

Shipmate July-August 2011  
Duke Longworth  
31 May 2011

The firsties have graduated and moved on, Herndon Monument was climbed once again, and a new crop of plebes has arrived. The cycle continues! There were probably more highs and lows in the summer months than any other season at Navy. The thrill of passing a tough class, the sweltering summer watching the WBGT, and the return at summer's end made for times that we all well-remember. Really, have you had such fun since then? Our first class summer took me to Athens, Corfu, Naples and Corsica. Each location was exciting and has a special memory. I'd prefer to forget the ouzo in Corsica, but don't want to forget rowing with a group of Greek students in an eight man shell and trying to understand them, nor do I want to forget the thrill of walking upon the ruins of the Acropolis and the Roman coliseum. So, with that memory I'm confident the newly commissioned Ensigns and 1<sup>st</sup> Lieutenants have many exciting adventures in their immediate future!

Appropriately, as Memorial Day has just passed, my first note is about **Al Shaufelberger**, our only classmate listed as KIA. **Hugh Marcy** and **Rick Alvarez** have collaborated with Jim Hallums regarding Al's assassination in San Salvador in 1983. This note is from Hugh Marcy: "Al Shaufelberger's name came up in a conversation I had with Jim Hallums, USMA '66, while in Colombia at a training workshop with the Colombian Military in March 2011. Jim shared a house in San Salvador with the late Al Shaufelberger who was assassinated in 1983 by a group under the umbrella of the [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front](#) (FMLN), the [Central American Revolutionary Workers' Party](#) (PRTC). Jim was a Lt. Col. and advisor to the Salvador General Staff. Al was a LCDR and the Senior Naval Advisor at the Milgroup and often acted as Deputy Milgroup Commander. Jim identified Al's body at the hospital. Al's assassination has been the source of many vignettes about what not to do in an environment such as existed in El Salvador at the time. Some of those have been unfair to Al's memory. Some of the circumstances which made Al vulnerable: no police were allowed on university campuses; there was no two man rule; Al's armored automobile's air conditioner had been broken for six months so Al had the driver's side bulletproof window removed; Al picked up his girl friend from the Central American University about the same time of day, although he varied the days; and, the faculty was very anti government and anti US. Al was no different than others in the Milgroup concerning security. The threat was underestimated. Al managed to trigger a radio message before he died and he was very professional and deeply respected by the Milgroup and the El Salvadorians.

have also talked with Rick Alvarez about Al and my meeting Jim Hallums. Rick did some research into Al's death several years ago at the NSA Archives at GWU. Al and Rick played 150s together and Rick said he never got hit harder than by Al, nor had someone laugh harder after getting up." Thank you, Jim, for sharing with us. I was not aware of the circumstances, nor I'm sure were many of our classmates. I won't forget!

Here's a great note from **Oz** "the Commish" **Fretz**: "Some months ago, **Dan** 'Nellie Bell' **Nelson**, came across **Bob** 'Boogaloo' **Havasy**, '67 footballer who also happened to be one of the Bell's coaches when Nellie was a Plebe. Greetings turned into well-wishes which evolved into stories that were stretched into tall tales and just before they became outright lies a challenge was thrown down and twelve '71ers were set to meet twelve '67ers (most but not all former Navy football players) in a golf match christened 'The Battle Between the Ages'. What follows is a first-hand (but surely not all that accurate) account of three days of throw-down golf in Pinehurst, NC from April 28-May 1, 2011.

"The '71ers (Whippersnappers): **Dan Nelson**, Jan and **Chuck** 'the Muscle' **Boyer**, Karen and **Oz Fretz**, Sandy and **Mike** 'the hummingbird' **Hecomovich**, Cheryl and **Dave Howe**, **Joel Lassman**, Jean and **Perry** 'the Prez' **Martini**, **Bill** 'the reverend' **McKinney**, **Mike** 'Bucco' **McNallen**, Suzy and **Steve** 'dump truck' **Dmetruk**, Jenny and **Tom** 'coach' **O'Brien**, and Pam and **Bob** 'Wally' **Walter**. The '67ers (Grey Beards): Bob 'Boogaloo' Havasy, Beth and Skip 'the Tree' Dittman, Maryann and Denny Haley, Linda and 'Reb' Hester, Janey and Tom 'Socks' Leister, John 'Butch' Matus, John 'Mort' Morton, Lou 'the Mouse' Romano, Suzy and Dave 'the Bear' Tate, Jack 'Bagger' Vance, and Danny 'I hit it' Wong.

"A quick summary: Ryder Cup format - six two-man team matches on both Friday and Saturday and twelve 'mano e mano' wars on Sunday. The Whippersnappers came out of the gate with a whimper and took the schneid on Opening Day losing all six matches to the Greybeards. A contributing factor to the stunning Gray Beards' performance may have been the ill-chosen remarks uttered on the first tee by a '71er when he viewed he said, 'So that's what we are going to look like when we get old. Whew, I didn't think aging could be that tough' or something of the sort. The less-than scintillating performance by the Snappers begot widespread grouching from same about the Commissioner's pairings and more than a few suggestions that the Whippersnappers had been pencil-whipped by Boogaloo Bob based on some rather enormous handicaps that were carried by a few of the Greybeards. The Commissioner, in his usual level-headed manner, spent a few tense moments defending both his pairings and Boogaloo's tall handicap assignments, which was not difficult since the Commish had witnessed the play of the Boog's charges and confirmed that a few of them were very terrible golfers, indeed.

“Day two was a much more balanced affair with each side winning three matches. The day’s highlight occurring after the clubs were back in the bag, as Keefer Welch and his lovely wife entertained all at their home with a wonderful barbecue including plenty of good food, good fellowship and, somewhat surprisingly, Keefer’s black Lab falling head over heels in love with the Nellie Bell - which seemed somewhat distressing to the Welch’s although they both agreed later that if it had to be a member of the family, the Lab was probably the least upsetting.

“Sunday morn found the Whippersnappers stuck 9-3 but to a man they felt that the Graybeards were leaking oil and damn near out of gas. Needing nine wins from twelve matches to catch even, the Snappers were roaring early and ripped off four straight but had their momentum checked with back-to-back wins by the Rebel and Bagger Vance. Two more quick wins and the ‘71ers were rolling again only to be derailed for good by an improbable victory by ‘Socks’ Leiser who parlayed some incredible iron play (and an average tee shot of 53 yards!) into the win that sent the young boys home with their tails between their legs. Final tally - GrayBeards 13-1/2, Whippersnappers 9-1/2. Rematch next year in Arizona. Respectfully submitted, The Commish.” Great tale of golfing’s best adventures. I’m already looking for next year’s tales.

Here’s an update to our reunion plans: We will hold our reunion on Homecoming weekend. The check-in desk will open at noon on Thursday, 20 October. We’ll hold a no-host reception for all classmates in the area, early arrivals or locals, Thursday evening. That will get the golfers ready for Friday morning’s tourney at Eisenhower Golf Course. Friday evening’s dinner/dance will be held in Dahlgren Hall with a buffet dinner catered by *Haute Catering*, a division of the acclaimed *Ridgewells Catering*, and music by *The Fabulous Bel Airs*. Yes, the same band we had for our last reunion dinner/dance, back for an encore performance!

Saturday morning, the class breakfast/meeting is shaping up to be a very interesting event. We have a number of USNA VIPs in attendance: VADM **Mike Miller ’74** (Supe), Captain **Bob Clark ’84B** (Dant), **Byron Marchant ’78** (Pres/CEO USNA Alumni Association/Foundation), Director ProDev, Academic Dean, and our Class of 71 Distinguished Military Professor (DMP), CDR **Kevin Haley ’81**, USN (Ret). There will be a few surprises so expect to see a few ‘beaters and blowers’ show with cheerleaders in tow along with our now famous Class of 71 Two Legged Goat. We will announce the results of the Class Officer elections and celebrate the results of our 40<sup>th</sup> Reunion Legacy Gift Campaign. If that isn’t enough excitement for Saturday, we have the Homecoming football game and the Mother of all Tailgates in the afternoon.

Saturday evening is set aside for company parties. We wrap things up on Sunday with a farewell brunch at the Westin to fortify our travelling classmates for the journey home, and to meet with friends a last time for the weekend.

For registration information, a reunion event schedule, and other useful reunion information, please access our class web site at: <http://www.usna.com/classes/1971/>.

Next is a note from **Eric Benson**: “Duke, Thought I would drop you a line before Sally and I head out on our next excursion. By the time this sees print we will have been to Norway and back. We leave May 13<sup>th</sup> for a two-week coastal cruise from Bergen north and then back. After that Annapolis is on the horizon for our 40<sup>th</sup>. I just purchased the football tix. We are hoping for a repeat of the ECU! By the fourth quarter the ECU fans seated around us were joining us in cheering for Navy!

“After the reunion we will head out for our December 'go find some warm weather' trip. This year we are headed back to Brazil. Our last trip down there was Rio, Brasilia and a week on the Amazon out of Manaus. This time we will take a Princess Cruise from Ft Lauderdale to Manaus and get a chance to see the BIG part of the river.

“Long range plans are for the Navy-Notre Dame football game in Dublin next year. We have been talking to Suz and **Ed Bouton** about the trip and would love to get in touch with anyone else that might be going.

“We do stay home once in a while and have a guest bedroom waiting for visitors. We are 10 miles from the intersection of Interstates 95 and 40, south of Raleigh with lots of golf nearby. In my spare time I write a weekly political column for a local newspaper. The paper has cut off web access without a subscription but I can send a copy to anyone that asks at [drlefty@embargmail.com](mailto:drlefty@embargmail.com). Thanks, Eric.” Nice note! I would enjoy all the adventures, but meanwhile I will take notes and be prepared for when the time is right! For you Dublin adventurers, contact Eric to coordinate a '71 tailgate. That will be fun!

**Dave Poyer** has another thriller just out - *The Towers – A Novel of 9/11/2001*. St. Martin's Press. Publication date August 30, 2011. *The Towers* is dedicated to **Chic Burlingame**. Here's a synopsis: “On the morning of September 11, 2001, Commander Dan Lenson, USN, is visiting the Pentagon. On that same morning, his wife, former Undersecretary of Defense Blair Titus, is at a job interview at the World Trade Center. The 13th Dan Lenson novel, *The Towers* is a fascinating, accurate depiction of the events of September 11 and the military response, informed by interviews and deep sources in the Navy, the SEALs, the Marines, the NCIS, and the author's own military experience.” Another “must read!”

Here's a short note from **Al Ptak**: "Duke, for our class election, we will use the Alumni Association's electronic ballot capability. We will initiate voting with a mass e-mail early August with a deadline of 31 August. If classmates don't receive it a ballot in early August, they should contact me ASAP. Alan." I understand the VP slot is very competitive, you will want to get your vote to count!

Many of you are aware, **Fred Myers** passed away from an apparent heart attack on Easter Sunday. Fred's obit was in the May-June issue of Shipmate

Too soon it's time to close. It is now less than two months until our reunion, October 2011. Please keep our classmates and their families in your prayers for safe travel and good health. Pray, too, for the success of our missions in Iraq and Afghanistan as well as for our classmates in business and government leadership. There is plenty of work remaining for us as we increase our wisdom! Time, tide and column due dates wait for no man!

Duces Virum, Duke