

U.S. Naval Academy, Class of 1975, Shipmate Column – Jan-Feb 2015

President: **Steve Hubbard** (hubbs99@verizon.net)

Sec'y: **CAPT Larry Warrenfeltz, USN (Ret.)** (usna75scribe@hotmail.com)

Web Page: <http://1975.usnaclases.com>

Dear 'mates, Happy 2015, '75! Lots to cover as we begin our 40th year since graduation. Let's start with this important information about the big 40th reunion from chairman **Mike Lord**.

Planning is underway for the Class of 1975 40th reunion. As good as the 35th was, this promises to be even better. The reunion will take place in October, beginning with a golf outing on Thursday, October 1 at Renditions Golf Course (which features replicas of holes from major championship venues), and continue with an informal gathering on Friday evening, October 2, before ending with a tailgater in the N* room at the stadium and a football game versus Air Force on October 3.

Those of you who attended the 35th reunion will remember the hugely popular N* room, with its many comforts and amenities. PLEASE NOTE: Just as with the 35th reunion, to access the N* room you will need a game ticket because the room is located inside the stadium. Given that we're playing Air Force, you can count on the game selling out. We will let you know when tickets go on sale. When they do, make sure you don't delay making your purchases. We don't want classmates missing out on what promises to be an outstanding tailgater because they failed to purchase a ticket for the game.

A planning committee has been organized, with a number of veterans returning from the 35th. Volunteers include **Alex Plechash, Bill Ferris, Bill Konrad, Chris Cikanovich, DC Ray, Gary Ingold, Jay Donnelly, Johnny Johnson, Larry Weckbaugh, Mark Harper** (all the way from Vienna), **Mark Satorius** and **Mike Lake**. The class has also entered into an agreement with Valerie Gerheiser, our planner who navigated us through our successful 35th reunion.

A contract has been signed with the Annapolis DoubleTree to serve as our headquarters hotel, a first class facility 3 miles from the Academy and downtown Annapolis, and a short ride on the shuttle buses that will be provided.

To start booking rooms, you can go to DoubleTree's special web address for the Class of 1975: http://doubletree.hilton.com/en/dt/groups/personalized/A/ANPDTDT-U75-20150930/index.jhtml?WT.mc_id=POG. Our Group Name is USNA Class of 1975. Group Code is U75. The rates are available during the period 30 September 2015-05 October 2015. The hotel address is 210 Holiday Court, Annapolis, Maryland 21401. Hotel phone number is 410-224-3150 or 800-222-8733. Rooms are limited so don't delay.

Mark your calendars now, and stay tuned for more information as plans get firmed up and we get closer to October. And please help us get the word out by passing this information on to all classmates you're in touch with, to ensure the widest distribution. More to follow. Beat Air Force!!!

We in Pensacola are taking full advantage of **Butch Hansen's** leadership skills. In addition to a second year as the president of our USNAAA Chapter, Butch has agreed to serve as the president of the Pensacola Veterans' Memorial Park Foundation. Taking a break from responsibilities in the Florida Panhandle, Butch and his wife Lee (also a retired Navy Captain) hiked the Grand Canyon rim-to-rim late in the summer of 2014.

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<photo 75#1: “Lee and Butch in the Grand Canyon”>

We got nice messages from a couple of our regular reporters—**Carl Klee** and **Tom Kelley**. Carl can go first.

“Navy’s Homecoming inspired us, Lilia and **Carl Klee**, to make the 6-hour trek from coastal North Carolina to Annapolis for an eventful weekend. Navy soundly defeated San Jose State in an exciting game in perfect weather. It was delightful to see Nancy and **Steve Laabs** a week after their wedding. Classmates thanked them for masterfully taking over the ’75 tailgater and acknowledged **Steve Curlee** for an outstanding job during his many seasons at the helm. This year, Curls relaxed at the tailgater along with 6th Company, which showed up in force. 6th Company classmates played golf in Frederick the day before with **Brian DiAntonio**. As luck would have it, we had traveled to Annapolis the weekend before to attend Nancy and Steve’s wedding in the Chapel. A beautiful bride walked down the aisle to join her handsome groom surrounded by family, friends, and classmates. The wonderful reception felt like a mini-reunion and offered an opportunity to catch up with more than 20 classmates. A funny story: When we first arrived at the reception, I talked to a gentleman with a beard but didn’t catch his name. Twenty minutes later, we were both at the bar getting a drink. I asked him if he had gone to the Academy. Lt Col USMC (Ret.) **Tom Dempsy** replied, “I’m your fricking classmate!” I told Demps his beard and longer hair threw me for a loop. Next year at our 40th Class Reunion, I’ll be sure to take a closer look at friendly faces with beards.”



<photo 75#2: “**Bob “Willy” Williams, Larry Hicks, Jack McCorkle, Fred Graff, Gary Reed, Kim “Smitty” Loll, and Carl”>**

And we’ll let Tom Kelley wrap up this issue with a 25th Company update.

After 30 years in the Navy and then six years with Johns Hopkins Applied Physics Lab, **Chuck Louie** retired completely in August 2010. These days, Chuck and Angela, his dear wife of almost 40 years, spend much of their spare time traveling on many continents, enjoying to the fullest the many cultures, cuisines, wines and languages all over the world. If you care to share a travel note, please feel free to do so at cllouie@alum.mit.edu. Chuck will be delighted to hear from you.



Ray Martin began his career as a submariner (attack submarines), stationed at the Naval Submarine Base in New London. Ray left the Navy in 1980 and started his civilian career at the Millstone Nuclear Power Station in Waterford, CT, where he held various positions (mostly in operations). He retired in 2010, after

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30 years. Currently, Ray is providing consulting services for a variety of nuclear power plants. Ray and his wife, Sandy, live in Gales Ferry, CT. They have been together for 44 years. Ray and Sandy have three sons and have been blessed with four grandchildren. Both Ray and Sandy are cancer survivors. E-mail: rfmartin44@hotmail.com.

<photo 75#3: “Martins and their grands”>

Denis Powers was an F-14 pilot and Topgun graduate. He left the Navy in 1982 to work for a defense contractor, now Northrop Grumman, as a Program Manager working fighter radar systems (mostly for the U.S. Air Force). Since 2002 Denis has held a GS-15 position with the federal government, working on the staff of Asst SECAF, Acquisition. When not working he's busy section-hiking the Appalachian Trail, approaching the 1,000 mile mark. Denis still loves his music live, riding his Harley, and playing a little golf. He and his June Week bride, Karen, have been married for 39 years and live in an historic home in downtown Annapolis. E-mail: dpowers41@comcast.net.

<photo 74#4: “Denis on the Appalachian Trail”>

Now, without further deliberation, make your reservations for the 40th Reunion of the Flower Children of the Brigade! 75 Sir! Larry

