webster** (14th Co), **Rusty Cone** (11th Co), **Doug Diehl** (25th Co) and his brother Curt, **Carlos Sotomayor** (16th Co), **Ray Kwong** (32nd Co), **Rich Jesmonth** (35th Co), Denise and **Mike Fralen** (29th Co),

**Michael Sears** (36th Co), **Bob Engel** (36th Co), **Tim Golden** (35th Co), **Jeff Knauer** (35th Co), Marla and **Al "Blues" Baker** (10th Co), **Tom Martinez** (19th Co), **Jim Fiorelli** (2nd Co), and **Paul Wiedorn** (27th Co). After the Smoker, Elizabeth and I were joined for some post-boxing refreshments (drinks and nachos) at El Toro Bravo by Gretchen and **Tom Crowley**, Karen and **Brett Ayotte** and the friend **Dale Pupillo ('76)** and Terri and **Sean Stackley** ('79). As a matter of fact we can say we actually closed the bar; having had to be asked to leave so they could close. Well, okay it was only 11 PM - but we *did* close the place down! The next morning some folks laughed at Father Time to play some games of pickup basketball. (No, I was not among them.) I heard the hoopsters were **Jock Maloney**, **Greg Reuss ('77)**, **Rusty Cone**, **Doug Diehl** and his brother and fellow Marine, Curt Diehl, and **Tim Golden**. Later that evening, Rusty and Doug joined Elizabeth and me for the Navy Women's basketball game against Bucknell. It was for sole position of first place in the Patriot League and the regular season championship. Unfortunately, our women lost but it was great treating Rusty and Doug to their first women's game. Rusty gets to the area more often as he absorbed some responsibilities for one of his company's business sectors out in (I think) the Tysons Corner/McLean VA area. Doug said he had recently sworn in one of his sons, Jason (?), as a 2/Lt in the Marine Corps. His son was TAD working Marine Corps recruiting while waiting to report to the Basic School this summer. Looks like the tradition continues, Doug.



Elizabeth with Doug and Rusty



Been hitting the road quite a bit lately, trying to make my "visit targets". Once in a while on those trips I have the good fortune of running into classmates. I recently had just that experience while waiting at the Tampa Airport for a return flight home. Glancing up from my laptop I spied across two rows of seats, my classmate and 11th Companymate, **Marty Drake**. Marty and his lovely wife, Leigh, were waiting a delayed flight to Birmingham, AL. They were going to attend a wedding of (I think) a niece of Leigh's. From there they would be off to Hawaii where Marty was linking up for a little work at PACOM. This was an official boondoggle - I mean trip - for Marty in his capacity as Chief of Science and Technology Division and Command Science Advisor to U.S. Central Command located in Tampa, Florida. He gets to travel around the country and world to assess "toys" for our operators. For Leigh, she was going to do a little remote work as she waited for Marty to finish his work days and enjoy Hawaii. She had plans to do so with her laptop and a cold drink by a pool or on the beach. Sounded like a great plan to me!



Leigh and Marty Drake

Well that's it for now. Best of luck and success to the Class of 2017. Have a great run and take good care of our sailors and Marines.

#### Launchin' Spot Four.

### MATCHING GIFTS

Call 410-295-4178 to find out how you can match your recent contribution.

## '79

**Life Membership: 91%**  
**Donor Participation: 5.57%**

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](http://www.usna79.com)

Greetings, 79ers!

This is one of those rare months when I don't have anything to print.

Rather than just leave you with a blank space (or home movies from my last vacation), I'll take this opportunity to beg for emails, photos, postcards, letters, crayon drawings, Instagram pictures, text messages, Facebook posts, Skype calls or just about any other form of communication. (Letters from the IRS are NOT requested and will be burned before reading.)

So as you head out on your Memorial Day holiday weekends, do something fun and tell us about it.

See you next month!

**Omnes Viri,  
Wiz...**



## '80

**Life Membership: 96%**  
**Donor Participation: 4.00%**

Pres: **Tim Kobosko**

Sec'y: **CAPT Joseph A. Grace Jr., USNR**  
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Website: [www.USNA1980.org](http://www.USNA1980.org)

Greetings Classmates! Happy Mardi Gras! I know that you will be reading this long after the last bead has been thrown and the last libation has been consumed (is there such a thing in New

Orleans? I think not!). We were fortunate enough to have Griffin and John Fry come in again for the festivities. Griffin and Sherri ride together in Iris, an all woman's parade along with our daughters. Lots of fun. The boy's role is to load the float and make sure that they are all set for a great ride! Mission accomplished.



JOHN FRY AND HIS FAMILY

The Alumni Association is in the middle of a tech upgrade and rework of their website. I wasn't able to send out a Class request for input so I have relied on Company Reps and some direct calls for input. Had some great reaction from several Classmates! Thank you! Will be sure to have it back on track next Column.

Jamie and **Jim Jamison** jamison5usmc@gmail.com checked in from Virginia Beach where he still works on the Joint Staff J6 and Jamie volunteers at NMCRS Oceana. They became first time grandparents 9 months ago thanks to their daughter Joy (Citadel '13) and her husband, Andrew Stanley '13. "Happily, we see them all often as they live in MCAS New River where he flies Marine CH-53Es. Semper FI, **Jim."** Speaking of Grandparents, Mike Ales, AlesM@USMMA.EDU, reports that "Christy and **Dan Secor (08th Co.)** are now grandparents. Their grandson, Roy Jacob Secor, was born on November 29th. There is no truth to the rumor that Dan has already taught him how to wax a deck properly."

**Lee Korzan** leekorzan@gmail.com was another one of the Classmates who answered the call for input! He is a patriot working for the VA:

✉ Joe,

I had a nice visit with **Greg Mislick**, one of our classmates and a former running buddy of mine at USNA. He was passing through Nashville on a business trip recently so we met for dinner and some adult beverages.



Beth and I are anxiously awaiting our move-in back into our home which was destroyed by a fire in October 2015. Our builder says 30 more days but that has been a moving target. Our five children live in Indiana, Brooklyn, and South Florida. We have two grandsons in Indiana. I'm still working for the VA as local in-house counsel mainly for our Tennessee medical centers. There is never a dull or slow day which makes the months and years seem to fly by. **Kathy Pohlid (Henderson)** USNA '80 joined our office last year and is an awesome colleague. We never knew each other at the Boat School as we were at opposite ends of Mother B.