

Shipmate May-June 2016
Duke Longworth
20 April 2016

Spring is here! The Yard is decked out in full bloom with lots of green throughout. You know by now my favorite park of the Yard during this season is Stribling Walk. Never an evening passed that I didn't enjoy walking along Stribling as I transited from Hubbard Hall to Mother B after a rigorous crew practice.

Spring also brings the p-rades with many visitors. The years I was in 36th Company were the best for the p-rades as we were last on and last off with a great view of the visiting crowds. I hope your Spring is full of fond memories of our halcyon times at Navy! Spring gives us hope for the future with the greening of the trees, lawns, and fields. So, on to the news!

First up is **Tom Laboon**: "Good morning Duke. Attached is picture (L to R) of Dianne and **Bob Parsons**, Sherri and **Bob Chimenti** and Marie and me at a small reunion in Jupiter, FL last month. We were making plans for the Navy/ Notre Dame game in Jacksonville and enjoying the warm Florida sunshine! Hope all is well. Regards, Tom." Tom followed up with this email: "Duke, Chimenti's hosted Marie and me in Memphis for the Navy-Memphis game last year. We sat in box full of Memphis fans that was empty by the fourth quarter, except for us believers!!! Tom." Thank for the superb photos and update! The Navy-Notre Dame game should be fun. If I don't see Bob Chimenti at our reunion this fall, please give him my best regards. We went to A-7 weapons training together in Yuma, AZ many moons ago! Ask Bob about the hurricane that delayed our training – it surely added to the fun!



CAPTION: Diane and Bob Parsons, Sherri and Bob Chimenti, Marie and Tom Laboon



CAPTION: Bob and Sherri Chimenti, Tom and Marie Laboon at the Navy-Memphis game

Next up is **Don Disney** with this nice note: “Phil Parker (12th Co.) celebrated his retirement from an Orbital contract at NASA Goddard on Sunday 6 March 2016. Attending were many friends, family, and his fiancée, Mary Pickett, from Billings, MT. Phil was a nuclear submariner when on active duty and then went on to support NASA in ‘minor’ projects like the Hubble and James Webb Space Telescopes, earth research platforms, etc. What he most wants to celebrate is his three kids and four grandchildren as well as his ability to always tickle a trout or a small mouth bass to ‘take the fly.’ We suspect he'll also celebrate his new, financially limited, freedom and his life with his new (childhood sweetheart) bride.” Sounds like a superb start to the next phase of an exciting life! All the very best to you, Phil!



CAPTION: Lin and Don Disney, Phil Parker, and Mary Pickett at Phil's Retirement Lunch in Ellicott City, MD

Next is a note from **John Massie**: “Duke, Company coming this week, so Linda and I are cleaning house - during which operation I came across the November/December issue of Shipmate. It was overlooked in the tidal wave of holiday mail. As the Secretary for our Southern Arizona Chapter, I have a very good feel and appreciation for the challenge you face in meeting deadlines. We're very fortunate as a class to have you and **Perry Martini** on watch. Thanks, classmate!” I appreciate the kind words, John. This is a labor of love!

Okay, you knew this was coming – the Lake Placid update following the 36th Company annual reunion at Lake Placid. This note is from **Jan Milligan**: “Hey guys, what a great weekend! I hope everyone made it home safely. I made it back home on time this year, and am coming back down to earth with a lovely bottle of \$6.00 Pinot Noir and a chicken sandwich. So pedestrian! Thanks especially to **Bruce Gallemore** for all the coordination putting this together; to **Craig Welling** and **Don Beaudette** for the great Saturday night dinner of steak and lobster; and to Anne Spratt who feeds us so well from a distance. But, especially to **Mike Trice** for the wine and wine education! Mike, you go above and beyond every time. I'll be sending a link to drop box shortly with all the pictures. I photo-shopped out all the umbrella drinks and Hillary campaign signs. Let me know if you have any problems. Until next year, Jan.” Thank you for the nice summary, Jan.

As pledged last fall, I did attend the 36th Company Fraternal Order of the Disorder (FOD) for our annual “Come-Around” at Lake Placid. This year’s attendees were as planned, but without **Ron Spratt**: **Jim Barron**, **Don Beaudette**, **Lee Burgess**, **Bruce Gallemore**, **Garry Holmstrom**, **Mark Horgan**, **Jan Milligan**, **Sonny Naple**, **Robbie Roberson**, **Mike Trice**, **Craig Welling** and your humble scribe. The trek there was made easier in some ways with the mild weather; however, a nor’easter blew through the evening prior to the travel day, so some of us had to change travel plans. As noted in the March-April column, Ron Spratt was unable to attend in person; however, with the blessings of technology we were able to skype Ron into our festivities both Friday and Saturday evening as we were feasting. It was a delight conversing with the “Old Salt” as we imbibed the fine wine provided by Mike “Arma” Trice and savored the lobster tails and beef tenderloin! The dry winter resulted in no snow activities for the august gathering. Fortunately, the cold persisted sufficiently such that we could enjoy watching the dog sled on Mirror Lake as we enjoyed the excellence of the adjacent brew pubs. Breakfast and dinner conversation was mostly about what we accomplished the prior year and what we look forward to doing this coming year. Two of our mates are retiring from current employment and fully expect to be engaged in “retirement” activities. All those who assemble agreed to meet again next year for the FOD “Come-Around” as we hope and pray for snow on the slopes.



Left to right:

It is my sad duty to pass to you the much belated news of the death of **Thomas Harold (Hal) Holley** who passed away several years ago. Hal was a 1967 graduate of Greenville, TX High School and attended USNA for two years. After leaving Annapolis he attended and graduated from the University of Texas at Arlington with a B.S. in Mechanical Engineering. Hal died June 22, 2003 in Dallas, Texas after a valiant battle against throat cancer.

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. For everything there is a season and a purpose. Life is precious and too short –love passionately, give and share your blessings generously with others – we are richly blessed – may we richly bless others. Give thanks for your many blessings, especially for the gift of citizenship in our great nation. Now is the 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