

**U.S. Coast Guard Academy
Class of '53 Newsletter
February 2001**

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' activities and to provide some tid-bits of trivia and information. Because not all our classmates are members of the Alumni Association, some items from our class notes section in The Bulletin may be repeated here. 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.

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Our Next Mini-Reunion will be Oct. 1st to 4th in Lincoln, N.H.

At a "micro-class reunion" luncheon in January attended by Cal Crouch, Jimmy Irwin, Gerry Lipsett, Wee Smith, Gene Trainor and Bob West, we discussed where to hold our next mini-reunion. After reviewing the suggestions from our classmates and considering the demographics of where our classmates live we reached a consensus that we should hold our next class mini-reunion in New England this fall.

Thanks to a suggestion from Bob West, we've selected *The Beacon Resort* in Lincoln, N.H. in the heart of the White Mountains to be our headquarters. From there we will be able to enjoy the beautiful fall foliage while taking side trips to some of New England's top sight-seeing spots.

The Academy's Homecoming will be October 5th to 7th for those who would also like to attend it.

Save the dates! Details and registration forms will be mailed separately!

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Class News

(extracted from Christmas cards, "snail mail", e-mails, and phone calls)

Dean Andrews: "Will be spending summers in W. Swanton, VT - we have bought a small house there on the lake. Can't stand the summers in Dallas anymore!"

Darrell and Sheila Babcock: "We are doing fine. Sheila's still planting the landscaping. Nothing else new or exciting."

Bob and Beverly Benson: Will be building a new home this summer and fall.

Ken Boehner: Our December Newsletter to him at 101 Rainbow Drive, #3772, Livingston, TX 77351 was returned by the post office marked "insufficient address". *Does anyone have a better one?*

Bill and Ann Clark: Ann was operated on for breast cancer in mid-June followed by four months of chemotherapy and six weeks of radiation treatment with a 97% chance of being cancer-free.

Shirley Coffelt: "All is well with the Coffelts and we pray it will stay that way".

Dan and Helene Colussy: Congratulations to Dan on assuming the Chairmanship of Iridium Satellite!! See the article on the last page of this newsletter. It's from page E5 of the Dec. 15th issue of *The Washington Post*. Dan's new e-mail address is dacolussy@earthlink.net.

Ed and Joan Cope: "We spent two weeks over the holidays in St. Petersburg, FL with oldest son. We're still looking to do a Nova Scotia/New England trip in 2001". [Ed. Note: - *We hope you'll do it in conjunction with our mini-reunion!*]

Cal and Sandy Crouch: Cal continues to have a positive outlook as he courageously battles to recover from his brain tumor. An MRI on 16 Feb. discovered that there had been some progression of the tumor. His doctors at Yale New Haven and New London's L&M Hospitals are working out a plan for the next steps in his treatment. Meanwhile, Sandy, is battling Polymyalgia, (a crippling illness accompanied by severe pain). Medications have made it manageable for her.

Rick and Beth Cueroni: Have been busy attending TROA (The Retired Officers Association) meetings, including one in Melbourne, Fla. which included a visit with Mike and Kaye Boggs. Beth will be completing three and half weeks of radiation treatment on 21 February as follow-up treatment for the follicular lymphoma that was removed from her throat.

Ed and Becky Daniels have entered the world of cyberspace (beckedan@coastalnet.com)! "We have been blessed to have family members enjoy long lives, but in 2000 several of them experienced failing health and needed extra care and attention, keeping us busy." Ed and Becky were, however, able to visit their daughter Amy and her family in Las Vegas before Amy was transferred to Misawa, Japan which is located on the northern tip of Honshu and gets 200+ inches of snow annually! They are hoping to visit her this spring. In January Ed and Becky enjoyed a visit from **Joe and Moira Kelly** who were passing through New Bern, N.C.

Ted and Barbara DeYoung: "We're enjoying the Tucson winter but it's been a little colder than usual."

*Kirk - Hope all is going well!!
Wee*

Dick and Janie Donnelly: "We had six wonderful weeks in Africa during January and February. We visited Zimbabwe, Kenya, Tanzania and South Africa. We were on Safari for the first part of the trip and then we did the cultural side on a trip through The Garden Route in South Africa. We finished up our trip with a one week stay in Cape Town. We saw 'The Big Five' on all three portions of our Safari and met some lovely people while we were there. We would recommend the experience to any and all, it was fantastic."

Wendell and Yvonne Driggers certainly seem like they were '53's "travelling champs" for 2000!! They started with their Tasmania - Australia - New Zealand trip (Dec. 13, 1999 to January 13, 2000) and ended with an around-the-world trip in 45 days (Oct. 28 to Dec. 12, 2000) in which their itinerary included the following: Germany; Turkey; a Mediterranean cruise; the Suez Canal; Egypt; Jordan; a Red Sea cruise; Djibouti; an Indian Ocean cruise; Kenya; Tanzania; Madagascar; Seychelles; Taj Mahal, Agra, India; Thailand; Hong Kong, Tokyo, Japan; San Francisco; and home. In between they travelled cross-country in their motor home (*Reveler*) to Estes Park, Colorado, Bryce Canyon, and the Grand Canyon where Yvonne, with her sons, Jim and Brian, completed a three-day North Rim to South rim (23.7 miles) hike to celebrate her impending 70th birthday. Congratulations, Yvonne!!

George Everett: Has a new e-mail address (georgever@usa.net).

Hank Fisher: "I was extremely disappointed in not being alerted to the memorial service for the passing of Skip Lord. He was a room mate and good friend. Jim Grabb and I spent many weekends hitch hiking to New York to visit him and Jim Shelton." [Ed. Note: Notice of Skip's service was sent to all of our classmates for whom I had e-mail addresses.]

Frank and Jan Frauenfelder: "We're grateful to be in reasonably good health. Frank's Parkinsons is under control." He has found using the 'mouse' on his computer a little more difficult as is his typing following the partial amputation of his right index finger last June from a staph infection. Highlights of their travels in 2000 included a six week automobile trip in September to the west coast during which they toured the Hearst Castle with Roger Britt, attended an Elderhostel in San Francisco, attended the '53 mini-reunion in Portland, OR and a visit with Ed and Joyce Nelson following it. In April they are going to Hawaii with their family.

Jim and LaVerne Irwin: have just finished a three week visit with her father in Florida. Enroute home they visited Rick and Beth Cueroni in Canton, Ga. [Ed. Note: My apologies to Jim and LaVerne for failing to list their names with those who attended Skip Lord's memorial service.]

Jim and Pat Kearney: Jim has been in and out of the hospital the last few months battling COPD, (chronic obstructive pulmonary disease). Pat says the slightest amount of exercise causes him to gasp for breath but, he still has his great sense of humor.

Joe and Molra Kelly: "Took lots of woolies" with them when they went to Colorado in December to visit their No. 1 Grandson!

Bill and Helen King: Travels in 2000 included the '53 cruise in January, the '53 mini-reunion in Portland, Ore. and a trip to Ireland, Scotland, and England as well as family reunions, family visits, and time with Helen's college classmates planning her 50th college reunion.

Dick and Claudette Kott: "After three operations and several months of chemo, Dick's bladder cancer is gone, but he must undergo a cystoscope every three months to check within the bladder. In November he had a heart attack. While a catheterization affirmed there was some permanent damage, surgery was not performed. Medication will keep control and a diet/exercise regimen has to be followed. 100% full health and activity expected in a couple of months."

"Steamboat" and Adele Lewis: Steamboat's calibration business continues to flourish, but he steadfastly refuses to get a computer and get on line himself. Fortunately Adele is living in the 21st century, so they can be reached on the internet at ajlmush@gateway.net.

Bill and Dixie Linn: "I finally broke down and started using e-mail, (cwillinn@worldnet.att.net). The last increase in postage rates did it. We have decided we will get our house in shape and put it on the market in late spring or summer. It's hard to know what the market will be like then or how long it will take to sell. Our situation this fall is uncertain. As you know, California has lots of problems these days."

Bob and Iris Lynch have moved to Arizona, (8752 E. Mustang Trail, Hereford, AZ 85615-9298 - Tel. No. 520-366-5874). E-mail address to follow.

Bill Markle: In addition to battling pancreatic cancer, Bill has been frustrated by a chemo mediport that has been clogging up. His daughter, Cathy Carlson, has been up from Florida to help him. Bill can be reached via e-mail through Cathy (cmcarlson100@aol.com).

Bud and Betsy Ann Mathieu: "Each of our six sons now has a partner. Douglas, CGA '88, was married in Mexico City in November. The wedding and the reception were both lovely. Betsy Ann and I were only back home for a couple of days before heading back to Mexico (Mazatlan) for two weeks of a previous planned vacation. (Can one really take a vacation when he doesn't work?)"

Harry and Barbara Oldford: Harry enjoys being volunteer editor of the Altamanonte Springs Police/Fire Department's quarterly newsletter, collects data for the Florida Lakewatch Program, and does all the publicity for four railroad shows. His efforts have produced larger attendances and more dealer participation. Barbara completes her 5th year/1,000 hours with the Winter Park Hospital Auxiliary." **Jim and Billie Hiteshew** were scheduled to visit the Oldfords (Feb. 21-23) while traveling in their new 40 ft. motor home enroute to Pensacola, Fla. for his annual POW physical checkup.

Ernie and Nina Rowland: "We have a another e-mail handle (CGErnie53@excite.com) that we hope we can hold on to for awhile."

Bill and Margie Russell: "Events during the year kept us from doing much except family business. Trying for a family reunion at Cape Hatteras on July 4th, 2001. Enjoying this holiday season with our family close by."

Bob and Mimi Schmidt: "It's mid-December and carpenters, plumbers and heating men can be heard throughout the house. Work on our addition began on October 3rd. The outside is complete and the builders have moved inside. Our attic has expanded. Beneath the attic in the second floor are a new bedroom, bathroom and closet. On the first floor the back porch with its new windows and a new door has joined the kitchen. At present we are dusty and cluttered, but hopefully by spring we will be ready for company again."

Tom and Gerrie Sing: "We will be in Jensen Beach, Fla. (561-229-4073) until the first week of May."

Wade and Edith Smith: "It's 'Y2K+1' and still nothing terrible has happened to my computer, however, I haven't improved on my capabilities to use the machine My big project for 2000 was to write the story of my life for my kids and grandchildren. Only told them on a 'need to know'. Secrets are secrets. It amounted to 75 pages and the family enjoyed knowing about the many things that I could remember that we never discussed. Everybody should do this for the sake of the family The house project was to build an art studio on to the house for Edith so she can get back to her painting. I still do the yard work but the workshop is idle most of the year and the piles of saw dust get smaller and smaller."

Ted and Mary Frances Smith: "More of a retirement mode for Ted since selling his defense database to Defense Daily Network but still doing some interesting consulting in his budget analysis specialty From the health front: for Ted, a 'roto-roter' job (i.e., TURP) and on-going participation in a double-blind drug trial program for knee arthritis pain (some relief, if perhaps only psychological); for Mary, a new regimen of pills to be taken daily ("Welcome to club!" she's told) and for both of us, the eternal effort to keep the old torso from getting more so 50-year high school reunions -- Ted's in Silver Spring, Md. and Mary Frances' in Alexandria, Va. bringing back long lost memories and renewing old friendships."

Gene Trainor: On December 1st, Gene's daughter Melissa had a daughter, Calista Jean Fondoulis. Gene now has two grandsons and two granddaughters, *with 20 years difference between the oldest and the youngest!*

Ted and Collete Wojnar: Have a new e-mail address (Semper.Par@verizon.net).

Glenn and Sally Young: "We continue to live apart (Glenn in Longmeadow, Mass. and Sally in Springfield, Mass.). We don't believe that our current situation can go on forever without resolution, but we still don't know what the resolution will be. For some strange reason the world has not stopped while we work out our issues, so we continue to participate in the events of the world. We went to Cleveland together in June to celebrate the 90th birthday of Sally's Dad and to Baltimore for the annual Thanksgiving feast that Glenn's sister stages. We continue to do other things when we are both home" Glenn wasn't home a great deal in 2000. He spent a month in the family's guest house on Nantucket in the spring and then took off across country with a new van and tent trailer to attend the class mini-reunion in Portland, Ore. He also attended elderhostels in Canada and Washington, avoided western fire smoke and relished the scenery of Arizona and Big Bend, Texas.

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Class of '53 Directory

Enclosed are the most-current mailing addresses, telephone numbers, and e-mail addresses that we have for our classmates and widows. Please send any corrections to:

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A Satellite Company's

New Iridium Phone Firm, With Assets of Old, to Start Over As a Niche Player

By YUKI NOGUCHI
Washington Post Staff Writer

For half a penny on the dollar, Iridium Satellite LLC has snapped up \$5 billion of assets of the failed Iridium LLC, giving its new investors hope that the bankrupt satellite phone company will turn a profit for the first time.

For \$25 million, the new, privately held firm essentially gets to start over, debt-free, and has sketched a new plan for a global satellite phone service, raised from the ashes of one of the most spectacular business failures in recent memory.

But Leesburg-based Iridium Satellite isn't the flashy, ambitious Iridium that filed for bankruptcy last year. The new company will be leaner in both its cost structure and marketing strategy, principally targeting industrial customers that work in remote areas of the globe where cell phones don't work, said Dan Colussy, the new firm's chairman. Though the reincarnated company will be modernizing its phones, including adding Internet capability within six months of launching the service, it will be shifting focus from the mass consumer market to clients in the maritime, heavy-construction, forestry, aviation and emergency-services areas, he said.

"We're going to be a niche company; we don't have to be a huge company," Colussy told reporters during a conference call Tuesday. "We don't have to be what Iridium used to propose to be with a million subscribers," said Colussy, a seasoned executive, who is on the board of Constellation Energy Group Inc. (formerly Baltimore Gas and Electric Co.), and was chairman of health-care concern Care First Inc. until last year.

Washington-based Iridium filed for bankruptcy in August 1999 and was scheduled to start an expensive, 14-month de-orbiting plan this month, before its last-minute savior—the local investor group that includes Syncom Man-

Second Chance

agement Co. of Silver Spring—stepped in. Motorola Corp., which helped bankroll the original Iridium, will supply the new firm with equipment, and Boeing Co. will operate and maintain the satellite operations.

"They don't have a big hurdle to cross to make this viable," because they didn't have to invest in the existing capital infrastructure, said Armand J. Musey, an analyst with Banc of America Securities in New York. "In a couple years, Iridium Satellite will have to start launching a new constellation of satellites [to replace the old], which will cost about \$1 billion, so the question is whether there will be enough demand to justify a new constellation" at a time when there could be more competition in the marketplace, he said.

Iridium Satellite, which employs 60 people in its Leesburg office and at its ground-control center in Tempe, Ariz., inherits a total of 66 operating satellites already in orbit, a terrestrial network that transmits the calls to their end

points on the ground, real estate, and intellectual property from the old operation. In addition, there is a modicum of goodwill that comes with the deal: An estimated 30,000 of the 63,000 phones originally sold are still in circulation, though Iridium shut down service in March, Colussy said. Those customers will be offered free upgrades to their phones and discounted service for a year to entice them to rejoin the service, when the commercial version launches at the end of first quarter next year, he said. (The company has at least one government contract that is being serviced now.)

Because the firm is unburdened by debt, the new company will be able to reach profitability in a much nearer term, possibly by the end of next year, and will be able to reduce the per-minute charge for calls to under \$1.50 a minute—which is what new commercial customers will pay when service starts next quarter and far less than the \$7 a minute old Iridium users paid, Colussy said. Instead of the

heavy, brick-like phones, the new Iridium will offer slightly smaller phones that have added data-transmission capability, and which in a year or so will be able to offer text messaging service.

Iridium Satellite will get a leg up on satellite telephone competitors such as debt-ridden Globalstar Telecommunications Ltd. and the public-private entity, International Mobile Satellite Organization (Inmarsat), by offering cheaper prices, Colussy said.

Already, the firm has a two-year, \$72 million contract with the Department of Defense to provide 20,000 phones—a deal the new firm finalized before agreeing to purchase Iridium's assets. Financially, the new company starts out in far better shape: It will spend less than \$7 million a month for all operational costs, about 8 percent of the amount Iridium was spending on monthly operations when it closed, Colussy said.

THE WASHINGTON POST

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