

Shipmate April 2009
3 February 2009
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Time, tide and the Shipmate column await no man. Ah, it's that time. When you receive this column, the midshipmen will be in fine marching form after the winter break. Spring will be apparent throughout the Yard. There will be cleaning and pruning and lots of Yard maintenance activity. The visitors will be watching the noon meal formation and the rhythm of the Yard continues! Such are the halcyon days at the Naval Academy. What a great place to grow and get stretched – learning to sail, to row, to work together as a team, to study and study and write and write. All those activities produce leaders for our nation. Fortunately, we have many classmates in leadership throughout the Defense Department and in significant business roles fulfilling our obligations – *Duces Virum*.

On to the first note – this one is from **Sonny Naple** and concerns the Third Annual 36th Company Ski Retreat: “Shipmates, the Lake Placid Weekend is shaping up nicely. We will have nine of the Naval Academy's finest in attendance at this year's event: **Steve Joens, Mark Horgan, Don Beaudette, Jim Barron, Craig Welling, Gary Holmstrom, Bruce Gallemore, Ron Spratt** and me. The dates are Thursday, 26FEB09 - Sunday, 1MAR09. I'll be in touch again before we cast off. Sonny.” I've got to get this incorporated into the calendar. Who knows, it's early February and I may get my liberty card. Just sounds like too much fun to miss again! If all goes well, next column will have the report!

I received a great note from **Jan Milligan** who has a higher priority for the 36th weekend: “Dear Sonny and all skiers, snow shoe-ers, nerves of steel bobsled dare devils, gourmands and story tellers, with great regret I just found out that I will not be able to attend the festivities this year. This only came to light yesterday, and is a great conflict of mind for me as I really look forward to these outings. Sonny, you do such a great job and I will really miss it. You always arrange the weekend during such perfect weather. The stories were getting bigger and better, and morphing in a way that can only be accomplished by minds that are suffering from the ravages of time and other activities that have destroyed so many brain cells in the past.

“Our daughter Katie graduated from Columbia Theological Seminary in 2006 and since then has been living in Pittsburgh while her husband Blake completed Seminary as well. She has since accepted a call as Associate Pastor at Faith Presbyterian Church outside of Memphis, Tenn. They have scheduled her Ordination and Installation for March 1st. This is just one of those life events I wouldn't miss for the world, as she will only be ordained once. She is a great source of pride for us, this is her big day, and I just have to be there.

“I know the risk one takes by not showing up. Your accomplishments, if there are any, get completely distorted, if not totally ignored, and your screw-ups,

of which there are undoubtedly many, get magnified. I know this because this is what we have been doing the last two years to all of you guys who haven't shown up yet. Actually, when I really think of it, this is what happens even if you do show up, but at least you are there to attempt to defend yourself. Anyway, have a great week end. I'll miss you and see you all next year. Jan." At least Jan has a really good reason to pass on the event. Not sure I can develop such a good reason in this short timeframe!

Here's **Clive Graham's** reason for not attending the 36th Ski Fest: "Sonny, et al: sorry but I won't be able to join you guys again this year (hope to someday). Because of the weather, the airports are closed down here in Southern California. Its 80 today and the sunbathers have taken over the runways. Have a great time. Clive." I'm sure you'll enjoy that warmth, Clive!

Next, is an note regarding a "new" classmate: "Admiral **Tim Keating**, Commander, Pacific Command, recently spoke at the retirement of his senior Surgeon, Captain **Rob Schultz AFA '71**, USN, who is stationed at Pearl Harbor and a friend and neighbor of the Keating's. Tim mentioned in his remarks Rob's very unique career path. Rob graduated from the U.S. Air Force Academy in June 1971 and accepted a commission into the USN because he also wanted to fly Navy (*not Air Force*) and to later become a Flight Surgeon as a path to becoming an Astronaut Doctor. Rob fulfilled most of his dreams, but did not made it to the Astronaut program; however, he became a highly respected Navy Flight Surgeon. At pinnacle of his career, he completed a six year tour in the late 90s by working diligently at our own USNA in the Admissions department finding qualified young men and women to come to USNA (note: *not USAFA*). On Tim's request, the class officers have selected Rob Schultz as an honorary member of the Class of 71. Tim delivered our selection letter during the retirement at the conclusion of his remarks. Rob will also become a lifetime member of the Alumni Association as an associate member. We welcome Rob Schultz aboard as our first honorary classmate." NOTE: Rob and I were quite likely at VT-4, Pensacola, FL about the same time. I was a class or two ahead of him. Certainly, I look forward to comparing notes regarding the Aeronautical Systems Master's Degree at UWF and flying the F-9 Cougar at VT-4.

Last couple notes concern career changes for two outstanding classmates. Here's the first: "Atlas Pipeline Partners, L.P. Announces **Eugene N. Dubay** as President and Chief Executive Officer, effective February 2nd. Mr. Dubay will also serve as President and Chief Executive Officer of Atlas Pipeline Mid-Continent, LLC, the Partnership, a Tulsa, Oklahoma based subsidiary that conducts pipeline and processing activities particularly in Oklahoma and Texas. Mr. Dubay has been Chief Operating Officer of Continental Energy Systems (successor to SEMCO Energy) since 2003. Prior to joining Continental Energy, he held executive level positions at ONEOK, Inc and Southern Union Co. Mr. Dubay has over 20 years experience in midstream assets and utilities operations, strategic acquisitions, regulatory affairs and finance." Way to go, classmate! Congratulations!

Next change: "Vice President of ExxonMobil Washington, D.C., Office, **Dan Nelson**, announced his intention to retire, effective April 1, 2009, after more than 32 years of service. Mr. Nelson has been vice president of ExxonMobil's Washington office and a vice president and officer of the corporation since 2004, and had previously held a variety of other senior positions with the company in the United States, the United Kingdom and Saudi Arabia. 'At a time of unprecedented public interest in energy issues, Dan Nelson represented ExxonMobil with distinction in sharing our perspectives with Congress, the executive branch and representatives of the business and policy communities on options to address the energy challenges our nation faces,' said Rex W. Tillerson, chairman and chief executive officer of Exxon Mobil Corporation. Mr. Nelson joined Mobil Corporation as a Supply Analyst in New York in 1976, following service as an infantry officer in the United States Marine Corps.

"During his career, Mr. Nelson held a variety of senior positions with the corporation, in the United States and internationally. These positions included a number of strategic analysis roles focused on Mobil's Middle East operations; coordination manager for Mobil's business operations with the Arabian-American Oil Company (Aramco); manager, Middle East region, Mobil Corporation; planning and analysis manager for the supply and trading organization in Mobil's global headquarters in Fairfax, VA, and venture manager for the company's liquefied natural gas projects. Following the ExxonMobil merger he was appointed chairman and chief executive officer of ExxonMobil Saudi Arabia Inc. Mr. Nelson was appointed to his current position in June 2004." Way to go, Dan. You've had a great career. My hunch is you'll be playing lots of golf with classmates and Diane. What a fantastic career!

Now is a good time to remember our classmates who've gone before us and all the good memories of days and the years together gone by. Our days in the yard forged lifelong comradeship that can never be taken from us. The Yard --- four years in Bancroft, forever a memory.

Too soon it's time to close. It's the time, tide and column due dates that are always nipping at my heels. Please pray for wisdom for our nation's leaders, especially for our classmates in national military, civilian and commercial leadership billets. Pray, too, for the success of our missions in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Duces Virum, Duke