

U.S. Naval Academy, Class of 1975, Shipmate Column JUNE 2023

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Donaldsons ashore in Antartica



Dear 'mates, Welcome to the fleet '23!
And congratulations to our link-in-the-chain class of '25 on completing Youngster year. *Tempus fugit.*

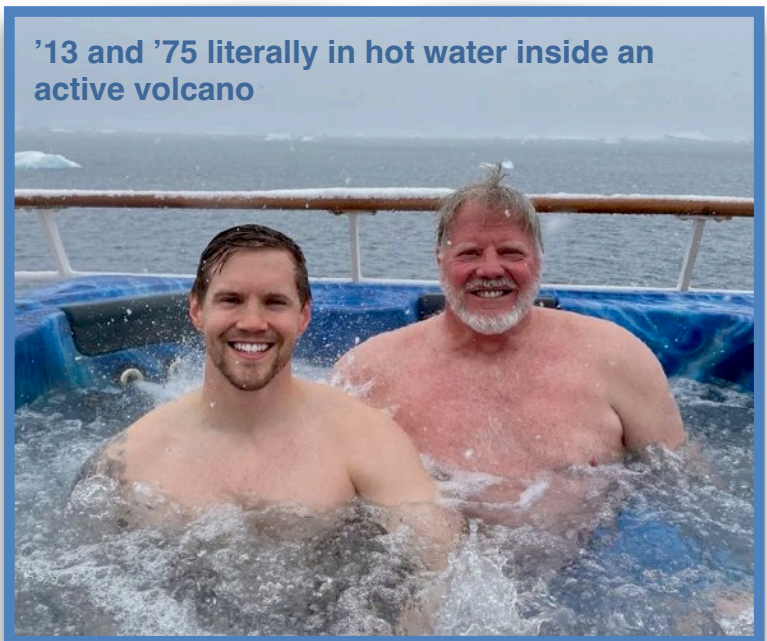
Tom Donaldson and his son **Alex Donaldson** ('13) made an Antarctic cruise this (Southern Hemisphere) summer. Tom's after-action report:

"This was my second trip to Antarctica, in my quest to cross the Antarctic Circle (and become a Blue Nose). In 2018, I went with our oldest son, Thomas. On that trip we got stuck in the Weddell Sea for five days, preventing the ship from getting to the West Coast and crossing the Circle. This time, we took a different cruise track (same Canadian-based company) and flew over the Drake Passage to meet the ship in King George Island. The ship spent time inside an active volcanic island called Deception Island, off the west coast of

Antarctica. Alex and I had the option of kayaking. It was kinda cool to be paddling with the warm water bubbling up to the surface. The whole cruise was filled with great experiences with whales, penguins and icebergs. Most importantly, it will be the **LAST TIME** I jump into freezing water for a free shot of vodka! I really recommend the experience to visit the 7th continent. As an aside, I met a dad on the cruise who's life had been saved by **Carl June's** CAR-T cell replacement procedure only 18 months ago.

Debbie and I are now in Greenville, SC where my great-great grandfather settled after the Civil War. Alex will get married in June in Santa Barbara, CA. The family will gather once again in July at Hospital Point to attend Deb's Father's funeral. (He was class of '52)."

'13 and '75 literally in hot water inside an active volcano



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Sue and **Zack Wilhoit** celebrated their 45th anniversary and his 70th birthday with a South Pacific cruise from Sydney, Australia to Tahiti in February-March. The cruise hit all the major islands in between—including Fiji, Samoa, Bora Bora and Moorea in French Polynesia. The Wilhoits and Cathy and **Marty McDonough** are planning a cruise in the Caribbean next winter. It will have to be shorter adventure than this year's since Zack is still working full time at his software company, E-Tech. While researching these cruises, Zack learned that Marty and Cathy were already on a cruise last February and were stopping in Key West. He let Diane and **Chris "Chick" Cikanovich** know and the four of them were able to meet for lunch in Key West.

During the COVID shut down. **Tom Kelley** tracked down nine of the 25th company "non-grads." One of them is **Mike Basehore**. Mike recently connected with **Paul Viscovich**. Here is Mike's story (in his words) and Paul's (also in his words).



Mike: I left USNA after Youngster year and somehow obtained a BS and MS from Penn State and a PhD from Virginia Tech. I went to work breaking, blowing up, and destroying things at Battelle Laboratories in Columbus, OH. I then headed west and attempted to increase the engineering knowledge of Mechanical Engineering students at the University of Denver. I came back east to Sikorsky Aircraft and, again, enjoyed breaking, blowing up, and destroying things while working on the Comanche helicopter program. I met and married Susan and settled down for a twenty-year stint at the FAA working in Aviation Safety. I retired from the Office of Accident Investigation and Prevention in 2013 and moved to Cape Cod. We travel the world during the cold months.

Paul: We still live in Weston, FL. It's a great place for friends to take an hour's break enroute to or from the Keys (we're in the phone book). I am working to eliminate the "semi" from my retirement status in favor of spending more time traveling. Since deadlines conflict with road trips, I quit writing my monthly columns for a local magazine. That allows more time for Christine and me to enjoy walking tours before we need "walkers." And though I can't quite quit sharing my many thoughts with a disinterested public, I now write only when it's convenient, including a political newsletter on Substack.com and short stories whenever the Muse pokes me. I also started leading a midweek Bible-study for church friends of a similar employment status. Their first encounter is the Book of Romans (sort of a Paul of Weston meets Paul of Tarsus.)

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Paul and Christine Viscovich with Susan and Mike Basehore



Scribe's note: Despite the circumstantial evidence (i.e., the St. Lucia speedo photo in the January Shipmate and the cruise pics in this column), you do NOT have to appear topless to get your picture in the '75 column. In fact, I praise Mike and Visco for keeping their shirts on in this example.

Dan "Rudy" Elins sent his annual St. Patrick's Day Rudy-Gram to update 18th Company on current news and contact information. **Bill Meyers'** funeral was planned for May in Delaware. A number of company mates were making plans to attend. And on a happy note, **Bill Weyand** and Dawn Crowley have found happiness, companionship, and comfort with each other after the deaths of their spouses.

Enjoy summer and we'll plan to meet here again in early August, OK? 75 Sir! Larry