

*U.S. Naval Academy, Class of 1975, Shipmate Column
May - June 2015*

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Dear 'mates, The great 40th Reunion is (even more) rapidly approaching! Our headquarters hotel is the Annapolis DoubleTree, but the block of rooms reserved at our special rate has undoubtedly been filled by the time you are reading this. You can still try to get in there at their regular rate, or you can try a nearby hotel. The Hilton Garden Inn, Courtyard by Marriott, Holiday Inn Express, Best Western, Hampton Inn, and Residence Inn are all in the area. If you are interested in renting an Annapolis-area house for the reunion, try Lauren McCarthy at 858-952-9803.

We will gather in Annapolis for the Air Force game on Saturday, 3 October. Class meetings, Memorial Service, and Ice-breaker Dinner will be on Friday the 2nd. Golf and Mike's Crab House are on Thursday. Important note: Tailgater will be in the N* Room inside Navy-Marine Corps Memorial Stadium, so you WILL need game tickets. The committee is doing their best to keep costs reasonable—but hey, news flash—Annapolis during Navy football season is expensive. This will certainly be the biggest and best reunion our class ever hosts. Can't wait to see all of you! Check the USNA '75 Facebook page or the web page for the latest gouge. Look there for reservation information and game ticket gouge around 1 May.

Calling all authors! We are going to set up a Flower Child Book-signing event at the DoubleTree before the Ice-Breaker dinner on Friday, 2 October. Shoot me an email if you'd like to participate. **Erwin Wunderlich, Jim Tenuto, Pat Sloan, Rick Gribble**, and yours truly are all published authors ... and I am sure there are others in the class as well. Bring books to Annapolis and share your creations with your classmates!

<photo #1: "Marc addresses the Capstone seminar">



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<photo #2: "Capstone facilitators">



Marc Seidband has had the privilege and pleasure of serving as both a facilitator and guest speaker for the first class midshipmen Capstone Ethics Seminar Series for the last eleven years. Here's Marc's report on the 2014 event.

"We have had a number of active and retired senior officers from our class participate in this program since its inception in the late nineties, but October 15th was the first time that the seminar was sponsored by the Class of '75. Mandatory for all first class midshipmen, the seminar is an all-day event consisting of six tables, each supported by a senior/retired officer facilitator and six midshipmen. The seminar is the culmination of the USNA ethics curriculum and is designed to put the firsties into moral/ethical decision-making situations that they can expect to face as junior officers. As you can well imagine, it is an awful lot of fun. Joining me and serving as table facilitators were **Tom Gray, Bill Etsweiler, Mike Lord, and Steve Hubbard**. I also invited RDML Deb Loewer, USN (ret.) to participate with our class. She was the first woman to command a Navy ship (USS MOUNT BAKER and USS CAMDEN) and was in charge of the White House Situation Room during the events of Sept 11, 2001. It was an honor to spend so much time with these midshipmen and witness their thought processes and decisions as leaders of character. Our future Navy and Marine Corps could not be in more capable hands."

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Dick Arnold and other ‘mates from the SOCAL area plan to mark the 40th anniversary of the Flower Children hitting the fleet on 4 June 2015 with a golf outing and dinner. **Craig Solem** and **Rick Lindsay** coordinated the golf and **Jim Tenuto** helped Dick and Jeanette with the evening social. The event should take place about the time this issue hits your in box. If you are in San Diego, give Dick a call.

<photo #3: “Bob Davis—Je Suis Charlie”>

Terrie and **Bob Davis** happened to be in Paris one week after the *Charlie Hebdo* massacre in January and decided to pay their respects by visiting the makeshift shrine that had appeared at the street corner. The photo is of Bob laying a Naval Academy pen at the shrine, joining the thousands of other pens symbolizing a commitment to freedom of speech. Bob wrote, “This is what our sailors put their lives on the line for, as we did in our day; this and a hundred other freedoms that are lacking in so many parts of the world. God bless America and those fighting to keep us safe.”



<photo #4: “Bride and groom”>



<photo #5: “In the Supe’s garden”>

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Nancy (Burd) and Steve Laabs were married at the USNA Chapel on 18 October 2014. “We had a wonderful day and were blessed to have a number of our classmates in attendance to help us celebrate the Big Day.” Twenty-one in all, plus one from the class of '69, three from '03, and one each from '04 and '05. In the photo below, you'll find **Steve Curlee, Mark Milliken, Kurt Huff, Kevin Miller, Dave Gray, Phil Carlson, Dan Roepke, Steve Stanley, Chip Stratmann, Bill Shannon, Steve Laabs, Nancy Laabs, Dick Arnold, Carl Klee, D.C. Ray, Tom Dempsey, Jack McCorkle, Larry Wolf, Chris Moschella, Rick Snyder, Chris Cikanovich, and Steven Hubbard.**

75 Sir! Larry

<photo #6: “75 at the Laabs wedding”>

