

U.S. Coast Guard Academy Class of '53 Newsletter
July 2010

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.

BREAKING NEWS

Some "hackers" hacked into **Tom Sing's** e-mail account and sent out an e-mail that said **Tom** had been "mugged" in the U.K. and that the muggers took his credit cards and all his money and he needed money to get home. **Ed Nelson** and I both received this e-mail and perhaps you did, also. I called **Tom** and he has been getting calls from all over the country about it. He said that he and **Gerrie** are fine, so in case you get one of these messages from "Tom", DELETE it it's a "scam" :-)

Class of '53 Website (www.cga53.org)

Kirk Greiner continues to do a great job of maintaining our '53 Website. He recently added some classic photos of our classmates that he took 22 years ago at our **35th Reunion** at the Radisson Hotel in New London in October 1988. They are under the "Reunions" section on the website. Since Kirk took all the pictures, he is not in any of them, but these people are: **Ken Barrett, Roger Bascom, Mike Boggs, Dick Bowers and Jan Bowers**, *Gene Bowers*, Dan and Sue Briganti, Bill Bruinsma, Dan and Helene Colussy, Ed Cope, *Cal* and Sandy Crouch, Rick Cueroni, Jim and Shirley Grabb, *Bud Grader*, June Greiner, *Jimmy and Billie Hiteshew*, *Dave* and Nancy Howland, Bernie Hoyland, Clay and Jan Hughes, Jim Irwin, Helen King, Bill and Betty Ruth Lehr, *Steamboat* and Adele Lewis, *Bill* and Dixie Linn, Gerry Lipsett, Roger Madson, *Graeme Mann*, *Bill and Joyce Markle*, John and Mary Lu McKenna, Harry and Barbara Oldford, *Walt Paulsen* and his friend Marie Malou, *Al Pledger*, *John Saunders*, Jim Shelton, Wee Smith, Ray and Liz Stevens, Al Stirling, Dave and Teresa Stryffeler, *Jean Trainor*, Bob and *Mary West*, and Dave and Millie Zurzuski. Sadly, those whose names are in *italics* are now dead, but seeing their pictures will bring back some wonderful and fond memories of them. Check out these photos -- they're great!! For questions about the website: contact Kirk at kirk.greiner@gmail.com or Tel. 425-640-5137.

Our Next '53 Mini-Reunion: May 2 to 6, 2011 - Sarasota, FL - Save the dates!

Roger and Shirley Bascom (rcbascom@comcast.net - Tel. 941-496-4818) and **Ralph and Diane Hill** (2hillsensei@comcast.net - Tel. 941-492-3522) are planning a wonderful mini-reunion in Sarasota, FL for next spring. Check it out under "Reunions" on our website (cga53.org) to see the options the Bascoms and Hills are considering. Stay tuned for more details!

Our Class Numbers

Wendell Driggers recently asked, "How many applicants were there for our class?"
The answers:

Total number of applications received:	1,449
Total authorized to take the examination:	1,034
CG's "desired number" for our entering class:	175
Actual number sworn in July 1949	167
Number who resigned "Swab Summer"	(-) 18
Number who joined our class from '52	(+)15
Those who attended class (i.e., "classmates")	164

News about our classmates (in alphabetical order)

Paul and Betsy Anderson's son, Mark, has been promoted to Captain in the U.S. Public Health Service. Mark is a medical epidemiologist in the International Emergency and Refugee Health Branch at the Center for Disease Control in Atlanta, GA. His work involves responding to complex humanitarian emergencies caused by armed conflict and natural disasters around the world. His branch provides technical assistance to organizations like UNICEF and to ministries of health in countries affected by humanitarian emergencies. Can't you just see **Paul** looking down from above proudly telling everyone in his own inimitable way, "That's my boy!!"

On May 25th, **Roger Bascom** (4371 Lenox Blvd., Venice, FL 34293, e-mail: rcbascom@comcast.net) had a stent put in an artery near his heart and spent the night in the hospital as planned. His cardiologist told him to lay low for a few days and then resume normal activities. There is another artery that his cardiologist is following, but said it wasn't that bad yet. **Shirley** advised, "We are doing fine. It's a whole lot easier to have a medical procedure that is planned ahead and not through the emergency room."

At the end of May **Sue Briganti** was able to put up to 50% of her weight on her left leg, which had been such a problem for the past year and a half. Her leg had finally healed enough, and this time there were not the struggles of a bad knee or faulty healing of the fractured femur. So on May 26th, for the first time since February, she was able to use the walker successfully and for a significant distance!! **Sue** got to come home on June 4th and she and **Dan** proudly got to see their daughter, Lisa's triplet children graduate from HS. Connor was valedictorian; scholar athlete; recipient of several scholarships; state champion in 800m race, and is going to Stanford. Emma will be at McGill and Hayley at Boston U. Dan said, "Sue's spirits and motivation are

great and she's very anxious to get back into some normalcy of life. We believe the worst is behind us for the past year and a half, and she should be walking well enough in a few months that we can do a little traveling again".

Bill and Romy Bruinsma recently visited Germany. **Bill** said, "my old University of Michigan roommate, a retired pharmacist, and his wife joined us in Germany for 2 weeks. Since they had never been to Europe before, it was all very exciting for them and some of their excitement rubbed off on us. After they left we drove down to the rugged mountainous region of southern Austria for a change of scenery. We also attended a wedding in Germany. The bride, Claudia, had been the girlfriend of **Romy's** son, Roman. He was killed in an automobile accident on the autobahn several years ago and Claudia remained as our close friend ... almost like a daughter to **Romy**. In addition, we hosted a big party for **Romy's** 70th birthday. Birthdays ending in zeros (such as 50, 60, 70, etc.) are very, very important in Germany".

Jean Hallows Driggers, 78, **Wendell's** first wife for 32 years, died in May in Tallahassee, FL. Their three children were present at her bedside when she passed peacefully. Jean had suffered from Alzheimers for 6 years. She graduated from Connecticut College in 1953 and had been President of the CGA Wives Club in the mid-1960s.

Jim and Shirley Grabb's son, Paul, who is a pediatric neurosurgeon at Memorial Hospital in Colorado Springs, CO recently was praised for his "exemplary care of traumatically injured patients" by the American College of Surgeons. **Jim** says "It does seem like Paul performs miracles, but in his job the ball either goes over the fence or it doesn't, and I'm sure it's hell on him when it doesn't."

While **Jim and LaVerne Irwin** were in Colorado to attend their granddaughter Kimberly's H.S. graduation they had a chance to have a short but good visit with **Frank and Jan Frauenfelder**.

Gerry Lipsett (13 Hayloft Lane, Marshfield, MA 02025, Tel. 781-536-4016, e-mail: byglip@gmail.com) is continuing to make good progress in his recovery from the broken neck he suffered back a year ago February. He's going to have surgery at Beth Israel Hospital in Boston on 16 or 23 July to have the plate removed from his throat. It will help improve his ability to swallow and **Gerry** said he is "dreaming of steak and grog and other sailor frivolities!!

On the 14th of April, **Harry Oldford** (1017 Lakemont Circle, Winter Park, FL 32792) was surprised with a celebration of his 80th birthday at a luncheon at the club in the retirement community where he and **Barbara** are living.

In sending their regrets about not attending our Fredericksburg Mini-Reunion, **Fran Plummer** (6365 SW 145th St., Coral Gables, FL 33158, e-mail: bigeasy@adelphia.net), advised that **Bill** is suffering from Alzheimer's disease and that he no longer remembers his classmates.

Bill and Mickey Reilly have a new e-mail address: billandmickey53@yahoo.com

2009 was a life changing year for the **Al and Pat Stirling** (801 Pine Valley Drive, College Station, TX 77845 e-mail: agstirling53@verizon.net). Al said "a year ago April, **Pat** suffered a significant TIA (medical for a minor stroke) and was hospitalized about a week. She was home only 1 or 2 days and had a blood clot in her left leg. These events combined with her Multiple Sclerosis left her unable to stand or use her legs. As a result she is now living in the skilled nursing care wing of the Crestview Retirement Community in Bryan Texas. She is very mobile in her wheel chair and has far more social activity than she had before. We have rigged the car with a hoist so she can come home for the day or attend events outside the facility. I am still working half time as a system analyst providing computer maintenance and help desk support to

the Texas Engineering Extension Service. The job is a life saver for me as I find living alone difficult after 55 years of wonderful marriage. We remain thankful for the many gifts God has given us."

Milestones

As of July 4th, 36% of our classmates (28 of 77) were "octogenarians". By the end of the year, the percentage in this "club" will increase to 47% (36 of 77)! Our *oldest classmates* are : **Dick Kott** (5/14/28); **Bud Mathieu** (7/1/28); and **Frank Frauenfelder** (7/2/28) all of whom are **82!** Congratulations to these 10 classmates and their brides who will be celebrating being married **57** years this year: **Dan and Helene Colussy; Rick and Beth Cueroni; Hank and Gloria Fisher; Frank and Jan Frauenfelder, Dick and Donna Littlefield; Walt and Elma Matherly; Harry and Barbara Oldford; Bill and Mickey Reilly; Bob and Mimi Schmidt; and Dave and Millie Zurzuski**

Some "Elderly Humor"

After an 83 year-old woman finished her annual physical examination, her doctor said, "You are in fine shape for your age, Mrs. Mallory, but tell me, do you still have intercourse?"

"Just a minute, I'll have to ask my husband," she said.

She stepped out into the crowded reception room and yelled out: "Henry, do we still have intercourse?" And there was a hush. You could hear a pin drop.

Henry answered impatiently, "If I told you once, Irma, I told you a hundred times, what we have is Blue Cross!"