

Shipmate Stewardship 2012
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The high of the 40th reunion must have worn off and left many of your exhausted! You're wondering how I know – I have little grist for the mill! However, this presents an opportunity to highlight what one company is doing for their annual mini-reunion -more to follow below. When you receive this column spring will be in full bloom in the Yard and the middies will have "graduation week" and thoughts of summer cruises and details foremost on their minds. I remember many hours of rowing along the Severn River with eight of my closest friends! Spring break we stayed at USNA so we could work out more arduously and row our shells to the head of the Severn. If you weren't there for spring training, I assure you the mess hall was very quiet and like an empty cavern. I'm sure I did more than work out; however, I only recall rowing. Perhaps my sister drove over from the DC area to visit. The good of all that training was that there was no thought to "where to go" and "what to do", just be there, eat, row and sleep! Enough of that memory, it's time for current events!

Okay, here are my notes for the 36th Company Winter Reunion held March 1st – 4th. Jan Milligan writes: "Hi Guys, we have 9 so far: Jim Barron, Don Beaudette, Sonny Naple, Bruce Gallemore, Craig Welling, Lee Burgess, Mark Horgan, Ron Spratt and me. Still room for more if anyone wants in at the last minute (room is a relative term). For those that are coming, I need meal suggestions. Ron, are you bringing Lasagna? Then, for Friday and Saturday night do we want to eat in, go out? Any suggestions are great. I'll take care of breakfasts, and let me know if there is anything in particular you would like to have. If you want bad beer (Bud Lite, Coors Lite, Miller Lite), bring it. Life's too short to drink bad beer. Otherwise, we'll be having on the lines of Guinness, Smithwicks (Smiddicks), Bass, Corona, Sweetwater 420, etc. We are mostly red wine drinkers (Cabernet, Shiraz, Merlot, Pinot Noir) but if anyone wants some white, let me know and we can do that too. Thanks. See you at the come-around. Jan." Regretfully, my daughter is home for spring break that weekend, so I cannot attend. Here's more to the reunion prep.

Craig Welling responded: "Jan, Thanks for your planning efforts for the ski weekend. Your beer and wine selections appear superb. I will plan to bring in a batch of Carter's Virginia ham biscuits as well as some white wine. As before I will be arriving early Friday morning. Looking forward to another great weekend! Craig." Craig's wife Carter is a superb cook! Carter was attending Mary Washington University when they met during his midshipman days at Navy. It was a match made in heaven as they dated until after graduation and have been happily married for years!

Next is a note from Ron Spratt: "Gentlemen, I am pleased to report that Sous Chef Don Beaudette and Executive Chef, yours truly, are going to the next level of dining pleasure. Over the past year, we have added to our repertoire of culinary specialties and plan to enhance the traditional Lake Placid experience. On Thursday evening, Anne's highly acclaimed and quickly devoured Lasagna, accompanied with perfectly toasted garlic bread, will once again be our main entree. This year we will add a freshly prepared garden salad with many extraordinary and exotic components.

Dessert will include Anne's chocolate sheet cake without the sheet. And, of course, the evening feast will be complimented with full bodied red wine and consumed by partially-abled comrades in arms.

"For Saturday evening, I will turn over the kitchen to Sous Chef Don in his final test (under my close supervision) for promotion to Chief Sous Chef (CSC). Although difficult to exceed past years, we are confident expectations will be exceeded. The menu for evening meal will incorporate the very best of the past and several new additions. More to follow. We are still accepting applications for associate chef positions. We are honored to serve such a noble cause and privileged to contribute our exceptional talents to The Order. Ron and Don." My mouth is watering from just reading about the delicious dinner. Again, I wonder how I could have let this year's reunion happen when I need to be in Virginia Beach. I need to have better control of the schedule! By the way, Anne's desserts are second to none! Ron attests to this!

Mark Horgan chimed in: "I have no culinary qualifications other than a willing hand. Since Don is assisting Ron with the evening repasts, I'll be happy to join in with Jan on breakfast. Diana has committed to train me how to prepare cinnamon french toast to augment the usual AM offerings. I think I can get her to bake some chocolate chip cookies, too, and I'll bring a few extra bottles of wine in case there's a run on the local package store. See you guys soon. Mark. PS: Jan, your taste in beers works for me." These are all my favorite things to eat and drink. How can I miss this annual reunion again? The company needs me to consume these delicacies!

Ron Spratt added a note the snow activities: "Count me in for snowmobiling with the following challenge in place: Spratt (snowmobile) vs. Naple (on foot) Race to the Top...I am tired of Sonny's bravado. Not to mention a new wrist motion for the dart competition. I am getting pumped up !!" Ron, I need to know the winner. A photo of the finish would be most apropos for the next column!

Last year I said I would get to this year's reunion. Really classmates, I'm letting the team down. I need to better coordinate! I must be there next year!

I couldn't let this column go without a photo. I received this photo of Joyce and Dave Laws recently. They were unable to join us for the Army-Navy game in Washington, DC but they were displaying great school spirit as they watched from their new home in North Carolina!



“Joyce and Dave Laws in ‘Go Navy’ spirit attire”

My last note is from Perry Martini: “Classmates, it has been a few months since our 40th celebration in Annapolis and we have received many messages and notes of very positive feedback regarding all of the scheduled events. As always we heard loud and clear that our time together was never long enough and we may need to expand the reunion time frame since many of us in our golden years will have a little more time to enjoy the comradeship. The Class Officers and Board of Trustees (many from the Reunion Committee sit on the board) are very interested in polling as many of you as possible regarding plans for our 45th; however, before we direct you to this short survey a couple of comments are in order:

--There is a strong interest to have our 45th on the West Coast.

--We do have a number of classmates standing by (with assistance from our core reunion committee) to organize and hold the reunion in San Diego in 2016.

--There is a distinct possibility that the Navy football team will have San Diego State on their 2016 schedule and be playing in San Diego (they join the Big East Conference for football in 2014).

--If we do hold a reunion in San Diego in 2016 and Navy is not playing in California we will make sure that the weekend we choose will not be when Navy is playing a home game in Annapolis (we have nearly 100 classmates and friends who hold Navy home football season tickets).

“We have created a survey for all to complete to help plan for the 45th Reunion. We do ask that you take a few minutes and proceed to the following website link: <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/QBXXN53> to complete our survey. The survey will be available for you to take it (only one time) through 30 March 2012.” If the survey has closed and you want to provide input, email me and I’ll ensure your input is included.

By the way, the mild winter continued in the Norfolk area. I had the top down many days for the drive home. I’ll place my bet now for a harsh winter next year. Meanwhile, I’ll enjoy a breezy drive home!

Too soon it’s time to close. Please keep our classmates and their families in your prayers for good health. Pray, too, that our mission in Afghanistan will achieve success and our work in Iraq does produce an ally in the Middle East. We have several classmates in business and government leadership who can use our thoughts and prayers, too. 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