

U.S. Coast Guard Academy Class of '53 Newsletter February 2003

About this Newsletter: The Class of '53 Newsletter is published "whenever we get around to it." Its purpose is to keep members of our class informed about our classmates' lives and activities and to provide some tid-bits of trivia and information.

Unfortunately, because not all our classmates are members of the Alumni Association, and not all of our classmates have e-mail, and the deadline for articles for our class notes section in The Bulletin is almost two months before it's published, there will be duplications and gaps in what is included here, what is sent by e-mail or "snail mail", and what appears in The Bulletin.

Send items for The Bulletin and this Newsletter to: Wee Smith, 19 Coachman Pike, Ledyard, CT 06339 -- Tel/FAX 860-464-8425 or e-mail JDSBRIDGE@AOL.COM.

Our 50th reunion committee (**Bob Benson, Jimmy Irwin, "Steamboat" Lewis, Gerry Lipsett, Graeme Mann, and Wee Smith**) have plans well in hand for our *Fiftieth Reunion* at Homecoming. The schedule and registration forms will be mailed to everyone in early April. In the meantime, save the dates (Oct. 2nd-5th)!

----- "Bits and Pieces"

News from our classmates (in alphabetical order):

Paul Arnold continues to enjoy his part-time acting career. For three weekends in February and March, he had a small part in *When You Comin' Back, Red Ryder*. He says, "It's fun, I enjoy it, and it's totally different from what I do here at Boeing sort of a stress reliever you might say."

Dan Briganti's recovery following his radical prostatectomy operation in November continues to go well. He says, "Once I start my rowing when it's warm enough, the muscles should start toning up as I get back to my usual 'rugged' self". In May, he and **Suzanne** plan to go to their time share in Hilton Head, SC and then in June go to Provence, France.

Bill and Romy Bruinsma spent Christmas attending an Elderhostel in San Francisco. Romy, who is still working, was looking forward to the vacation. Bill said, for him, everyday is a "vacation".

In January, **Ed and Joan Cope** spent a week in Florida (attending a telecom conference in Orlando, EPCOT, and visiting his son in St. Pete.), and in February, they vacationed in Hawaii (the five islands, plus the Arizona Memorial and the Polynesian Cultural Center).

Sandy Crouch spent Thanksgiving and Christmas with her daughter Sue's family in Woodland, TX. She returned home to Conn. in January.

Wendell and Yvonne Driggers "stay about as busy as we want to be". He works 10 hours a week as a page in the Reston Regional Library and helps with church newsletter mailings. She works

one morning a week at a homeless shelter and goes to D.C. one day a week to work on dinosaur fossils in the Smithsonian Museum of Natural History. **Yvonne** also made it to the Lava Tower (15,100') on a safari-guided climb of Mt. Kilimanjaro with her grandson who made it all the way to the top, (18,000').

Bud Foster has had a major bout with allergic reactions. On January 14th he started feeling lousy and developed a rash; he was treated for bronchitis and developed an allergy to the medicine (swollen lips); then developed a severe rash on his ankles and lower legs; he was put in ICU in the hospital in Huntsville, TX; on January 24th his lungs suddenly filled up and he was put on life support and Life Flighted to St. Luke's Hospital in the Houston Medical Center where they gave him two pints of blood and lots of antibiotics; he finally was able to go home on February 5th. The doctors say his lungs are in good shape and (after a heart catheterization) his heart is fine. They are not sure what he is allergic to but he has several medicines to avoid. Bud said **Geri** became very familiar with the medical center and they had lots of prayers and support from their daughters, friends, and neighbors.

Frank and Jan Frauenfelder have changed their e-mail address to *seabag1@earthlink.net*. In February got away from the winter in Golden, CO and enjoyed a week of sun and fun in Hawaii. The trip was a gift from their children.

In an effort to improve his golf game, **Jim Grabb** has assembled a couple of new woods (clones of Callaway *Hawkeyes*). He said, "I'm still thinking it's the equipment, but in my heart-of-hearts I know it's the swing, which can't be purchased or in all probability learned at 73".

Bud Grader served as one of the United Nations international observers for the elections in Afghanistan. He has offered to help organize a '53 mini-reunion in the Pyranees near his villa in Bossost, Spain.

Don Hintze can now be reached at *donhintze@starpower.net* on the internet.

After being diagnosed with a blockage in his carotid artery and advised by his doctors that he could be a prime candidate for a stroke, **Jim Irwin** had the blockage cleaned out on February 4th.

When **Bill Kohl** retired, he lost his e-mail address. He's now up and operating on his home computer at: *wkoh153@hotmail.com*.

Dick Kott is busy in retirement. He said he will enter his 75th year this year "readin', writin', paintin' (rooms), handymanin', prayin', and exercisin' (35 minutes per day, 6 days a week)".

"**Steamboat**" **Lewis** is doing much better and is recovering from the bacterial infection in his foot which had him house-bound and hobbling for two months.

Roger Madson reports that **Juanita** is home and doing well after having a knee replacement operation. Her doctors also discovered that she has an irregular heart condition ("atrial tacardia") which can be controlled by medication.

Graeme Mann's recovery and rehab (with Barbara's supervision!) from his quadruple by-pass operation is going well. He's itching and ready for golf season to begin!

On January 15th, Ed Nelson joined the "Class of '53 By-Pass Club" and had his aortic valve replaced along with a single by-pass.

The Oldfords' Christmas card reported that "2002 was a good year for us considering the inherent problems of growing older. Barbara's degenerative disk disease has progressed to the 'severe' stage. Harry is great, until he has to stop taking his NSAID med for some test or other. Then he's hobbling around with his arthritis until he can resume the med."

In November, 15 members of Bill and Margie Russell's family enjoyed a mini-family reunion at Disney's Beach Club, ("Thanksgiving at Epcot").

Jim Shelton will miss playing in this year's Jay Flanagan-Wee Smith men's invitational golf tournament. His oldest grandchild will be graduating from Baylor University on May 17th and he and Irene plan to take two weeks vacation around that.

Keith and Alice Schumacher now have nine grandchildren. Their latest, a grandson, was born on Dec. 17th.

On February 19th, Gene Trainor (14 Wellesley Rd., Scituate, MA 02066, Tel. 781-545-7942, e-mail jftrain@aol.com) had some polyps and a piece of his colon removed. Because of his previous heart attack and being on a pacemaker, his doctors were monitoring his condition very closely and giving him top level care. As of 2/24, if all went well, Barbara was hoping that he would be home by 2/28.

Arnold Palmer designed his "Signature Course" in West Neck, VA and out of loyalty to "one of our own", Ted Wojnar was among the course's first members. So, Ted's search for golf's "Holy Grail" (shooting his age) continues, closing in slowly, one year at a time! Colette thinks finding a "Fountain of Youth" would help.

On Glenn and Sally Young's Christmas card they wrote, "We can't sum up the past year in terms of great accomplishments, but we are pleased to report that all of our grandchildren are cute. We are getting less cute, but are still presentable and functioning."

**Some Classmates who will be
Celebrating Golden Wedding
Anniversaries this year**

The Dates and Their Plans:

Don and Norma Hintze: June 5th - they were the first in our class to get married in the Academy's Chapel; it was the afternoon of our graduation. They plan to be in Paris, France on their anniversary.

Hank and Gloria Fisher: June 6th - they plan to go sailing on a five masted square rigger out of Rome, Italy. Their advice about achieving this milestone: "Pure perseverance on both of our parts. A little loving doesn't hurt either."

Bob and Mimi Schmidt: June 11th - they plan to go on a 16 day "Great Rivers of Europe

Cruise" (Rhine and Danube) plus three days in Vienna. They will be joined by the Oldfords who will also be celebrating their 50th anniversary (see below). Bob's advice: "Be born with genes that will permit you to survive; marry a girl who is loving and kind; try to see that we are all in the same boat (or should I say ship); be kind; and the rest is luck!"

Bill and Mickey Reilly: June 13th - their children are planning something, but it's a "secret". Mickey's views about why their marriage lasted: "I have a poor memory and a sense of humor". Bill's views: "I married the right woman for me - a loving, caring, forgiving person of strong character and, as you can see, a great sense of humor."

Harry and Barbara Oldford: July 15th - as noted above they plan to take the "Great Rivers of Europe Cruise" with the Schmidts who will also be celebrating their 50th anniversary. Their advice: "Mind your helm, weather the storms, and stay the course!"

**Whose Class was it that we called
"Hector the vector collector and his
hour of mystery"?**

In our October 2002 '53 Newsletter, we printed Bill Burke's question about "Hector's" class. Bill said, "Everytime I have heard the word 'vector' over the last 50 years, I have thought about that class. The vectors themselves, of course, I have totally forgotten! Bill asked, whose class was it?"

In our December 2002 '53 Newsletter Roger Holmes provided this answer: It was our swab year Analytical Geometry class taught by the late Virgil ("Tex") Woolfolk '45.

But Bill Clark, after reading Roger's account, sent this comment. "I thought I should correct the obviously spurious report sent to you regarding Hector the Vector Collector.

Hector the Vector Collector was no other than LCDR Steve Carkeek '42! I was in the classroom one day when Steve ran vectors all over the blackboard demonstrating a solution (was it Dynamics Class?). Some vectors were going off the board and were continued elsewhere. The result was very confusing and our section was glad when the bell rang. One of the wits in the class (not me) coined the term.

Now this bit of useless information (excuse me, trivia) probably would have long been forgotten had I not reported to my first ship, CGC RICHEY, one of the infamous CG-manned DE's in Hawaii. Lo and behold, the skipper was none other than Steve! One day, Steve asked me if the cadets had a nickname for him. Quickly sizing up the situation, I decided that the moment was not right. I may have been an Ensign, but I wasn't stupid! So he probably never heard the term."

Some Passng Thoughts.....

- Old age is when classmates ~~as~~ so gray, wrinkled, and bald, they don't recognize you.
- You know you are getting old when everything either dries up or leaks.