

U.S. Coast Guard Academy Class of '53 Newsletter September 2006

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 jsbridge@aol.com.*

`53 Gettysburg Mini-Reunion

These classmates are planning to meet in Gettysburg, PA from 9/ 11 to 9/15 for our mini-reunion: **Paul and Donna Arnold, Ken and Eve Barrett, Bob and Beverly Benson, Gene Bowers, Dan and Sue Briganti, Bill and Ann Clark, Rick and Beth Cueroni, Ed and Becky Daniels, Dick and Meris Donnelly, Kirk and Jackie Greiner, Hap and Virginia Hazard, Ralph and Diane Hill, Clay and Jan Hughes, Jim and LaVerne Irwin, Joe and Moira Kelly, Bill and Helen King, Bill and Andree Kohl, Bill and Betty Ruth Lehr, Gerry Lipsett, Bob and Iris Lynch, Roger and Juanita Madson, Barbara Mann, Harry and Barbara Oldford, Bill and Mickey Reilly, Bob and Mimi Schmidt, Ted and Mary Frances Smith, Wee and Jane Smith, Ilma Striker, and Bob West.**

Ed and Joan Cope had also planned to attend, but their new home on Whidby Island became available sooner than they had anticipated and Ed thought they should take advantage of it and get settled in earlier for the benefit of Joan's breathing condition.

A Thank You from the CGA Athletic Director

On August 29th, we received the following unsolicited e-mail with the subject: "Saved Again!"

"The last three days have again provided the proof of salvation provided by the Field Turf. Over the past few days anyone who has natural grass has not been able

to use their outside facilities. Yesterday and today our football and soccer teams have held their normal practices due to the "luxury" of Field Turf. Our football team is in the stadium, and the soccer teams are now able to use their new installation down inside the track. We took ownership of the track and field facility two weeks ago.

Proof again that it was a tremendous gift from the Class of '53, and we thank our lucky "stars" (the guys from '53) each time we have this kind of weather. We are able to keep on truckin'.

Please pass on my thanks and regards to your classmates!

Ray Cieplik, Ph.D.

-----"What Goes Around "

In July, **Bill and Ann Clark** went to Charleston, SC to meet the EAGLE and see their grandson, Cadet Mike Higbie '09. While Mike was showing them around the EAGLE, he introduced them to the skipper, CAPT Eric Shaw. Bill said, "CAPT Shaw remembered me as the CO of Training Center, Yorktown and stated he went through OCS while I was there. I thought it was interesting that I had helped train him then, and now 26 years later, he was training my grandson to be a CG officer. Introspectively, I felt that perhaps a part of me was also training Mike. And the 'long blue line' continues!"

-----Vote for Burkhart `62!

The August 2006 issue of the CGA Alumni Assoc. *BULLETIN* included a ballot for the 2006 Board of Directors Election on the reverse of the Homecoming Reservation form. **CDR Carl H. Burkhart (Ret) `62** is one the nominees. I highly endorse his candidacy and even if you are not planning to attend Homecoming or don't vote for any of the other candidates, I hope that you will vote for Carl. He's the Class of '62 Class Correspondent and Reunion Coordinator who will bring that important background and experience to the Board.

-----New London Happenings in the Newspapers Attached are some clippings from the *New London DAY* concerning these recent "events" at the Academy:

- Use of Homeland Security funds to brew beer
- An editorial about the new Commandant of Cadets
- Possible expansion of CGA into Riverside Park
- Was the cadet's court martial racial discrimination?
- The women's behavior in the recent court-martial
- New track and soccer field at CGA
- Cadet Cory Anderson's sabbatical to play baseball

-----Is 73 elderly?

See the attached Letter to the Editor of *The DAY*

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

Paul Arnold (8932 Amadore Circle#1309C, Huntington Beach, CA 92646, Tel. 714-374-6352, e-mail: dba1043@yahoo.com) is continuing to work on his fiction novel about our cadet days and has appreciated receiving some wonderful recollections from **Bill Bruinsma, Bernie Hoyland, Bill Kohl, Bob Lynch, Ed Nelson, Keith Schumacher, Ted Smith, Wee Smith, and Bob West**. Paul will welcome receiving more recollections and experiences from any of our years at CGA, not just Swab Year.

Bill Bruinsma made a two-week trip to Ireland in August with four friends. Bill said they did a lot of hiking and enjoyed much of the beautiful countryside, but his main enjoyment was conversing with the wonderful Irish people.

On August 19th, **Bill and Ann Clark** celebrated their 50th anniversary with classmates **Dan and Sue Briganti, Joe and Moira Kelly, and Bill and Helen King**, some close personal friends, and their immediate family. The festivities included a cocktail party given by their daughter Joy and her husband Pat Higbie '76 at the Clarks' home followed by a dinner at the country club.

Sandy Crouch (42 Mumford Cove Rd., Noank, CT 06340, e-mail cands42@aol.com) was hobbled much of the summer following surgery to remove the nail from one of her toes. She said "it's still sore, but, I'm doing much better". She continues to be concerned about her grandson Ian (Cal Jr.'s son) who is serving in Iraq and is scheduled to be there until November.

Rick and Beth Cueroni attended and proudly watched their grandson Vincent, (Cheri's son), at the Acceptance Ceremony at West Point for the Class of 2010.

In the attached e-mail, **George Everett** (617 Dayton St. #5, Edmonds, WA 98020, Tel. 425-771-1181, e-mail: georgever@usa.net) asks "Wouldn't you like to know what really happened on 9/11??"

June Flanagan (242 Highland Ave., Winchester, MA 01890) said she is slowly getting better from her "stomach thing" (her hospitalization for a non-cancerous intestinal problem). She said she's able to drive and gets out and around, but doesn't try to go too far from home.

Frank Frauenfelder (8387 Fig St. Arvada, CO 80005, e-mail Seabag2@comcast.net) continues in a long term rehab facility for his Parkinson's Disease. He's ready for the football season so he can win some bets from **Wee Smith** (*or so he thinks!*).

Hap and Virginia Hazard's new e-mail address is: hazbeck@woh.rr.com. In July they attended the annual air show and Airventure in Oshkosh, WI. One of the sessions they attended was by a Medal of Honor

recipient, LTC Leo Thorsness. He was **Jimmy Hiteshew's** cell mate for five years as a Viet Nam POW and had the highest regard for Jimmy and knew about his demise. Hap said "it put a damper on an otherwise interesting recount of flying in that war."

On their cross-county trip from Whittier, CA to their new-home in Venice, FL, **Ralph and Diane Hill** especially enjoyed stops in Monument Valley, the Grand Canyon, Painted Desert, Mesa Verde, and the Petrified Forest.

Bill Lehr celebrated his 75th birthday with TWO birthday parties: First, for family on CG Day; all six sons and families came from all over, spent the week..a great together time; Second was the following Saturday and included neighbors and classmates **Joe and Moira Kelly** and **Ted and Collette Wojnar**. The Lehrs' new e-mail address is bblehr@cox.net.

It's not everyday that an activist is named in a nationwide press release, but Don Goldwater, candidate for Governor of Arizona mentioned **Bob Lynch's wife, Iris** as "one of the grass roots leaders who supports my campaign because I am the only candidate they trust to implement a comprehensive plan, Goldwater Reform Immigration Plan (GRIP), when elected as the next Governor of Arizona".

Ed Nelson reports that **Joyce** is doing "very well" recovering from the back surgery she had in July.

In July, **Hal Olson** and his daughter Virginia made a week-long camping trip to Yellowstone National Park. In August, Hal, **Sheila**, and Virginia made their fifth trip to Ireland. Hal said "we have done the "B&B/Farmhouse bit each time, and have enjoyed every one. Every trip includes a return to previously visited places and a number of new ones. After this trip, we will have covered just about every part of the Republic. We highly recommend Ireland for a visit!"

Bill Russell (2613 Woodfern Court, Woodbridge, VA 22192, e-mail: olddog56@aol.com) said he's feeling "pretty good" so is not rushing to see the surgeon who may want to remove his gall bladder. On October 12th **Bill and Margie** will have been married 50 years!

Wade ("Humpty") Smith moved in August to 23 Holly Ribbons Circle, Bluffton, SC 29909, phone 843-705-5316. It is in a Senior Citizen Community (Sun City) with lots of activities. He said, "Should like it there."

Gene Trainor (14 Wellesley Rd., Scituate, MA 02066, e-mail: traingene@yahoo.com) said he's "getting better slowly". **Barbara** added they're waiting to hear from his neuro-surgeon as to when they will be able to put a shunt in Gene's head that will help his recovery. They're hoping it can be done by October 1st.