

Shipmate Membership & Services 2016
Duke Longworth
27 June 2016

Summertime is here in full force and will be going strong when you receive this column. Among the key memories of the Yard in the summer is the relentless heat and humidity as measured by the WGBT and black flag days! I'm sure you remember summer formations perspiring in a fresh set of Trop Whites. I didn't appreciate as much then that the white was reflecting lots of the sun and keeping us cool! I got to spend a month on the Yard both Segundo and First Class summers as a member of the Plebe detail. I managed to make the detail fun. Possibly, I learned some leadership skills as well as learning to water ski in Weems Creek and on the Severn River. Mostly, my Yard memories are good, but it was hot!

Summer memories off the Yard are good, too! First class summer onboard the USS Albany (CG 10) was exciting! Highlights included the flight to Rota, Spain and thence to Corsica. From there we mids sampled ouzo before heading to the ship via motor whale boat (MWB). Boarding ALBANY was very interesting as the swells moved the about ten feet vertically, so we had to step onto the boarding ladder as the boat was lifted up. That was with the large duffle bag with all my uniforms and civilian attire, so it wasn't a simple maneuver. Living on ALBANY was great! **Bruce Lemkin** and I were roommates. We shared a stateroom that was the largest I was ever assigned throughout my career. Watchstanding on the bridge was in Tropical White Long! The bridge was nine levels above the main deck, so the climb up was a good workout. Port calls were in Naples, Athens, and Corfu. In Corfu I managed to find a boat house where I was invited to row in a shell with a team of locals. That was very interesting as I don't know any Greek! Suffice it to say the experience was a blast! I could go on with more stories, but it's time to turn to the column!

REMINDER: Plans for our 45th in Annapolis September 8-11 continue -- more than 750 classmates and guests have registered as of 1 July. If you haven't registered yet, please go the class website at <http://1971.usnaclases.net/> and join the celebration!

My first note is from **Michael "Jocko" Jastrab**: "Duke, Hope all's well and that you're looking forward to the reunion as much as I am. No doubt a great time will be had by all. I still can't believe 45 years have come and gone so quickly. I wanted to pass on some info on what you and others may have seen on television the day after Memorial Day on the 'CBS This Morning' news show. It was a 12 second clip shortly before a commercial break that showed a picture of a small group of veterans marching in the rain after their town's scheduled Memorial Day parade had been cancelled the day before due to the incoming inclement weather. If anyone saw that picture, they

would have seen a naval officer dressed in service dress whites leading the eight veterans to honor our fallen servicemen and women. That officer was me (and no, I wasn't wearing the service dress whites that I wore 45 years before!).

"I have marched Memorial Day in my hometown of Pepperell, MA the past 35 years since returning to the area in 1981, carrying on a family tradition begun by my dad, a retired CPO (Aviation Electrician's Mate). He began marching in 1957 a month after he retired and continued every year until he passed away in November 1988, so there has been a 'Jastrab' in the parade almost 60 years. With the 45th anniversary of our graduation tomorrow and the 'planned' cancellation of this year's parade, I recall when my dad and I served as co-grand marshals ten days before we graduated. Needless to say, my dad was quite proud.

"Although I left the Navy after 6 ½ of service, I look forward to Memorial Day and putting on the uniform. It was a privilege to have served and be an alumnus of the great USNA Class of 1971. See you in September, Jocko.

"PS Had the opportunity to play golf with **Johnny Martin** the week of Memorial Day. He looks great and hits it great, too!" Superb update, Jocko! Thank you for sharing the memory and the photos! You make our class proud! I'll look for you at the reunion.



CAPTION: Jocko Jastrab leading the parade



CAPTION: Jocko Jastrab

This spring I “captured” a few June 1971 graduation photos of our classmates from FaceBook. With their permission I’m including below! As we approach our 50th reunion I plan to post graduation photos each summer, so be prepared to send me your photos!



CAPTION: Newly minted 2nd LT Brighton with his mother, Eleanor, and his sister, Pamela



CAPTION: The late Skip Wilhelm at Triton Light - Skip's dad, Jack Wilhelm '45, Skip's mom Shirley Wilhelm, fiancé Jane Cleveland, his brothers, Dave and Scott Wilhelm. Triton Light is the Class of 1945 light.

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. As much as every before, now is the time for us to be actively shaping the future of our great nation. This national election season promises to be very interesting. There is plenty of work remaining as we increase our wisdom! Time, tide and column due dates wait for no man!

Duces Virum, Duke