

Shipmate January 2009
8 December 2008
Duke Longworth

Time, tide and column due dates await no man. Here we are again, more quickly than I'd prefer, as I'd like the day to slow down. However, it's that time!

How about that Navy 34 over Army 0! Great game! It had all the components – President Bush attending, beautiful cold fall day, a sell-out crowd and a W for Navy! I took a cousin, Glen Jones, from San Diego. He had never attended an A-N game, nor had he been to Philly! So, it was a fun day. The bonus – when I got to my seat, the adjacent seats were empty; however, there was a bag which looked like our 30th reunion bag. A little later a couple about my age took their seats. The gentleman sat next to me and immediately began eating a tasty looking hamburger. As I was delayed entering the stadium I did not see Navy's first touchdown, so I asked the gentleman to tell me about the score. To my pleasant surprise I was sitting with my 6th Battalion mate, **Jim Theis**! We managed to discuss the game and our current activities. Jim is with Delta Air Lines as a project manager. He and Diane were departing Sunday for a week in Mexico, so all is well.

Next bonus, nearing half time, I noticed **Rick Ector** sitting in the same row about ten seats down the way. Sitting next to Ron was **Dick Cooper**! Then, my company mate, **Don Beaudette** gets my attention. He is a row back and four seats down the way. So, this was a great Navy game. First game I've attended where I've sat anywhere near a classmate, much less a company mate!

Here's a note from Rick Ector: "Duke - good to see you guys at the game today, and it was great to win, as ever. The photos my son Sam took are attached. During the game I was sitting with our classmate Dick Cooper, who also served with me on Shark many years ago--he left just before we took the photos, but he and his son John enjoyed the game with us. Go Navy!" Here's a photo of the '71ers in section C13.



After the game, Diane and Jim departed to rendezvous with **Ron Hewitt** for dinner. My cousin and I headed to Al Fournio's for dinner with **Steve Dmetruk**, **Jeff Hemler**, and Terry and **Dave Vandover**. Also, attending the dinner was USMA '71 Hugh McDonald, a 150 lb. football letterman who played opposite Jeff Hemler. The conversation was all about football, the food was delicious and all enjoyed the evening.

Got a great note from **Phil Williams**: "Duke, I wanted to provide some pictures from the Navy-ND game. I had forgotten that the Brigade had been reduced in size, so there are only 5 Companies per Battalion. But it was still a thrill to watch another March-On. In addition, the Brigade has its own Pipe and Drum Corps - kilts and all. Although the outcome of the game was a disappointment, Navy gave everyone a thrill at the end with 2 recovered onside kicks and 2 touchdowns.

"Hope to see everyone at Homecoming in 2009. Our son, who graduated from Wake Forest, is up for revenge and already has the Navy Homecoming on his calendar. Also, he is not a supporter of Tom O'Brien this year after this past weekend in Raleigh. Attached is a picture of Ann and me down at the docks in Annapolis...that area has also been remodeled and looks great. Have a TERRIFIC day and Semper Fi, Phil Williams." Great note, Phil. Hope to see you at the Eagle Bank Bowl and watch Navy roll over Wake Forest!



Next is a short note from **Steve Brighton** with a great photo: “Duke, 11th company mates **Mike Bilecky**, **Finley Foster**, **Cass Young**, **Bill Butler** and classmate **Bruce Gallemore** sailed with me on my boat IRON WILL from Arnold, MD to Freeport several weeks ago.



Here's a photo of the sailors and their wives.



Next is a great ring story from **Russ Carr**: “I read with interest the discussion of the lost class ring supposedly found on Virginia Beach. As it turns out, about 35 years ago I lost my class ring while throwing sticks to my Newfoundland in the surf at Virginia Beach. The Newf loved to swim in the surf and would fetch thrown stick endlessly. After about a half hour of throwing sticks, my class ring went flying out into the surf following a stick. The Newf brought the stick back but neither of us could find the ring. I replaced the ring and still have the replacement. I would not pay to get the old one back, but I am interested in whether or not the found ring (see the October '08 issue) was actually mine and what it looked like after being in the surf for 35 years. Although my ring was engraved with my name and United States Navy it could have been worn off by the sand and surf. The ring was set with a synthetic ruby.

My oldest son Shamus, wife Elisabeth and children Skylar, Arianna and Brody just finished a visit at our home in Connecticut. LCDR Shamus is the Chief of Surgery at Naval Hospital Guam. He will be attending a conference in Philadelphia and then visit Pittsburgh for Brody's baptism before returning to Guam. Vonice and I enjoyed the grandchildren and will see them again in a week at the baptism at Our Lady of Lourdes in Burgettstown PA, the same church where Vonice and I were married. Shamus leaves the Navy next year and will be doing a fellowship in thoracic surgery at the University of Pittsburgh, his mother's alma mater. Our younger son, Liam, is pursuing a PhD in Geography at Texas A&M. Everyone is fine. Russ.” Thanks for a great note!

I exchanged notes with **Ted Snoots** recently. He is working in Northern Virginia for a security firm providing Executive Protection for CEOs, celebs, and wealthy

foreigners who travel to the US. "Duke, pass the word and keep me in mind if you or anyone you know may need these services. Your friend and classmate, Ted Snoots." Send Ted an email for help in security!

Next is a note from **Ed Ammons**. His questions are of interest to all. "Hi Duke, I have a couple of questions. Any idea how I can locate **Donnie B Davis**? I haven't seen or heard from him since about our 10th or 15th year reunion. He was a Marine helo pilot who ended up working as a mercenary, perhaps for some of the US alphabet agencies. I'm not sure he survived it all. Any lead would be appreciated.

"I had the good fortune to attend the Navy- Northern Illinois football game in Dekalb, Illinois a week ago. I noticed for the umpteenth time that Bill the Goat wears a navy jersey with # 71 on it. I've been trying with no success to find a source to buy one for myself. I'm sure Bill the Goat has more than one. How can I or any of our classmates get one? And would you happen to know why he wears '71'? I suspect it has something to do with a class gift but don't know specifics. Thanks, Ed."

I asked **Perry Martini** to give us the skinny on the jersey: "Good to hear from you. I have discussed purchasing a "71" jersey with our current AD. Sometime in the future those items may be for sale through the Visitor's Center at USNA once Navy changes their uniform contract (happens every couple of years). The Navy (two legged) mascot outfit was purchased by our class in 1996 as part of our 25th reunion gifts. In the interim, we have purchased a second outfit as well as a back up jersey for the rights to have this displayed at every major sporting event. That's why you see the '71 goat all over the place. The original cost of the outfit was \$8K for its entirety and we have done replacing costs and back ups for another \$6K just recently through our class executive board (Class Officers and Board of Trustees). Most of the funding of late has come through a healthy class treasury where we continue to fund reunions and other class projects (mostly small upgrades and maintenance like the Class 71 Visitors Wall map, the Class of 71/51 Stern board at Alumni I Hall, the two legged mascot, etc.

"No luck on my end on contact for Donnie Davis. He is one of our class 'MIA's' right now and if you find out where he is, please let Duke and I know so we can enter back into our database. Go Navy – Beat Wake Forest!" Nice to know gouge! Thanks to Perry!

Here's a great idea Father's Day gift idea: **David Poyer** just released his newest book, "The Threat". Poyer's protagonist, Navy CDR Dan Lenson, has again been assigned a dangerous but vital national security mission with insufficient "top cover." Because of high-level embarrassments resulting from previous missions, he's not sure until the very end whether the administration his wife works for really wants him back alive or dead after this assignment. Sounds like another superb thriller by Dave!

For all of us, we will greatly appreciate this follow up note from **Larry Simoneaux** (see the Jun Jul 08 column): "Duke, you'll recall six months ago, I was flat on my back at a friend's home wondering if the EMT's would make it to me in time. Four hours of cutting up logs with a chainsaw had caused enough strain to bring on a fairly major heart attack. It's taken a while, but I've finally gotten a completely clean bill of health from my doctors, found out that there's been no major damage to my heart, and was

even cleared to go on my annual hunting trip in the mountains of Eastern Washington. The attached photo is from that trip. I'm the ugly one in green. The one on the ground is a 300 lb black bear that I came across that morning. Don't even ask what it took to get him to camp." Great photo of one survivor with nice prize!



Time, tide and column due dates wait for no man. The silly season in politics is over! Now, a new administration has its opportunity to guide our nation. I'm sure we will remain a nation of the people, by the people and for the people if we are involved in the business keeping our government out of our business. Winter reunion time is upon some of us. Hope all those get togethers are fun. Meanwhile, 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