

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

*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 to jdsbridge@aol.com.*

50th Reunion Photos Needed

Both Gerry Lipsett who is working on a **Golden Tide Rips "Afterword"**, and Kirk Greiner, who has posted a web site, would like to have photos of our 50th reunion.

Especially needed are any candid photos taken at: our Memorial Service; our Friday night Clambake; Saturday morning at our '53 ring; our Saturday night dinner dance; and our Sunday morning brunch.

Please send Gerry's by whatever format is easiest for you. Digital photos can be sent to him at byglip@comcast.net; CDs and prints can be mailed to him at 34 Pine Street, Cohasset, MA 02025. If you have any questions or suggestions about this, contact Gerry either by e-mail or telephone (781-383-9770).

Kirk's web site address is www.maritimeconsultant.com/CGA53. Note: the case of the characters in the address is important. Kirk would like to receive his on a disk at 18226 Sunset Way, Edmonds, WA 98026. For questions, contact him by e-mail at cptkirk@maritimeconsultant.com or by telephone (425-640-5137).

As those of you who took photos of our classmates and ladies on the Hamilton Hall steps or if you have been on Kirk's web site you already know that the lighting absolutely could not have been worse! Half are in sunlight and half are in the shadow of the tall oak tree to the left of flag pole. Gerry is hoping to be able to make *two* "acceptable" pictures from each photo by adjusting the contrasts.

Contact Gerry if you have any suggestions.

Video of Cadet Days "Then and Now"

Bob Lynch has put together the following collection of movies and videos on one VHS video tape and has offered to send copies for \$5/ea., (his cost including postage), to any of our classmates:

- *"The Five Pointed Star"* which gives brief promotional presentations on the Military, Naval, Air Force, Coast Guard, and Merchant Marine Academies;

- the movie of the launching of the CGC EAGLE (Horst Wessel) in Hamburg, Germany (with speeches by Rudolph Hess and Adolph Hitler);

- the 1950 vintage *"Career For Tomorrow"* movie starring Jay Flanagan and Paul Breed (reporting in) and Denny Fox and Pete Erwin (stowing their gear and "studying"). There are also "cameo" appearances by: Larry Lengel, Ted Wojnar (talking to the Chaplain), "Humpy" Smith (hurdlng), and Bill Russell (with a "date" after playing tennis) and a number of instructors and upper classmen that you'll probably recognize.

- *"The Making of a CG Officer"* which was made around 2000 and shows what today's life at CGA is like.

To order a copy, send a check for \$5 made payable to Robert Berger Lynch to 8752 E. Mustang Trail, Hereford, AZ 85615. For questions, you can contact Bob by e-mail at rblynch@starband.net or by telephone at 520-366-5874.

Hilder Prep School Class of '49

Dave Tredeau, (5th from the left in the top row in the attached photo), was one of our 13 classmates who were members of the Class of '49 at Hilder Prep School. Can you find the other 12? [Ed. Note: Mea culpa!! It's Hilder Prep School, NOT Hillyer Prep School as indicated on the photo!]

Class "Micro" Reunion in Spain in September, 2004??

Bud Grader has offered to coordinate a Class "micro-reunion" in September 2004 in Bossost Val D'Aran, Spain. Our HQ would be in the Hosterfa Catalana, which is in the village near Bud's 200 year old farm house on the Spanish/French border in the Pyrenees. **Ralph and Diane Hill** visited Bud there in the fall of 2001 and described the location as "heaven with spectacular views of the Pyrenees, food and wine delicious, conversation and companionship great."

Bud suggests we consider a 5 day/4 night format in mid-to-late Sept., 2004 with sight-seeing day trips to both France and Spain. Attendees might want to include this "micro-reunion" as part of a trip to visit other places in Europe before or after it.

By Feb. 15th, 2004, please return the enclosed post-card indicating what your interest *might* be in attending such a "micro-reunion". Your answers will give us an indication of who and how many *might* be interested.

Our Class of '53 Endowment Fund

Prior to our 50th Reunion, our class fund raising committee (**Dan Colussy, Rick Cueroni, Ed Nelson, and Wee Smith**) set a goal to try to add \$53,000 to our endowment fund by the end of 2004.

THANKS, classmates!! We far exceeded this goal with a total of \$89,000 in pledges!!

As of December 1st, 2003 our endowment fund had reached \$372,098.

Results of Our Class Meeting

These are the decisions reached by the votes cast by the attendees at our 50th reunion:

• When and where to hold our next

Mini-reunion: The majority of our classmates suggested that the next mini-reunion not be held until 2005, however, there was no clear indication as to where it should be held. [See separate item on the first page about Bud Grader's offer to hold a "Micro" reunion in Spain in September, 2004.]

• Class Officers for the next five years:

Jim Irwin (*President*); **Bill King** (*Vice President*); and **Wee Smith** (*Secretary-Treasurer*) were elected.

• Minor Expenditures from our Class Endowment Fund:

Our classmates approved continuing to use some of our endowment fund to maintain the Academy Hall of Graduates plaques in Hamilton Hall (an average of approximately \$1,000/year) and to continue to present the Nelson W. Nitchman graduation award (approximately \$500/year).

Authorized our Class President, with the concurrence of our other class officers, to decide which minor projects should be supported by our endowment fund. Expenditures for "minor projects" shall not exceed 5% of the fund's total value at year's end, (e.g., up to 5% of the total value of our fund on 31 December 2003 may be expended in 2004).

• Major Expenditures from our Class Endowment Fund:

Approved using some of our endowment fund for resurfacing Cadet Memorial Field. [See separate item below about this project.]

Elected **Jim Irwin** (Chairman), **Bob Benson**, **Dan Colussy**, **Rick Cueroni**, **Bill King**, **Gerry Lipsett**, **Graeme Mann**, **Ed Nelson** and **Wee Smith** to serve as the Class of '53 Gift Committee to decide what subsequent major expenditures should be made from our endowment Fund. "Major expenditures" (i.e., those exceeding 5% of our fund's total year-end value) should be for: something special to enrich cadet life; enhance the quality of graduates; or build upon our traditions. They should benefit more than just a few cadets or alumni; be projects that cannot be obtained or accomplished with appropriated funds; and whenever feasible, the Class of '53's participation should be evident in projects supported by our fund.

Our Class Commits \$320K from our Endowment Fund for *FieldTurf* on Cadet Memorial Field

The two major concerns raised at our class meeting about putting an artificial surface on Cadet Memorial Field were: whether the field is wide enough for a college soccer game and whether appropriated funds can be used when the field needs to be replaced. The Athletic Director and Superintendent, respectively, have confirmed that Cadet Memorial Field meets the minimum width requirements for a college soccer field (65 yards) and that when the *FieldTurf* surface (which is guaranteed for a minimum of 8 years) needs to be replaced, appropriated funds will be used to do it.

The Academy will use appropriated funds to pay for the site preparation (approximately \$250,000) and our class will pay for the installation of the *FieldTurf* artificial surface at a cost of \$320,000. The project will be started immediately after Graduation 2004 and the field will be ready for use by the 2004 fall season.

Currently the Academy is only able to use Cadet Memorial Field less than 10 times per year, (e.g., 4 or 5 football games, an occasional night soccer game, and the Graduation ceremonies). After completing this project, its use will be greatly expanded including practices and games for football, men's and women's soccer, rugby, lacrosse, intramural intercompany sports, the cadet band, and in the spring, when the lower fields are unusable, baseball and softball practices.

The Superintendent (RADM "Rube" Olsen '69) in his letter to alumni in the December issue of *The Bulletin* said, "The Class of '53 really stood out as leaders because they met the goal of providing a practical gift that will solve a real problem for us -- we have struggled with insufficient quality green space for quite some time and this gift will go a long way towards eliminating that problem."

"Misc. Bits and Pieces"

*Some News about our classmates
(Listed in alphabetical order):*

Darrell and Sheila Babcock will be spending the holidays in Houston, TX with two of their daughters.

Ken and Eve Barrett celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary on October 10th.

Roger and Shirley Bascom are settling into their new home in Venice, FL, (514 Circlewood Dr., Venice, FL 34293 - Tel. 941-496-4818), e-mail: rcbascom@comcast.net.

On November 28th **Bill and Romy Bruinsma** flew to New Zealand and rented an RV. They plan to return home on December 26th. In a post card they sent, Bill said "Beautiful country and most friendly people. Our camper van gives a lot of flexibility, but a tour bus would be less stressful. I tell people I had jet black hair before starting out with the van [and driving on the left side of the road]."

Jim and Hilda Conrad regretted they were unable to attend our 50th Reunion. Hilda had suffered a multiple fracture of her upper left arm earlier in the year. She takes daily pain pills and does therapy every night, but traveling any length of time really bothers her. Jim has had a couple of skin cancer surgeries and is also in the early stages of eye cataracts.

Al Cousins was sorry that he and **Sharon** couldn't attend our 50th reunion, especially because he had not seen most of our classmates since our 20th reunion. Al and Sharon had been back east for three weeks in August to visit with his family, (including meeting some of his daughters-in-law and grandchildren for the first time), but they couldn't stay east until our reunion.

In February 2004, **Rick and Beth Cueroni** will be "down-sizing" and moving from Canton, GA to Fleet Landing in Jacksonville, FL. In the "good news" department, in early December, Beth completed

her last of 33 radiation treatments for her breast cancer. Her spirits are good and her doctors are optimistic and positive about a successful outcome. In the "sad news" department, on December 15th, Beth's eyesight suddenly was greatly reduced. Her doctors believe it's caused by a neuropathy of her optic nerve and are treating it with prednisone. Rick's and Beth's advice: **if you experience a sudden loss of vision, get to your doctor and don't delay. It's very important that treatment be started as soon as possible!**

Wendell Driggers, wearing a bright Santa hat, served as the Line Marshall for the Reston, VA Holiday Parade. He organized the marching groups to start the parade down Market Street to Reston Town Center.

Frank and Jan Frauenfelder will celebrate their 50th Wedding Anniversary on December 30th.

After completing his 6 month contract in Iraq, **Bud Grader** went back to Afghanistan in November on a six month contract as the head of a party whose objective will be to develop programs to improve the income of the Afghan rural population. **Bill Bruinsma** thinks the following quote by U.S. Supreme Court Justice William O. Douglas from his book, *Of Men and Mountains* seems to describe Bud so well. "I learned early that the richness of life is found in adventure. Adventure calls on the faculties of mind and spirit. It develops self-reliance and independence. Life then teems with excitement. But man is not ready made for adventure unless he is rid of fear. For fear confines him and limits his scope. He stays tethered by strings of doubt and indecision and has only a small and narrow world to explore."

"Hap" and Virginia Hazard are "too busy for retirement". In November, they attended an education conference in Costa Rica and then were honored by Ohio State University with an endowed scholarship in their names. When "Hap" was campus dean at the OSU Marion campus, he was instrumental in directing a \$37 million gift (\$22M to OSU and \$11M to Marion charities).

After starting on September 4th and covering 12,000 miles and travelling through 25 states and part of Ontario, Canada on their RV trip, **Ralph and Diane Hill** returned home to Whittier, CA on December 8th. In addition to attending our 50th reunion, they had some nice visits with classmates after the reunion: **Ray and Liz Stevens** in Clinton, MA; **Roger and Shirley Bascom** in Venice, FL; and lunch with **Wade and Edith Smith** in Lafayette, LA. Ralph was also able to get in six afternoons of bridge along the way. While visiting the Bascoms, the Hills became so enthused with Venice they bought a 2 BR, 2 bath home in the Bascoms' Circle Woods condo community. The Hills are not moving, but hopefully will rent it part of the year or use it part of the year themselves. Roger hopes that more classmates might want to do the same.

In August, **Bill and Helen King** toured South Africa from Cape Town to Durban, the Midlands, the Battlefields, three days in Kruger Park with the animals, and then, the 'icing on the cake', Victoria Falls.

Bud and Betsy Ann Mathieu were sorry to miss our 50th reunion but they had a marvelous time on their trip to Malmo, Sweden for Bud's installation as a Professor Emeritus at the World Maritime University. The ceremony, which also marked the 20th year of operation of WMU, was attended by dignitaries (in addition to Bud!) from all over the world, including current CG Commandant Admiral Tom Collins '68 and former Commandant, Admiral Bill Kime '57. Bud was one of WMU's founding professors when it opened in 1983.

In November, **Roger and Jerry Mowell** attended their third mission trip to Guatemala with some others from their church family. "Our project was peanut planting, converting land that had not grown corn successfully, then clearing the land and digging holes to put the peanuts in. Temperatures of over 100 degrees, no electricity after 10:00 p.m.; water turned off by 7:00 p.m. and a variety of insects gave us a fresh appreciation of the many conveniences we enjoy living in the United States."

In November **Harry Oldford** learned he has prostate cancer and started radiation treatments. He's also facing potential knee replacement surgery. **Barbara** had successful arthroscopic surgery on her right knee.

Despite having a pacemaker and wearing support hose **Wade ("Humpy") Smith** is continuing to have dizziness and headaches because his legs do not seem to be pumping the blood back as it's supposed to. Edith has also had some heart arrhythmia which is being controlled by medication.

**The "Real" Words to
Perfect Seduction**

Unknowingly, we have been using incorrect words for *Perfect Seduction* all these years. At our 50th reunion **Bill Clark**, who co-wrote it with **Arty Striker**, furnished us with the following "real" words:

Now college boys from shore to shore
Don't have to go on cruise,
They stay at home and make our gals
And drink up all the booze
And never do they chip or paint
Or holystone on wood
But would we trade our place with them
You know damn well we would!

Editor's personal note:

Jane and I continue to be overwhelmed by your gift for us to take a trip. We were initially thinking about a trip to Australia and New Zealand, but recently we've been having some other thoughts. We may still go to Australia, but then again, we may not. In any case, we'll let you know what we decide.

Please know we deeply and greatly appreciate your gift and will use it wisely!!

**LET'S HOPE WE ALL HAVE A
HAPPY AND HEALTHY
2004!!**