

U.S. NAVAL ACADEMY, CLASS OF 1975, SHIPMATE COLUMN

MAY 2017

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Dear 'mates: *"When I get older, losing my hair, many years from now ... Will you still need me, will you still feed me, when I'm 64?"* NAPSters and many others got a head start, but for those Flower Children who were born in 1953, this is our Beatles year. When Paul McCartney wrote that song (at age 16!), he was imagining really, really old people in the far distant future. I'm sure that Sir Paul agrees with me now—that 64 is the prime of life!

We received a very nice note from **Bruce Gearey '78**:

"I just got *Shipmate* and read about the tragic news of **Bob Hyer's** passing. Bob was one of my plebe summer squad leaders. He had a reputation as being tough and he was. But, he had our utmost respect. Towards the end of plebe summer, he made a bet with three of us in the squad on the outcome of the Baltimore Oriole baseball game we went to late that summer. The bet was for a case of beer at the end of plebe year. We won the bet. In May, right before you graduated, he paid off the bet. He smuggled the three of us out of the yard in the trunk of his car and fed us some beers at a hotel room. A few years later, my classmate **Larry Easton** and I returned the favor and bought him some drinks in Coronado while we were SWOS students. Bob will be missed by many of us in 30th Company and we will be raising a glass to 'Grote.'"

<photo 75#1: "Gary Reed skis the Matterhorn">



<photo 75#2: "Gary and Skip in Torino">

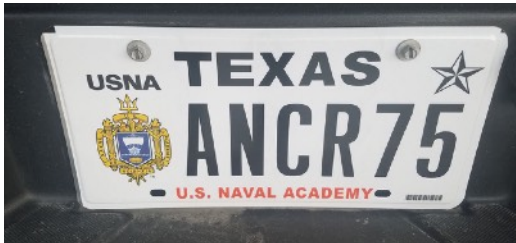
Since **Gary Reed** lost his wife Michelle shortly after our 40th reunion, he has tried to keep busy. **Skip Lind** tried to help by inviting him to the Lind home in Parella Italia. Fortunately, Gary took Skip up on the offer. He went to Europe for ten days and Skip and Gary skied at Courmayeur, Matterhorn/Cervino, and Monte Rosa. Skip reports that Gary is a very good skier! Gary arranged a hotel for them in Zermatt for two nights. It was a lot of fun—except when they tried to leave. The mountain was closed to Italy due to high winds, so they had to shlep their ski gear on the train around through Milan and then back to Parella. After digging the car out of the snow, they had a day to visit some sights in Torino. Thanks to Skip for the great pictures!

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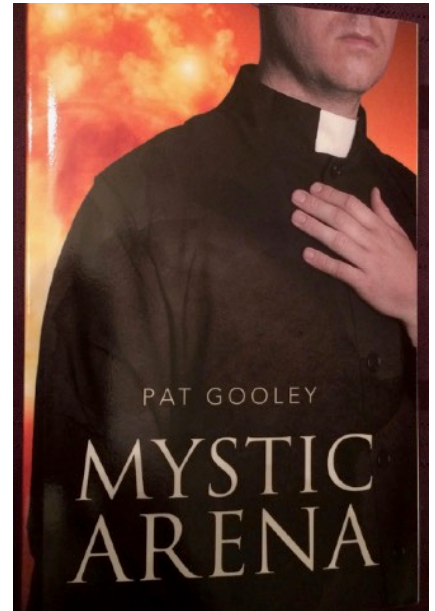
Pat Gooley just had his first novel published. Set in the indefinite future, *Mystic Arena* is a story about Father Robert Breslin, a Redemptorist missionary recalled to Rome from Africa when he discovers that he can see and interact with things happening continents away. With the help of three friends, Fr. Robert must take on a growing Muslim terrorist caliphate that is trying to take over the African continent. The book is available from Amazon, Barnes & Noble, and also for your Kindle.

<photo 75#3: "Pat Gooley's just published novel">



Our anchorman extraordinaire, **Mark Lunny**, has the perfect Texas license plate.

<photo 75#4: "Anchorman!">



Speaking of Mark, Mary and **Dave Gray** saw him in Jacksonville at last year's victory over Notre Dame. They also saw **JJ Cuff** and Nancy and **Steve Laabs**. The Grays spent the great weekend with Denise and **Tom Cihlar**.

<photo 75#5: Cihlars and Grays at the Beat Notre Dame Pep Rally">

Although it puts some pressure on those of us who serve as class scribes, I am very glad USNAAA persists in publishing *Shipmate* eight times each year.

As I understand, we put out more issues of our alumni magazine than any other college or university in the country. Navy grads of all classes can be proud of the high quality magazine that we get to enjoy so often. I now yield the page to my distinguished colleague from the great class of 1976.

'75 Sir! Larry