

## U.S. Coast Guard Academy Class of '53 Newsletter December 2002

*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 49er Mini-Reunion

We had these 21 classmates come from 16 states to attend our "49er mini-reunion" in Reno-Lake Tahoe (Sun., Oct. 6th to Thurs., Oct. 10th): Roger and Shirley Bascom, Dan and Sue Briganti, Bill and Romy Bruinsma, Ed and Joan Cope, Rick and Beth Cueroni, Wendell and Yvonne Driggers, Frank and Jan Frauenfelder, Kirk and Jackie Greiner, Ralph and Diane Hill, Jim Hiteshew, "Steamboat" and Adele Lewis, Bill and Dixie Linn, Bob and Iris Lynch, Roger and Juanita Madson, Graeme and Barbara Mann, Bud and Betsy Ann Mathieu, Ed and Joyce Nelson, Hal and Shella Olson, Bill and Margie Russell, Wee and Jane Smith, and Al and Pat Stirling.

Ed and Joan Cope did an absolutely superb job of planning and organizing this reunion! The Atlantis Hotel was our headquarters in Reno and on Sunday evening, Ed and Joan hosted an authentic Pennsylvania German Oktoberfest for us at their condo association's club house. On Monday our reunion venue moved to the Cal-Neva Resort on the North Shore of Lake Tahoe where we gathered each afternoon in our hospitality suite. On Monday evening we had dinner in Cal-Neva's California Room. On Tuesday we cruised Lake Tahoe on the Dixie II paddle-wheeler and that evening we had dinner at the Spindleshanks Restaurant. On Wednesday we travelled by cable car to the top of Squaw Mountain, the site of the 1960 Winter Olympics and that evening had dinner at Gar Woods Restaurant. "Leave at will" was granted after breakfast on Thursday morning, and as we said good-bye, we agreed to meet again next year at our 50th Reunion in New London, (Oct. 2nd to 5th, 2003).

Kirk Greiner has put together an excellent web page with a collection of photos from our reunion. See [www.maritimeconsultant.com/CGA53](http://www.maritimeconsultant.com/CGA53). [Bill

Linn's reaction to Kirk's web page was, "if only Kirk could have made us look younger!"]

### Our Fiftieth Reunion

We're moving ahead in planning for our 50th reunion at Homecoming 2003 (Oct. 2nd-5th, 2003).

Our planning committee (Bob Benson, Jimmy Irwin, "Steamboat" Lewis, Gerry Lipsett, Graeme Mann, and Wee Smith) will keep your comments in mind as we plan for our 50th!

### '53's Golden Tide Rips

Gerry Lipsett, who has volunteered to coordinate the preparation of our *Golden Tide Rips* and to have it in the mail by August 2003, advises he's had good responses from our classmates for it.

You're reminded that *the deadline for sending Gerry your information was Thanksgiving Day! All those who have not done so, please do so immediately!*

If you have any questions about this, contact Gerry at 34 Pond St., Cohasset, MA 02025, Tel. 781-383-9770 or e-mail: [bygrip@attbi.com](mailto:bygrip@attbi.com).

### "Bits and Pieces"

*News from our classmates (in alphabetical order):*

Paul and Betsy Anderson's son, Mark, was married in Highland, NC on Nov. 2nd. He's a pediatrician with the Center for Disease Control in Atlanta, GA.

Ken and Eve Barrett spent the last week of August aboard a downeast schooner. Ken said, "It's probably not everyone's cup of tea because it's only a little above camping out, and the passengers are expected to help with the work. However the weather was excellent, the sailing was spendid each day and Penobscot Bay has got to be one of the most beautiful places in North America."

While in Pittsburgh at the end of October to visit his mother, Mike Boggs went to the Penn. State/Illinois football game. He said it was a great weekend because Penn State, Univ. of Pittsburgh, the Steelers, the Penguins and Coast Guard all won.

In October, Dick and Jan Bowers spent a week at Acadia National Park and Bar Harbor, ME. While in Bar Harbor, they had a great visit and dinner with Dave and Nancy Howland.

Dan Briganti (2186 Chesapeake Harbor Dr. E., Annapolis, MD 21403, Tel. 410-267-7771, e-mail: [dantibrig@toadmail.com](mailto:dantibrig@toadmail.com)) had a radical prostatectomy on Nov. 13th and the reports were quite positive for sparing the nerves. He said, "I came home from the hospital on Nov. 15th. Thinking I could jump right up and go full speed turned out to be a mistake and my body told me to slow down. I've been gaining strength and feeling better daily, and afternoon naps are great. I had the drain and the zipper staples removed on Nov. 25th, and then they told me there was some bad news. There was evidence of cancer at the margins of the removed organ which means there is some chance of it spreading. I'm not in an alarm mode yet. I'll have some further consultations and a review of my next

options. No use speculating at this time. I'll be doing my dangdest to get rid of this beast."

Right after our 49er Mini-Reunion, **Ed and Joan Cope** attended The Pterodactyl "Roost" in Mobile, AL (CG Aviators, past and present, mostly past!). Ed said, "There were 300+ in attendance, (including **Bernie Hoyland**), and the tales were even more numerous than at our mini. Of course, it took more aviators to tell them! While in the southeast, we also checked out the Naval Aviation Museum in Pensacola, Okefenokee Swamp Park, Savannah, Atlanta, and finally Plains/Americus, GA, (Jimmie and Rosilyn were not there, but we left them a 'hello')."

**Sandy Crouch** spent Thanksgiving with her daughter Sue's family (% Aldridge, 71 Shearwater Pl., Woodland, TX 77381, Tel. 281-292-2451). She'll be there for Christmas and will return home to Conn. in January.

*Correction:* **Ed and Becky Daniels'** newest grandchild, Timothy Alexander Burgess-Wise, was born on September *11th*, not Sept. 12th. They were hoping that he would not be born until the 12th, because of the sadness we all relate to Sept. 11th.

Following our mini-reunion **Ralph and Diane Hill** stopped at a campground near Bridgeport, CA for three days of fishing at Robinson Creek. The campground was closing on October 14th, so it was quiet and restful with lots of deer roaming the grounds and the fishing was good!

In October, "**Hap**" and **Virginia Hazard** were scheduled to go to Paris, but they had to cancel and put Virginia in the hospital for four days of diagnosis and evaluation of her heart fibrillation. Luckily no surgery or pacemaker was required. The doctors simply changed her medication and it seems to be working fine.

**Roger and Esther Holmes** report that their health is fine. Roger received a good report from his oconologist, and Esther has been free of any complications or blockages around the three stents that were inserted in her right coronary artery after our Class of '53 cruise on the Sovereign of the Seas in 2000.

On October 17th, **Jlm and LaVerne Irwin** added a tenth grandchild to their family when their son Matthew and his wife, Amanda, had a son, Grayson Marcus Irwin.

While in Reno, "**Steamboat**" **Lewis** (8 Castle Rock, Branford, CT 06405, Tel. 203-481-0748), had an attack of gout. After returning home, a bacterial infection also developed in that foot which has had him house-bound and hobbling for the past two months.

On Nov. 1st, **Graeme Mann**, (10 Sandy Point Rd., Stratham, NH 03885, Tel. 603-778-1347, e-mail babsi@rcn.com) flunked a stress test. His doctors put a stent into his subclavian artery, did two bypasses, and repaired his mitral valve. They were unable to do the third bypass because it was so clogged with plaque and calcium. **Barbara** said "two out of three isn't so bad, especially when you consider he had almost zero when he went!!" Because Barbara is a nurse, Graeme was able to go home rather than to a rehab nursing home. Barbara said Graeme's first

morning home "was bit hectic even though I thought I had everything fairly well organized. I came downstairs to find a chipmunk running around. (At first I thought it was a mouse, and that really scared me!) It had gotten in when the men delivering the oxygen left the front door open. It was probably a half an hour before I noticed the open door. It was out the door before the animal control people got here. They called it an 'incidental chipmunk'. It certainly made the morning stressful!" Graeme will have to take it easy for 6 to 8 weeks and then will start cardiac rehab.

**Ed Nelson** (1160 Niagara, Astoria, OR 97103, Tel. 503-325-2596, e-mail: ednels@pacific.com) reported that he and **Joyce** enjoyed a Holland-American line cruise through to Panama Canal (from the Pacific to the Caribbean). Ed also said, "When I visited my cardiologist after the reunion, the echocardiogram showed a diminished efficiency of the heart's pumping ability. He figures on doing an angiogram and probably following that up with the mitral valve replacement and a bypass(es)."

On November 30th, **Hal and Sheila Olson**, plus six of their seven children attended their son Daniel's wedding in Wisconsin. Daniel married another USNA graduate in a military wedding ceremony and Hal was honored to be one of the sword bearers. Hal also noted that their daughter Rowena had been married this past August and their son David plans to be married in April 2003. But, he lamented that "All are over 30, and you might have thought that they would have had enough concern for their parents that they could have spaced these ceremonies out over a period of years instead of just eight months!"

After Hurricane *Lili* passed through Louisiana in October, **Wade Smith** sent this report from his home in Lafayette: "Thank God that it was reduced from a Cat 4 to a Cat 2 or we would all have been in deep trouble. I lost a tree on my neighbor's roof. My other neighbor had a very large tree fall between our houses, mostly on her house but with some damage to mine. We were without power for two and a half days, lost some food. Had nothing to cook with, my fault for not looking earlier for a small portable stove. Many tornadoes came through with the eye wall."

On September 24th, **Ray and Liz Stevens** moved from Ashland, MA to Clinton, MA. Their new address is 290 Berlin St., Apt. 74, Building #4, Clinton, MA 01510, Tel. 978-368-7544. Their e-mail remains the same, (rstevens@quixnext.net).

After attending our mini-reunion in Reno-Lake Tahoe, **Al and Pat Stirling** stayed in the area for a family reunion and Al had a wonderful glider flight which he described as follows. "The weather was just right for 'wave soaring', think of water flowing over a rock in a stream and translate that to the wind over the Sierra mountain range. I made a glider flight to 18,000 feet with a climb rate of over 1,000 feet per minute and could have gone much higher but for FAA rules and not being properly dressed. What a fantastic view of Tahoe and the surrounding terrain."

**Gene Trainor** (14 Wellesley Rd., Scituate, MA 02066, Tel. 781-545-7942, e-mail: jftrain@aol.