

NOTE: The actual Jan-Feb edition of Shipmate contained the wrong article in the Class of 1973 News section. This is the correct article.

Hello all and Happy New Year, I hope you had Great Holidays and 2021 is much better and less trying than 2020. I have a few pieces of news and nostalgia to pass on but first I have a note to us from **Dirk Mosis**; *“Classmates, Happy New Year! We made it through 2020, and let’s hope and pray that 2021 gets us past the pandemic. Please stay safe and well. I hear from the Supe, ‘Dant, AD via Zoom for Class Presidents and Trustees for Athletic and Scholarship Program. I am continually impressed with their professionalism in handling the challenges presented to the Brigade as they graduate Ensigns and Second Lieutenants for the Fleet and FMF. Volunteer Classmates continue to execute on our 50th Reunion, fundraising and Link in the Chain. Rick Elliott maintains our Class website at usna.com; please check it out for timely information. Doug Rice will shortly present details for weekend of 7 October 2023, and George Watt’s fundraising efforts are making great strides. Our Athletic Excellence pillar presented our first Heinz Lenz award to the Rugby Coach. Our Leadership pillar efforts has named an annual Fellow in Residence at The Stockdale Center for Ethics in honor of our Classmate, Ensign Fred Minier, who represented the ultimate example of our Class motto, “non sibi”, when he gave his life for a shipmate in May 1975. The first Fellow will be awarded soon. Thank you, Classmates. Sure hope to see you in 2021. Non sibi, Dirk”*

Thanks Dirk and on to other items. How many of you knew that Shipmate was running a contest to find Bill the Goat? At least one classmate did. **John Benjamin** sent me the following; Jim, My new claim to fame is that I found Bill the Goat in the June 2020 issue of Shipmate. He is peeking out of a tulip on page 32. I haven’t heard if I won the drawing for the prize yet. With my luck, if there is more than one person in the drawing, I’ll lose. Should anyone be worried that I have nothing better to do in retirement than look for Bill in Shipmate, I just got a little lucky. The magazine fell open to the page with Bill. I am staying engaged with the local American Legion Post, the Kiwanis club, bicycle riding with friends, keeping my 1972 MGB running and any number of home projects. Somehow, home projects never end.



American Legion Post welcoming three new members. Pictured left to right are Walt Richardson, Commander South Carolina Department of The American Legion; new members Payton Horton, Rick Conner, Curtis Tyner and John Benjamin looking sharp as the Post Commander.



John Benjamin and two Good Looking Rides! Ouch, note the arm.

The MGB is the car I purchased in the summer of 1972 after 1st Class Cruise. I remember thinking when I purchased it that it would look really sharp with chrome wire wheels. Well, 48 years later, it finally has them. Astute observers may notice that, in the car/bike picture, my left arm is in a sling and that the chain is not properly installed. My original plan for the picture was for me to be in sweaty bike clothes looking athletic. Unfortunately, during our July 30 bike ride, a dog, my bike and I had an altercation at 18 mph. I got an ambulance ride and a long weekend in the hospital with 10 cracked ribs, partially collapsed lung, a chest tube and a plate installed in my left collar bone which had broken into three pieces. As discernable from the picture, I am well on the way to recovery. I will ride again. If you can wait about 4 to 6 weeks for a picture with me in bike clothes. By the way, I found Bill in the July/August Shipmate also. He is on page 19 peaking over a young man's shoulder in a picture near the upper left corner of the page.

In follow up. John did not win either contest. We are still trying to find out what the prize was. It might have been something valuable like a week of "Carry On"!

I am ecstatic when someone reads my article. **Jim Bristow** sent the following; I read your call for input in the October 2020 Shipmate. So, I respond...the first time ever! Thought the first attached picture might bring back some fond memories for our classmates. Pictured are shoe trees (still in use), our navigation "carry all" bag (we never had backpacks!), the Navigator's Plotting Instrument Set (never used except at USNA), and the handy dandy all-purpose slide rule (aka slipstick as I remember) and storage sleeve. Anyone still know how to use a slide rule? Haven't checked, but I might be able to make some money by selling it as an antique. Note the Alpha-Numbers prominently displayed on several items!



Jim Bistrow's Treasures

One other photo: Several of 25th Company guys and wives got together in October 2018 for the Navy-Notre Dame game in San Diego at Don Stincinski's house on Coronado. Party and reunion much better than the game! Pictured are (left to right): **Larry Carello, Vince Gilbert, Don Stincinski, Mike Dougherty, Frank Frabotta, Jack Pohlmeier, Jim Bristow, and Kyle Smith.** Also present for the weekend, but not present for first day pictures were: **Mike Burnes, Terry McKearney, and Don Phipps.** As for me, I left the Navy after 25 years as a Supply Corps Captain. Then did 15 years as a defense contractor. Now I work part time facilitating a class teaching career military personnel how to transition into the private sector. Married to Kathy, my high school sweetheart, and have three married children (all off the payroll!) and ten grandchildren. Hope this finds you well. Thanks Jim, Appreciate the input

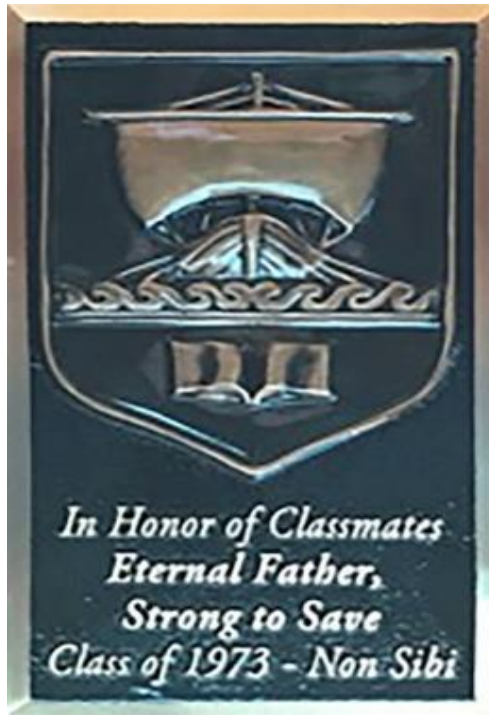


25th Company at the 2018 Navy Notre Dame Game

You know I love photos and stories from our time at the Academy. John and Jim's pictures gave me an idea. How about sending in pictures of your midshipman car and if you want tell us if you still have it or what happened to it. My first car was a 1972 Mercury Capri. I don't have any pictures of it. I do remember what happened to my slide rule. I left it in the car on the way to taking my Engineers Exam at Naval Reactors in August 1976 and it melted. Try finding a slide rule on a Sunday in 1976!

I also heard from **Dave Mericle**. He dropped me a note after seeing his picture in the October Shipmate. He and Julie just celebrated their 46th wedding anniversary and Dave passed on; I'm doing a little part time consulting for Mckean Defense - working for the submarine diesel branch at NSWC Philly, seeing our grandkids (12 total - spread between Virginia and North Carolina), very involved in men's ministry at church, hoping to travel more (last fall spent three weeks in Scotland and Ireland).

For all you SWOs and SWO wanna be's I have to pass on I saw a pretty good SWO movie the other day. It was Greyhound, starring Tom Hanks. It is based on the book The Good Shepherd by C. S. Forester. It had a few technical mistakes but a pretty good story. Worth a look.



I have some sad news to pass on. **Ray Wenderlich** of 1st Company passed away in November 2020 after a long illness. I do not have any additional information. Look for more on Ray's life in an upcoming Last Call. Please keep Ray's family in your thoughts and prayers.

I have a little space left so I included a picture of **Mark Golay** and me on the beach in Surf City, NC. If you never heard of Surf City, NC it's a great area about halfway between Camp Lejeune and Wilmington, NC. Not too developed and just nice.



Mark Golay and me. Life is good at the beach!

That's all the news. I have not heard of anyone getting COVID 19 which is great! Please stay safe. Give yourself a Big Atta Boy for surviving 2020 and I hope you have a Great 2021. As always **Go Navy! and Semper Fi! - General**