

Kirk + Jackie,
Great seeing you!!
Love + Hugs!! Wee

U.S. Coast Guard Academy Class of '53 Newsletter May 2012

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.

The San Diego Mini-Reunion

From Monday to Friday, April 23rd to 27th, 33 of us enjoyed a wonderful '53 mini-reunion in San Diego, CA: It was superbly organized by Paul and Donna Arnold with early-on assistance from Bill and Romy Bruinsma. In addition to the Arnolds and Bruinsmas, these others were able to attend: Roger and Karen Britt, Ed and Roz Cope, Wendell and Yvonne Driggers, Kirk and Jackie Greiner, Meris Hatfield Donnelly, Ralph and Diane Hill, Bernie and Peggy Hoyland, Clay and Jan Hughes, Jimmy and LaVerne Irwin, Bill and Helen King, Iris Lynch, Roger Madson, Ed and Joyce Nelson, Hal and Sheila Olson, Wee and Jane Smith, and Glenn Young and Betty Brown.

It was especially good to see Roger Britt and to meet his wife, Karen, since many of us had not seen him since our graduation, 59 years ago!

Seventeen of the attendees came from east of the Mississippi while 16 were from west of the Mississippi. Surely this "eastern turnout" would not have occurred if years ago, Ed Nelson had not "explained" to us that "the distance from the east coast to the west coast is the same as the distance from the west coast to the east coast!"

We used the Courtyard by Marriott Hotel for our headquarters and highlights of our reunion included tours of the USS MIDWAY, San Diego Air and Space Museum, San Diego Zoo, the Coast Guard Air Station, Mount Soledad Veterans Memorial, and the La Jolla Aquarium. During our reunion we also had a lot of free time to just "catch up" with each other in our hospitality room which was amply stocked with libations and

snacks (generously donated by the Arnolds, Britts, and Bruinsmas).

The Arnolds and the Copes also thoughtfully provided some customized gifts for each of the reunion attendees. The Paul and Donna Arnold provided note pads commemorating the dates of the reunion and the Copes provided embroidered towels with "CGA '53" and the Academy logo on them.

Thanks to Kirk Greiner for his usual great job of taking individual photos of all the attendees as well as a group photo. You can see them under the "Reunion" section of '53's website, (www.cga53.org), which Kirk created and does an outstanding job of maintaining.

Wendell and Yvonne Driggers summed up the reunion best of all when they said, "Seeing the attending classmates, wives, and widows was a pleasure as always. Isn't it great that no one ages!"

Looking ahead.....

Next year, (2013), will be our 60th reunion. A questionnaire (along with a stamped addressed return envelope) is enclosed with this newsletter asking for your opinion as to whether we should hold it during Homecoming weekend in 2013 (October 18-20) or during the summer (as we did for our 30th and 40th reunions).

And looking even further ahead, the questionnaire also asks when in 2014 we should hold our next '53 mini-reunion. Ed and Joyce Nelson (1160 Niagara Ave., Astoria, OR 97103, Tel. 503-325-2596, e-mail: radmed1@msn.com) have offered to coordinate it in Astoria, OR pointing out that "if Lewis and Clark could make it all the way to Astoria, so can the Class of '53".

Misc. Bits and Pieces about our classmates: (in alphabetical order)

Betsy Anderson Wolfe (124 Jackson St., Indiana, PA 15701, Tel. 724-349-2418, e-mail: betsyw@verizon.com) is very proud of her twin granddaughters, Avery and Allie Gribble who were written up in newspaper articles describing their good deeds. Avery and Allie wanted to do something a little different for their 7th birthday parties. So, Avery and Allie had separate birthday parties and instead of asking for presents they asked guests to bring donations for their two favorite charities: the "Orphaned Wildlife Rehabilitation Society" was Avery's and the "Circle F Horse Rescue Society" was Allie's. Each party raised \$450 for their respective charities!!

Our class can now boast about having a "connection" to the Royal family of England... Paul and Donna Arnold's grandson, Connor Jacobs, has been accepted unconditionally and will be attending the University of St. Andrews in Scotland beginning in Sept. As you may recall, this is the same university from which Prince William and Princess Kate graduated!

Roger and Karen Britt's correct address info is 3346 Goldsmith St., San Diego, CA 92108-1423, tel. 619-223-8265 and e-mail: roger_britt@att.net.

Please keep **Sandy Crouch** (42 Mumford Cove Rd., Noank, CT 06340, cands42@aol.com) in your thoughts and prayers. On May 7th, she underwent surgery for uterine cancer.

Hank Fisher (678 Shawnee Drive, Franklin Lakes, NJ 07417, tel. 201-891-5673, e-mail: uscga53@verizon.net) had a knee replacement. Unfortunately, his recovery and rehab are going slower than he had hoped and he had to cancel out of this year's *Hooligan Invitational Golf Tournament*.

Kirk and Jackie Greiner's new telephone number is 425-640-3048.

Bill and Helen King are in the process of moving to a retirement community in VA and will send us their new address after they move.

Gerry Lipsett (13 Hayloft Lane, Marshfield, MA 02050, Tel. 781-536-4160, e-mail: byglip@gmail.com) continues his recovery from his broken neck, but it's "slow going" because he still is having trouble with his swallowing.

Iris Lynch (1157 Carmelita Dr., Sierra Vista, AZ 85635, Tel. 520-366-8397, e-mail: irislynch@dtg-llc.com) has written a book, ("*The Power of Self*") which will be published in Sept. or Oct. -- stay tuned for more details.

Ted and Mary Frances Smith are planning to move to a retirement community in Fairfax, VA as soon as they sell their home in Falls Church, VA.

In the great news department, **Barbara Trainor**, (303 Lindon Ponds Way, Hingham, MA 02043, e-mail: btrainor118@yahoo.com) reports that her Hodgkins Lymphoma cancer is now in remission!!! **Barbara** said she is really happy with her decision to move to a retirement community and is enjoying the variety of activities that it offers

While taking his dog, Abby, for a walk one night in March, **Bob West** fell and "wrecked" his shoulder. His injury was so bad that he has had to move to an assisted living facility and sadly, he also had to put "Abby" up for adoption. Bob's new address info is 105 Cherry Hill Dr. - Unit 12, Beverly, MA 01915, Tel. 978-922-2210, e-mail: captrwest@mac.com.

The following interesting Q & A appeared in the Spring edition of the *Alzheimer's Update* magazine:

Q: What is the difference between Alzheimer's and dementia?

A: Dementia is not a specific disease. It's an umbrella term that describes a wide range of symptoms associated with memory decline or other thinking skills severe enough to reduce a person's ability to perform everyday activities.

There are several diseases that cause dementia including Alzheimer's disease, Vascular dementia, Mixed dementia, Frontotemporal dementia, Lewy Body and Parkinson's disease. Alzheimer's disease, a type of dementia that interferes with memory, thinking and behavior, accounts for 60 to 80 percent of cases. Symptoms usually develop slowly and become worse over time, becoming severe enough to interfere with daily tasks. Vascular dementia, which occurs after a stroke, is the second most common dementia type.

Contrary to widespread belief, dementia is not a normal part of aging.