



'77: Alpha Company Reunion



'77: Clark Handy Memorial Service

evening reception at Bleu Frog. This was followed by a Saturday watch party during which Navy crushed Air Force 35-7. Attendees from 19th included Jan and Joe, **Wayne Booker** (19th Co.), Linda and **Paul Coleman** (19th Co.), **Cliff Krcha** (19th Co.), **Keith Lockett** (19th Co.), **Mike McCarthy** (19th Co.), Laura and **Jerry Miller** (19th Co.), Sharon and **Joe O'Connor** (19th Co.), **Marty Sattison** (19th Co.), and **Bob Sheppard** (19th Co.). 24th was ably represented by Joannie and **Doug Briganti** (24th Co.), Janet and **Gary Gambarani** (24th Co.), **Mark Kenny** (24th Co.), Maureen and **George Lawlor** (24th Co.), Michelle and **Rob Mulloy** (24th Co.), Terri and **Scott Neidhold** (24th Co.), **Paul Ring** (24th Co.), Suzanne and **Mark Skinner** (24th Co.), Lucille and **Frank Wagner** (24th Co.) and Kathy and **Steve Young** (24th Co.).

Alpha Company as shown left to right above are Marty Sattison, Joe Kernan, Mike McCarthy, Paul Coleman, Gary Gambarani, Bob Sheppard, Frank Wagner, Scott Neidhold, Wayne Booker, Rob Mulloy, Mark Skinner, Joe O'Connor, George Lawlor, Steve Young, Jerry Miller, Paul Ring, Keith Lockett, Cliff Krcha and Mark Kenny.

Finally, **Craig Turley** (36th Co.) forwarded the following photo from friend and company-mate Clark Handy's memorial service:

Shown left to right, front to back above are **Cary Hithon** (21st Co.), **Bob Kennedy** (36th Co.), **Charles Ivey** (20th Co.) and **Ken Trass**

(2nd Co.), while appearing left to right at the top are **Stan Gray** (12th Co.), Craig, **Dempsey Butler** (36th Co.), **Shelton Lee** (1st Co.), **Chuck August** (36th Co.), **Jim Lochry** (36th Co.), **Mike Trueblood** (36th Co.), **Paul Hollich** (36th Co.) and **Ron Booker** (26th Co.).

Home is the sailor, home from the sea, and the hunter home from the hill. Rest in peace, Clark.

Magoo

## '78

**Life Membership: 81%**  
**Donor Participation: 47.09%**

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Sec'y: **Vince Balderrama**  
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The column that ended 2024 had a lot of sad news as we mourned the passing of classmates and wives. This year we begin on a happier note with news of gatherings and reunions. I'd also like to add that as this goes to print, Julie and **Brad "JB" Richardson's** (14th Co) son, George, found a kidney donor! It is his wife, and he was scheduled for a January 8th transplant operation. Here's hoping that all went well and that our '78 family has

experienced another miracle. As I told Julie, George's body HAS to accept his wife's kidney as a husband should *never* reject a gift from his spouse! Continue saying prayers for George, the Richardsons and all our classmates and families who are undergoing medical issues, treatments and, hopefully, positive recoveries. Now on to some news of "whenever two or three shall meet..."

A few months ago, I mentioned that in September, **Dave Surgent** (24th Co) and **Brent Obenour** (33rd Co) were venturing out on the Pacific Crest Trail (PCT). Dave joined Brent in Lake Tahoe and together they hiked 360 miles to the southern end of the Sierra Nevada mountains. In October, Dave sent a report of their excursion. Along the way they said they experienced, "breathtaking scenery, great fishing, and met an amazing group of fellow hikers along the way." He also included a pic of them atop Forester Pass, the highest point on the Pacific Crest Trail (PCT). Brent elaborated that his PCT "journey in 2024 concluded with 136 miles remaining to complete the adventure from Mexico to Canada. Unfortunately, the final two segments in Washington state were closed due to forest fires. I plan to complete the remaining sections in 2025 and officially finish the [2,655 mile] PCT." You may remember that Brent completed the Appalachian Trail in 2018. Both are amazing treks! Very impressive.



Dave and Brent Atop Forester Pass

**Jeff Clites** (7th Co) said they held a mini-reunion of 7th Company on Pensacola Beach from 17 to 21 September. Joining Jeff were Karen and **Mark Korsmo**, Patti and **Rob Westberg**, **Steve Kloppmann** and Kathy Kundo, **Mark Roberts**, **Carl Radford**, **Will Ervin**, **Rob Young**, Leslie and **Scott Provow** (21st). They had a house right on the water of the Sound where everyone stayed. Their activities ranged from a shrimp boil to golf, to introducing Seadogs to bushwhackers, touring the Naval Aviation Museum and Fort Pickens, plus visiting the white sands of Pensacola and Navarre Beaches. Jeff noted that "Will Ervin said, the activities were fun but just being together really made the time worthwhile." Spot on, Will! I would add, "How can you NOT love those white, sandy beaches!"





'78: 24th Co Mini Reunion



'78: 7th Co Mini-Reunion Food and Flight



'78: 30th Co Mini reunion

The Men of "EZ25" [25th Company] held their annual golf get together on October 18th at the Preserve at Eisenhower. Rumor has it that there was significant time spent finding golf balls from the Class of '78 45th Reunion golf tournament!! However, in total transparency, they admitted that many more golf balls were lost than found!! This year's EZ25 golf contingent included **Ray Bracy, Mike Whaley, Bob Stolle, Elmer Nelson, Kiel Norris, John Rudzis** and **Bruce Latta**.



EZ-25 Golfing

That same weekend of EZ-25's golf tourney, "Hard Core 24" [24th Company], held a mini-reunion in White Sulphur Springs, WV. It was hosted by Gwen and **Jay Gwen Bowling**. They reported the weekend was filled with "Great food, a few cold beverages, day-hiking,

a Navy victory party and even a group tour of the former Congressional Bunker beneath the Greenbrier Resort." Here are some pics of the weekend. See if you can spot Brenda and **Tim Arcano**, Vicky and **Mike McCarthy** (who left USNA following youngster year and later served as an Army Ranger and Dental Officer), **Steve Howell**, Gwen and **Jay Bowling**, Kathy and **Dave Surgent**, Kim and **Keith Sauls**, and **Scott Godfrey**.

**Bruce Gearey** (30th Co) reported that in early October 30th Co had their annual mini reunion in Jacksonville FL. Eleven company-mates were present out of their remaining 24. It was hosted by **Dick Boehme** and **Lew Wolfrom**. According to Bruce, they had 4 great days of golf, dinners, tours, sea stories and a gathering with the Jax alumni group to watch Navy crush AF. Here's a pic of the gang: **Rick Paulsen, Lew Wolfrom, Chris Wode, Steve Minnis, Tony Cato, Anthony Cardoza, Al Fylak, Bruce Gearey, Brad Thomann, Dick Boehme**, and **John Williams**.

Sometimes classmates meet at reunions, or mini reunions. Other times they just run into each other on vacation in Europe like Susan and **Rick Lowel** (36th Co.) They ran into company-mate and classmates, Jennifer and **Paul Ross** while separately vacationing in Lisbon, Portugal in late September. They got together for lunch.



Paul, Jennifer, Susan and Rick

In late October **Rich Polek** (31st Co) posted on FB about a Classmate surprise meeting. **Dave Schuman** (22nd Co) and he attended the USNA Chicago Chapter Navy vs Notre Dame football joint alumni viewing event at O'Toole's Pub in Libertyville, IL. They were unaware of their proximity living in the Chicago area.

## UPDATE YOUR PROFILE

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## 78/79 CLASS NEWS

Rich and Dave had a great time catching up with each other “under the watchful guidance of [their] wives, both named Jennifer.” Rich concluded that while the game was “difficult to watch... at least the ND alumni were gracious in overwhelming victory.”



Rich and Dave

That's all for now. *Launchin' Spot Four!*

## '79

Life Membership: 91%

Donor Participation: 18.66%

Pres: **CAPT Dave Jackson, 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!

A few months ago, **Craig Majkowski** sent me a short note and photo from a 3rd Company get-together. It was supposed to go into an earlier column, but I got a bit too clever with my email filters and, well, you know...

So anyhow, last summer members of 3rd Co. gathered in the Poconos for their annual mini-reunion. Not only does **Mert Price** coordinate this event every year, but he also evidently cooks the meals as well! In addition to Craig and Mert, this year's attendees included **Jim O'Connell, Jeff Jerome, Gary Glover, Bill Williamson, Bob Wiesenberg, Andy Adamshick, Joe Miller, Pete Lloyd, Nick Mygas, Jeff Sherman, William Westwater, Jim Hicks, Denny Olsen, Dave Knab, Mike Coss, Pete Levoci** and **Abe Ellis**. Overall, a well-attended event and a good warmup for the 45th. Thanks, Craig, for sending this.

### BLUE & GOLD OFFICER

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Become a Blue & Gold Officer and contact  
USNA Admissions at 410-293-1813.*



'79: 3rd Co. summer gathering: back row: Jim O'Connell, Jeff Jerome, Gary Glover, Bill Williamson, Bob Wiesenberg, Andy Adamshick, Joe Miller, Pete Lloyd, Nick Mygas; middle row: Jeff Sherman, William Westwater, Jim Hicks, Denny Olsen, Dave Knab, Mike Coss; front row: Pete Levoci, Abe Ellis, Mert Price, and Craig Majkowski



'79: 31st Co. Reunion: Bert Bentley (NG), Phil Begley, Bob Burell, Mark Clemente, Dave Coles, Craig Grabowski, Kevin Jackson, Mike Mahon, Ed Panzenbec (NG), John Pedigo, Don Quinn, Ken Raup, and Cliff Wilson.



25th Co reunion: Mark Winsor and Tim Blue

Speaking of the reunion, Mark Winsor texted me to say that he and Tim Blue comprised the entire 25th Company contingent. I'm sure they spent the entire time telling sea stories, some of which were even true.

**Craig Grabowski** also emailed a reunion photo of the 31st Company reunion dinner at Pusser's on the waterfront in Annapolis. Craig opened the event by praising all his heroes and the men who brought them. The company honored their two fallen brethren **Dwight Greer** and **Charles Gittins** while reconnecting and reminiscing. The dinner included **Bert Bentley** (non-grad), **Phil Begley, Bob Burell, Mark Clemente, Dave Coles, Kevin Jackson, Mike Mahon, Ed Panzenbec** (non-grad), **John Pedigo, Don Quinn, Ken Raup** and **Cliff Wilson**. In case you can't tell, in the photo

their holding their Lucky Bag photos - in black and white of course! **Bill Jones, Dan Streich** and **Kelvin Womack** couldn't attend the dinner, but did join the group at the game. Thanks, Craig, for sending the photo.

At the reunion I bumped shoulders with **Scott Pursley** and we chatted for a few minutes. Long-time readers of this column know that Scott is a regular contributor to this column but has been a bit quiet in the last year or so. I kidded him about that, but he evidently took me seriously, emailing me after the reunion:

✉ Hi Wiz: All is well in Little Rock. I am in my tenth year of teaching chemistry, physics, robotics, and computer science at our girls' Catholic high school here in Little Rock. It is a lot of fun - very rewarding. Beth and I spend our vacation time visiting our four girls, their hubbies and babies in San Diego, Chicago, DC, and Boston.

It was a lot of fun seeing old friends at our 45th reunion. Terry and **Sean Stackley** hosted 9th Company for a fun evening that weekend. Most of the folks are retired or are contemplating retirement. Teresa and **Bill Corkhill** are in Pensacola, they also have a thriving "Tiny House" construction business in North Carolina. Karen and **Bill Toti** live in Florida. Bill has been giving much of his time to our Alumni