

U.S. Naval Academy, Class of 1975, Shipmate Column NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 2022

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Dear 'mates, On the morning of 9 November, many classmates were scheduled to visit the new Alumni Center to see how the construction is coming along. *[Hopefully, we'll have some photos for the next issue.]* **Tig Krekel**, who is very generously leading our Class of '75 support to the Alumni Center as one phase of our 50th Reunion project, arranged the tour. We will be prominently represented in the completed center. Become a plank owner and have your name on the wall with many of your friends from your youth.

Hats off to **Bob Guida** for volunteering to chair the 50th Reunion committee. One important decision has been made. Our 50th will be in Annapolis on the weekend of 25-26 October, 2025. That is USNA's Homecoming Weekend for 2025, so we are guaranteed a home football game. Naturally, the opponent is still to be determined. Even though holding 45+1 on an away game weekend was a great success for those who attended, the committee thought that was important to hold a more traditional **BIG 5-0**. So — before this slips your mind (none of us is getting younger) — pull out your smart phone and block 23-26 October 2025 for the 50th Reunion of the Flower Children of the Brigade.

**18th Company and ladies
on the dock**



18th Company held a mini-reunion at Ruth and **Dan Elins'** retirement home in Tellico Village nestled on the western edge of the Great Smoky Mountains of eastern Tennessee near Knoxville. More than half of the original starting company classmates who graduated were in attendance, along with their lovely ladies. Much rivalry ensued during water-related activities on Tellico Lake (boating,

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tubing, water skiing, and swimming) during the days. The evenings were for eating and drinking. One night they competed in the “Trivia” contest at the local Yacht Club. The rest of the club members invited NAVY to come back any time!

Attendees included **Bill Weyand**, Dawn Crowley, Diana and **Don Jensen**, **Deke Ahle**, Anne and **Larry Kloth**, Nan and **John Stufflebeem**, Dan Elins, Ruth Hasten, Charlyn Cassady, **Randy Avers**, Joy and **Bob Young**, Peggy and **Jim Bobenage**.



Since this is the November-December issue, it is time to name the winner of the 2020 Coveted Scribe's Award. *[Winner gets free beer when he visits us in Florida. Airfare not included.]* With two late submissions, **Gary Jones** came from behind to win the 2020 award. Here's Gary's fish story.

“Like so many planned events, the long awaited “USNA '75 First Company Fishing Adventure” finally occurred after a two-year COVID delay. We assembled at Lodge 88 on Esnagi Lake near Chapleau, Ontario, Canada on August 7.
Mike Meier



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Nice catch!

was the “host and commander” for the five-day event, having done the prep and logistic work. **Dan Murphy** was Mike’s XO, tasked with ensuring ops ran as planned. In addition to Mike and Dan, First Company participants (note I didn’t say fisherman) included **Jeff Bust**, **Mike Matthews**, **Mike McDermott**, **Ron Nicol**, **Rob Reed** and Gary Jones. Classmate **Mark Klett** was TAD’d to First Company for this event, and actually caught the biggest fish all week; a 42+”

Northern Pike. There was a total of 16 in the group, as several of Mike Meier’s/Ron’s/Dan’s neighbors in Naubinway, MI (in the Upper Peninsula) were recruited to join the adventure as freshwater fishing subject matter experts and safety advisors. The Naubinway “ringers” turned out to be a gracious (and captive) audience as tales of USNA ’75 were revived as if they happened yesterday...not 50 years ago!

Upon arrival at Lodge 88 by float plane, we were given a quick brief about the lake and a map with prime fishing spots. Fishing started slowly, albeit there were some great tales at dinner about “the one that got away.” With the services of an experienced guide beginning on the second day, production increased dramatically. When we put in for a shore lunch after the first morning with the guide, the group brought in 47 walleyes, with anything over 18” in length being released per rules of the lake. This catch/release protocol enabled numerous reports of huge 20+” walleyes (supposedly) caught and released. By the end of the week, a conservative estimate had the group at well over 110 walleyes



A good morning
on Lake Esnagi

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caught and kept, with many being frozen for consumption upon arrival home. At least that many were released. Several large Northern Pike were caught each day and all were released — our guide called them “trouble makers.” The guide and staff at Lodge 88 were gracious enough to thoroughly prep the appropriate number of walleyes for travel home with each of us, such that they were basically ready to place in the pan. Most of us caught more fish in a day on Esnagi Lake than we had caught in a lifetime elsewhere. The one constant throughout the trip was (as always) the special bond among Classmates and life-long friends...and embellished stories.”

Have a terrific holiday season, classmates. Remember to drop a Christmas present email to your Scribe. I’ve been a good boy this year!

75 Sir! Larry