

First up, our old roomie **Stratton Hicky (35th Co.)** wrote to inform us he's checked yet another item off his bucket list: a hop in a B-17G, the Aluminum Overcast:



Stratton's flight was made even more memorable by taking wing out of Epps Field in Athens, GA, where his father, Colonel Dan, learned to fly in 1939, a year before he joined the Army Air Corps. PDC, baby!

Since we're on the subject of special events, Stratton also forwarded this photo of his rather special 4th of July display, his own "Red, White & Blue" as it were:



They are, front to back, his '84 Ferrari 512 BBi, '15 BMW I-8 and blue '08 Ferrari 612 Scaglietti.

In a related item, last fall, Bonnie and Stratton took *The Car Guy Italia Tour - 2017*, which consisted of a number of Ferrari owners going to Italy to visit as many of the Italian auto makers, design studios, museums, and collections as they could in 12 days. The Hickys were able to tour the Fiat, Alpha Romeo, Maserati, Lamborghini, Ferrari and Pagani plants, as well as a number of design studios, the names of

which none of you probably care to hear, but we're going to tell you anyway: Carrozzaria Touring Superleggera, Carrozzaria Zagato, Italdesign Giugiaro, Pininfarina, and the Euro Design Group, as well as the Borrani Wire Wheel factory. In addition to the factory museums, they were also able to access several amazing private car collections where, instead of Fords, Chevys, Pontiacs and Dodges they saw nothing but Maseratis, Ferraris, Lamborghinis and Rigatonis.

Still, the highlight of the trip for Stratton was the chance to meet and talk with Leonardo Fioravanti...



...who designed Hick's two favorite Ferraris, the 365 GTB Daytona and 512 BBi. Rumors Signor Fioravanti also cooks a mean spaghetti carbonara remain unconfirmed.

In all seriousness, we could sense Stratton's excitement in his description of the tour, and trust it allowed him to cross yet another item off his bucket list.

P.S. Jenny says Bonnie must have the patience of a saint, as she'd have dumped us at the Fiat plant and headed for Tuscany!

Next up, **Jim Kelly (11th Co.)** forwarded the following photo of a recent mini-'77 golf reunion.



Pictured above at the Severn Inn following the round at the Naval Academy golf course are, left to right: **Marc Troiani (4th Co.)**, **Jim, Pete Hyers (16th Co.)** and **Leo Latonick (26th Co.)**. Pete evidently

stopped in for a quick 18 holes while on his way to a family vacation in Canada. And though we'll spare you Kelly's description of his dramatic drives, laser-like irons and precision putting, we will report, after losing the front (reportedly due to excessive consumption of C₂H₅OH the prior evening), Pete, carrying Troiani the entire way, knocked in a birdie on 14 and dropped a clutch putt on 18 to win the back 9.

Still, despite the potential for dissention occasioned by both players proudly sporting the logos of their respective home teams...



...Kelly and Latonick were able to put their differences aside and hang out to win the overall match. Which should come as no surprise, as had Team Kelly lost, we'd never have heard about it in the first place!

Jim also sent this picture taken with **Tom Hutchinson (16th Co.)**...



...outside the Mesilla, NM court house, which is not only, as Jim pointed out, where Billy the Kid was sentenced to hang, but in close proximity to the historic, fantástico restaurante owned by Hutch and his wife Jerean. Jim noted Hutch was a superb host, and if anyone is ever in the area, Mesilla is a treat and the restaurant well worth the trip. He added there are rumors a '77 golf event may be held in the vicinity of Mesilla in the near future, and strongly recommends all hands be in attendance.

Finally, and sadly, we bid farewell to another classmate. **Mark Picioneri (29th Co.)** passed away on June 5, 2018 at Queen's Medical Center on Oahu.



Mark, who was born and raised in Northhampton, MA, retired as a Commander in the Naval Reserve, and was living and working in Honolulu at the time of his death. We know you join us in sending our heartfelt condolences to his wife Virginia, with whom he is shown above, as well as his sister Wendy and brothers Colin and Lee.

Home is the sailor, home from sea, and the hunter home from the hill. R.I.P., shipmate.

—Magoo

'78

Life Membership: 80%
Donor Participation: 24.64%

Pres: **Glen Woods**

Sec'y: **Vince Balderrama**
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It's a short column as we're in the throes of final prep for our reunion (where I should get a few months of great column input), packing boxes for our Foundation office move (we're moving around the corner to where the hospital pharmacy was at Hospital Point), prepping for the football season (now upon us) and hitting the road for business; raising funds for the Naval Academy.

While last month we all gathered to reminisce, we also remembered those whom we had lost over the years. Recently added were **Gary R. Gray** and **John W. "Breeze" Martin** (23rd Co). Gary left the Academy

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and did not graduate with us. He passed away on June 2nd in Palm Bay FL. Gary was a 1974 graduate of Peters Township High School where he was an All-American swimmer before coming to the Naval Academy. He had worked in environmental cleanup until his retirement to Florida in 2013. Gary collected and restored antique furniture and clocks and was an avid Pittsburgh sports fan. He leaves behind three children, Phillip Aaron and Karen, a granddaughter, siblings, and many nieces, nephews, cousins and friends. Just a month before our reunion we also were greatly saddened to hear of the sudden death of **John W. "Breeze" Martin** (23rd Co). After graduation John was a F-14 Fighter Jock (call sign "Breeze"). His companymates and friends remember him - as **Jim Butler** (23rd Co) put it- "Class Clown, Iron Man, Scholar, Gentleman, Father, and Loyal Friend. John truly lived life to the fullest. His quick wit brought grins and laughter to any situation. I feel honored to have spent 4 years at Boat School together with John in 23rd Company. Post-Navy, our paths continued to cross. I will always be grateful for the many times John picked up the phone and called me out of the blue just to catch up and share some laughs. He made those days golden. I know angels are laughing now. Fair winds, my friend." Amen to that, Jim.



John Martin

On to some happier news—

Congratulations to **Cabell Greenwood** (16th Co.) who finished #1 in his [our] age group at the Sailor's Triathlon in Annapolis in July. The swim was in the harbor next to Halsey Field House. They biked over to the golf course; and started and finished the run at the stadium. Cabell wrote that "The

best part was the run section in the Yard from gate 1 to gate 8. Brought back some memories!"



Cabell and Greenwood (right)

In Classmate adventures around the world:



Ray Kwong, Ray Bracy and company

The two Rays, **Ray Kwong** (32nd Co) and **Ray Bracy** (25th Co) were

at Oshkosh showing off their company, Epic Eagle's heads up display (HUD). They've taken the same technology used by military aircraft, improved it, and brought it into the world of general aviation. Ray Kwong's company also has a cool portable projector.

In August, **Cecil Haney** (29th Co), **Bob Zalaskus** (9th Co), and **Jeff Fowler** (12th Co) were spotted at the Commander, Submarine Forces (COMSUBFOR) Change of Command. Even more fun, **Charlie Nickell** (21st Co) and his family were spotted on the beach! **Randy Masters** (34th Co) was on a biking holiday in Ireland. I think I would have ditched the bike and just hit the pubs instead, Randy.



Cecil, Bob and Jeff



Randy Masters biking in Ireland

In August, **Fred Butterfield** (22nd Co) was attending the AAA Norfolk Tides baseball game along with his youngest son and three of our grandkids and ran into **Tim Stark** (8th Co). Tim was "on duty" as TJ the Clown! (Note the TJ-made balloon dinosaur being brandished by Fred's grandson.)



Fred Butterfield and Tim Stark

At the end of June/beginning of July, Gretchen and **Tom Crowley** (11th Co) had been in Mongolia visiting their daughter, Kelly. Kelly had finished up her tour with the Peace Corps in Mongolia. The visit included temple tours, the Gobi Desert and camel riding! Speaking of the Peace Corps, Suzette and **Bill Timme's** (31st Co) daughter, Morgan, is doing a Peace Corps stint in Colombia.

This summer we welcomed to the Yard new '78 faculty. **Michael Sears** (36th Co) is the new Director of Leadership Innovation at the Boeing Leadership Innovation Laboratory, Stockdale Center for Ethical Leadership. Whew, that's a mouthful! To keep it simple, I would



'78: Dan and Charlie Nickell and family

say- he looks to define, identify, obtain and implement neat, innovative and interesting systems ("stuff") and ways to help the Academy teach ethical leadership. That could be off the shelf things like virtual reality trainers, laptop simulations and things. Sounds cool! **John Wissler** (21st Co) is also at the Stockdale Center. He'll occupy a Leadership Chair, teaching, lecturing and inspiring those Mids.

Here's a quick reminder to go to our website (www.usna1978.org). It's been updated- and your profiles need to be updated as well! You should have received an email from **Glen Woods** telling you about it. If you had a *current* email address in your profile on our *old* class website, you should have received an email containing your new user ID and a temporary password that allows you to create your own password and access the updated website. If you did not receive your user id and temporary password, then email the webmaster at webmaster@usna1978.org and he will resend it to you. Check out the website, update your personal info there and upload some photos to the different photo galleries. When you update your personal info please upload a current photo and tell the class about yourself in the 'Personal Paragraph' section.

Well, I *said* this would be short. So, I'll be Launchin' Spot Four.

'79

Life Membership: 91%
Donor Participation: 24.43%

Pres: **LCDR Sean Cate, USN (Ret.)**
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Facebook Group: **USNA Class of 1979**

Website: www.usna79.com

Greetings, 79ers!

Hope you're enjoying the taste of fall. Hard to believe that this time next year we'll be gathering for our big 40th reunion! Think about that for a second: 40 years since

graduation. That's enough time for two complete careers! Absolutely amazing. Even more amazing - I'm still trying to figure out what I want to be when I grow up. (My wife is hoping that I will just grow up, although she's starting to doubt whether that will ever happen...)

First up is a late entry (i.e., something that should have been in last month's column, but the guy who writes these things mis-filed it). **Burke Shade** (26th) wrote a nice note to say he relocated last December to Lynchburg, VA. After graduating from Canoe U., Burke spent 5 years as a USMC Supply Officer, and then another 5 years as a real estate broker in Tyler, TX. At that point he entered the ministry and spent the next 25 years as pastor of Cornerstone Reformed Church in Carbondale, IL. However, he and Ruth eventually decided they wanted to be closer to some of their 19 (!) grandchildren, hence the move to Lynchburg

Burke is still in the ministry, filling in for pastors and preachers who need a vacation. With the move, he is adding a side career as an Amazon seller. In his note he indicated he'd love to have the company of any '79ers passing through on I-81, especially any 26th Co. or other 5th Batt travelers. He'll even put you up for the night! Burke: my apologies for the tardiness on getting this into the magazine. Thanks so much for sending the note.

Sean Cate emailed to mention that his son Stephen and daughter-in-law Anh Le both received their MBA degrees from the College of William and Mary. In true "Class Prez" fashion Sean was sporting his '79er ballcap, which led to his being recognized by a couple of other classmates attending the graduation. **John Messerschmidt** was there to see his son Colin receive a BS degree. **Bob Huddleston** was also in the gallery watching his son Corey receive his MBA. So congrats to all '79er fathers and sons!

Finally, an update from yours truly. Early last summer my wife Karen and I traveled up to Ontario, Canada for a few days of sightseeing and travel photography. We

timed it to coincide with some of the hottest weather southern Canada has experienced in years. On our way back home, we stopped in Pulaski, NY to spend two days at the Salmon River Lighthouse and Marina, owned and operated by Kathy and **Abe Ellis**.



Abe Ellis, Wiz Withers on Lake Ontario



An ME and a Physics guy performing EE tests in a lighthouse: what could possibly go wrong?

Long time readers of this column know I've written about "Abe's Place" before, especially you "Thirsty Third" guys who've had a mini-reunion there for the last few years. The lighthouse is on the extreme eastern shore of Lake Ontario at the mouth of the Salmon River. Completed in 1838, it served as an active lighthouse only for 20 years. It was reactivated in 1989 and remains one of the few lighthouses of its type still operating on the Great Lakes.

In addition to operating a marina on some of the best fishing waters in the US, Abe and Kathy have done a lot of work to turn the lighthouse building itself into a first class private hotel suite. Karen and I had complete run of the building during our stay. Legend has it that the building is still visited by the spirit of an early light-keeper's daughter, but "Mary" didn't make her presence known to us. However, Abe took us on a "Tour to the Top", up the narrow ladders to the cupola and its magnificent views of the lake. Anyone who enjoys fishing, photography, history or is just looking for a unique travel experience owes it to themselves to

check out "Abe's Place":
<https://www.salmonriverlighthousemarina.com>.

And that, classmates, is all I have. Enjoy the fall, root for Big Blue - and I'll see you next month.

**Omnis Viri,
Wiz...**

HONOR CHAIRS

Remember or Honor a loved one in Alumni Hall. Call 410-295-4100 for more information.

'80

Life Membership: 96%
Donor Participation: 16.09%

Pres: **Tim Kobosko**

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Greetings Classmates!

It's the first week of August. The year has flown by and we're all gearing up for the end of summer, school starting for the late bloomers kids or those who sporting grandchildren. Even a few Classmates going back for "retirement" fun classes, master's degrees and Doctorates. Plebes are well into Plebe Summer and it's just plain HOT HOT HOT in New Orleans. And - I get to hear about all of my Classmates who have figured out how to retire - on how much fun they are having....On to the Mail Bag:

In the last column I mentioned that **Greg Mislick**, gmslick@nps.edu, came through New Orleans for a quick visit. He then went on to visit a few other folks. Here's his follow up note:

✉ Hey Joe!

Do you know how at the end of your emails you always suggest that we "Call a Classmate, you never know what a difference it can make?" Well, I took that advice to the next level and made a road trip for a week in June instead. After seeing you Joe, (Thanks for the pizza and rum and pool and hospitality at the house - a great evening!) I also saw a buddy in