

Shipmate Mar-Apr 2015
Duke Longworth
22 January 2015

Spring should be in the air when you receive this column. The “dark ages” are past our alma mater and the cold, white winter is giving way to warmth and flowers.

To save you some time here’s what I predicted for the 2014 Army-Navy game: “I’ve been watching the Army games this year and I think the Army team is looking better under the guidance of the new coach. However, my prediction is for another close game with a Navy WIN! So, now I’m on record! GO NAVY!” Well, Navy did win in a close game 17-10! GO NAVY! What a superb record-setting year for Coach Ken and the NAVY team!

Congratulations to those classmates who made it possible for ‘71 to win for the 4th year in a row the Class Challenge for donated Navy Football Bowl Game Tickets. In particular, we must recognize classmate, **Peter de Vos**, who personally made sure at the final moment that the class would not relinquish the lead. Bravo Zulu to Pete and to the many who donated this year. Many midshipmen and members of their armed forces were in attendance at the Navy-San Diego State Poinsettia Bowl in San Diego and cheered the team on to a 17-16 victory. What a close one that was! Navy defense ruled the field!

My first note is from **Bruce Gallemore**: “Hi Guys, Happy New Year! I hope everyone had a great holiday. Time to take the next planning step for Lake Placid. We have the Big House leased for 26 Feb-1 March. Let me know if your plans have changed and won’t be able to make it. Based on your responses so far, we will have 12 this year (assuming **Steve Joens** still has his better offer in the Caribbean with Kathy). There is plenty of space for sleeping bags and futons (also two couches). A couple guys usually want to stay at nearby B&B/motels, so there should be no issue with space and comfort. We will settle up the financial details on March 1st after all purchases have been made and damage reports have come in. I plan to go up early and do the food shopping, test the Jacuzzi, etc. Should be fun! Bruce.” The Jacuzzi could be a trouble spot this year!

Sonny Naple followed with this note: “Dear Classmates, Barb and I just returned from a day of cross country skiing at Garnet Hill Lodge in the Adirondacks. The snow was excellent; the sun was shining and the air crisp and clean. It was a beautiful day in a beautiful part of the world. I’m trying to get you psyched for Lake Placid. And don’t forget: the meals taste better, the fires feel warmer, and the camaraderie more jovial after a day skiing or snowshoeing. We have a wide selection of outdoor adventures to choose from this year, including a new ‘group snowshoe’ trek. I am leaning towards Mt

Van Hovenberg for cross country skiing on Friday, unless the downhill conditions at Whiteface are excellent. See you soon! Sonny.” I can vouch for Sonny that all is better at Lake Placid in the winter! It is a winter wonderland! Relaxing breakfasts followed by an afternoon in the snow. Then, the dinner feast with dark beer and red wine! Everything is better!

Bruce Gallemore followed up with this: “I like Mt Van Hovenberg and always enjoy the snowshoeing. It’s a good way to take in the natural beauty of the Adirondacks. But, no downhill skiing for me.” Wisdom comes with age; however, I still enjoy downhill skiing – faster is usually more exhilarating!

Garry Holmstrom cast his vote: “Sonny, count me in for downhill and snowshoe. At my age it doesn't matter where I fall! Life is great.”

Jan Milligan’s vote: “Downhill, snowshoe, crampon, nap - all are fine with me!”

Robbie Roberson had a different view: “Having two artificial hips and one artificial knee, I am a walker/snowshoer.”

Regretfully, work is interfering with my Lake Placid trip again this year! I’ll be there in spirit and I remain hopeful there will be many more 36th Company annual retreats to the winter wonderland!

Here’s a nice note from **Ron Spratt**: “Anne and I just returned from about 3 weeks in California where we celebrated my birthday, saw Allison's show ‘White Christmas’, had a terrific Christmas in Los Angeles with all the kids, and then drove from San Diego to LA again to be there when Andrea gave birth to our second granddaughter, Savannah Davis Williams, on Dec 31 at 3:37 am weighing 7.3 pounds and 20 inches long. It was wonderful to hear the pediatrician say Savannah was healthy and would grow into her large hands and feet. 2014 was a great year and truly eventful for Ryan and Andrea with both a wedding celebration and the birth of their first child.” Congratulations to the old salt! May you have many more grandchildren!

Garry Holmstrom sent this short note: “**Clive Graham, Stew Fisher** and I met in Santa Monica for lunch in January. Wives Dori Graham, Yolanda Fisher and Cathy Holmstrom provided adult supervision during several hours of embellished sea stories. Fortunately, Mel Gibson was not present for this event. Clive and Garry concurred with Stew’s recommendation that the 36th CO-mates consider a future rendezvous in San Diego, Long Beach, Clive’s home town, or Camarillo area, where Stew resides.” Perhaps a summer rendezvous in Southern CA, Garry? I must get to Lake Placid again many more times! Here’s a compromise – summer in SoCal, winter at Lake Placid! That’s my vote!



CAPTION: Clive Graham, Garry Holmstrom, and Stew Fisher in Santa Monica



CAPTION: Clive, Garry, and Stew with wives!

Here's a note with a request from **Fred Klein** (second time in the column):
"Duke, please re-run my request for the Military Hero's Golf Tournament." Here goes:

"My purpose for writing is to highlight the Low Country Foundation for Wounded Military Heroes Fifth Annual Golf Tournament, May 18, 2015 at the Hampton Hall Club, Bluffton, SC. Annually we invite Purple Heart recipients (10 active duty and 10 medically retired) from the Iraq and Afghanistan conflicts, to be our guests. It's our way of thanking them for their service and sacrifice. Nothing is expected of them except to enjoy the day. For those who wish to play golf, they may do so. For those who have never played golf, but would like to try, golf clubs and balls are loaned to them and they receive a free golf lesson before the tournament begins. For those who would like to attend, but not play golf, there are other activities (work-out, swimming, etc.) available. I

request our classmates contact me to identify interested Purple Heart recipients who would like to attend. I will gladly take any information to follow up and coordinate any chain of command needs, as required. I can answer any questions. All the best, Fred Klein, navgoat71@gmail.com.” Wow, this sounds like a superb opportunity for several deserving warriors! Please take the time to get the word out!

Mike Cohen sent the following note: “I’m saddened to report that **Ken Embery** passed away December 30th following complications from heart surgery. Ken started as a member of the 9th company and was a standout on the 150 football team. He was with us until second class year. A celebration of life service was held on 18 January in Springfield, Oregon. Ken was in 25th Company-mate of mine. Mike Cohen.” Ken received his undergraduate and graduate degrees from the University of Washington, did doctoral work at the University of Oregon. He was passionate about writing and was a published author and poet.

As a follow-up to the Nov-Dec *Shipmate* in which it was noted that our classmate **Michael John Hoert**, passed away, his funeral was at Arlington National Cemetery Friday, February 13.

Too soon it’s time to close. Please keep our classmates and their families in your prayers for good health and safety in their travels. Our classmates in business and government leadership continue to need our thoughts and prayers, too. Life is precious and too short – seems we too often are reminded of life’s brevity. Love, give and share your blessings generously with others – we are richly blessed – may be richly bless others. Give thanks for your many blessings, especially for the gift of citizenship in our great nation. Now is a good time for us to be actively shaping the future of our great nation. There is plenty of work remaining as we increase our wisdom! Time, tide and column due dates wait for no man!

Duces Virum, Duke