

Shipmate Article [Mar '08 issue]
Class of 1971
7 January 2008
Mike Longworth, Class Secretary

What a busy holiday season. The Army-Navy game as well as the Poinsettia Bowl produced an abundance of correspondence from you! That's good as there are many photos to share. As you read this, the mids are smelling the green grass along Stribling Walk and looking forward to the spring p-rade season! Those are fond memories.

Without further ado, I'll start with the post Army-Navy notes and photos. The first is from **John Ball**: "Duke, the San Diego Chapter held their now-traditional gathering at Seau's sports bar on Dec 1st to watch Navy win a sixth straight victory over Army. Once again, the '71 had the most attendees - 19 Classmates, along with a number of family members and friends. The venue provided a great opportunity for a group photo of all. Led by **Tom Hammons**, the attendees were (in no particular order): **Rick Smith, Hugh Butt, Bruce McClure, Fred Mallgrave, Joe Anthony, Jim Ward, Dennis Downs, Pat Doyle, John Minnich, Jim Yeakley, Doug Conklin, Pat Kelly, Bruce Nichols, Bill Meyers**, and me. In addition, joining us from out of town were **Bob Walter** from Colorado, **Bob Pearce** from Montana, and **Ken Hook** from Los Angeles. Both Bruce Nichols and Pat Kelly were wearing special Beat Army T-shirts given to them by their midshipman sons. Most of us plan to join the crowd on Dec 20th as Navy takes on Utah in the Poinsettia Bowl here in San Diego. It will be another de facto West Coast reunion for USNA alumni. **Vince Zabala** and **Steve Carro** also were spotted at the game but were missing from the photo op. Our '71 mascot was in the stands with us a few times. Despite the fact that Navy lost on the last play, we all had a great time - another great class reunion in San Diego. John." Thanks! Great photos below. One of John Ball with his son and another of Bill Meyers and Bill the Goat! Great Work, John. Keep the West Coast inputs flowing this way.

{sandiego1AN.jpg} John Ball and son

{sandiego2AN.jpg} Bill Meyers

{sandiego3AN.jpg} Group photo

My next note is from **Mike Marks**: "Duke, Third Company had a large gathering for the victory over Army. We had classmates come from California, North Carolina, Delaware, Nebraska, New York, Colorado, and the local area. The early morning bus ride to Baltimore was filled with Navy songs and we were well prepared for Army. The record sixth victory in a row was very satisfying. We are making plans for a gathering at the Air Force game in Colorado next year. The attachment is a before picture. From left to right: **Frank McAfee**,

David Nichols, Mike O'Rourke, Carl Josefson, Ted Fischer, Mike Marks, Jack Williams, Brad Closson, Dave Whitman, Jim Parks, and Terry Brake. We all made it through the weekend without any demerits." Nice work, 3rd Company! Great photo, too.

{3rdCompany_AN2007.jpg}

Jeff Steelman sent along this Army-Navy game report: "Duke, I was too cold at Army-Navy to think about much except survival. I sold my lower level tickets to classmate **Ted Snoots** and bought the extra tickets of Mike Kenslow, my XO from USS WILLIAM M WOOD days. Mary couldn't go so Will, our middle son, sat with me. Will is in his third year medical school rotations at Mercy Hospital in Darby, PA. Mike's seats were just to the left of the press box in the upper level about 8 seats down from the top. Wind was howling.

"I attended the Christmas Prayers at Embassy of Australia Friday evening. And I feel that I must report that one of classmates Lieutenant General **John Sattler**, USMC distinguished himself, the Marine Corps, the United States of America and the Class of 1971 by taking a microphone single-handedly and leading a small band of OIF comrades in the singing of all the verses of "Waltzing Matilda" to the delight and accompaniment of some 500 Australians and their guests. I am trying to obtain pictures from the Embassy and will forward. Merry Christmas and reef-in the sails tonight- it's howling and cold, Jeff." What a great story! I expect the tales of John are legion. If I can get enough material I can devote an entire column to the best of Sattler!

Tom Hammons sent along the following report: "Duke, we had a great time at the recent Poinsettia Bowl. Everything worked out but the final score. Here's a picture of 14 of us with "Our Goat – Bill" at half time. Pictured from the left front...**Rick Smith** (34), **Jim Yeakley** (12), **Russ Stahlak** (12), & **Tom Hammons** (34), Second row – **Fred Mallgrave** (22), **Dennis Downs**, **Chuck Bongard** (12), **Ed Hebert** (10), **John Ball** (26), & **Bill Meyers** (5), Third row – **Weaton Mills**, **Bruce Nichols** (11), **Joe Herger** (13), **Nick Pantelides** (04). There were other Classmates at the game but they were setting in other sections of the stadium and didn't make it into the picture. They included **Bruce Linder** (27), **Pat Kelly** (26), **Pat Doyle** (23), **Glenn Montgomery** (20), & **Bill Williams** (14). I'm sure I've missed others. Hope you have a great New Year. Tom." Thanks! The combined Tom Hammonds and John Ball report.

{PoinsettiaBowl122007.jpg}

Another note from Tom : "Duke, I wanted to share a couple of pictures of a 34th Company mini-reunion. In early October five of us got together in San Diego to race my 36 foot sailboat, "Spirit of Constellation", in the San Diego - Ensenada International Yacht Race. While **Rick Smith** and I live here in San Diego (and in fact have adjoining offices with Booz Allen Hamilton), **Kevin Nicolin** came in

from Oklahoma, **Dan Lyons** from Wisconsin and **Mike O'Connor** from New Hampshire to crew for me. Like all good ideas, this one started over beers back in January '07 when Mike was out here for a convention and Rick & I met him for a beer after work. As they say, one thing led to another and we agreed to get together in October for a little liberty call in Mexico. We had a great time retelling old sea stories and making some new ones. We had great weather for the race, 15 to 20 knot winds & 8 to 10 foot seas and successfully completed the course in a personal best 12 hours & 15 minutes. The first picture was taken the morning of the race. That's Dan and me up front with Rick, Mike and Kevin in the back row. The second one was taken after we got back to San Diego (note the empty celebratory champagne glasses). That's Rick, Mike, Dan, me and Kevin. We had such a great time, we plan to do it again next year (assuming we can get our liberty cards again)." Nice work, Tom. Kevin Nicolin sent the followup note: "Great stuff Hams. Sure miss our time in San Diego - especially the last couple days during the Ice Storm of 2007. Carol and I were without power for about 9 hours, but hey, it was a piece of cake because I had a plebe year! Looking forward to next fall's race. Nic." That's just way too much fun.

The following note is from **Dick Enderly**: "Duke - As promised here is a short update on me as well a great visit I had with two Boat School roommates, **Dave Luengen** and **Jack Crowther**. I continue to work for the Northrop Grumman Corporation in Virginia Beach. After over six years of hanging my hat at the Surface Warfare Development Group (SWDG) on the Little Creek Amphibious Base drafting and revising amphibious and mine warfare doctrine in support of SWDG and the Naval Warfare Doctrine Command (NWDC), in May 2007 I relocated to the company's offices on Viking Drive in Virginia Beach. Since then most of my work has been focused on supporting COMSECONDFLEET's Maritime Headquarters with Maritime Operations Center (MHQ w/MOC) logistics efforts. Not having any Suppo or logistics background has made this task challenging and interesting for sure, but I think I'm getting the hang of it for the most part. My wife Pat continues to work at Kempsville Elementary School as a Teacher's Assistant in a class for special needs children. We are having a blast with grandson Nathan who just turned three in November 2007 and lives about five minutes away with our son Chris who is the Sales Manager and Jack-of-All-Trades at the London Bridge Trading Company in Virginia Beach and daughter-in-law Jen who is employed by a local real estate firm. Our daughter Melissa also lives in Virginia Beach and works for GEICO.

"As part of the aforementioned MHQ w/MOC support, darn the bad luck, from 10-14 December I had to attend a conference in Honolulu. It was mostly work and not a lot of time for play, but it did afford me the opportunity to get together for some great food and catching up with Dave, his wife Sue, and Jack.

"I roomed with Dave during Plebe year and I was the best man at Dave and Sue's wedding (# 2 in the Chapel after we tossed our caps in the stadium on

9 June 1971). They were in attendance at our 35th class reunion, but prior to that I had not seen them since 1991 or 1992 when I was on the COMSEVENTHFLEET staff and went TAD to Hawaii for a conference. I had not seen Jack since that same TAD trip some 16 years ago, but have been staying in contact with him as well as Dave and Sue via email for several years.

“Jack was the smiling face I met in our room on 4-1 way back in July 1967 and even then he always seemed to have a way of easily handling most anything thrown his way with a smile on his face. Jack didn't stay on Active Duty much past his required commitment and settled in Hawaii immediately after leaving the Navy. He has two daughters. During my trip in early December he had me rolling on the deck with tales of his adventures as a ship's Gunnery Officer on the gun line during Vietnam and his "interactions" with various Commanding Officers who wouldn't let him do what he wanted to do. He even claims to have taken on and held his own with the somewhat infamous Ming Chang!

“So what is my somewhat unconventional former roomie doing nowadays? Well...the first answer I got when I asked was that he "sells stuff." When I inquired as to what that "stuff" might be I guess I shouldn't have been surprised when he told me he sells such "different" items as tropical fish all over the United States, that tasty Hawaiian Kona coffee, kayak shipping containers (primarily for military folks headed back to the continental US), and he has pretty much cornered the market on corrugated cardboard coffins in Hawaii (used primarily for cremations). Not sure what else to say about that last one, but as Jack explained they are obviously far less expensive than even a plain pine box.

“Dave and Sue have been living in Hawaii for over 16 years where Sue is a teacher for special needs children. Their daughter Beth has joined Sue in that profession and their son John is very involved in housing construction. As for Dave, he sells such HVAC items as range hoods and blowers. Ironically, years ago in a previous job as a head hunter it was Jack who helped Dave get his job.

“All in all, a great time was had by all. By the way, Jack told me he had allowed his subscription to Shipmate to lapse but that he would renew if I could get his name in the magazine. Sure hope he has followed through!

{DickEnderly_1 Dec07.jpg}

{DickEnderly_2 Dec07.jpg}

I received this note from Bob Annis: “Hi to All, Happy Holidays!! Ellen and I spent a memorable morning yesterday helping lay 10,000 Maine wreaths at Arlington Cemetery. It was a truly magnificent sight. These photos don't do it justice. Warm wishes, Bob and Ellen.”

{Arlington2007.jpg}

Here's a Christmas report from our Baghdad representative: "The work here in Baghdad continues as the bad guys seem to be getting more desperate for ways to pursue their evil. But the deaths from RCIEDs have fallen off dramatically, we think in part because of what we are doing. The Navy and Air Force EWOs here are doing a great job of banging away at the threat and their changes in tactics are demonstrating the successes. The Army is supposed to assume the land-locked electronic warfare mission by the end of next year. Their capabilities in that area had been allowed to atrophy back about the time of the first Gulf War. They didn't see any need in that area due to the demise of the Soviets and the lack of technology in the rest of the world. But they have rethought that and, in my 'other' guise of an Army master sergeant, I may actually get to contribute to that effort as well. I am supposed to get an additional skill identifier for electronic warfare out of this tour. Then the Army can bring me back for a final hurrah in uniform.

"I have discovered that JCCS-1, although a small unit by most standards is absolutely lousy with Navy grads. I think I have met about a dozen so far ranging from the CAG, Capt. "Woody" Woods ('81) to Lt.(JG) Callahan ('04). The last one made me feel really old. Being a Naval aviation "squadron", most of the guys have their call signs. I think I have been (unofficially) given mine as one of the younger guys marveled about my history and how "salty" that made me. So I am generally known around the HQ as 'Salty Bob' and just about any of them know who I am in that context. Compared to some of the other things I have been called in my life, I really can't complain. I know that this is too late for timely holiday greetings, but I am enclosing a picture anyway. The best of the coming year to you and, as always, take care. Bob Anderson - .anderson1@iraq.centcom.mil." Well, Bob, your reports are welcome anytime. I really appreciate the updates as I work in a cozy office figuring out how to make life better for our service personnel and you actually live it! Keep up the great work!

{BobAndersonDec07.jpg}

My last company report for the month is from **Sonny Naple** giving an update on the 36th Company Annual Ski Retreat: "Happy New Year Everyone! I hope everyone had a great holiday season. Speaking of a great holiday, this year's Lake Placid Come Around promises to be a winner. We are getting many positive responses from last year's attendees as well as some "first-timers". So far we have: **Don Beaudette, Mark Horgan, Ron Spratt, Jim Barron, Steve Joens, Gary Holmstrom, Jan Milligan** and me. We are going ahead with the original dates of Thursday, 28FEB - Sunday, 2MAR.

"A rough itinerary would look like skiing (alpine or cross country) on Friday, snowshoeing on Saturday in the Adirondacks, and good food, friends and laughter for the rest of the time. Even if you don't want to ski or snowshoe, it would still be worth the trip. I hear Ron is doing a pub to pub snowmobile trip.

And I might pass on Alpine skiing on Friday to cross country ski at Mt. VanHovenberg (the Olympic cross country ski center).

"If you are considering coming but have some questions, give me a call at 802-672-1415. We would love to see everyone there. Albany airport is convenient and only a couple hours from Lake Placid. And Southwest flies there.

"Last year we rented a condo on Lake Placid. This year we may rent a house to give us a little more room. So, with that in mind, I need to collect some dollars from everyone who wants to come. Would you send me a check for \$150 by January 21st? I don't know how much it would cost but it probably would be a bit more than last year. On January 21st I will count the money and go look for a house. Any balance we can pay in Lake Placid. We have about \$80 leftover from last year. I'll buy some beer on the way up. Have a great New Year, Sonny." Looks like a great turn out for some winter fun. I sure hope 36th continues this long enough for me to make one of the retreat!

I received the following note about our esteemed classmate, **Don Gunther**: "A senior pilot with Continental Airlines, was appointed Industry Co-Chair of the Commercial Aviation Safety Team (CAST), an organization that represents key commercial aviation stakeholders worldwide in pursuing safety improvements. Gunther succeeds Hank Krakowski, the former United Airlines pilot, who recently became chief operating officer of FAA's Air Traffic Organization. Gunther is senior director of safety and regulatory compliance for Continental. He is a graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy and flew aircraft in the Naval Reserve for 20 years. Gunther has been with Continental since 1977 and held a number of safety posts for the carrier in addition to serving as a line pilot." Way to go, Don!

My last note is from Steve Brighton: "I am pleased to report that our Class website has received a much need updating and facelift. Also, we now can post messages, videos, pictures, etc...stay tuned for our Class President's quarterly video messages.....we will keep trying to improve our site, so if you have any ideas on how to keep making it better, please contact Steve Brighton at bslcconsulting@yahoo.com, our Class webmaster, or Duke." Thanks for the update, Steve. The new website is very nice!

As always, time, tide and the column due date are not waiting for any man. Please keep our active duty classmates and wives and those protecting our nation in your thoughts and prayers. The peace in Iraq is holding while Afghanistan seems much less settled. Let's hope that victory goes to peace in the region.

Duces Virum, Duke

