

Shipmate Membership & Services Fall 2014
Duke Longworth
28 June 2014

June and July always bring reminders of what we started several decades ago. June 9th - the happy day when Annapolis was truly in our "rear view mirror" - so, to those who tossed their hats in the air on that sunny day 43 years ago here's a reminder that we have much to be thankful for these four plus decades later, but mostly the fact that we are still one united in fellowship and classmate camaraderie and do continue to live by our class motto: DUCES VIRUM! Then there is June 28th – when we started this process and were all wondering if we'd make it through the day! On with the column!

How's this for a 47th anniversary of our taking the oath of office event? Our own **Lt Gen John Sattler, USMC (Ret)** was the military guest of honor at the Inaugural Warrior's Gala on Saturday, June 28th. The gala was held at the Omni Shoreham Hotel in Washington, DC. The gala supports "K9s for Warriors". I was traveling that day; otherwise, that would have been a great place to be! My money is on John doing a masterful job on his comments! Thank you, John, for your continued service to our great nation!

First is a nice note from **Tom Bowman**: "CDR **Jim Reasoner**, USN Ret, left his 30 acre estate in Arkansas to visit his daughter, Sarah, a Lockheed Martin Electrical Engineer at Cape Canaveral. We had exchanged a few emails over the years. They subsequently joined Becky & me at Coconuts for a meal. Our home is on the Beach and they joined us there the next day. During our last visit, Jim and I went to Patrick AFB Marina that is seven miles away so I could show-off my spa-boat. During that time, we evaluated our 4 years in 16th & 34th companies and our time on the INDEPENDENCE (CV-62). I flew the VA-12 A-7E and he flew the VF-102 Phantoms. During our Med cruise, our classmate Brian Hurst in VF-102 was in a fatal F-4 ramp strike in May 1977.

"We discussed the life that followed those Navy days. Our memories are fading but a few names and liberty events were recalled. My wife, Becky, & Jim's daughter, Sarah, were surprised that we managed to survive USNA and aviation. It was just dumb luck. 'Some people claim that there is a woman to blame but...' Tom." Those were some interesting days. Nice to be a battalion mate with Tom, Jim and Brian. We did well to make it through flight training! Here's a photo of Tom and Jim.



Caption: (L-R) Tom Bowman and Jim Reasoner

Pat Doyle sent the following after action report: "San Diego Tiger Weekend, 5/15-18/2014, Subject: After Action Report: 'Wherever two or more are gathered....So the Doyle's put together a fabulous agenda to host those 23rd Company mates who could make the trip to sunny San Diego. Pictured behind Pat's '71 crest flag are **Jim Loiselle, Pat Doyle, John Feeney, Jim Hergenroeder, and Paul Swetland.** Our ladies joined us as well: Marilyn Loiselle, Mary Doyle, Roxanne Feeney, Kathi Hergenroeder, and Susan Swetland.



Caption: Jim Loiselle, Pat Doyle, John Feeney, Jim Hergenroeder, Paul Swetland

“Events included, Breakfast at Harry’s Place, La Jolla (i doesn’t get better than the scenic La Jolla cove); Terrace dinner at Doyle’s, superbly catered by Tom and Rachel Doyle where we caught up on classmates’ experiences; a chauffeured excursion to Temecula wine country – our bold intentions to drain the casks of 3 separate vineyards, which waned in the beauty of the countryside. Then, our banquet dinner at downtown Filippi’s Italian restaurant, which after sufficient alcoholic stimulation, there was a rare out of body observation of classmates and spouses locked in conversation and jubilation as if it were June 1971. It doesn’t get any better than this! Then, our champagne brunch at 94th Aero Squadron where we bid each other fond farewells on more than a full stomach, followed by drinks by the sea at Hotel Del Coronado and we rubbed elbows with the more fortunate! Many thanks to the Doyle’s for an outstanding event. (teaser: There are infant plans (visions) of a Cape Cod, MA version mid-Sep 2015. Stay tuned and save-the-date. Humble correspondent.Pat.” Most excellent adventure by the 23rd Company! Sounds like great fun, food and fellowship!

Here’s note from Brian Horais: “Duke, just a short note to let you know about a recent meeting of classmates in Wilmington, NC this past Spring. Cathy and I met with Debbie and **Mike Bluestein** and **Roger Young** for lunch at ‘Casa Azul’ the Bluestein’s beautiful waterfront home on the Intracoastal Waterway just north of Wilmington, NC.

Debbie prepared an excellent feast while Roger, Blue and I inspected the Bluestein's armada of boats, kayaks and surfboards. Blue will be retiring from the airlines next year and is exploring other aviation-related ventures. Roger is pursuing a regular round of golf at the course by his house in Wilmington. Cathy and I were visiting Myrtle Beach for a short vacation and made the trek north to meet with Blue and Roger. The attached photo shows (left to right) Brian, Blue and Roger in color coordinated southern summer attire. Check out those legs! Is it my imagination or is Roger standing on his toes so that he can be taller than Blue? A good time was had by all and only the dogs managed to go for a swim. Brian." Thanks for the update! I reckon there will be many retirements from the airlines this year, as well as other retirements! Hope to see you three classmates soon!



How's this for a most excellent note from **Sankey Blanton!** "Every once in a while you run into the 'Class of 1971' in the strangest of places and circumstances.

A few years ago, I signed on as an Adjunct Professor with Vincennes University to teach in their Military Education Program on the USCG AFLOAT team. My Master's Degree is in Oceanography, but I also have enough graduate course hours in mathematics (which everyone loves) to be 'qualified' to teach Algebra courses. Just before New Year's 2013 I flew down to Port Canaveral, Florida, and checked onboard the USCGC Vigilant (WMEC – 617). The challenge was to complete two Algebra Courses in a ten week patrol into the Caribbean DEA Operating Area off Panama. The best student in the classes turned out to be Yeoman First Class Michael P. Alexander. Top marks on all exercises, hard-working, near perfect attendance, etc. Since he had a computer in his office, I asked him regularly to print out materials for the classes from a CD. It wasn't until the classes and cruise were essentially over that he told me he was the son of **Patrick Alexander**, '71. Having never met (or at least unable to remember) Patrick – he must have been in the OTHER Regiment – I am not sure why Michael held back to the last minute; something about ethics in the Coast Guard I guess. Anyway, here is a photo of Michael Patrick Alexander and me as we pulled in to Port Canaveral in March of 2013. I am currently about to visit USCG BOUTWELL (WHEC – 719) out of San Diego for another teaching cruise. Oceanography and Algebra seems to be in demand these days. My wife calls it a boondoggle. I still can't believe someone is paying me to get underway and cruise the Pacific for a couple of months!" Sounds like a superb gig to me, Sankey! Where can I sign up for this adventure?



Caption: Sankey with Patrick's son, Michael

Next, a note from **Bob Capra**: "Duke, it is my pleasure to report on the results of our most successful '14th/33rd' Company Carolina Come Around' the weekend of June 20-22, 2014. For the record, the casual gathering marked the first time many of our company mates of 47 years had arranged to meet with spouses included in a setting removed from an organized five-year reunion at Annapolis. The fantastic weekend was jointly hosted by Joyce & **Dave Laws** and Karen & **Bill Williams**. The Come Around started Friday afternoon with some of us meeting at the homes of the Laws and the Williams followed by a walking tour of downtown Charlotte, NC and dinner in the private dining room of the Blue Restaurant & Bar in center city.

“Saturday was a relaxing day of breakfast, swimming, boating, tubing, World Cup watching, general merriment and camaraderie at the beautiful lakeside home of Joyce and Dave. The day also included a world-class lunch and dinner on the deck overlooking Lake Wylie. Many libations were consumed and sea stories flowed non-stop until the wee hours. A fabulous Sunday brunch at the Laws’ home served to wrap-up the weekend.

“Attendees and their home town included: Jill & **Gene Baker** – San Diego; Jona & **Bob Capra** – Annapolis; **Chris Cooper** – Tampa, FL; Nancy & **Denny Desmond** – Marietta, GA; Joyce & **Dave Laws** – Charlotte; Emily & **Bill Organek** – Higganum, CT; Gail & **George Rodgers** – Friendswood, TX; Karen & **Bill Williams** – Charlotte, NC; and, **Roger Young** – Wilmington, NC. To be expected, the weekend flew by way too fast and well before we had run out stories to embellish and days of glory to recall and relive. Bravo Zulu to the host couples for their detailed planning and execution, and to all that traveled from far and wide to attend. It was a weekend filled with cherished memories of lifelong friendships. It doesn’t get any better than that! *Duces Virum, Bob.*” Sounds like great fun! Hope the Carolina Come Around continues for many years!



Caption: Back Row: Roger Young, Dave Laws, George Rodgers, Denny Desmond, Gene Baker, Bill Organek, Bob Capra, Chris Cooper, Bill Williams. Front Row: Joyce Laws, Gail Rodgers, Nancy Desmond, Jill Baker, Emily Organek, Karen Williams, Jona Capra.

Tom Gross sent this note about Class of '71 tailgates at the home games this year: “Hi Duke, now that the season tickets are secured, it's time to turn to the more serious matter of tailgating! Our class tailgate will be up and operating each and every

home game in our traditional spot on the parking lot perimeter, directly out from the press box. So make it your rendezvous point, we're easy to find.

“The tailgates start two hours before kickoff and remain open through halftime. All classmates and guests are welcome. The format is decidedly informal. The menu is pot luck. Classmates bring dishes and snacks to share; some even bring brats or burgers to burn on the grill. All food and beverage contributions are gratefully accepted.

“Coming from out of town? Don't sweat it. If don't have a chance to pick up something, come anyway. We haven't run out of food yet! See you there! Beat Army...again! Tom Gross.”

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 can use our thoughts and prayers, too. Life is precious and often too short. Love, give and share your blessings generously with others. 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