

60 ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP: 4%
LIFE MEMBERSHIP: 65%

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Joann & Carl Bruntlett in Tortola, BVI



Dick & Becky Pariseau in Tortola, BVI



Dick Pariseau, Wick & Prissy Parcels, & Ed Clexton plotting

From **Rod Friedmann (5)**:

■ “Bill, we canceled our regularly scheduled Jan Luncheon in Hampton Roads to join up with some of our Annapolis and Northern VA classmates to have a unique luncheon in Road Town, Tortola in the British Virgin Islands. After last year’s Apr. OBX get together, **Bob Bell (12)** volunteered to set up a bare-boating trip to the BVIs if people were interested. Nine classmates and their brides (Bells, Hamons, Parcels, Clextons, Pariseaus, Friedmanns, Bruntletts, Duffys and Gambas) signed up. Bob contracted for three Catamarans for our Super Sixty Group through The Moorings, a charter outfit operating out of Tortola. The charter was for one week, starting on 8 Jan

and ending on Sat., 15 Jan ’11. A few couples arrived early on the 6th and hung around Road Town in Tortola for a few days after the completion of the cruise. All three “CATs” were fully provisioned and ready to go on Sat., the 8th. Our sailing plan included a visit to Norman Island, dinner aboard the “Wille T” (a wild party boat moored in “The Bight”) and the snorkeling caves at Treasure Point. Next we sailed to the northwest to Jost Van Dyke Island where we held our Class Luncheon and celebrated Joy Hamon’s birthday in Little Harbor. The camaraderie was great. The lobsters and Pain Killers were superb! After a leisurely breakfast onboard, we motored over Soper’s Hole, a short ride to the western end of Tortola. It was here, that **Dick Pariseau (1)** surprised everyone with the first of his disguises. Then we all gathered around Pusser’s Bar for a little libation while the ladies shopped. Dinner aboard was the order of the evening. The next day, we got underway and headed east to Cooper’s Island, while fighting easterly winds of 15–25 kts with about four foot seas. A rough ride to say the least and the lee offered by Cooper Island was a welcome relief. It was at this point that the boats split up—Cat #1 (**Bob Bell (12)** Captain) and Cat #2 (**Wick Parcels (12)** Captain) moored in Manchioneel Bay at Cooper Island, while Cat #3 (**Jim Duffy (7)** Captain) ducked into Peter Island for shelter. It was in the calm of Manchioneel Bay that Cat #1, led by that scoundrel, Bobby Bell & his misguided crew of misfits, launched a small boat attack against Cat #2 with water filled balloons. They were successfully repelled. The weather dictated the rest of the trip and each boat acted independently. Marina Cay was an overnight stop for Parcell’s crew, while Bell’s Cat #1 motored north along Sir Francis Drake’s Channel and put in to Spanish Town on Virgin Gorda. The weather abated slightly the next day making a visit the “Baths” (a unique geological formation of boulders, beaches and pools) a possibility. By Fri. afternoon, after a lot of recreational sailing, Wick successfully maneuvered CAT #2 to an intercept position of Bells CAT #1 rounding the point from Trellis Bay. The interception resulted in a complete and successful surprise egg

attack against CAT #1! (Revenge is sweet!) All three boats made it back to our base at Road Town by late Fri. afternoon. It was time to celebrate and we did—the Super Sixty way. Rod ■

From **Garry Ballard (24)**:

■ “A big BRAVO ZULU to Ed, and all of those who assisted in making the 50th reunion a rousing success. I don’t see how it could have possibly gone any smoother.

My wife is rather shy and we do not socialize a lot, but she enjoyed herself more than she had anticipated. The 24th company get together at Pirate’s Cove was very nice with a good turnout, including some of our old classmates who had not originally planned to attend. The memorial service was very moving. It is a bit shocking to see how many of our classmates have gone on before us, including several past roommates. Joe Peek’s rendition of taps was a magnificent job and of course, Eternal Father always gets me choked up. The address by the new Superintendent was not only very interesting, but for my view, demonstrates that the Navy was right on target in selecting a new leader for our institution. He will be an excellent man for the job. We missed the parade, but I understand that it was also outstanding.

The dinner dance provided a real surprise. When I walked in wearing my tux, I looked up and saw the smiling face of **Ted McClanahan (23)** who told me he had something for me. I looked puzzled and wondered what on earth he could possibly have for me. He said that when we graduated and threw our caps in the air, mine was caught by his sister. She gave it to Ted who kept it with him all these fifty years and was able to get it back to me. What a wonderful display of true comradeship between classmates. Of course the cap looked a little worse for wear, because we always threw our worst cover on that day, never expecting to see it again. It is a bit small, the top of the cap shows the effects of rain, seawater, and wear, the insert has come loose, the bill is cracked, and the gold braid shows a bit of discoloration from salt air and water. But there inside was my name in my own handwriting. What a wonderful gift from a classmate who cared enough to keep this for me all these years! I will keep it on display in a special place in my home to remind me always of what it truly means to be a member of such a unique, fine breed of men who have bonds that will never be destroyed.

There were a few shaky moments in the football game, but in the end, the team delivered for us a very nice present to remind us that nothing worth having can be obtained without a lot of hard work, sacrifice and discipline. Again, I say BRAVO ZULU! Best wishes, Gary ■

From **Bob Towle (8)**:

■ “Hi Bill, now that the 50th reunion is a pleasant memory, I wanted to send along some information regarding our 50th reunion anniversary book - LINK. During the initial planning some three years ago, we ran a survey of the Class and received approximately 250 responses indicating an interest in a reunion book. That cast some doubt on whether we should go ahead with plans for a book, but the die was cast and we proceeded with the effort.

During the time period when we started to accept orders for LINK, we received a great response and eventually ordered 660 copies. A number of those copies were planned as extras for classmates who didn't get a chance to order and Classmates, families, and widows of classmates with who we lost touch. Of the remaining copies of LINK that were not mailed out directly to classmates, we did sell a number of the extra copies of LINK during the three days of our 50th reunion. Fortunately, we still have a few copies remaining for any classmates who have not had a chance to order one or who would like to get an extra copy. Also, if any classmates know of widows or families of deceased classmates who might not have received a copy of LINK, we can provide copies to them.

If any classmates would like to obtain one of these remaining copies of LINK, they can do so by contacting me at my email address, rltowle@starpowwer.net, or by calling me at home, (540) 364-2201. Thanks, Bob ■

From **Dennis Terry (15)**:

■ “Hi Ed: Thanks for your email. Sorry I missed seeing you at the reunion. It was a great event and thank you very much for all your efforts in making it's great success. The piece from **Army DuPont (1)** really hits the nail right on the head in so many ways for me.

Life in Maine goes well and we are hunkering down for winter which sounds like it may arrive tonight. After two years with a short line railroad in Maine, I became vested and am now retired and a substitute middle and high school teacher, working 2 or 3 days a week. I actually first

started subbing in Virginia when I was able after the railroad accident. I also have a small business in the offing which appears to have potential although there are endless issues which I have to address, particularly in the computer area. They say when you have your own business, there is never enough time in the day and that is surely true. As you might guess it has to do with railroads, specifically 35mm slides from 20 to 50 years back, which I buy, sell, and trade. Most important, I enjoy it and have come in contact with a number of interesting people similarly inclined all over the world. My best customer is in France!

4 years ago I met a very sweet lady named Elsie who is a Mainer (native), retired high school teacher, unfortunately with Parkinson's disease. She has untold strength, is very beautiful, and does very well with her condition. We are a perfect match.

My ex, Sandy, is still in Chesapeake and seems to be doing well there. Suffice it to say that we gave the marriage a shot but were a match that did not work for either of us, even after extensive marital counseling. We still keep in touch.

If you are ever nearby or would like to come to Maine for a visit, please let me know. The same goes for any of our classmates, of course. If you like snow, this is the place to be. My best to the guys in our monthly lunch group in Hampton Roads. I bumped into **Bob Osmon (17)** at the reunion and couldn't remember his name. How embarrassing! Bob, I apologize. Best to you and all the lunch guys. Dennis

PS Back to railroad!!!!!! If you or any of the guys know of anyone who may have taken and kept slides of trains over the years, you know who is interested. D ■

61 ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP: 6%
LIFE MEMBERSHIP: 64%

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Spring is in the air! Crocuses are blooming in the Yard, 100th Night is history, the Class of 2011 still doesn't think graduation will ever get here and the plebes are restless. Welcome to the Stewardship issue of *Shipmate*. If you read this column on our class website: <http://www.usna61.org>, please make sure to check back often as we fast approach the reunion dates of 28 April to 1 May.

Jay (50th Reunion) Bower (14) continues to supply updated information. If you're reading this in the magazine, I hope you had a great time at the reunion and you've already made plans for 2016 and our 55th.

ALITC Report: Jim Luper (11) checks in: As reported in the last *Shipmate*, current ALITC events are Alumni Association-hosted Battalion Receptions for the Class of 2011. '61 representatives helped convince the firsties that participation in the Alumni Association after graduation is the best way to stay in touch with their classmates and to give back to the Academy. The leadership of 2011 already is considering, as their first post-graduation project, a memorial on the Yard for September 11th, which seems appropriate for the Class of '11. Members of '61 who attended the receptions on 2, 8, 9 & 28 February (several attended more than one) were: **Joe Allegretti (13)** & Melanie (who works for the Alumni Association), **Jay Bower (14)**, **Bob Hofford (7)**, Donna & **Warren Hoppe (21)**, **Paul Lang (19)**, Pat & **Jim Luper (11)**, **Tom Murray (2)**, **Mike Roth (22)**, **Bob Sherer (4)**, **Jerry Smith (8)**, Sue & **Jesse Stewart (17)** and Marguerite & **Mike Welch (5)**. Jerry Smith, Bob Hofford and Jim Luper shared making remarks at these receptions. 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.



Two Firsties with Bob Sherer & Jim Luper

FUTURE ALITC EVENTS: There is one more battalion reception on 9 March. Then, the next time we see some of the Class of 2011 will be at our 50th Reunion reception and banquet, 29 April. After that, there are events for a very limited number of '61 classmates at the Graduation Brief, Color Parade and Graduation. At graduation, the '61 participants handing out bars to the new Ensigns and 2nd Lieutenants are very limited (12 if outdoors; 8 if indoors). However, there is a block of 50 seats in the stadium for