

**U.S. Coast Guard Academy
Class of '53 Newsletter
August 2004**

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 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 is 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.*

**In Memoriam
Janie Donnelly**

October 7, 1932 - August 11, 2004

We were saddened and shocked by the sudden death of **Dick Donnelly's** wife, **Janie**. She suffered a stroke at her home around 1:00 a.m. on August 10th, was rushed to the hospital, where she died the next day. Her stroke was without any prior history or warning and was apparently caused when a blood vessel burst in her brain.

Dick met **Janie** at the Conn. College "pig push" in October 1950. They dated all four of her college years and were married after she graduated. On October 12th, they would have been married 50 years.

As **Dick** indicated in our *Golden Tide Rips*, over the years **Janie** was "very involved at one time or another in Hot Line Counseling, community activities, being a Docent at an Art Museum, garden clubs, flower arranging, and was on the Public Art Committee of the City of Lake Oswego."

A Memorial Service was held for **Janie** in Portland, OR on August 13th which **Kirk and Jackie Greiner** and **Ed and Joyce Nelson** attended. **Ed** said the rabbi was very accurately described **Janie** as "caring, non-confrontational, a great hostess, a loyal companion to **Dick**, loved and loving mother and grandmother". **Ed** added, "the weather was beautiful and very fitting as the rabbi mentioned that **Janie** liked warm weather and sunshine and it was both. Not hot, very pleasant".

At the Memorial Service the rabbi encouraged the attendees to close their eyes and think of their favorite memory of **Janie**. My two favorite memories of **Janie** are the first and last times that I saw her. I vividly remember meeting her for the first time in the fall of 1951 when she and **Dick** were on the train riding back from Troy, NY after CGA had beaten RPI to end its football season undefeated. The last time I saw **Janie** was this past May when I had lunch with her and **Dick**

when they were back in New London to attend her Conn. College '54 50th reunion.

In addition to **Dick**, **Janie** is survived by two children (**Jeff** and **Julie**) and two grandchildren (**Faith** and **Hanalei**). **Dick** can be reached at 1098 Cherry Cir., Lake Oswego, OR 97034-6278, Tel. 503-635-4565, e-mail: radcesi@aol.com).

**In Memoriam
Russ Eastwood**

March 31, 1932 - April 3, 2004

We were also sad to learn that our classmate **Russ Eastwood**, died on April 3rd, just three days after his 72nd birthday. His death was caused by a staph infection he contracted after having a pace maker installed.

Russ resigned from the Academy after our fourth class year and attended and graduated in 1954 from Carnegie Tech, now called Carnegie-Mellon. He retired from AMP, Inc., Harrisburg, PA after 36 years in sales management. **Russ** had been among the "missing" for many years, but last year he "found us" through the Alumni Association and attended our 50th reunion. He had a good time at our reunion, and following it, kept in touch with frequent "Big Russ" e-mails. In the last e-mail I received from him on March 24th, he reported about the implant of his ICD ("implantable cardiac defibrillator") and said, "I am now Bionic".

Russ is survived by his wife **Joyce** (2042 Jeffrey Dr., Troy, MI 48085), two children and two grandchildren. **Joyce** also graduated from Carnegie in 1954 and she and **Russ** would have been married 50 years on October 16th.

**Field Turf on Cadet Memorial Field
'53's 50th Reunion Gift**

As of August 17th, Cadet Memorial Field had been stripped of all sod, the sub-surface drainage system had been completed, and the installation of the *FieldTurf* artificial surface had begun.

Our class, as our 50th Reunion gift, is paying for the cost of installing the *FieldTurf* (\$320,000).

The new field is expected to be done by August 30th, and will be dedicated on Sat., Sept. 11th when CGA opens its football season against Mass. Maritime Academy.

**Bob Benson selected for induction to
CGA Athletic Hall of Fame**

Bob Benson, will be inducted into the Academy's Athletic Hall of Fame at this year's Alumni Association Awards & Athletic Hall of Fame Dinner (6:00 p.m., Thursday, October 21st in the Officers' Club),

Bob, who starred in basketball and baseball as a cadet, will be joining our classmates **Mike Boggs, Rick Cueroni, Ed Daniels, Bill Reilly, Bill Russell, and Nat Spadafora** in the Hall of Fame.

The reservation form for the dinner was in the August issue of *The Alumni Bulletin*. *If you want to attend the dinner but don't have the reservation form, please let me know ASAP.*

Our Class of '53 Website

Kirk Greiner has updated the address of our Class of '53 Website. It's now at www.cga53.org.

Please check it out and send your suggestions and comments to Kirk at kirk@maritimeconsultant.com.

Class of '53 Endowment Fund

The Alumni Association's 2003 Annual Financial Report included in the June issue of *The Bulletin* reported that our classmates donated \$51,273 in 2003 and that as of January 1, 2004, our class endowment had a balance of \$329,113. What the report did *not* show was that during 2003, our class endowment fund provided \$123,210 in support to the Academy for these projects: the down-payment for the *FieldTurf* installation on Cadet Memorial Field (\$112,000); Billet Night for the Class of 2003 (\$4,932); Dining-In for the Class of 2003 (\$5,500); and, updating the Hall of Graduates Plaques (\$778).

As of August 17th, the balance in our Endowment Fund was \$355,631. \$208,000 of this will be to cover the balance our class pledged for the *FieldTurf* installation.

'53 Micro-Reunion in Spain

From Thursday, Sept. 23rd to Monday, Sept. 27th we will be holding our '53 micro-reunion Val D'Aran, Spain (near **Bud Grader's** 200-year-old farmhouse on the Spanish-French border in the Pyrenees). Our headquarters will be at the Hosteria Catalana in Bossost, Spain, and our reunion will include day trips to interesting places and meals in both Spain and France. These classmates will be attending: **Roger and Shirley Bascom, Bill and Romy Bruinsma, Bud Grader and Rita Mehos, Kirk and Jackie Greiner, Jimmy Hiteshew, Bill and Helen King, Ted and Mary Frances Smith, Wee and Jane Smith** along with **Kermit and Arlene Meade** from the Class of '51.

Jay Flanagan-Wee Smith

Men's Invitational Golf Tournament

We held our 11th Annual Tournament on May 25th to 27th. 56 golfers played in it including these 12 classmates **Bob Benson, aerie Bowers, Mike Boggs, Dan Colussy, Hank Fisher, Jim Grabb, Bill Kohl, Gerry Lipsett, Roger Madson, Jim Shelton, Wee Smith, Ted Wojnar** and **Graeme Mann's** son, Wilson.

Next year's tournament will be Tues., Wed., Thurs. - May 24th to 26th, 2005. The tournament's only objective is *fun and fellowship for all participants*.

If you've never played in our tournament, but would like an invitation to play next year, let me know.

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

Paul Anderson's son Mark and his wife, Joanna had a daughter (Ella Rose Taliano Anderson) on April

13th in Atlanta, GA. **Betsy's** reaction: "That makes me four for four with granddaughters! "

On July 13th, **Darrell and Sheila Babcock** moved to 144 Twilight Pl., Woodlands, TX 77381.

In April, **Ken Barret** had radioactive seeds implanted to treat his prostate cancer. At the end of May he and **Eve** were in New London for **Eve's** Connecticut College Class of '54 50th Reunion.

Roger and Shirley Bascom enjoyed a wonderful summer in Slinger, Wisconsin. But, after *Hurricane Charley* passed through Port Charlotte, south of their home in Venice, FL, they decided to cut short their stay in Wisconsin and head for home to make sure all was well there.

In April **Dan and Sue Briganti** flew to Tahiti and took a two-week cruise aboard *the Windstar* that stopped at a number of the islands in the French Polynesian chain. They celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on May 2nd.

Bill Bruinsma casually looked into a possible consultant's position in Saudi Arabia but didn't find anything suitable. He said, "strange as it may seem to someone who has not spent a lot of time there, I would not be extremely concerned for my personal safety in Saudi Arabia. There are millions of foreign workers there and only a very small percentage have been hit by terrorists. Oceanside, California where I live is probably a more dangerous place to live, There were 25 murders here in one year. And far greater numbers of people have been killed or seriously injured here by drunk drivers and hot-shots running red lights. These routine killings do not make the evening TV news or headlines around the world. They seldom even make the front page of our local paper. Romy said she would gladly join me if I were to get a job in Saudi."

Dan Colussy is still Chairman of *Iridium*, but he's enjoying the free time from no longer being involved in its day to day operations. He and **Helene** are summering at their home in Arnold, MD. She is doing very well with her new hip.

In June, **Ed and Joan Cope** made a driving trip through Montana, Idaho, Wyoming, Oregon and the Northern California coast. On August 13th, they left for a 2-1/2 week trip to China with their daughter Nola and her husband who does business there. His suppliers are setting up the trip Shanghai, Quatido, Beijing and Xaimen. The Cope's e-mail address is: ltbeam@charter.net.

Sandy Crouch reports "Life for me is continuing to be filled with our children and their goings on. Each of the families has been to our Groton Long Point beach house this summer. I am blessed with our four and their partners and children. Cal would be proud of them all. They give me strength. I miss Cal tremendously, and always will, but the presence of these great kids make life worthwhile."

In late May and early June **Rick and Beth Cueroni** were in New England (from their new home at Fleet Landing, Atlantic Beach, FL) to attend their grandson's H.S. graduation, visit with their daughter, (Nan), in Chester, CT, and a number of their friends in the "greater New London area". In July they made a trip

to Mackinac Island, Detroit and Chicago. Rick said, "it was a long bus ride, but lots of fun." Beth's eyesight continues to be greatly reduced but she has an unbelievable positive outlook. If anyone is going to weather this battle, she will!

Ed and Becky Daniels are enjoying their latest grandson, David William Daniels, (Eddie Daniels '79 and Cyndie's son). Sadly, Becky's mother died on June 5th.

Ed Farmer, who made a Caribbean cruise on the *Queen Mary 2* in March, reported the ship is too big to be enjoyable, (e.g., "the port calls were dreadful because it takes two hours to disgorge its passengers to the beach") but he said the food was "memorable". In July he left on his annual trip to Asia, India, and the Eastern Med that will last until early December.

Our sympathy and condolences to **Hank and Gloria Fisher** on her mother's death.

Frank and Jan Frauenfelder enjoyed an Elderhostel trip to the Getty Museum in Los Angeles in May. After returning, he said, like all 'good athletes', he suffered a damaged achilles tendon on his left foot and had to wear a "boot" on it 24 hours a day for almost a month. On July 2nd, Frank turned 76! In November they plan to attend an Elderhostel trip to NYC.

Bud Grader continues to head up a major agricultural and irrigation development program in Afghanistan for a Washington based consulting firm. His e-mail address CGrader@chemonics.net.

In May **Kirk and Jackie Greiner** toured Athens and other points in Greece and then Paris. Kirk said, "the Greece trip was very good. It's one place that having seen, we won't go back. The ruins are truly that - ruins. The weather was excellent, the company also excellent and I even gained weight -- thought I would lose weight since lamb is not my favorite food." In November they plan to go to Peru and Machu Picho. Both are being kept busy, Kirk with testifying in maritime cases and Jackie with her tax business.

Hap and Virginia Hazard had planned to come east for the 11th Annual Jay Flanagan-Wee Smith Men's Invitational Golf Tournament, but had to cancel when Virginia needed to have surgery on her right eye for glaucoma. In June she sent an e-mail saying, "The vision in my right eye is non-existent, but I do have peripheral vision and with the assistance of my 'good eye', I can drive. So I am happy to report life is good." Hap and Virginia celebrated their 50th anniversary in June.

Ralph and Diane Hill were in New England in June to visit their son, Cary and his family. On their way home to Whittier, CA, they visited **Ray and Liz Stevens** in Clinton, MA and **Roger and Shirley Bascom** at their summer "digs" in Wisconsin. In August they had a wonderful three and a half week trip to Zion, Bryce Canyon, Cedar Breaks, the Kennicott Open Pit Coppermine, Craters of the Moon, the National Bison Range, Glacier, Yellowstone, the Tetons national parks. In October they will be attending a reunion of teachers in Moka, Japan where they taught several years ago.

Jimmy **Hiteshew's** new e-mail address is Jimhiteshew@msn.com.

Roger and Esther Holmes' new e-mail address

the SBC phone company. It's about 15 times faster than the best dial-up speeds I ever had -- a wonderful improvement".

Clay and Jan Hughes are back home in Akron, OH after wintering in Tucson, Arizona.

Bob and Marilyn Iden made a river trip to Russia in July.

Without any great fanfare, tears, or complications, **Jimmy Irwin** painlessly turned 75 on June 7th.

In June, **Rin and Bert Keyzer** celebrated their 50th anniversary with a family gathering (from Texas and Pennsylvania). On July 20th, they moved from No. Haledon, NJ to Pennsylvania, (439 Woodland Dr., Dillburg, PA 17019 - Tel. 717-432-2780).

Bill Lehr advised that **Betty Ruth** had her second (left) hip replacement surgery in July. Her first one (right) was done at the end of January. He said that since she had done so well in recovering from the first operation - hence the quick turn around for the second.

In June, "Steamboat" and Adele Lewis went to Tijuana, Mexico for a chelation treatment for his blood condition. He was very impressed with the facility and its procedures and is optimistic about the future. He plans to go back for a three-month check-up on September 19th.

Gerry Lipsett bought a new 20' water ski boat with a 220 h.p. outboard motor for his family to use at his cottage on Sebago Lake in Maine. He's also been heavily involved in helping his daughter remodel her Gettsburg, PA home.

Bob Lynch was among the 200 graduates of the University of the Pacific, McGeorge School of Law who were honored recently by having their portraits on Judiciary Wall in the Law School's Student Center.

On March 31st, **Graeme Mann** was buried in Arlington, VA National Cemetery with full military honors. The day dawned with a light drizzle, but by the time of the service began, the sun was shining and it was a beautiful and memorable service for a great classmate and friend. These classmates were able to **attend: Dan and Sue Briganti, Wendell Driggers, Jim and Shirley Grabb, Don Hintze, Bill and Helen King, Bill and Andree Kohl, Gerry Lipsett, Dick and Donna Littlefield, Hal Olson, Keith Schumacher, Ted Smith, and Wee and Jane Smith.** Barbara reports "I and the family are coping as best we can. We lost **Graeme** so quickly that even though we are thankful it was easy for him, there are days of disbelief for us!"

In June, **Fayette Merritt** (4200 Croydon Rd., Pensacola, FL 32504, e-mail: Gfaytemerritt@cs.com) needed and was hoping to have surgery on a bone spur pushing on his spinal cord. Two neurosurgeons have told him that a fall or rear end collision (whiplash) could cause him to be paralyzed from the neck down. But, when Fayette went for his Pre-Admission Testing and Registration on June 18th, his surgeon found that his sodium was too low and the surgery had to be postponed. His surgery is now scheduled for August 25th.

Roger and Jerry Mowell's new e-mail address is Rogermowell@sbcglobal.net. He has had some melonomas removed from behind his ear and on his back.

In May **Harry Oldford** reported, "The war is over and the battles have been won!! My PSA test came back at .02, as close to zero as one can get. The orthopedic surgeon gave me a check-up after my knee was replaced in March. I have no pain, walk naturally, finished three weeks of therapy with flying colors, and he wants to see me again in a year. God is good."

Here are some excerpts from several letters I have had from **Bill Plummer** (6365 SW 145th St. Coral Gables, FL 33158 Tel. 305-252-0293 e-mail: bigeasy@adelphia.net) who resigned from the Academy in June 1950. "My departure was not voluntary since my Father was very ill and my grades were not satisfactory. Thanks to **Bob Begien's** suggestion, I hitch-hiked by military air (in uniform) to Dallas, Texas where I contacted his family for some directions to the oil fields of West Texas for a summer job. Going from the 'spit and polish' of the Academy to the grimyest work imaginable gave me the determination to return to college on a football scholarship. With the discipline we developed at the Academy, I excelled in both athletics and academics finally graduating from the University of Texas in the summer of 1954. I was accepted for Navy Flight Training the next year while in graduate school and went to Pensacola. Some of our classmates from the Academy were there having returned from sea duty. My memory fails me as to who they were but I think **Ed Nelson** was one of them. I was saluting everybody because my Cadet Rating did not become Ensign until finishing Preflight. My final training as both a single and multi-engine pilot gave me the opportunity to join an Airship Squadron in Brunswick, Georgia. Upon finishing my first Navy tour, I was granted a scholarship to return to the University of Texas to finish my Master's degree. While doing so, I could not find a reserve Navy squadron to continue flying. Consequently, I was accepted in the Texas National Guard as a pilot that required helicopter training. So I was then qualified in single engine, multi-engine, and airships as a Naval Aviator, plus Rotary Wing as an Army Aviator. Believe me, I never intended it that way, but flying is a world unto itself." Bill said he and his wife, Fran were married in Beijing, China while on a trip there four years ago. "What started out to be a Justice of the Peace ceremony ended up being a 'Demill' all day Chinese wedding. We were dressed in silk, and on the front page of the Beijing Newspaper (see the attached). Much to our chagrin, we had a very difficult time convincing the banks, the IRS, and drivers license bureau as to the authenticity of our marriage. Our marriage license is in Chinese. My two children are grown and Fran has none which leaves us free to pursue a great marriage and enjoy travelling often. We play tennis together and workout in the health club to stay fit. I have remained active in community affairs and look forward to enjoying my remaining years with positive people who can respect accountability and appreciate hard work and

success in work and helping others." In June Bill sent this by e-mail: "Fran and I have just returned from a trip to Boston and while there encountered a changing of command by the Coast Guard. I have never seen that much brass in the old church. It was quite interesting to see so many women involved with scrambled eggs on their hats. I gather that the old sea dogs have changed their appearance. It must be a radical change!"

On September 11th, **Bill and Marge Russell** are flying to Europe to help their son, Neil and his wife celebrate their 25th anniversary.

From August 15th to Sept. 3rd, **Andy and Reba Saunders** will be on a riverboat cruise from Amsterdam to Budapest.

D.W. ("Humpy") Smith is now living on the 10th fairway of a golf course at 2010 High Bluff Rd., Hilton Head Island, SC 29926, Tel. 843-689-5223, e-mail Capiwade@aol.com and after 27 years is playing bridge again.

Ted and Mary Frances Smith took a Grand Circle two week cruise of Belgium and Netherlands in April. They said it was "beyond our expectations" and added, "they got us to places we would never have known about. We docked at the same places in Amsterdam and Antwerp that we did on the EAGLE and CAMPBELL in 1950".

Fred Sponholz does volunteer work for Court Community Service. He says, "I put felons on road gangs."

Gene and Barbara Trainor offer some good advice as to why we should not put things off: they lost 280,000 frequent flyer miles when TWA went broke! Ugh!!

Glenn Young has leased his house for a year and plans to use the income from this for some yet-to-be decided travels. He may use his 35' motor home for a trip throughout the U.S. and he also may visit his children and grandchildren who live in Austria, Australia, and Japan. He can be reached by e-mail at gsy@ix.netcom.com or if he's in the U.S. via his cell phone: 413-222-0103

CAPT "Mac" Williams, USPHS (Ret)

"Mac" Williams, the Academy psychologist who gave us those "ink plot" tests back during our "Swab" summer, passed away on March 24th. He was 93, and an amazing person who maintained an active and strong interest in Academy activities and sports going back to 1947 when he was first assigned to the Academy.

Motor Vehicle Security

Sandy Crouch forwarded an e-mail advising that the VIN (Vehicle Identification Number) on your car should be covered with tape. This is to prevent car thieves from peering through the windshield, writing down the VIN and going to a local car dealer and requesting a duplicate key based on the VIN.

"A little lemon mixed in seltzer will remove those pesky ink stains after you have been fingerprinted" - Martha Stewart