



'77: Sanders Family

and towels for the 40th Reunion golf outing, Turls happened to mention a story from Youngster Cruise we hadn't heard before. Seems when the USS Shreveport (LPD-12)...



USS SHREVEPORT

...had barely left the mouth of the Chesapeake bound for the other side of the pond, the Skipper, one Curtis A. Karvala (USNA '52), requested the deployed Midshipmen visit his stateroom in small groups, one of which contained Craig and another up-and-coming sea dog Joe Walsh (10th Co.). Whereupon, in the best tradition, not of the Naval Service but rather the SS *Minnow*, the weather started getting rough, the tiny ship was tossed; if not for the actions of Craig and Joe their dinner would be lost...their dinner would be lost!

Unfortunately, like Gilligan and the Skipper, the contents of their stomachs were lost; fortunately, it was not IN CAPT Karvala's cabin, but instead, in the passageway immediately outside. Looking **GOOD '77!**

Speaking of dinner, **Colin Sargent (22nd Co.)** checked in to inform us he recently got together for Evening Meal with company-mate **Dave Householder (22nd Co.)** at *The Army and Navy Club* on Farragut Square in Washington, D.C. Colin reports Dave maintains his

incredible insight into world events, and greatly enjoyed his company.

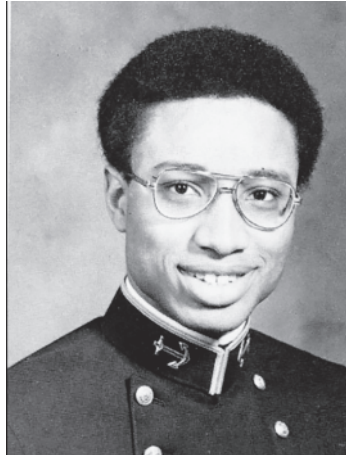
We should also mention, beyond working since 1986 as founding editor and publisher of *Portland Monthly Magazine* in Maine, Colin is now an instructor in writing at The College of William and Mary. William and Mary has a tradition... the "Wren Walk"...during which entering freshmen pass through hallowed Wren Hall and emerge on the other side as William & Mary undergrads, i.e., part of something larger, at least in their limited world. Regardless, it took Colin back to July 9th, 1973, and our Oath of Office immediately in front of Bancroft Hall, an event which was **truly** part of something larger!

Next, we recently enjoyed the company of three distinguished USNA graduates on the links. Shown left to right below are Gary Hentz ('76), **Bill White (32nd Co.)**, your humble scribe and Keith Champion ('76). As regards the results of our herculean drives, laser-like wedges and pin-point putts, what comes about twenty spots after "place" and "show"?!



Gary, Bill, Magoo and Champ

Finally, we regret to inform you of the passing of **Tony Campbell (32nd Co.)**, who died unexpectedly on July 18th. As his obituary noted, "Tony's life was led by faith and an unspoken code of "making a difference" every day".



Tony Campbell

Shown below with Tony are his roommate **Bob Kautter (32nd Co.)** and friend **Jim Ribera (31st Co.)**.



Bob, Jim and Tony

We knew Tony as both a friend and classmate, having enjoyed both his and Bob Kautter's company since Plebe Summer when 35th and 32nd shared space overlooking Goat Court on 3-2. We can think of no more fitting an epitaph to Tony's life than the verse his family selected, John 1:5: The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

Magoo

'78

Life Membership: 80%
Donor Participation: 25.15%

Pres: **Glen Woods**

Sec'y: **Vince Balderrama**
1320 Homewood Ln., Annapolis, MD 21401
e: canoeu78@aol.com

Website: usna1978.org

George Tyree (13th Co) sent some updates to the family since he last checked in three years ago. He is still enjoying retirement while Lynn prefers to continue to teach for a while longer. During her summer vacation last year they spend about

six weeks traveling to the Far East/Western Pacific areas, with stops both going and coming in Hawaii for a few days each way to break up the "jet lag." The highlight of their trip was visiting their oldest son [**Michael, '04**] and his family in Japan. That had enabled them to attend Michael's assumption of command ceremony for the USS Chief. Fortunately, their other two sons, **Timothy '12** and Matthew, UNG '14, were able to get a few days of leave to be there too and also to celebrate Lynn and George's 38th wedding anniversary. In November Matthew wedded his college sweetheart Gabrielle. Michael is getting ready to turn over his ship to the next incoming captain followed by his post command shore tour in the MD/DC area. Timothy is also nearing completion of his first sea tour on the USS Chicago and should have his next set of orders by the end of the year. Matthew is approximately half-way through his initial tour as an Infantry Officer in the Army. Looking forward, George and Lynn are hoping to have the whole family together to share the holidays this December. It'll be the first time in six years. They had a pleasant encounter while out to dinner one night when **Bill Girrier (22nd Co)** came up and introduced himself. George thinks Bill was drawn to the Class of '78 logoed shirt he was wearing. They had a nice long conversation. As George understood it, Bill and his wife were on a scouting trip for possible locations in which to move that had warmer winters than they currently experience up in the Northeast. Among the "small world" items that came up during their talk was that George discovered that during the Korean Conflict Bill's dad had served as the weapons officer on an earlier version of Michael's ship the USS Chief. George got contact info for Bill's dad so Michael could update their shipmate alumni roles.



With Grandkids, Samantha and Finn, in Japan

In early September, **Kevin Liddy** (17th Co) was at the Vianney High School's College Night representing USNA. Who walks up to him but **Chris Lagemann** (3rd Co)! They chatted for a while. Chris is the Director of Advanced Manufacturing Technician Program at the State Technical College of Missouri in St. Charles, MO. That's his wife, Debra's hometown area. They relocated there after he retired. They have two grown kids Dayne and Alexandra. Last I read, he still flies rockets and tries to keep the 66 Mustang in running condition. Also, congratulations to Cassie and **Kevin Liddy** (17th Co) who have a Doctor in the house. Kevin sent a picture of them at Caroline's graduation from the University of South Carolina School of Medicine a couple of years ago.

Belated Congratulations also goes to **Michael Sears** (36th Co) who accepted the invitation from the Boy Scouts of America to serve on their National Executive Board.



Kevin, Dr. Caroline, and Cassie

Football season will soon be over when this comes out. This season started with a great victory in a marathon of a game against Florida



'78 at FAU Tailgate



'78: Kurt, Eileen, Jacy and hosts

Atlantic University (FAU). Coming all the way were: Linda and **Don Aiken** (3rd Co), Debbie and **Bruce Latta** (25th Co), **Kevin "Grinch" Lynch** (26th Co), **Rich Jesmonth** (35th Co) and his fiancée, Debbie Brown, Kim and **Jeff Ewin** (29th Co), Donna and **John O'Neil** (6th Co), and **Bob Schmermund** (15th Co). Of course, Bob was "suited up" for the game with his Navy PT shorts, tank top (Yes, he had a "sweater chit"), and his Blue and Gold socks. These days those socks seem to look more therapeutic than athletic. Yes- he did have his "war paint" Blue and Gold "Ns" on his cheeks. **Kurt Tidd** (36th Co) was also present along with his wife, Eileen, and daughter, Katy. They had joined us the evening before for a Yacht Cruise along with Mary and **Bill Burke** (21st Co). Kurt's other daughter, Jackie, is a 4/C Cadet at the Coast Guard Academy. I can't forget that Deb and **Mike Clendening** (34th Co) were also at the game. They caught up with me when I was trying to find my car in the "lower 40" of the FAU campus. They had come up from Port Richey.



Jeff and Kim Ewin



Deb and Mike Clendening

At the Tulsa away game, Elizabeth and I ran into Christine and **Jim Fee** (19th Co). They had come down from Kansas City. Jim recently sold a business of his. He said he was not ready to retire yet and was looking to buy an IT business. While talking to them during the game Jim and I discovered that our wives had actually gone to the same Junior High- Francis Scott Key in Silver Spring, MD. Moreover- they were classmates! Needless to say, someone was checking her old year books when we got home.



Jim Fee, Elizabeth and Christine Fee

Speaking of Kurt, he and **Harry Harris** are now our last classmates on active duty. On September 22nd, Susan and **John Wissler** retired from the Marine Corps. It was lovely ceremony at the Marine Barracks at 8th and I. After retiring as a 3-star with 39 years of active duty (and through seven Commanders-in-Chief!), you can sure there were plenty of "codes" [dignitaries and big hitters] present- like the Commandant and another Marine who happens to be JCS. But the really important folks were "The Herd" -Sue and John's family. In fact, John noted that their importance landed the Commandant in the *third* row in the seating chart. He just had to say "Oops". Their '78 Family present were John's 21st Companymates: Leslie and **Scott Provow**, **Jeff Carpenter**, **Ed Reid**, **Paul Lynch**, **Karen Yeager** (and her brother **Will Taylor '81**); as well fellow classmates, **Bob "Bubba" DeStafney** (14th Co), **Mark Poston**

78/79 CLASS NEWS

(1st Co), **Mo Tose** (17th Co), Anne and **Tim Hanifen** (12th Co), Annette and **Tom Sudbeck** (33rd Co), **Rich Cellon** (6th Co), **Kurt Tidd** (36th Co), **Harry Harris** (15th Co) my wife, Elizabeth and me. It was a beautiful setting- the green grass of the parade deck, platoons of Marines in dress blues and the drum and bugle corps. But the best image I will always remember is the sight of John in his dress blues and Sue in her beautiful blue dress "boogying" down the center sidewalk, with their grandchildren in their arms and at their sides to the Red Hot Chili Pepper's tune / Got A Feeling blaring away.

Bob Novak (34th Co) attended Tailhook this year - no he did not require any bail at the end of it. Judging from some of the characters also attending, one would have thought *someone* would have required it. Perhaps it's because we are now "senior aviator- statesmen". Besides, Bob among those present were **Roger "Crotch" Welch**

(11th Co), **Charlie Hautau** (15th Co), **Harry Harris** (15th Co), **Dave Buss** (34th Co), **Carlos** (aka- Charlie) **Sotomayor** (16th Co) and **Deke Philman** (24th Co). **Mark "Mirt" Fox** was there too, but had a schedule conflict and couldn't make the photo.

In closing, here's Schmerm in his tailgate and Navy Football fan uniform, with **Stefan Fedyschyn** (28th Co). Have a Happy Thanksgiving and Merry Christmas! Until next time, Launchin' Spot Four.



Schmerm and Stefan



'78 at John Wissler's Retirement



'78 at Tailhook 2017

'79

Life Membership: 91%
Donor Participation: 18.90%

Pres: **LCDR Sean Cate, USN (Ret.)**
e: Sean.Cate@1979.usna.com

Sec'y: **LCDR John "Wiz" Withers, USN (Ret.)**
42498 Regal Wood Dr., Ashburn, VA 20148
p: 240-556-0637; e: JDWithers@1979.usna.com

Social Network Links:
<http://www.linkedin.com/in/wizwithers>

Facebook Group: **USNA Class of 1979**

Website: www.usna79.com

Greetings, 79ers!

The mailbox has been overflowing of late, and to get it all in I'll have to cut my comments short. (*What, no sighs of disappointment?*) First up is an email from renowned cyclist **Brad Post**:

✉ This July, my wife and I spent 7 days riding a tandem bicycle across Iowa, in the event known as RAGBRAI. Every day, roughly 10,000 riders hit the road to travel from town to town, working our way across the state. Day 5 was school colors day, so I wore my Navy jersey, catching a few "GO Navy's!" along the route.

That morning as I waited in a line to get breakfast, I heard a "Go Navy" from behind me, only to discover classmate **Wiley Utterback** in the line. After breakfast together, we took this picture and pressed on. Our Colorado group finished the 428 miles of riding a few days later.



Wiley Utterback, Brad & Shari Post

Thanks, Brad!

Glenn Krumel sent this update of his travels to New England:

✉ Hi Wiz. Joanne and I were looking for a place to go that we had not been to before, so we called **Abe Ellis** up and made a reservation at the Selkirk Lighthouse over the 4th of July. Pulaski, NY may not be at the top of everyone's bucket list, but I'd recommend giving it a try. The area is friendly and quite beautiful. Abe and Kathy have a great thing going there with the Lighthouse and the marina. While I cannot confirm the presence of a ghost, sleeping in a lighthouse built in 1838 might lead some to have vivid dreams.

We are still living and working in Boulder, CO. I suppose that it is about time to come up with a plan to do something about the work thing, but that can wait - can't it? Hope to see you soon. Glenn

Great hearing from you, Glenn!

"Abe's Place" must be the place to go, for hot on the heels of Glenn's email came this 3rd Co. update from **Bob Wiesenberg**:



'79: 3rd Co. at "Abe's Place": Bob Wiesenberg, Jim O'Connell, Abe Ellis, John Seldon, Gary Glover, Mert Price, Pete Levoci, Jeff Sherman and Phil Sumner