

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

Late February, 2011

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

Because not all of 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, from time-to-time, 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.

Sarasota, FL Mini-Reunion (May 2nd to 6th)

On February 12th, registration forms and the schedule for the Sarasota Mini-Reunion were "snail-mailed" to the following who indicated a *probable or possible* interest in attending it: **Paul and Donna Arnold, Roger and Shirley Bascom, Bob and Beverly Benson, Mike and Kaye Boggs, Dan and Sue Briganti, Dan Colussy, Ed and Roz Cope, Dick and Meris Donnelly, Jan Frauenfelder, Kirk and Jackie Greiner, Hap and Virginia Hazard, Ralph and Diane Hill, Roger and Esther Holmes, Nancy Howland, Bernie and Peggy Hoyland, Jim and LaVerne Irwin, Bill and Helen King, Bill and Betty Ruth Lehr, Gerry Lipsett, Roger Madson, Barbara Mann, Bud and Betsy Ann Mathieu, Kermit and Arlene Meade '51, Rita Mehos, Harry and Barbara Oldford, Nina Rowland, Keith Schumacher, Wade and Sally Smith, Ted and Mary Frances Smith, Wee and Jane Smith, Bob West, and Glenn Young.**

Looking forward to seeing you there and having a great time!!

Our Class of '53 Leadership 44

"Our" boat will be 'L44-01', the *first* Leadership 44 to be delivered to the Academy. It will be named *Shearwater* and will be delivered to the Academy by the end of May or the first few days of June. There will be a plaque prominently displayed in its main cabin to recognize the Class of '53 as its sponsor and there will be a plaque displayed in the Academy Sailing Center recognizing the sponsors of each boat in the L-44 fleet.

Thanks to **Hal Olson** for the following information about *Shearwaters*: "They are pelagic, (i.e., living in open oceans or seas rather than waters adjacent to land or inland waters), skim and soar close to the surface of the sea, and can be found in all the oceans of the world (as are Coast Guard cutters). They are magnificent fliers who rise above the crests and dip into the troughs of tempest tossed seas. The very term 'shearwater' has the connotation of cutting through the seas, as we expect 'our' boat to do."

"Newsbits" about some of our classmates (in alphabetical order)

Darrell Babcock (144 Twilight Place, Woodlands, TX 77381, e-mail: babcocksr.darrell@yahoo.com, Tel. 936-273-7752) sent, "We are still around and doing fine. **Sheila** and I have sort of hibernated for the winter. Children are all struggling in the lean economy. Grand children are off doing their own thing or are in school. Natural order of life I guess. Personally I have become engaged in the politics only as an observer and critic.

We are both plugging along as far as health goes. I spend most of my time just slowly maintaining the house and yard. Our travel plans consist mostly of shopping for groceries.

Dick Donnelly sent the following regarding his battle with Mesothelioma. "I was truly amazed at the number of people that gave some very meaningful and helpful advice and insight in how I might address my challenge. I was almost off to Dana Faber in Boston, but got grounded because my lung doctor found an air pocket somewhere around the lung and he was very concerned that it would enlarge at higher elevations and cause harm and damage to me. I have chosen a similar approach to that used in Boston, i.e. 'Remove the sheet of cancer cells inside the chest, save the lung and treat the disease as a chronic illness.' This procedure will be done at UCLA medical center by Dr. Robert Cameron. A description of the procedure and the Doctor can be found at www.phlbi.org. I will undergo some major tests at UCLA on Feb 22 and 23 and if I pass them will undergo the surgery on Thursday Feb 24. Supposedly I will be in the Hospital for 10 days to two weeks, then released to be with Meris while still having some tubes etc. for a healing period of three weeks. After that there will be five weeks of radiation five days a week or a total of 25 radiotherapy treatments. After that there will be scheduled check ups working up to three months for a while and then out to six months hopefully. The next two months will be rough; hopefully resulting in a normal life of good quality. Your prayers and help to date have been wonderful and very much appreciated. If you can, please keep them coming". **Dick and Meris** can be reached by "snail mail" thru March 1, 2011 at UCLA Tiverton House, 900 Tiverton Ave., Los Angeles, CA. 90024. They will then move into an apartment called 870 Hilgard Ave Apartments, Apt 207, 870 Hilgard Ave. Los Angeles, CA. 90024. Their e-mail address is radcesi@aol.com

Wendell and Yvonne Driggers (1671 Cedar Hollow Way, Reston, VA 20194, e-mail: yedpurple@aol.com, tel. 703-471-9332) flew to Southern Africa in mid-November to join a small tour group. They visited Victoria Falls, went on a four-day Safari, flew to Capetown, visited Cape of Good Hope, then went to the southern tip of Africa at Cape Agulhas.

Jim and Shirley Grabb are really proud of their grandson, Clark Grabb, who is a sophomore and first string varsity hockey player for the Burnt Hills, NY H.S. He is #36 on the left near the beginning of this clip <http://wnyt.com/article/stories/S1964779.shtml?cat=300> and states "everything counts".

Hal and Sheila Olson (1685 Camden Ct., Arnold, MD 21012, e-mail: mlandolsons@comcast.net, tel. 410-757-4226) report, "On February 4th our Navy daughter Rowena, in Okinawa, presented us with their 15th grandchild, a daughter, Brielle Eileen Papson. Son Daniel has orders to the Naval Academy in June, from his present assignment as Air Boss on USS Bataan. It promises to be a good year as far as our extended family is concerned!"

Glenn Young reports, "I am still more hale and hearty than most my age but am beginning to realize that the usual age related complaints are beginning to show up and sooner or later something will happen to limit my activities. Therefore I have decided to move back to the states into a retirement community in Catonsville, MD, a suburb of Baltimore. I expect to arrive there around the first week of June. I like living in Tasmania - the people are friendly, the climate is to my liking, the history is fascinating and the scenery is spectacular, and if there was some way to get a visa which would not require leaving the country within three months of every reentry, I would stay longer. I will move out of my house on the 23rd of February. On the 27th I will be in Shanghai to start a 12 day cruise up the Mekong River to visit Ankor Wat in Cambodia. Then I will fly back to Tasmania and scrounge off my daughter for a short time. I have no specific plans as to what I will do then until June first, but I probably will buy or borrow a tent, throw my camping gear in my car, take the ferry to Melbourne and do a modern version of the traditional Australian "walkabout"- i.e. I will drive rather than backpack. I may, or may not, sell the car, and return to the US via Japan and Austria visiting Frank's Japanese family and the Austrian grandkids enroute. Depending on the calendar and my purse, I might even show up for the mini-reunion in Florida. In that regard, please send me the details." **Glenn** also reported that due to the unrest in Thailand, **Ed Farmer** has decided to leave Thailand and move to India.

Trivia

Thanks to **Wade Smith** for this story about the "The Last Nickel"

A father walks into a restaurant with his young son. He gives the young boy 3 nickels to play with to keep him occupied.

Suddenly, the boy starts choking, going blue in the face. The father realizes the boy has swallowed the nickels and start slapping him on the back. The boy coughs up 2 of the nickels, but keeps choking. Looking at his son, the father is panicking, shouting for help. A well-dressed, attractive, and serious looking woman in a blue business suit is sitting at the coffee bar reading a newspaper and sipping a cup of coffee. At the sound of the commotion, she looks up, puts her coffee cup down, neatly folds the newspaper and places it on the counter, gets up from her seat and makes her way, unhurried, across the restaurant.

Reaching the boy, the woman carefully drops his pants; takes hold of the boy's' testicles and starts to squeeze and twist, gently at first and then ever so firmly. After a few seconds the boy convulses violently and coughs up the last nickel, which the woman deftly catches in her free hand. The woman hands the nickel to the father and walks back to her seat at the coffee bar without saying a word.

As soon as he is sure that his son has suffered no ill effects, the father rushes over to the woman and starts thanking her I've never seen anybody do anything like that before, it was fantastic.

Are you a doctor? "

"No," the woman replied, "I'm with Internal Revenue Service".

Dick Donnelly offered this:

1. The sport of choice for the urban poor is BASKETBALL.

2 The sport of choice for maintenance level employees is BOWLING.

3 The sport of choice for front-line workers is FOOTBALL.

4 The sport of choice for supervisors is BASEBALL.

5 The sport of choice for middle management is TENNIS, and,

6 The sport of choice for corporate executives and officers is GOLF.

So, the higher you go in the corporate structure, the *smaller your balls become*.