



'77 Coronado Bike Ride

later rendezvoused with Joe Christofferson at Sea 'n Air for yet another round of golf. Which we initially thought fairly begged the question, with all the golf being played, do *any* of these guys have jobs?!? Then we remembered, *no*, they *don't*; as with the possible exception of Dirk, they're all retired!

On a more somber note, another flight of four classmates marked the 37th anniversary of the Beirut Marine barracks bombing with a trip to Lompoc, CA to visit the site of a memorial bench dedicated to **Jim Surch (21st Co.)**, who was killed in the October 23, 1983 terrorist attack. Shown behind Jim's memorial is, left to right below, **Dan Olivier (14th Co.)**, **Rob Lamb (6th Co.)**, Jim's sister Patty, **Kevin Sullivan (14th Co.)** and Joe Christofferson.



'77 at Surch Monument

Finally, we regretfully mark the passing of one classmate and a classmate's wife. First, **John Cloward (22nd Co.)** passed away on September 19th.



John Cloward

The "Old Man" served as a SWO for nine years in the Far East, during which time he was also able to earn his jump wings before pursuing a career in the energy industry.

Our heartfelt prayers and condolences go out to John's wife Jacqueline and his family of five children and nine wonderful grandchildren.

*Home is the sailor, home from the sea,
And the hunter home from the hill.*



Mary Kroszner

And Mary Kroszner, wife of **Konrad Kroszner (2nd Co.)**, died on November 6th. Mary and Konrad were married in 1977, and she is survived by her three children and four cherished grandchildren. Again, our heartfelt prayers and condolences go out to Konrad and his family.

Magoo

'78

Life Membership: 81%
Donor Participation: 45.46%

Pres: **Glen Woods**

Sec'y: **Vince Balderrama**

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Well, by the time this column reaches your hands we'll be well into 2021! The way, 2020 is ending I project that all I can say about *this* new year is to make a variation of a line from an old movie, "Fasten your seat belts. It's going to be a bumpy [year]!" (The first person who can tell me from what that movie is will get a prize from me.)

Since folks have been restricted in their work and travels, there's not much to report this month. What I have for you is just a couple of new emails and "remnants" - bits of news that either got cut or edited down from the last couple of columns.

Don Gold (17th Co) reported on the September wedding in Runaway Bay, Jamaica of his daughter, SSG Corinne Gold to SGT Andreas Tsalis

of the Greek Army. The two met while deployed to a 2018 NATO Exercise in Hohenfels, Germany; fell in love; got engaged in Paris, France; and -despite COVID-19 restrictions - were able to get married in Jamaica. Corinne is a US Army PSYOPS specialist and Andreas, a Greek Special Forces NCO. Andreas is currently still in Greece awaiting processing by the US Embassy, but the couple plans to live in Crownsville, MD once the immigration process is completed. Don asked if there any immigration experts out there to help navigate the process, please let him know. [I already put him in touch with **John Klose (16th Co.)**.] Here's a great photo of Don, his daughter and new son-in-law. That legendary smile of Don's looks even brighter that day!

During the era of our "unfortunate incarceration" I've been fortunate to get together with some of you - appropriately distanced of course. Recently among you were the "two Rays". I had a November lunch with **Ray Kwong (32nd Co)** (plus the occasional phone check-in). The other, **Ray Luevano (6th Co)**, came to Crabtown in September. He had hoped to link up with his company-mate **Luke Ridenhour** for dinner and then meet up with some of the 30th Company gang for golf (like **Bruce Gearey**). The gang was supposedly in town for a "mini-reunion". I am not sure if they ever got here since there were no sightings and I had no calls from the Annapolis PD with requests to bail them out.



'78: A Golden Wedding- Don, Corinne, and Andreas

78/79 CLASS NEWS

Ray, my wife, Elizabeth, and I met at Chick and Ruth's for breakfast. It was a good meal, but we were disappointed they didn't do the Pledge of Allegiance. We wondered if the new management forgot or stopped doing it. "Raymoon" and Sheri have taken up Pickle Ball which to me sounds like Whiffle Ball Tennis. He was encouraging me to try it. I'll have to think about it as I have an aversion to games with dumb names - especially those that sound like strange edibles or worse. Ray's still doing some consulting - but these days it's remotely via Zoom or Skype or whatever. At least he doesn't have to make the long treks (sometimes one after the other) to England and Japan from his and Sheri's "little farm" outside of Sacramento. Then again, he needs a few more miles to reach that double-secret society of million miler frequent flyers so he's hoping to travel again. (I wonder when he does, if he'll get that "Graphite Frequent Flyer Card" like George Clooney's character sought in the movie *Up in the Air*). It was great seeing "El Guapo" and catching up. We bid Ray farewell on Main Street as he met up with a friend whom he promised to give a tour of our "schoolyard".



Vince, Ray, and Elizabeth

Oh, Ray recently sent me a pic of the "mini-reunion" of 18th Company roommates and spouses, Cindy and **Andy Mohler** and Patricia and **Ray Milton**. Not sure who visited whom, but with smiles on everyone's faces it looks like it was a good time!



Mohlers and Miltons Get-together

Karen and **Brett Ayotte** (29th Co) packed up and left Maryland in 2020. They pulled up anchor, sold their home in Annapolis; quit their temporary rental; and moved to a home in Cape Cod (East Sandwich, MA). It's a big house with a few "fixer upper" tasks for Brett but he's handy with tools and woodwork and more than up to the task. Brett's enjoying retired life and manages to get out and sail. By now, Karen's putting that long arm quilt machine of hers to great use.



Brett at the Helm

By now my Navy Lightweight crew teammate- and fellow cox, **Rusty Chang** (4th Co), should be fully recovered from his liver transplant back in October. Rusty has had Hepatitis B since birth. Late last year it became acute and required a transplant. While I am sure Silvia still provides him much needed TLC, she probably has given him the "up chit", returned him to full duty and working the "honey-do" list. Glad to hear you're okay, Rusty.

In November, **Scott Provow** (21st Co) wrote that Leslie retired from the airlines [United, I think] and had her last flight as a Captain on the B-787 Dreamliner from Dulles to San Francisco. The entire family got to fly with her because it was a domestic leg (They couldn't go with her on an international flight due to Covid-19)! They celebrated down in Paso Robles by visiting 10 wineries and two breweries! Scott and Leslie are loving life in Grayton Beach [FL]! Scott retired from Delta a long while ago and now does real estate. Our unique, Tailhook-couple has invited all 21st Company for their annual mini-reunion at our houses. It was to be held Jan 31-Feb 6th, 2021. I can't wait to hear how it all turned out.



Captain Leslie and Scott

Congrats to **Tony Balestrini's** (22nd Co) son who will start studies at MIT a year from this Jan 22. When that happens, perhaps we might occasionally see Tony on visits from Lima, Peru to visit his son. Congrats also go to **Dave "Duncan" Heinz's** (2nd Co) kid, Major Derek Heinz, USMC. Derek is one of the first two F-35 pilots, and the first Marine pilot, to graduate from the TOPGUN course flying the fifth-generation Joint Strike Fighter (F-35C). I saw on LinkedIn that Bravo Zulus also go to **Terry Crawford** (24th Co) who last year got a new position as Area Director at N2 Publishing. Also, a hearty OORAH to my fellow Marine and Phrog Flyer, **Anthony Cardoza** (30th Co) who celebrated 14 years of service with Framatome Inc for 14 years. One wonders how a rotor head, Leatherneck, came to work for a company that designs and supplies nuclear steam supply system and *nuclear* equipment, services, and fuel. Well, for one, he is a Training Manager. Congrats also goes out to **Bruce "Baja" Bole** (3rd Co) for being elected a City Commissioner for Atlantic Beach, FL.

Well, that's all for now. I hope 2021 turns out better than I predicted. If it's still "topsy-turvy and filled with anxiety and turmoil, just go outside at 10pm. Then - like we used to do during exams and the Dark Ages - give a hardy, from the gut, howling scream "Auuuuuuuuuuuuuuugh!!!!". You'll feel a little better - remember? If you feel

worse, give a classmate a call. We're always here for one another. Launchin' Spot Four.....

'79

Life Membership: 91%
Donor Participation: 21.27%

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Website: www.usna79.com

Greetings, 79ers!

"What a long, strange trip it's been..."

It hardly seems possible. A year ago at this time: "masks" were something kids wore at Halloween; "lockdowns" were something that happened only in prisons; "social distancing" seemed like the name of a punk band; "Covid" was an internet term for picture-in-picture; and "Corona virus" was a hangover. I know a lot has been written about the last 12 months, so let's just put a bow on it and look forward - cautiously yet optimistically - to a great 2021. And to that end, I have a series of classmate updates to pass on. Here we go!

Think back to our days as mids: remember the Supe's Calls, Dant's Calls, Forrestal Lectures, security briefings, and the like. When we got to the Q&A portion, we all waited for those immortal words, "Midshipman Kurzenhauser, (fourth/third/second/first) class, Sir!" Recently I opened my email inbox to see a note from, quoting from his Lucky Bag bio, "the deep voice with the questions." **Pete Kurzenhauser** took time from his reflections to send this update from the Pacific northwest:

✉ Wiz: Long time no see. I read your column in the most recent *Shipmate* and figured I owed you some material.

Although I retired from the National Intelligence Council 5 years ago, I remained in northern Virginia until both my kids were in college. Since neither of them went