

Shipmate May-June 2012
Duke Longworth
19 April 2012

Late spring was a favorite time of mine in the Yard. It was a time for crew races on the Severn, dress p-rades on Worden Field, and plenty of visitors at weekend noon meal formations! Stribling Walk was fully green and growing, the plebes were sizing up Herndon Monument, and all were eager for summer cruises and TRAMIDs. Those were the halcyon days!

My first note is from fellow crew team member, **Brent Green**: “Duke, In the spirit of keeping the wonderful memories from our 40th going strong, the 27th company is proud to point out that we had 23 of our 26 graduates present during that fabulous weekend. Debbie Greene & Mary Jane Metzger put together a fabulous event on Friday afternoon. We hosted a party on at our home on the Magothy and had a fabulous time sharing so many memories. Our attendees included **Bob Agnor**, **John Brandes**, Marsha and **Jim Brick**, Michele and **Dan Brown**, Nancy and **Glenn Bruggeman**, **Bill Cocos**, Jeann and **Mark Gardner**, Debbie and Brent Greene, Sherry and **Don Gunther**, Jayne and **Ken Hook**, Sandy and **Dave Lee**, Debbie and **Bruce Linder**, Susie and **Paul Loustau**, Mary and **John Martin**, Linda and **John Massie**, Mary Jane and **Jim Metzger**, Melanie and **Ernie Morris**, Chris and **Pat Mulvany**, Linda and **Dale Peterson**, Jayne and **Tim Poole**, Cherie and **Dana Roberts**, **Rex Settle**, and Jan and **Paul Steinke**. Reunions like this help make the bonds that began in 1967 become all the stronger. All the best, Brent.” Wow! That is just incredible – so many of the company together! I would like an invitation to your next company get together, please! Perhaps we can put a shell on the Severn River, too!



My next note is a follow up to last month's column – 36th Company winter reunion - **Craig Welling** sent this note: “On the weekend of 3 March 2012, nine classmates

from 36th/15th company met for their annual rendezvous at a condo on the snowy banks of Lake Placid. The gang included **Jim Barron, Don Beaudette, Lee Burgess, Bruce Gallemore, Mark Horgan, Jan Milligan, Sonny Naple, Ron Spratt** and me. Thanks to Jan for coordinating the weekend. The group made good use of the warmer weather conditions this year to pursue (without injury) downhill skiing on Whiteface Mountain, snowshoeing or hiking up high peaks in the Lake Placid region. In addition to the outdoor activities, we certainly enjoyed dining on sumptuous dishes sent up by our wives including lasagna, chili, ham biscuits, cookies and cake. Jan Milligan served up some great breakfasts and Mark Horgan provided a new delicacy of cinnamon-bread French toast. For our finale evening, Ron and Don served a delicious surf and turf dinner. As always the group shared stories and tall tales from our USNA days. We certainly had our typical discussions on "I wonder what happened to so and so"? This year we asked about **Rich 'Dick' Taylor**. If you have contact information for him, please send it to Duke. We were pleased to have Lee Burgess participate this year. He definitely added some new stories from our early years."

I also received the 36th Company reunion follow up note from **Jan Milligan**: "Hey guys, great weekend! Lee, it was great having you there this year, and you set the bar pretty high for next year's rookies whoever they are. Thanks for all the help guys. Special thanks for all the good food you brought from home. We were taught years ago that DD stood for "dreadnaught destroyer", but I think it now means "detox and diet". Is everyone as stunned by food as I am? Have a great spring, and see you all next year. Jan." Sounds like I missed a really fun company reunion. Timing is always a part of these reunions, Here's to better timing next year

I received the following information about our own, **David Poyer**. David was the speaker at The Friends of the Old Dominion University Libraries 18th Annual Author Dinner on Friday, April 13, 2012, at the Norfolk Yacht and Country Club. David has 30 novels to his credit, some of which are required reading at USNA. The notes say he has been called "the most popular living author of American sea fiction." Here's some additional information on David: His "...most popular novels, set in the present day, follow the career of U.S. Navy officer Dan Lenson, a thoughtful surface line officer whose ethical questioning sometimes conflicts with his duty. Another series features an ex-Coast Guard commercial diver, Lyle 'Tiller' Galloway. According to Poyer, much of his work draws upon his own experiences in military service and as a cruising sailor and sport diver." Keep writing David!

Next is a superb note from **Bill Hoover**: "During the weekend of October 29-31, 2010 several members from the 11th Company and their spouses gathered in Annapolis for a weekend of golf, football and fun. It was a wonderful time for old friends to get together and tell sea stories remembering the good; the bad; and the ugly of life in Mother Bancroft which began 43 years earlier. As the guys howled, the wives rolled

their eyes wondering how many more times they would be subjected to the same stories that most had heard repeatedly for 35 years or more. As you might imagine, memories were selective and generous to the story teller of the moment. After a round of golf and dinner on Friday and a great Navy football game on Saturday, we all assembled in the home of Ginny and LtGen (Ret) **John Sattler's** for a delicious, casual dinner with plenty of beer and wine for all. After dinner, the topic of our 40th reunion was raised. Given the group of old friends that had assembled, it wasn't surprising that there were several humorous quips made, mostly centered around the fact that 39 years before, we didn't think that we would live to be 40 much less celebrate the 40th anniversary of our graduation.

"It was about this time, that collectively we recalled our most recent major reunion weekend ... the weekend of September 22-24, 2001. That weekend actually began on September 21st at Arlington National Cemetery at a memorial service for **Chic Burlingame**, a friend and the pilot of the plane which the terrorists commandeered and ultimately crashed into the Pentagon 10 days before. We then discussed that this time next year, as we were celebrating our 40th reunion, our nation would be recognizing the 10th anniversary of the beginning of the Global War on Terror. It would also mean that there would be young men and women still in harms' way, manning the ramparts so that we could enjoy our lives and our freedoms.

"Needless to say, the conversation became more subdued and serious at this point. What became clear was that to a person, graduate and spouse alike, we were committed to doing something 'productive' on this weekend - something that would recognize and support the sacrifices which these young men and women had made and continue to make for all of us. Regardless of when our troop participation ends in Iraq and Afghanistan, those warriors who deployed forward into harm's way on our behalf and had their lives and their family's lives altered forever, will need our financial and spiritual support for decades - we must ensure they are not forgotten. After identifying several charities which we could support, the **Injured Marine Semper Fi Fund** was selected as our charity of choice because the **Semper Fi Fund** supports the needs of our heroes and their families, regardless of service, at a time in which they are in real need of support. Additionally, every donation -- no matter if it is large, small, from corporations or from individual donors makes a real difference. Just as importantly, approximately \$0.92 of every \$1.00 raised goes directly to the heroes we desire to support!

"Once the charity was identified and since the majority of persons participating had type-A personalities, we discussed what our goal should be. After some initial conversation, we decided that this would be a decision for all of our 11th Company-mates and began to solicit input from all over the country. After discussing an \$11,000 target (our Company), a \$40,000 target (our next anniversary) and a \$71,000 target (our

graduation year), we ultimately selected the \$71,000 target as our goal. Although we were not overly confident that we would achieve our goal, we collectively felt that it was best to 'go big'.

"Regardless of the event, the comment which was heard most often was how supportive all who became aware of our activity were for the noble cause supported by the **Semper Fi Fund**. This support came not only from the 11th Company-mates and their friends; it came from many different demographics - the young adults (20-40 year olds), the older veterans, the small town communities, the various business establishments across the country.

"The Class of 1971 / 11th Company / 40th Reunion Fundraiser officially concluded on April 6, 2012 when many 11th Company representatives presented Gen Al Gray (USMC, retired) who is the Chairman of the **Injured Marine Semper Fi Fund** a symbolic check in the amount of \$107,759! This result reinforces the importance of 'going big'." What a great story! Below is a photo of the 11th Company members at the presentation ceremony.

Last is a photo from the April 17th Class of '71 Ethical Character in Leadership Award ceremony conducted in Huntington Hall, Newport News, VA. VADM (ret) **Jim Metzger** and I represented our class. The award is given annually to the officer onboard the THEODORE ROOSEVELT' who best exemplifies ethical character. This year the award was given to LT Richard Martinez. Jim and I were joined in the presentation by the ship's CO and XO, CAPT **Billy Hart '83** and CDR **Mark 'Klinger' Colombo '91**.

Too soon it's time to close. Please keep our classmates and their families in your prayers for good health and safety in summer travels. 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