



'72: DeVore on San Francisco Bay

Great stuff, Mike—thanks!

Jim Phillips sends along the following:



Phillips '72 and Thigpen '21

✉ "Skipping a generation, 36th Company finally has a legacy Mid in the Class of 2021. I had the honor and privilege of administering the oath to my Great Nephew, James Oliver Thigpen on I-Day.

"While there, we were lucky to see Oliver go into Bancroft with his big white bag of new gear and a Plebe Detailer in his face welcoming him home the whole way in. Ahhh, the "fond" memories of a summer spent on the Severn River. Through sparse contacts with him through the summer, I think it is safe to report that Plebe Summer remains a difficult and stressful challenge to the new Plebes. I wouldn't want it any other way... and some day Oliver will probably feel the same. Maybe just not today.

"As an aside, Oliver's family was interviewed by WBAL news on I-Day and Oliver made the cover of the August 2017 Shipmate."

Summertime memories on the Severn...sweat, salt tablets, leaning rest and WBGT. "Get it...IN!" And how many of you studs still have your Reef Points? Thanks, Jim.

Dion Clancy reports that he was recently sailing on the San Francisco Bay with his 28th Company mate, **George DeVore**, shown at the helm in the attached photo... smiling because he is underway.

Dion also sent along the accompanying photo taken during this year's Tailhook Symposium. Word has it that it was a great get together and nobody made the news (!)



Greg Peairs, Dave Miller, Dion Clancy and Pat Virtue ('73) at Tailhook '17

Well, guess that's about it for this month. We hope that you and your loved ones have a great Holiday season, and don't forget to keep the men and women who are putting it on the line for us in your thoughts and prayers. Oh, yes...and let us never, ever forget to BEAT ARMY.

More to come...next year. D. O.

Tried and True With '72.

'73

Life Membership: 66%

Donor Participation: 16.49%

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Hello all, Happy Holidays! Susie and I hope you are having a great Holiday Season and you did not have any damage from this year's storms. I have a lot of news and several public service announcements to put out. The first being I hope you have seen the plans for the 45th reunion and are going to attend. Its 23-26 August. A little earlier than usual. There are some rooms blocked off for the class at the Westin. I do not know how many so you might want to book early and there will be more word as we get closer. I encourage you to register and use the class website; www.usna1973.com. It's a great source for all the gouge on many subjects.

Hopefully you have seen the emails going around about Agent Orange exposure. Several of our classmates have had difficulty applying and being approved for benefits. Bill Short has done a super job researching how to apply to the VA and collecting information. The problem is as basic as showing you were on the CLEVELAND or VANCOUVER and the ships went to Vietnam. Another problem is getting supporting data. To that end, the class is creating a registry of folks to show who went to Vietnam. That effort is being led by Jim Murphy. He has asked all the company reps to canvas their company classmates and provide info on who was on what ships for Youngster Cruise. I know not everyone is on the class mailing list (you might consider adding yourself) so you can go the class website for more info. Please respond to your company rep's request for info. Thanks

I received a great note and pictures from Conrad Donahue who always makes me smile;

✉ "Ahoy General, On August 18th, Glenn Powers and I were honored to attend a ceremony recognizing

RADM Jamie Kelly's retirement from his post-active duty assignment as Dean of the College of Operational & Strategic Leadership (COSL) at the Naval War College. Jamie and his wife Amy came to Newport in 2011 on the urging of CNO Gary Roughead with the intent to stand up the new college and head home to Washington State after two years. Well, after six years of Jamie's leadership, the COSL matured to the point that it will be split into two curriculums upon his departure, one of which will be headed by retired RADM Peg Klein '81 who served as the first female Commandant of Midshipmen. The toasting and roasting at his farewell reception was a testament to the love and respect that our jovial classmate earned from the entire War College staff. In the photo Jamie is listening to a poem based on a Game of Thrones theme in which his character is being humorously besmirched! The Kelly's headed west for their WA farm with their 2 dogs a couple of days later with 44 years of superior service to our Navy in their wake."



Looks like Jaime is enjoying his retirement ceremony

I spent 48 wonderful hours at the beautiful home of Dave and Ruth Leather in Norway, Maine in August. During this short stay, we found time to kayak around the circumference of three lakes and climb a mountain as well as a cross-state drive to dine with Bruce and Margo Metrick. Mike O'Sullivan, Tom Brillat and I frequently shoot a round of golf together and invite any

classmates visiting Rhode Island to get in touch so we can make it a foursome.



Dave Leather and Conrad at the top of the world (aka mountain)!

I asked Conrad what he was up to these days and got back; "I retired from Northrop Grumman in February but am still working for a sub-contractor part time, like you, doing the same job - oversight of the Submarine Training System development at NUWC Newport." Thanks CJ, Susie and I look forward to seeing Karen and you on your next visit to VA Beach!

Jaime, On behalf of the class, thank you for all your years of service to the Navy and our country.

I have some news, a great picture and an invite from our Annapolis group. Quarterly Bruce Hargus has led the effort to gather '73ers at a local watering hole. On August 17 many stalwarts met at the Fleet Reserve Club in Annapolis—see the photo and attendees below.

If you'd like to join in, drop Bruce a line at hargusbc@gmail.com.

Jon Malay has written a nonfiction, first-person narrative of his first sea tour on USS BENJAMIN STODDERT (DDG-22). Jon describes it as;

✉ "Like many of you, my shipmates and I were off the coast of Vietnam when Saigon fell on April 29/30, 1975. But my story is about our being the last ship to leave, three days later, on May 3. It's not written as a history book... it's more of a sea story, an easy read, and I think you'll like it. It's available in hard copy and e-book at Amazon, and you can

read more about it (and about what I've been up to), with links to buy it, at www.jonmalay.com."

If you are looking for a gift for that always hard to buy for roommate or stocking stuffer check it out.

I have some sad news to pass on. Tom Strait passed away on 29 July. I do not have any additional information. Please look for additional information on Tom's life in an upcoming Last Call.

I reported that George Kerlek passed away in July in the last Shipmate. Since then I received more information. A celebration of George's life occurred in August which was well attended by over 200 individuals including 13 classmates and Carol Peale representing Mike who was out of the country. At a time and date still to be determined George will be interred at the USNA Columbarium. Please look for additional information on George's life in an upcoming Last Call.



George Kerlek



'73: The Annapolis group partying. Judy and Kevin Callahan, Rene and Mike Curreri, Jim Campbell, Jackie and Andy Mechling, Karen and Rick Elliott, Bruce Hargus, Tom Gallagher, Carol and Mike Peal, Ken Johnson, and Leslie and Mike DeMans.



'73's attendees at George's Celebration of Life. Left to right. Doug Stone, Mike McRobbie, Vinnie Nigro, Dan Stover, Larry Myers, Tom White, Pat Virtue. Second Row left to right Mike Lindberg, Chuck McKeone, Kim King, Dave Toms, Matt Saviello, Rick Alexander

George Komelasky of Northampton Township, Pa died on July 2, 2016. George was a non-graduate. I just received this news and do not have more information.

That is about all the info and news I have. The mail buoy is once again riding high in the water and looking for an unrep. I cannot end without asking you to remember and consider helping with the Class gift for our 50th reunion. You can find more info and the "Gouge" on how to give on the class website! Again, Susie and I hope you have a great holidays. Please remember our service members and as always, Beat Army and Semper Fi! General

'74

Life Membership: 59%
Donor Participation: 14.63%

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OK. Everyone is getting ready for Army. I get that. But right here, right now, it's still nearly 90 degrees; Golf is still the sport of the day (although I'm feeling pretty good about the progress of our football team in this "rebuilding year" with a 3-0 record). So in meditating myself into the first

week of December, I am already getting the butterflies that set in just before the annual migration to Philly, and thoughts of that first Saturday after Thanksgiving in 1970 creep into my mind. It's 0430. We're all making sandwiches in the mess hall, trying to wake up, wonder what our first, firsthand, Army-Navy experience will be like. (We won that one, just in case you forgot).

I take column space to reflect on this earlier time, in part because those memories conveniently omit the tension of Bancroft hall for plebes in November and memories makes that a very special time. But mostly, I am padding this month's column because quite frankly, there is very little to pass on. August and September are busy months for most of us with family, travel, and all those wonderful outdoor activities we participate in during the classical summer months. Which means I get very few e-mails from all of you.



I did get a note from Dennis Crowe. Don Baldwin's home in Duncan, SC just happened to be within the eclipse of 2017's path of totality. So Herschel and Pam Smith Denny and his wife Louise joined Don and Susan for witness the event first eye, I mean hand. Don Olson, Class of '71 lives close to Dan and Susan, so he joined in. Don broke out the Moon Pies, Eclipse Rum, Luna di Luna wine, and of course, Corona beer (and Denny thinks that Don and Susan also feed them some meals while they were there, but this fact is vague in his