

We caught sight of a news story on the Alumni Association website about **Joe Casasanto** (12). Seems Joe was honored with a one-person show of his watercolors and acrylics by the Laguna Woods, CA, Art Association on 10 April. Joe has taken classes in each medium and calls his time painting “real fun.” Sue and Joe have resided in Laguna Woods Village since 1999.

Chuck Humes (4) really gets around, specializing in historical tours to WW II battle sites. Most recently he reports of his visit to the Philippines, highlighted by attending the 67th anniversary of the fall of Bataan. The President of the Philippines and the US and Japanese ambassadors were also present for the observance.



Chuck Humes with Bataan Survivor

Grandchildren Report from **Jack London** (15): #6 arrived in January, delivered by his daughter, Laura Dennis. His son-in-law, CDR Jed Dennis USN, served in Afghanistan in 2007–08.

Binnacle List:

A week before leaving the West Coast for the 50th Reunion, **Mickey King** (5) suffered a nasty chain saw accident, with severe facial fractures and punctures. Doctor's orders: no flying, no driving for four weeks. He will be missed—tough break. Best wishes during your recovery, Mickey.

In Remembrance:

Jack Denison Laferty passed away on 17 August, 2009 in Severna Park, Maryland. Denny was a member of the 9th Company and a Navy helo pilot. He is survived by his beloved wife, Jean.

Guy Curtis (9), **Bob Beaton** (2), **Bill Clautice** (3), **Norm Bednarek** (22), and **Marty Finerty** were among the mourners at a funeral service in St Andrews Chapel, followed by committal in the Naval Academy Columbarium. The Class extends its sincere condolences to his family.

Rise and Shine, —Tim

60 ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP: 4%
LIFE MEMBERSHIP: 65%

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From **Bob Osmon** (17):

■ “Dear 1960 Classmates, it is with much pleasure that I provide a wrap up of our participation in the Class of 2010 Ring Dance held last Saturday evening in Dahlgren Hall. In short it was absolutely a superb evening. The mids were obviously celebrating with unbridled joy, and yet the dignity of the occasion was maintained throughout the program. It was indeed a blessing for us all to be there.

Those in attendance were **Hank Chiles** (21), Jan & **Pete Chabot** (14), Selena & **John Swanson** (17), Linda & **Jack Paepcke** (11), Carol & **Harry Butler** (10), Ginny & **Don Delude** (12), Diane & **Curt Goldtrap** (10), Mary Katherine & **Ted McClanahan** (23), Linda & **Bill Lewis** (5), Sue & **Herb Mossman** (12), Jane & **Jim Eilertsen** (21), Janet & **Ben Cote** (24), Janean & **Doug Johnston** (5), Yvonne & **Al Whitaker** (16), **Bill Davidson** (19) and yours truly with my “Drag” Linda Cushman. Of these classmates, **Jack Paepcke** (11), **John Swanson** (17), **Herb Mossman** (12), and **Al Whitaker** (16) were with their Ring Dance 1959 sweethearts. And of these, Jack and Linda, Herb and Sue, and Al and Yvonne were engaged at the Ring Dance 50 years ago this month, so they had an extra special reason to celebrate. And finally, **Jim Eilertsen** (21) gave Jane a miniature that evening which was totally unexpected by her. Thus it was a true celebration for all of us present just to share in all this joy.

Bill Davidson (19), afraid he may appear out of uniform, spent hours searching all the upscale men's stores in DC for a gold cummerbund to no avail. But being the resourceful person he is, as we were all trained to be, he came to the main office that evening and borrowed a gold cummerbund from the MOOW. Now how is that for dedication and clever thinking?

Dahlgren Hall was decorated with more flair than I have ever seen. White mesh curtains were hung extensively covering the old wood we all knew with big gold stars hanging from the ceiling. An extensive buffet was set up at the landward

end and an open bar served wine and beer. (Before you ask, only mids over 21 were allowed to imbibe). Special tables were reserved for us and individual bags with champagne glasses, business card holders, and an insulated cup, all with the Class of 2010 crest were provided as a gift to us.

We kicked off the evening by arriving fairly early (A wise move in consideration of the long lines that pervaded an hour or so later). We immediately went to the tent where photo ops were provided alongside one of the four ring replicas and binnacles that were used to bless rings. The water from our binnacle used the May 1959 Ring Dance that **Joe Peek** (17) so presciently obtained and kept for safe-keeping all these years had been mixed into the waters from the Class of 2010 Seven Seas. (Since that was a big debate with us, here is what the Class of 2010, undoubtedly with Academy approval, says are the Seven Seas: Atlantic, Pacific, Arctic, Antarctic, Indian, Caribbean, and the Mediterranean.) We each took our turn having our rings dipped into the waters to be christened and blessed once again. Wish we all could do it again in 2059, but it appears we'll have to pass on the legacy to the Class of 2010.

A DJ played great music and most of us danced as much as we could until later in the evening when the music started really picking up. Near the middle of the dance toasts were given to the various services. I was asked to toast the US Navy and did so, with an addition, “And to the Great Class of 2010.” That got a great roar of approval. Then the four classmates who donated rings (**Hank Chiles** (21), Sue & **Herb Mossman** (12), Linda & **Bill Lewis** (5), and Diane & **Curt Goldtrap** (10)) whose gold was melded into the gold for the Class of 2010 rings were honored and asked to start the next dance. “A Summer Place” by Percy Faith which I'm sure you all remember from 1958 was played with due respect. After a few minutes the rest of the class present came on the dance floor and joined the initial group. Next the DJ played “Green Door”, the song to which we all learned to dance with our roomies in Mem Hall. It was truly a poignant moment for us all.

Throughout the evening everyone present told me that many mids came up to them and thanked them profusely for all the support and enthusiasm we have added to their time at the academy through the “Another Link in the Chain” program. Frankly, it really did warm our



Ring Dance Group

hearts to know that we were being appreciated to that extent. My impression of the Class of 2010 is that they are as enthusiastic and dedicated to the service of our country as we were 50 years ago. If you could ever have the time to sit and talk with these fine young men and women, you would come away with an intense feeling of confidence and praise for the future graduates of our revered Academy.

Hopefully this has given you a feel of what a few of us were privileged to experience last Saturday. We all hope we represented the class well. ■

From **Colin Saari (4)**:

■ “Bill, Super Sixty got together at the annual Puget Sound Chapter Alumni Association picnic to practice our “Sea Lies” in preparation for the 50th next year in Annapolis. After a few pops we couldn’t remember them so we made up a few new ones. In the picture were **Jim Kovacevich (16), Bob Dropp (20), Colin Saari (4), Grant Plummer (6)** and **Larry Ryan (5)**. The picnic was held on Kitsap Lake at Camp McKean, just a few miles from Bremerton. Colin” ■

From **Rod Friedmann (5)**:

■ “Twenty classmates donned their “foul weather gear” and headed for McCormick & Schmick’s Seafood Restaurant located in the “new” Town Center of Virginia Beach for our Sep Class Luncheon. It was a great turnout for a lousy day of rain...but what else are retired classmates to do with their spare time? It was a low key meeting with ample opportunities to catch up on the latest lies and/or sea stories. The service and food were exceptionally good. Braving the weather were: **Geo. Van Houten, Mike McCullough (14) (wearing a ball cap in a restaurant?), Bob Osmon (17), Ray Taylor (14), Jack Brockman, Bob Powers (8), Frank Kay (8), Wick Parcels (12), Jim Eilertsen, Bill Kee (9), Al Bissell**

(an outa-towner), Paul Cooper (5), Ed Clextion (10), Torry Rogers (3), Ed McCaskill (8), Tom Wishart (22), Jack Greenhalgh (9), Henry McGruder, Al Whitaker & Rod Friedmann (5).

Our Oct Luncheon will be held at the German Gordon Biersch Restaurant also located in the Virginia Beach Town Center on Tues., 13 Oct. A little Oktoberfest Celebration may be in order.

To give our loyal Williamsburg classmates a break, our Nov Luncheon will be held at the Le Yaca Restaurant in Williamsburg (see <http://www.leyacawilliamsburg.com/>) on Tues., 10 Nov. The restaurant owner’s daughter is currently attending the Naval Academy and is a starter on the Women’s Soccer Team so they’re “Blue & Gold” friendly. As a plus, Al Whitaker has graciously volunteered to give a tour of the Williamsburg AleWerks (about a 15 minute drive from LeYaca). Al is a Founding Member of this venture he has promised us samples of the brewery’s Ales (looks like we’ll need some “Designated Drivers” for this event). This will be a co-ed affair (the ladies love Le Yaca!). It’s time to give our ladies a well deserved break at this special luncheon (Yes, I realize that it’s close to the Christmas Party, but why not)?

Our Dec meeting/Christmas Dinner-Party will be held at the Vista Point Club @ NOB in Norfolk on Tues., Dec 8th. **Frank Kay (8)** and **Ray Taylor (14)** are choreographing this outstanding event (see the attachment below). Rod ■



Northern VA group

From **Bob Matulka (2)** after a very enjoyable DC class luncheon.

■ “Gene et.al, here is a photo from the 2 Sep Luncheon. ... Bob ■

From **Ed Mangan (20)**:

■ On Friday March 27 the Class of 1960 Annapolis Alumni Group met for lunch at the Eastport Yacht Club. I am very proud to say that we were joined by my son, Col. Alan Mangan USMCR, ‘83, who just returned from Iraq. He spent the last year as Deputy Team Leader of the Al Anbar Provincial Reconstruction Team (PRT). Alan provided an inside look at conditions in Anbar province and the efforts of his team in pursuit of permanent stability, economic growth and good governance under the rule of law. There was a lively question and answer session, punctuated with anecdotal stories, that included a broad view of our military efforts in Iraq. Overall, Alan’s view of the country’s progress was positive and the discussion made for a pleasant and informative luncheon. Needless to say I am very proud not only of Alan but all those young men who go in harm’s way in an attempt to better the world in which we live.

Along with Alan and I the luncheon included, **Merf Moerschel (2), Pete Chabot (14), Jerry Nelson (8), Gene Tucker (9), Jim Knorr (20), Gary Cogdell (7), Jim Duffy (7), Ron Burdge (9), Ted McClanahan (23), Jim Britell (13), Gary Ballard (24), Gloria & Bob Antonio (14), Joanne & Bob Gamba (11), Carolyn & Willie Taylor (7) and Pete Latimer (16) & Sidsel Fox.** ■

From **John Schmidt (20)**:

■ “The Southern California group recently gathered in memory of **Jack Shaw (2)**. The group consisted of (L to R) **Chuck Schroeder(23), John Schmidt(20), Dave Kalb(19), Doc Hand(7), Tom Curtis(22), Bob Custer, Bill Lloyd(21), Bennie Hallowell(3), Danny Musselman(5), John Pethick(9), George Denn(5), Bob Stevenson(2), and Pete Dolan(10)**. Missing from the photo was **Sam Ward (8)**. For any classmates not currently receiving email announcements of SOCAL class functions and would like to be included, email me at jschmidt@score.com. John” ■



Southern Cal Group

For additional info and pictures go to the class website listed above.

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ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP: 6%
LIFE MEMBERSHIP: 64%

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Hello Classmates. As I pick up the quill so ably wielded by Roger Onorati for more years than any of us can remember, I will do my best to carry on as your Corresponding Secretary. As a class, we owe Roger a huge debt of gratitude for all he has done for this column and the class over the years since our graduation. I am certainly not replacing Roger; he's irreplaceable. However, with the help of your inputs, I will "assemble the class news" as our erstwhile President, Jerry Smith puts it. My motto will be: all the news that's fit to print and anything else I can slide by the eagle eyed editors at *Shipmate*. But, as Roger pointed out on so many occasions, this is your column. So, the news will be what you send me to assemble. No news is **NOT** good news.

By the time you read this, we'll all know if we retained the CINC Trophy for a record setting 7th consecutive year as well as our Texas Bowl status. It's been a very tough football schedule.

Now to the latest:

To amplify on some information provided in the last issue, **Boyd Steele** (18) reports on a Celebration of Life ceremony June 27th, 2009 in Florence, KY for his beloved wife of 47 years, Inda Norton "Lou" Steele who passed away in December 2008. Classmates and spouses in attendance included: **John Black, Bern Fleming** (Boyd's two USNA wives), **Ken Dixner** (20), Gayle & **Herky Hardison** (1), Judy & **Pete Schilling** (16). Ken, Herky, and Pete were

groomsmen at Boyd & Lou's wedding June 17, 1961. Attached are two pictures from the ceremony. Unfortunately, Ken Dixner had to leave before the photos were taken.



At the reception from L-R: John Black, Bern Fleming, Pete Schilling, Judy Schilling, Gayle Hardison, and Herky Hardison.



At the hotel: L-R: Bern Fleming, John Black, Boyd Steele, and Herky Hardison

Boyd has created a website with the all the details at: <http://www.boydsteele.com>.

Tom Shields (19): Tom reports that he & wife Lyn celebrated two birthday milestones: Tom's 70th and Lyn's 60th at a family reunion in Lake Walloon, MI. Party was arranged by their 4 married children and also included 10 grandchildren (with #11 born before you read this). Tom's having a left knee scoped (should be done by the time you read this) and continues to remain busy with faith based charities. He'd love to see any classmates that might be visiting New England in the future.

Bert Cassels (11) sends the following picture of Dot & **Nelson Hulme** (11) along with Bert's better half, GG & himself at the Von Trapp Lodge in Vermont this past September.



Dot and Nelson Hulme, GC and Bert Cassels

ALITC: Jim Luper (11) our able point man for the program submitted the following report on the Commitment

Dinner conducted August 24th, 2009 for our Class of 2011 (hard to believe they're 2nd class already).

■ A grand time was had on 24 August by 25 representatives of the Class of 1961, which included three of our classmates' widows. It started with a tour of the about-to-be-reopened Naval Academy Museum, arranged by **Bob Hofford** (who also had a significant part in making sure the museum refurbishment was funded). The tour was conducted by the Director of the Museum, Dr. J. Scott Harmon, with ample augmentation by a docent of the museum, our very own Jerry Smith. All in all, it was a very interesting and educational couple of hours, which whetted many an appetite to return for more in-depth investigation.

Next, the group gathered on the Perot Deck of Dahlgren Hall for a reception. Those mixing on the upper deck were representatives of the Class of 1961, the leadership of the Academy (Superintendent VADM Fowler & Mrs. Fowler, Commandant CAPT Klunder & Mrs. Klunder, Officer Representative of the Class of 2011, CAPT Jones & Mrs. Jones, plus several other Battalion Officers), about 30 representatives of the Class of 2011, 25 of whom served as escorts for the '61ers. This was a very pleasant opportunity to mix with our classmates, meet the leaders and staff of the Academy and get to know several of the midshipmen.

The third segment of the day was the events which made up the Class of 2011 Commitment Dinner. The sequence was: National Anthem; Invocation; Opening Remarks by MIDN Mike Orzetti, Class of 2011 President; Dinner; Keynote Speaker, **Paddy Fitzpatrick**, Class of 1961; Honor Reaffirmation and Oath of Office Swearing, conducted by the Commandant; Closing Remarks by MIDN Orzetti; and, Blue and Gold. Significant features of some of the events were: at our request, everyone (except our speaker) was able to sit at their former company tables, a great speech by **Paddy Fitzpatrick**, which included examples of "links in the chain" and a toast to the Classes of 1961 and 2011 (*your CR: Paddy's speech is posted on the class website*); excellent interchange with a table full of midshipmen (who have certainly matured since we first saw them on their "1" Day); and, the Commandant asking the representatives of the Class of 1961 to join with the Class of 2011 in agreeing to the Oath of Office.