

'72

Life Membership: 57%
Donor Participation: 14.40%

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Rolling along through summer—hopefully yours is a safe one. If you're like me, you've become rather proficient conducting and attending virtual meetings, and using media like Zoom as if you *really* knew what you were doing. An interesting phenomenon this year has been the use of Zoom for Classmate get-togethers. 17th Company (thanks to **Eric Anderson**) began doing a weekly Happy Hour on Zoom back in April (seeing people we haven't seen since...graduation?!) **Rick Rubel** (thanks to Ginna) celebrated his rite of passage to septuagenarian with a Zoomfest of about 30 or more people back in May. Guess it shows that, despite all of the inconveniences and physical distancing associated with life during the pandemic, we can strengthen our bonds and become socially closer when we make the effort to do so.

First-Timer Dept. All of you old former YP Squadron skippers, navigators, line handlers, deck swabbers, etc. out there...eat your hearts out. **George Kindel** sent me the following back in March:

✉ "I broke my arm during dead-week leave of plebe year, resulting in my expected East Coast youngster cruise being shifted to the West Coast one starting later in the summer. As a result, I missed the opportunity to go to sea with **Barney Hall** who was one of my plebe-year roommates. He ended up as a surface nuke and I as a submariner. It appeared as though we would never be at-sea shipmates.

"Last Easter weekend [*Scribe's note: 2019*], I received a text

message from Barney telling me that a friend of his was buying a former Naval Academy YP in Seattle and needed a crew to take it from there, through the Panama Canal and up into the Gulf of Mexico. I called and was introduced to Buddy Puryear (UVA '77), also a retired submarine Captain, who along with his wife Mary were starting a ministry using the old YP for medical missions and disaster relief in the Caribbean Sea.

"Barney and I spent three weeks last June getting the YP, rechristened *Sea Hope*, ready for sea. We returned to Seattle in August where a crew of eleven finished outfitting *Sea Hope* for sea. Six weeks and 5,800 NM later we arrived in Bayou La Batre, AL. Barney and I went to sea together fifty years after our aborted time together on our youngster cruise.

"Getting the 33-year-old vessel to sea, ten years after the Navy last used it, was a challenge for our volunteer crew. God's hand was evident in the manner in which our diverse team came together with the skills required to fight through material problems and to operate at sea safely. We did experience rolls of over thirty degrees, making Buddy and I wish that we could submerge as we had during our Navy careers. In addition, the four diesel engines providing propulsion and electrical power gave us a number of challenges including spending many hours off the Oregon coast with no AC power and only one propulsion engine operable as we headed towards the nearest port.



'72: The crew of *Sea Hope* mustering topside

"The attached picture shows the crew shortly before leaving Seattle. Barney and I are on the far left, the Puryears are in the middle wearing pink shirts.

"It was a joy spending a couple of months rooming with Barney. *Sea Hope* is now in a shipyard in Alabama getting painted out, repaired, and having systems upgraded for its new mission. It will be manned by unpaid volunteers. If any readers are interested in learning about opportunities to serve in this endeavor check out the www.myseahope.com site. A short video of the highlights of the transit from Seattle can be found in the "Captain's Notes" section under "The *Sea Hope* Delivery" at <https://www.myseahope.com/captains-notes/the-sea-hope-delivery>."

Take a few minutes to check out that website, folks...and keep in mind that this was one of the YPs that the Navy procured after we graduated. Great story, George—thanks!

Wear a Mask for a Classmate Dept. As many of you know, **Perry Dempsey** and **Glenn Kaden** have undertaken a Masks for Charity initiative to make and sell Navy face masks for \$72 each. With a little help from Glenn's daughter, Kelsey, over 70 orders were placed by mid-May, and over \$4000 raised with the proceeds going to the USNA Chaplains to a charity of their choosing. Dempsroc's ugly mug notwithstanding, these masks are a class act. (Check out the Class Facebook page for more photos.)

If you would like to read more about it or assist with this endeavor (bookkeeping, marketing, or manufacturing), please reach out to Perry at dempsey72@gmail.com or Glenn at glk2020@aol.com.

Some of the Masked Faces of '72



Mailbag's empty, dear readers. Stay safe—and be safe for others—as we continue through the next few

months. Drop your old scribe a note when you get the chance!

More to come. D. O.

Tried and True with '72.

'73

Life Membership: 65%
Donor Participation: 13.59%

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Hi all, I hope you are in good health and enjoying summer. Things are not returning to normal as fast as I had hoped. Besides writing this I am working on my sixth jigsaw puzzle! I tried to buy a new one the other day and many places were sold out. Apparently, toilet paper is not the only item in big demand. I have not gotten any news in several months. The inbox is gathering a lot of dust and the mail buoy broke its mooring and is lost! Write and tell us what you are doing while you shelter in place. I have a potpourri of "stuff" to share so let's get to it.

First item. I encourage you to check your contact info and profile on the Alumni Association website. Planning for the 50th has started. Hopefully you received a survey

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request for the 50th reunion. If you didn't get the survey that's a pretty good sign your contact info is out of date.

Ninth Company has been doing a virtual meeting on ZOOM for the last couple of months. It is a lot of fun and we have good participation. Most of the conversations are about our "good times" at the Academy, especially Plebe summer and year! A couple of folks (me) have a few technical challenges but you laugh a lot, it is good to see old friends and it is a great time. I think ZOOM is free and there are other websites that offer video conferencing too.

I have an update from **Dirk Mosis** on various items the class is involved in; Dirk wrote:

✉ "I continue to be so pleased to see everyone engaged on the Class's behalf. **Leif Hendrickson** and **Jim Campbell** with all the years supporting Capstone. Your last column showed our final Capstone episode. BZ! **Rick Elliot** keeps our usna.com website up to date. I strongly, strongly encourage everyone to surf Rick's website. This is the location of "official" word of the Class and what is happening inside the Yard. Email addresses can only be updated by individual Classmate. Communication sources amongst us is via various sources-Shipmate; usna.com; Facebook managed by **Ken Mayeaux**; **Bill Short's** Prayer Group; sports and club teams informal chats; **Chuck McKeone** and **Scott Haney's** informal email grapevines; and, probably most important-Company Reps! The Company Reps are most important and because Classmates are most likely to open an email from those they know best, and that is very likely to be someone in their Company. **Doug Leland's** is planning a cross country 50th Reunion Ride to honor our Classmates who have gone before us. He is in contact with the Company Reps if you would like to participate or support. **Joe Stewart's** Link in the Chain, which was slowed down due to virtual Herndon's, graduation, commissioning, is in close contact with The Yard and Company Reps. The football season, at this writing, is up

in the air. Our Tailgate Team really keeps the Class in touch. So many work on the communication, hosting, set up, tickets...this Group keeps us "together", either at Navy Marine Corps Memorial, or as we read who was there and who saw whom. Company Reps are key in trying to keep track of everyone. Just touching base with a Classmate. Ensure that each of us feels needed, important, and we do not want to inadvertently lose that personal, human touch with someone, a teammate, a Company Mate that may be slipping into the shadows. **George Watt's** leadership of our 50th Reunion Gift Campaign is progressing nicely, despite the virus. But, less than 50% of us have opted to donate. We hope a reenergized Campaign post virus bumps that participation percentage up! Semper fi, non sibi, Dirk"

I received my April-May Shipmate yesterday and the picture of Pat and **Bruce Hargus** at their wedding reception was obscured. I do not know what happened but I wanted to share a better picture.



Bruce and Pat Hargus at their wedding reception. A great looking couple!



I have several pieces of sad news to pass on. **Robert "Bob" Dean Wakefield**, 33 Co, of Arnold, MD, passed away on Friday, March 20, 2020, after battling ALS (Lou Gehrig's disease) for nearly 5 years.

Rear Admiral **Dennis Michael "Denny" Dwyer**, USN (Ret.), 18 Co, passed away on April 14, 2020 after an extended battle with Alzheimer's disease.

Mary Helmer, wife of **Dale Helmer**, 36 Co, passed away in early May 2020 after a long illness. The family requests that in lieu of flowers a donation be made to the University of Miami ALS Research Center. The ALS research website is Miami-als.org/support-us/

Look for more on Bob's and Denny's lives in an upcoming Last Call. Please keep the families of our Classmates in your thoughts and prayers.

I have a little space left so I thought I would put in some pictures from our time at the Academy that various folks have sent me.



Ouch! It's been a long time since we got shots this way.



Plebe summer P-rade

That's all the info I have. Please pass on any news and pictures. If you have any stories or pictures of our time at the Academy that you want to share that would be great too. I hope you have a good summer and that you and your families are safe and well. As always, Go Navy and Semper Fi! General

'74

Life Membership: 59%
Donor Participation: 3.77%

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Greetings to all.

It's Memorial Day, and a few TV networks are broadcasting

appropriate movies. After viewing "The Enemy Below" and "Midway" (the 1976 version with Charlton Heston and Henry Fonda), I'm properly inspired to put fingertips to keyboard for this month's Shipmate column. It's been an unusually quiet two months since the last column. No need to spend column inches explaining why the lack of activity. We all know why. But I did receive a note from Dan Marusa (6th Co.). He and Kevin Obrien (also 6th Co.) made a joint vacation trip to Hilton Head before the lockdowns took effect. No details were provided, but Dan did send photo.



Kevin Obrien and Dan Marusa



Rich Anderson - Puget Sound ALITC Zoom Meeting

This is our year to assume the leadership role in *Another Link In The Chain* with the class of 2024. This program typically kicks off with farewell parties all over the country for incoming plebes and their parents, and interaction with the new class during their plebe summer. Doug Rau (7th Co.) has taken the lead in this program of '74 and has been doing a fantastic job. Unfortunately, mandatory social distancing is precluding many of the events that were planned. There has been a few events carried out via