

Jay Bainbridge, in his position as Executive Vice President on the Class Executive Committee, serves as the Chair of the 55th Reunion Committee. The initial meeting of the committee is planned for early June 2011.

Previously, the Executive Committee had agreed to hold the event in Annapolis during the weekend of 19-21 September (Friday-Sunday), 2014. A shorter reunion will be structured to include activities on Friday and Saturday and will likely end with a memorial service early Sunday afternoon. The football opponent that weekend will be Rutgers of the Big East Conference. The Loews Hotel has been selected as the reunion headquarters, with the Doubletree and O'Callaghan as the sleeping room overflow hotels. Company Representatives have been asked for their input regarding the specifics of the shortened reunion program.

Stay tuned- there will be updates in this column as planning progresses.

Art Emmerson put together another nice evening for Classmates in the Northern Virginia area. He calls these events "Dining Out Together" and makes arrangements for a group dinner at a local eatery. Selected for March 29 was the Tempo Restaurant in Old Town Alexandria, a popular mecca for fine restaurants. Answering the call to dinner this time were Eileen and **Ray Art** (5), Stephanie and **Ted Baker** (8), Pearl and **Gary Brown** (8), Niki Pickett and **Art Emmerson**, Suzanne and **Bill Palmer**, Suzi and **Charlie Pease** (10), Reggie and **Ted Santos** (7), Sue and **Doug Volgenau** (8), and Bonnie and **Jerry Welsh**. **Ted Santos** gallantly surprised Reggie with a birthday cake following dinner, which was enjoyed by all.

Down at the other end of the state in the Hampton Roads area, **Dave Donovan** (13) reported on Classmates gathering for a luncheon at the Cypress Point Country Club on 16 March. Attendees were **Bill McAree** (23), **Ron Jesberg** (12), **Ing Kiland**, **George Lehmborg** (8), **Bill Wheaton** (14) and Dave. Passed along from the chatter at the luncheon, Ron continues to stay busy as a volunteer tax preparer and **Bill McAree** remains active in real estate appraising. George is happy to be out and about again as his recovery from bypass surgery continues.

Jack London (15) reported on two special occasions involving '59ers. First was the Marine Corps University Foundation's tribute to **Frank Donovan**

at its 2011 Semper Fidelis Awards Dinner on 26 February. Frank was recognized for his leadership and service during the first Gulf War ("Desert Storm"). Former Vice President and Sec Def Dick Cheney was the keynote speaker.

Second, Jack and current Navy League President **Dan Branch** and their spouses shared time at the Navy League's Sea-Air-Space Exposition during 11-13 April.



Kathleen and Dan Branch with Jack and Jennifer London

Mary Glenn Curtin sends the following message :

■ "I would like to express my heartfelt appreciation to the Classmates and 6th Company members and wives who attended Jim Curtin's service at Arlington in January, and for the many kind expressions of sympathy and support our family has received. I know why it is said that every class at USNA is a fraternity. Thank you all so much, Mary Glenn Curtin." ■

In Remembrance:

This from Jerry Garbacz:

■ "Dave Osburn's inurnment was held on 18 April under beautiful sunny skies, the first service to be held in the Class of 1959 Oratory. The Academy has a long waiting list of deceased graduates awaiting inurnment in the Columbarium following the dedication of the 1959 Oratory on 16 April. The ceremony was most fitting with prayers from the clergy, remarks about Dave's long service to the nation and our Class, followed by taps and the placing of Dave's remains in his niche. Especially fitting is the fact that Dave is in eternal rest next to the niche of Steve McGanka (15), who also passed away in 2010. Attending Dave's service besides his wife Linda and other members of his family were classmates Bob Beaton, Norm Bednarek, Pat and Jay Bainbridge, Joan and Marty Finerty, Mary and Paddy Ford, Jane and Jerry Garbacz, and Marilyn and Van Nield."

Samuel J. Ligon, Jr passed away on 13 April, 2011 in Greenville, North

Carolina. Sam was a member of the 12th Company, and served in the Navy Supply Corps, retiring as a captain after 27 years service. He is survived by his beloved wife, Virginia. Burial will be at Arlington National Cemetery at a date to be determined. ■

Rise and Shine, —Tim

60 ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP: 4%
LIFE MEMBERSHIP: 65%

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From **Bob Osmon** (17):

■ "My new book, *Black and Blue and Blue and Gold*, has recently been published. In my book I focus on the 10 members of the Class of 2010 who made up the heart of the 2009/2010 Navy Women's Rugby team as they pledged themselves to make every sacrifice necessary to vie for the national championship. Along the way they come up against the elite of college women rugby teams. I have personal interviews with each of them and several of the starters from other classes as well asking them why they came to the Academy, why they chose rugby as their sport, and why rugby will help them in their careers in the Navy. Their mature and yet emotional answers are quite inspiring. The book is loaded with color photographs which clearly depict the action and toughness required of the sport.

I also have interviews with a number of previous Navy Rugby All Americans and show how they are now serving our country in areas like Iraq and Afghanistan. They gave up their rugby uniforms to don military uniforms to compete in more deadly arenas to serve our country.

I tried to capture the dedication, discipline, camaraderie, and honor that all female athletes demonstrate while playing sports at all levels. This includes interviews with coaches and players from other elite women rugby teams as well. Below are just a few of the endorsements I have received from individuals fully immersed in the rugby world.

The book is available at Powerful publisher.com for \$25 each. I believe BBBG would be a wonderful gift for daughters/granddaughters/nieces/great nieces who play sports at any level. It appears that I am the first person to write

a comprehensive story about women's rugby in the USA, but it is really about all athletes. OZ ■

From **Rod Friedmann (5)**:

■ “Bill, on a beautiful sunny & warm day before our Feb snowstorm, we gathered at a Virginia Beach watering hole called Burton's Grill on Tues., Feb. the 8th. It was a repeat performance since they treat us well, the food is excellent, the price is right and they provide a separate room for our noisy group. Fifteen classmates showed up to listen to our tales of the Caribbean (Bareboating Adventure-**Rod Friedmann (5) & Ed Clextion (10)**), a recap of our very successful Christmas Party in Williamsburg (**Bob Osmon (17)**) and the trials, tribulations and success in using MAC Flights out of Norfolk (**Ed Clextion (10)**)-a 9hr ride to San Diego in a C130!). The Super Sixty Lunch Bunch included: **Jim Eilertsen (21), Henry Maguder (12), Tom Wishart (22), Frank Kay (8), Henry von Kolnitz (22), Torry Rogers (3), Ed McCaskill (8), Bill Kee (9), John Mendelis (14), Jack Brockman (18), Bob Ianucci (16), Jack Greenhalgh (9), Bob Osmon (17), Ed Clextion (10)** and yours truly. Rod ■



Jack Brockman & Jon Mendelis

From **Bob Osmon (17)**:

■ “I had dinner with **Ray Taylor (14)** last night and he told me he has been invited by the King of Kuwait to attend a celebration of the 20th anniversary of the liberation of Kuwait. He'll be leaving in about two weeks. As you recall he was in charge of all the Naval operations in the Persian Gulf at that time. Hopefully he'll give us a full run down on the events that took place at our next class luncheon. Oz ■

From **Rod Friedmann (5)**:

■ “Classmates, we're in for a special treat during our Mar Luncheon. Our own, **Ray Taylor (14)** has been invited by the King of Kuwait to attend a celebration of the 20th anniversary of the liberation of

Kuwait. He'll be leaving in about two weeks. Ray was in charge of all the Naval operations in the Persian Gulf at that time. **Bob Osmon (17)** alerted me to the fact that Ray was making the trip and suggest that I contact Ray to give us a run down on the events at our next luncheon. I contacted Ray and here's his response:

“Hello Rod and Oz. Yes, I am getting ready for my trip to Kuwait (22 Feb – 2 March) and would look forward to passing along sea stories when I return as you have suggested below. Thinking about this, I would suggest March 8 at your already scheduled next class lunch. I do have a commitment from 10:00 to Noon that day and would arrive no later than 12:30. With a few drinks under their belt by that time, my sea stories about what the Kuwaitis remembered about those old days 20 years ago about oil, fires, and bombed out piers may go over very well. Best, Ray ■

Also from **Rod Friedmann (5)**:

■ “Bill, I received an e-mail from **Skip Sweetser (6)** saying that he wished he could have joined our Hampton Roads/W'burg group at our Feb luncheon, but that he and Nancy were coming down to Virginia Beach a week later in Feb and wondered if it would be possible to get together with a few classmates during that time. I told him that I would try to round up a few local classmates to share a few beers and burgers. What ended up was a very nice luncheon at a family owned restaurant called the Chef's Table. Seventeen people showed up, including ten classmates and some of their wives. Joining Skip and Nancy for lunch were: Catherine & **Ed Clextion (10)**, Jane & **Jim Eilertsen (21)**, Bobbie & **Bob Brenton (12)**, Sue & **Paul Cooper (5)**, Paula & **Rod Friedmann (5)**, Ruth & **Frank Kay (8)**, Maureen & **Bob Ianucci (16)**, fellow Marine-**Torry Rogers (3)**, **Geo. VanHouten (24) & Bob Powers (8)**. It was a very informal luncheon, with a lot of good laughs, recycled stories and updates from Skip and Nancy about living in frigid PA. It was good seeing both of them again and it was just like they never left the area. Here are some pictures from the luncheon, Bill, for possible inclusion in SHIPMATE. Rod ■



Joel Febel, Mike McCullough, Jim Philbrick, Don Schlicht



Bob & Bobbie Brenton



Skip & Nancy Sweetser

From **Skip Sweetser (6)**:

■ Rod and Paula, thanks again for your efforts in setting up what was just an outstanding luncheon... and for attending. It was great fun for Nancy and me! Also, it was great to be honored by all at Friday's luncheon! It was worth every minute of the six hour drive to VB to be with you again. It wasn't nearly long enough. As testimony to that, Nancy, without any nagging from me, when we got home a few hours ago, sent Oz an e-mail asking to be on the “confirmed attending” list for next December's Christmas Party. Again, thanks for attending. Love and Semper Fi, Skip & Nancy ■

From **Hank Papa (17)**:

■ “The 2PO had a great moment at a recent dark age get together in Pensacola. In the photo, please note my adjoining Links of the chain. LEFT TO RIGHT in the Picture are: John Sunder worth '10, Meredith Meehan '10, 2PO '60, Hadley Sulpizio '10, Scott Ross '10 and Damian

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MEMBERSHIP**

Roudebush '10. Great Program OZ, et.al.
A very appreciative 2PO. Beat Army!! ■



2 PO & Friends

From **Jim Knorr (20)**:

■ I'm one of the guys in the stands who does not read the Navy sports stuff like **John Michalski (6)** but attend Annapolis games on a regular basis. Recently **Paul Cooper (5)** responded to **Ed Mangan's (20)** call for Army-Navy game basketball tickets for his daughter -in - law Elliana and three children in Annapolis. They forgot to order and tickets were all sold out. Col. Alan Mangan USMC (hubby and Dad) is in Afghanistan as many of you know. Paul responded almost immediately and got the four tickets to Elliana. You should have seen the kids cheering for Navy Men's team as they beat Army by 17pts. The rest of the story is that the Mangan kids cheering earned them a free Pizza...and they caught a "tee shirt for threes" to cap off their afternoon at Navy Basketball. Atta Boy Paul for coming through once again. Jim Knorr ■

From **Tom Solak (2)**:

■ Please see Mario Zambra's remarks below concerning the reception he and his family received at the reunion.

Mario, (from Argentina), his wife Carlota, and his daughters, Maria Cecilia and Anna Teresa attended the full reunion and had a marvelous time. I saw them not only mixing with members of the 2nd Company who showed them much deference but with many other classmates. In addition, Pete Latimer went out of his way to make sure Mario and family were properly registered for the events. And, there may be others on the reunion committee who also showed kindness to them. Tom Solak ■

From: **Mario Zambra (2)**:

■ Tom; I would like you to transmit to everyone you have a chance to, that we felt extremely warmly received, making us live an unforgettable event. Cordialmente, Mario. ■

Last Call: **Jim Tenbrook (16)** passed away in March at his home in Georgia. We hadn't heard from Jim in some time and hope for the best for his family.

We also lost **Thom Moylan (22)** in Connecticut on the first of April.

61 ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP: 6%
LIFE MEMBERSHIP: 64%

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Our 50th reunion is now in the rear view mirror. I hope I can speak for all who attended that it was a glorious weekend of comradeship, renewing old friendships, and in some cases making new ones. The reunion committee, led by **Jay Bower (14)** did a bang up job and deserves all of our gratitude and appreciation for their efforts. Joining Jay were the following classmates (and in some cases spouses):
Communications/Registration: **Howie Winfree (3)**; Registration/Nametags: **Judy & Bill Hartman (2)**; Memorial Service: **Bob Hofford (7)**; Class Meeting: **Jerry Smith (8)**; Banquet/Sunday Brunch: **Tim Dugan (12)**; Golf, **Roger Onorati (11)**; ALITC: **Jim Luper (11)**; Company/Group Parties: **Skip McGinley (13)**; Transportation: **Mike Roth (22)**; Reunion Book/Area Tours: **Bob Sherer (4)**; Memorabilia: **Paul Lang (19)**; and Widows' Activities: **Bonnie Campbell**.

On 12 April, the 50th Naval Academy Foreign Affairs Conference (NAFAC) convened with our Class President, **Jerry Smith** delivering commemorative remarks regarding our fallen classmate **J.J. Connell (20)**. The opening speech at NAFAC is dedicated to JJ's memory through the efforts of **Ron Carlberg & Gary Chapel** and other 20th company classmates of JJ who have raised funds to support the conference. JJ was the original Chairman of NAFAC which had its first meeting in the spring of our 1/C year. Subsequently, JJ was shot down over North Vietnam, captured and died in January, 1971 still in captivity. He was awarded the Silver Star for his heroic efforts in resisting the North Vietnamese while in prison.

In an interesting side note to NAFAC, this year's Midshipmen Chairman is **Michael Orzetti**, Class of 2011 President.

Those who have been involved the past four years with the ALITC program have had many opportunities to meet and work with Midshipman Orzetti.

ALITC:

Jim Luper reports on the final Battalion reception for the Class of 2011: As reported in previous *Shipmate* columns, ALITC events during the 'dark ages' are Alumni Association-hosted Battalion Receptions for the Class of 2011. At the sixth, and final, reception, '61 representatives continued telling sea stories about their careers, making them as relevant as possible to the service assignments of the 2011 firsties. Our class made sure '11 knew that '61's participation in the Alumni Association, much through *Shipmate* articles, allowed us to stay in touch with our classmates. We also told them that the Alumni Association was a key participant in the class projects we used to give back to the Academy. Members of '61 who attended the reception on 9 March were: **Jay Bower (14)**, **Bob Hofford (7)**, Maryanne & **Jim Ibach (21)**, **Paul Lang (19)**, **Jim Luper (11)**, Karen & **Tom Murray (2)**, **Mike Roth (22)**, **Jerry Smith (8)**, Sue & **Jesse Stewart (17)**, **Bill Straight (16)** and **Mike Welch (5)**. Bob Hofford made remarks, on behalf of the class. See photos in this article (courtesy of **Tom Murray**), as well as other photos on the Alumni Association (www.usna.com) and Class of 1961 (www.usna61.org) websites. ALITC events surrounding our 50th Reunion and 2011's graduation will be reported in the next *Shipmate* column.



Sue Stewart & Tom Murray with Mids



Tom Murray & future Submariner