

Shipmate May-June 2014
Duke Longworth
17 April 2014

Winter continued for most of us until the end of March! Here in Virginia Beach the winter was certainly one for the record books! Spring is having a tough time with the ups and downs of temperatures and storms – we’ve had lows near freezing mid-April. Thoughts of summer and the beach are sure to be filling the minds of many now. But, for now it’s on to the column!

As promised, the 36th Company stalwarts successfully braved the cold for another highly successful Lake Placid weekend. Here’s the input from **Ron Spratt** with notes by **Craig Welling** added: “Duke, This year’s 15th/ 36th Company Lake Placid Come Around, February 27th to March 2nd, was another memorable weekend of good cheer, moderate gluttony, and shameless story-telling. This annual trek, in its 8th year, has evolved from a small gathering of company mates to a full house accommodating up to 12. Joining us this year were **Jan Milligan, Bruce Gallemore, Don Beaudette, Craig Welling, Garry Holmstrom, Lee Burgess, Robbie Roberson, Rich “Sonny” Naple, Mark Horgan, Jim Barron** and yours truly.

“As with any USNA classmate gathering, ‘where two or more shall gather’, we have established lofty traditions and social protocols worthy of our illustrious history and remarkable accomplishments. Each year embodies the importance of mind, body and spirit. In the finest traditions of USNA, we embrace our meals together as sacred obligations. Morning meals prepared by Jan and Mark are replete with hearty dishes loaded with calories and supplemented with the very best of high octane Navy shipboard coffee. Normally by the time we finish breakfast, it’s past high noon, and we conjure up the energy for an outdoor winter warrior adventure.

“Years ago, in the spirit of the Lake Placid Winter Olympics, you would find us actively engaged on the Whiteface Mountain downhill ski slopes, or climbing the steep mountain trails to the highest elevations. But now, we are more likely observed snow-shoeing to our favorite pub for a pint of fortification and a combative game of darts. And, after a rigorous afternoon, it’s back to the fireside and, if needed, immersion in the hot tub for the sore, aging muscles.”



Caption: 36th Company winter hikers – Garry Holmstrom, Mark Horgan, Don Beaudette, Bruce Gallemore, Sonny Naple, Lee Burgess, Jan Milligan, Ron Spratt, and Craig Welling.

“In hopes of full recovery, we turn to evening meals that have taken on an almost mystical meaning. The dining table is wardroom style seating for 12 with all meals prepared by the very best in their respective culinary specialties (e.g., multi-layered lasagna, spicy chili, creative salads, homemade soups, assorted desserts, fresh breads, and so much more). Of course, no meal is complete without the healthiest beverages of choice which, of course, means ample servings of wine, beer and other medicinal options. Saturday evening brings the weekend to a crescendo of excess. Imagine a one pound freshly broiled Scituate lobster, one inch thick beef tenderloin, large baked potato with sour cream, chives and butter, marinated steamed asparagus.....enough said, as this is only the beginning of an evening taking us into the wee hours of the night. As an added feature, we also have a ‘wardroom’ movie that takes us into battle ‘in the air, on land and sea.’

“It is important to point out, that we are so much more than just food, drink and merriment. We are year by year, keeping the true spirit of fellowship and lifelong

friendships that only the Class of '71 can fully appreciate and value. Duces Virum, Ron." I missed a good one this year! So, it's "next year" for me! I so thoroughly enjoyed last year that I couldn't imagine missing this year; however, the fates would not allow, so I look to the next adventure with hopes of getting onto the ski slopes and snow shoeing to the bar!

Craig Welling added the following to the 36th Company note: "While the weekend started with frigid temperatures in the single digits it seemed to warm up as time moved on – maybe due to all the hot air from our rehash of old stories. As a sign of the times the discussion seemed to take a turn this year from fewer embellished accounts of our USNA days to announcements of grandchildren. In fact, no less than four of our group reported having had their first grandchildren during the last year with both Ron and Craig having grandchildren born on the same day (10 Dec 2013). Thanks to Jan for coordinating the weekend but also to our wives for various dishes that were consumed during the weekend. Also thanks to Jan and Mark for great breakfasts and to Ron, Don Craig and Sonny for a great finale surf and turf dinner. Duke - we noted your one trip to Lake Placid in 2013 and somehow refrained from too many embarrassing tales from your Navy days - but your absence may not be taken so lightly in future years. All in all - another great weekend!" I reckon the heat is on – I've got to make the trip next year!

Mike Trice sent along a note for Ron: "Your literature skills are well maintained, with only the slightest degree of hyperbole reminiscent of bygone eras. In the tradition of rewriting many of the '71 Lucky Bag comments, and a tip of the hat to 'Dirty Tennis Ball', I'm confident the Shipmate readership will understand! Still on my list of things to do, I look forward to next year. Regards, Mike Trice." Well, for sure we 36th Company mates need to gather additional members for this feast of food, fellowship and drink!

Next is a short note with a photo from **Paul (Jeff) Loustaunau**: "Duke, here's a photo of me with daughter, **Shelly Loustaunau Price '96**, and three of her four children at a USNA basketball game in March." Nice photo Paul! Perhaps one of your grandchildren will be a middie one day!



Caption: Paul Loustau with daughter Shelly '96 and grandchildren

Ron Route sent this note: “Duke – Here’s news of what’s been going on with Kip and me in past few months. We executed one more cross-country move, this time to Monterey in Sept/Oct. All went well and life at Naval Postgraduate School (NPS) is great! Hope all is good with you, your families and our classmates. Best wishes, Ron Route.” Congratulations to Ron and Kip as Ron takes the helm of NPS. The ceremony of investiture as President, NPS, was on April 23rd. I can’t imagine a nicer place to be for a few years! I hope to see Kip and Ron on a business trip to Monterey!

Just received this note from **Terry Foust**: “Hey Duke – great to chat last week! As I had mentioned, since this is probably the first time we’d chatted since the 40th, we moved to Virginia Beach two years ago in response to our daughter’s disability, the underlying symptoms of which had been brewing for several years and finally hit her hard when she became pregnant with our (now 2 1/2) granddaughter in early 2011. We live in the Red Mill area, which I now understand is walking distance to one of your wife’s dance studios! I still telecommute as contractor support the Office of Naval Research – wife Mary Ellen is almost a full-time care-giver between our daughter and her family, and her 90-year-old Mom, whom we had to move to a Virginia Beach retirement community in Hilltop. Daughter Claire and her husband and our two grandkids live about 3 miles from us so that’s more convenient than when they lived in Norfolk when we got here. Son Josh is with an NGO in DC, so we don’t get to see him as much as we did when we lived in Fairfax.

“I have been greatly blessed to connect with 4th company-mates Ginny and **Mark Scharfe** who live nearby, and have been further blessed to gather with other 4th company buds at Kate and **Kevin Green’s** in Fairfax last summer – great fun! Looking to more of this! Hope we can grab coffee some time and relive those thrilling years! Take care and God Bless, Terry.” Thanks for the update! I look forward to the coffee – we can tell all sorts of tales from our days in the Pentagon! I’m buying!

Note for **Guy Snodgrass**: Did you see what your namesake, CDR Guy Snodgrass, wrote in “Keep a Weather Eye on the Horizon: A Navy Officer Retention Study,” which was published on the U.S. Naval Institute’s blog?

Too soon it’s time to close. Please keep our classmates and their families in your prayers for good health and safety in their travels. Our classmates in business and government leadership can use our thoughts and prayers, too. Life is precious and often too short. Love, give and share your blessings generously with others. Now is a good time for us to be actively shaping the future of our great nation. There is plenty of work remaining as we increase our wisdom! Time, tide and column due dates wait for no man!

Duces Virum, Duke

