

## U.S. Naval Academy, Class of 1975, Shipmate Column SEPTEMBER 2022

75 75 75 75 75 75 75 75 75 75

President: **Chris Cikanovich**

Sec'y: **CAPT Larry Warrenfeltz, USN (Ret.)**

5732 Tamarack Drive, Pace FL 32571

Web Page: <http://1975.usnaclasses.net>

([chicke975@gmail.com](mailto:chicke975@gmail.com))

([usna75scribe@hotmail.com](mailto:usna75scribe@hotmail.com))

850-525-8727

Dear 'mates, Our Links in the Chain have completed plebe year! Even armed with our personal encouragement and some valuable tips from our Herndon conqueror **Dr. Mike Maynard**, it took '25 more than 3.5 hours to complete the "No Mo' Plebes" ceremony. The newly-minted Youngsters have finished summer training and are now back in Mother Bancroft for a new year of 3/C Midshipman experience.

**Steve Shegrud** and his wife Katherine are enjoying semi-retirement in the U.S. Virgin Islands. On 30 May Steve completed the St. John Beach-to-Beach Power Swim for the first time, swimming the Short Course (one mile). He was one of 361 swimmers on the course, which was about 100 yards offshore. Of note, a 15-year old named Eddie Soltis of Annapolis MD, (a member of the Naval Academy Aquatic Club) came in first in the Long Course (3.5 miles). Steve plans to do this event as many years as he can. Having been a runner and skater at Navy, distance swimming is now enjoyable and easier on the joints. The Shegruds have four grandkids so far. Steve is currently with the FEMA Reserves and deploys ~60 days each fall to wherever they are needed. As we all are, he was saddened to hear that **Dan Nelson** (flight school buddy) and **Norm White** (Navy Hockey line mate) recently passed.

**Tony Barbieri** reported on the 7th Annual "Hacking for Harden" golf fundraiser.

"If you'll remember, **Tim Harden** and family started a memorial fund in the name of their son, Josh, who passed at 32 years of age after a (very) brief bout with cancer. Josh was a certified professional caddy working at the Legacy Golf Resort in Phoenix. One of his true joys was getting children and young adults involved in golf. In recognizing Josh's devotion to the sport, the Hardens, in concert with the Legacy Golf Resort, sponsor a golf weekend — Hacking for Harden — each year. The proceeds go to First Tee of Phoenix. This year's event was conducted on 4 June and was another booming success, despite a "mild" post-COVID slowing (Company mate **Bill Neill** should have headed to Phoenix instead of staring at the beaches of Normandy while infected. Denise and **Bob Meissner** fared better). Besides a great "shotgun start" (25+ foursomes), the course included best-ball events for longest ball and "beat the pros."

In the photo, '75 and 20th Company were represented by me (as a supernumerary), **Bill Squires** (as yet another supernumerary), **Dick Shaw**, **Tim Harden**, **Dave Niedermaier**, **Greg Hoffman**, AND a special guest

## U.S. Naval Academy, Class of 1975, Shipmate Column SEPTEMBER 2022

supernumerary appearance by **Dean Lahren**! Of special note — this was Deano's first real journey in several years and it marked another success milestone in his march against cancer ... a **MAJOR BZ** there!

Mary Ellen Hoffman, Nancy Niedermaier and Deano's son Brett rounded out 20th Company's support. Not to be outdone, the young 'uns and Alumni, including Tim's sons, Matt ('99), Andy, and son-in-law Oscar, plus, hundreds of well-wishers and supporters sallied forth. Daughter Megan was the main coordinator and admin wizard — she, Laurie, and Linda were the unsung heroes (along with the grand-kids that rode herd on the grandmothers). **John "Boomer" Stufflebeam** supported in absentia by sponsoring a hole. (Thanks, Boomer)! We hope to see more of "us" on 3 June 2023 ... actually we're looking at a mini-reunion before/after H4H-8 ... Hope more Classmates can play!"



Classmates enjoying refreshments at the Hacking for Harden golf tournament

**Gary Jones** reported on First Company's two-plus week excursion to Italy. Gary says it was a blast, full of great times, delicious food, and a deep appreciation for each other...and how lucky we all are. This was just the latest trip/adventure/golf outing many members of Fun One have undertaken over the years. They are able to do these get-togethers as their wives are very, very accommodating, understanding, and get along with each other. Plus, they feint laughing at the same stories they have been embellishing over the years. Here is Gary's after-action report:

## U.S. Naval Academy, Class of 1975, Shipmate Column SEPTEMBER 2022

“After multiple postponements due to COVID, several company mates of USNA ’75 First Company (and their lovely ladies) finally assembled for an Italian adventure in May. Jenny and **Bob Phillips** orchestrated arrangements for all to experience two-plus weeks in Northern Italy. (I’m being generous to Bob as Jenny did 99% of the planning.) Participants in the adventure included Sherry and **Doug Ayars**, Tina and **Mike McDermott**, Pat and **Jim Miller**, Liane and **Ron Nicol**, Dr. **Mike Maynard** and his fiancé Nicki, and Tammy and Gary Jones. While space (and memory) doesn’t permit a full accounting of all of the escapades and meals (with heaps of food), the major stop-offs were Rome (for most), Florence, a



week in a beautiful villa in Tuscany, Lake Como and finally Milan. Doug and Sherry also got in a visit to Venice. During our stay at the Tuscan villa, we explored numerous sights, vineyards, and small towns in the region. And yes, ate LOTS of pasta and enjoyed Tuscany’s delightful wines and stunning views. Day trips to Volterra, Siena, and San Gimignano, were included among our excursions. Two adventurous couples even undertook a four-hour tour of the Tuscan countryside on Vespas.

## U.S. Naval Academy, Class of 1975, Shipmate Column SEPTEMBER 2022

The family that managed the villa owns a nearby bakery, so breakfast and deserts were true delicacies. They prepared several dinners (more like feasts) during our villa stay. No one ever left the table hungry.

Over the course of the adventure, requisite sights included those in Rome, Michelangelo's statute of David in Florence, The Piazza del Campo in Siena where the Palio di Siena (a medieval horse race) is still conducted, and then in Milan Leonardo da Vinci's *The Last Supper* along with the Milan Cathedral just to highlight that the trip was not all food and drink.



In Lake Como, Tina McDermott persuaded several couples to follow her on a climb halfway up the Alps for some stunning views of the Lake and the surrounding slopes. There were moments during the ascent that several had Plebe Summer flashbacks to PEP and Heinz Lenz.

It was a fantastic trip, and worth the 2-year wait. Happy to report that everyone returned home safely and COVID-free. All were very appreciative of Jenny's thorough planning, patience, and encouragement during the wait.

**U.S. Naval Academy, Class of 1975, Shipmate Column**  
**SEPTEMBER 2022**

Well, that surely was an encouraging snapshot of some of the current activities of our class fifty years after we sailed on Youngster Cruise. Next month we will have a report and photos courtesy of **David Penman** on the *Fair Winds and Following Seas* party the Tidewater contingent threw for Jacalyn and **Craig Quigley**. '75 Sir! Larry