



'59: 13th Company Reunion

cards along with my hearing/ seeing failed. We had a change of command but everyone was asleep so I guess I still have the yoke, oops tiller.

The West/Left Coast recommended and it was accepted that the next year reunion will be in Oct in San Diego. Jerry, Jacques, and Pag will do the planning and set up. Last but certainly not least, we all owe Jerry a huge debt for jumping in and making this probably our most memorable of all our reunions possible. Cheers, Beat Army and get another Presidents Trophy!!!! PS I apologize for late picture and not getting everyone in photos. ■



13th Company Reunion gals

Good Times

Frank Young (12) reports:

■ We recently took our grandson on a trip all about baseball. One of our stops was at the Little League Museum in Williamsport PA. I was wearing my Class of '59 30th Reunion cap and a young man who it turned out is Class of '09 spoke to me. A Link in the Chain event. During our brief conversation I mentioned the name of a classmate of his who I have email contact because we had him at our house when the sailing squadron visited Freeport NY 9 years ago, but the name didn't ring a bell with him. However his wife, who went through OCS, spoke up and said, "We went through flight school together." Unfortunately I didn't get either of their names. I will wear that cap more often in the future. And I should have mentioned the name of the class of '09 member whom I met 9 years ago. It is

Nic Jackson, and I think he would not object to being mentioned in a *Shipmate* class of '59 column. ■

Good Times Abroad:

In August and September, Suzi and Charlie Pease (10) joined Carol and Jim Cartwright (7) on a trip to Norway and Iceland. This was a second visit for me. I sailed into Oslo on battleship New Jersey in July of 1956. And, in the mid-1970s our VP squadron deployed to Iceland. The changes in both nations have been impressive. The hospitality remains outstanding. We highly recommend the Mail Boat tour of Norway.



Norway Visitors

Editors Note: I very much appreciate the increase in the number and content of inputs that you sent for this edition of *Shipmate*.

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**JOINT
MEMBERSHIP**

60 ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP: 1%
LIFE MEMBERSHIP: 67%

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From **Bob Traister (2)**:

■ "After many intervening years **Steve Scheffer (1)** and I were able to meet when my wife, Jan and I visited New York City. We attempted to fill in the high lights of our personal adventures. After graduation I again met Steve in 1971 when he was working for MGM in LA where I was overseeing the LHA Class design. He remained in the entertainment industry advancing through senior ranks at HBO as President, Film Programming. When I was stationed at Pearl Harbor, he called my office introducing himself as Lt. Scheffer. He continues in the film/TV industry as an independent producer while living in the city. Bob" ■



Scheffer & Traister

From **Fred Philippi (6)**:

■ "In April and May of this year, Edie and I celebrated my Birthday in the Bay of Bengal heading from Burma to India on a Far East Odyssey. It was my first time sailing as a Guest instead of Crew. We started in Bangkok and ended up in Istanbul over a month later hitting every country in between. The trip wiped out half of my "Bucket List" which included diving in the Red Sea, transiting the Suez Canal, visiting Israel, and riding an elephant. The down side was missing the reunion. On 24 October 2015 I will be officiating at the wedding of my number two Granddaughter, Ashleigh, at the family farm in Virginia. We are also getting love and kisses from our Great Granddaughter, Hayden, and every day. God is Good. Fred" ■



The Phillippis

From **Rod Friedmann (5)**:

■ “Bill, the question: What to do with 16 classmates on a beautiful fall day in Oct. Answer: Head up to **Al Whitaker’s (16)** AleWerks Brewery in Williamsburg for a Brewery tour, sample some of his award winning brews and have an outdoors class luncheon. It doesn’t get any better than this. Attending were: **Bob Ianucci (16)**, **Frank Kay (8)**, **Joel Febel (5)**, **Don Foery (6)** & **Pat Sullivan (6)** (our out-of-town guests), **Jack Greenhalgh (9)**, **Bill Kee (9)**, **Bob Antonio (14)**, **Ed McCaskill (8)**, **Pete Chabot (14)**, **Paul Cooper (5)**, **Mike McCullough (14)**, **Geo Van Houten (24)**, **Tom Wishart (22)**, **Wick Parcels (12)** and **Rod Friedmann (5)**. We were very happy that **Don Foery (6)** and **Pat Sullivan (6)** could join us and of course share some new stories.

Al has expanded the capacity of his brewery and added a limited cafe capability, plus an outdoor seating area. Perfect for what we had today. Many thanks to Al for hosting us with the beer tasting and the luncheon. Rod” ■



Cooper, Whitaker, Kay & Ianucci



Van Houten, Febel & Sullivan



Antonio, Foery, & Wishart

From **Charlie Roberts (20)** discussing with **Fred Jerding (5)**:

■ “Fred: Thanks for the reply, and I am glad that I finally got your new email address. Jerry Ellis did very well, and went on to become ComSubPac, Oceanographer of the Navy, and Special Asst. to SecNav for Undersea Strategy. Jerry is now in the Undersea Warfare Chair here at NPS, and you can see his bio below. RADM Brad Mooney had the Oceanographer job back in 1982 after I was selected for Capt., and he offered me the job of Supt. of the Naval Observatory.

Have you read “Thunder Below” by RADM Eugene Fluckey? I am currently reading it, and it is an amazing story about his time as CO of USS Barb (SS-220) during WWII. He actually tried to turn down the Medal of Honor because he felt that it should be awarded to individuals who performed personally heroic acts, and normally died doing it. When I was navigator of USS Tecumseh (SSBN-628) and **Hank Chiles (21)** was the engineer in 1965, Fluckey was ComSubPac, and we were recalled to Guam to prepare for the first OT of the A-3 missile. Fluckey rode us for that trip and spent a lot of time in the nav. center. After the patrol Carol and I decided to get married, and invited him to the wedding. But **Murray Nixon (19)** was his aide and said that he had another engagement and couldn’t make it. A few weeks later at the Submarine Birthday Ball he made his remarks in his dress whites with his Medal of Honor around

his neck. Then he came over and introduced himself to Carol and apologized for not being able to attend our wedding. She was duly impressed, and never forgot it. Fluckey’s XO on his first two war patrols as CO of Barb was Bob McNitt, who I think was Supt. of NPS when you were here. We attended his farewell in 1971 when he was headed to BuPers, and his wife, Barbara, was killed when their trailer jackknifed, and she was thrown out. I got to give McNitt a tour of the Naval Observatory when I was the Supt. All the best, Charlie ■

And from **Fred Jerding (5)**:

■ “Hi Charlie. I enjoyed meeting you and Mary at the reunion as well. In fact I ran into her separately and had a good chat. Lucky that you and Michael got together. I remember him well from the Bolivar; young and sharp. It was a great ship and crew. I didn’t spend much time in the engineering spaces, as he probably remembers. Finally, the XO got me to get signed off as EOOW. Don’t even remember how that went, but I do remember standing watch at the end of patrol. That reminds me of when I went back to Calhoun as Engineer from PG School. Rickover told the CO, I was qualified as engineer and EOOW by Rickover, so get over it. Cossaboom was up tight because I’d been away for 2 years and we were facing an ORSE on sea trials. I can’t blame him, but after all I put the ship in commission and was EOOW for reactor plant testing, sea trials, shakedown and patrol, serving as DCA and MPA.

You mentioned Jerry Ellis. He was my relief on the GRANT. I was pretty worn down after force feeding the ship through an 18 month overhaul to beat a shipyard strike. The other ships doing that overhaul took 22-28 months. I turned down an offer to go to Hawaii as CO SARGO, which was my qual in subs ship. (I was on SARGO 18 months on emergency orders, and finished up with a refueling and shakedown standing port and starboard watches with the engineer.) Family didn’t want to move, and I was tired after 4 years on GRANT. I know Jerry did well on GRANT, but lost track of him after that. Need to get back to work, but look forward to keeping in touch. Thanks, Fred” ■

From **Rod Friedmann (5)**:

■ “Bill, we went Italian for our luncheon in Virginia Beach. We visited a “new” Italian Restaurant called Bella Monte.

We had a near record turnout despite the weather & a few last minute cancellations. One of our classmates commented that the luncheon “was the best ever.” They had innovative menus, reasonable prices and an excuse to celebrate our two Marines (**Torry Rogers (3) and Al Whitaker (16)**) Marine Corps 240th Birthday. They didn’t look a day over 239. We held a quick class business meeting. **Bob Osmon (17)** briefed us on our Class Christmas Dinner/Party to be held by popular demand at the LeYaca Restaurant in Williamsburg on Dec. 7th (Remember Pearl Harbor!).

Attending the luncheon were: **Ed Clexton (10), Wick Parcels (12), Bob Ianucci (16), Geo. Van Houten (24), Ed McCaskill (8), Bob Osmon (17), Pete Chabot (14), Frank Kay (8), Tom Inderlied (21), Al Ablowich (1)**, our two Marines—**Torry Rogers (3) and Al Whitaker (16), Bill Kee (9), Jack Greenhalgh (9), Bert Johnson (10) and Rod Friedmann (5)**. ■



Key & Inderlied

61 ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP: 3%
LIFE MEMBERSHIP: 69%

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As I write this (late November), we are headed into the Christmas season, and as usual, have a variety of news from around the Class of 1961. In fact, I have so much that I can't fit it all in to our Class quota, so if your article you sent doesn't make it this time, it will next time. Thanks *very* much for all your *very* helpful efforts.

Sent in by **Jim Sniezek**:

■ Colleen and I have lived on the Eastern shore of Maryland (Salisbury) for the past 11 years after fleeing from the traffic snarled Rockville, MD area. Although I continue to serve on the Safety



'61: BACK ROW: Eric Rychener '71, Colleen Sniezek, Jim Sniezek '61, Susan McCoy, Milt Jones '61, Tom Terry '60, Joan Terry, Joe Ballou '57, Jackie Sample, Bob Sample '61; FRONT ROW: Dave Marquis '85, Carolyn Marquis, Marji Jones, Caroline DeGavre, Tim DeGavre '61, John Christiansen '57

Committee of a nuclear power plant, most of our time and effort is spent on enjoying our thirteen grand-children ranging in age from 7–20 years.

It involves many birthday celebrations, graduations, and attending sporting events in which they are involved. We have taken several relaxing cruises to Bermuda, Eastern Caribbean, and Alaska. This love of cruising started 10 years ago when we took our extended family on a wonderful Disney cruise to the Caribbean. I am looking forward to an Antarctica expedition with my oldest son next year. Although there are not nearly as many '61 graduates on the Eastern shore as there are in the Annapolis, San Diego, and Norfolk areas, 3–4 of us still get together once a month for lunch under the able leadership of Milt Jones. These gatherings welcome all USNA grads and their spouses on the Eastern shore. We had one of our lunches today with a record attendance of 16 grads and spouses. Without divulging ages, the attendees ranged from the class of '57–'85. All Alumni and their spouses/guests are welcome to attend the lunches. Milt Jones can be contacted at 410-860-0277 or mhjones@aol.com. Attached is the picture of attendees at the luncheon. GO NAVY! ■



Sent in by **Dan Sullivan**:

■ I realized late in life that I had participated in some notable aspects of our days in Vietnam. I was the last U.S. Navy Swift Boat Division Commander. I have attached a representative photo of a Swift Boat, PCF 43. Its last skipper was Don Droz '64, who was killed in an attack on the boat eight months before my arrival in country.

As the last step in the surface Navy's Vietnamization process, I had the sad duty of turning over the last fourteen Swift Boats to the Vietnamese Navy after they were fully refurbished, repainted and buffed to a soft sheen. (They were in better condition when we turned them over than they had ever been while we used them. Photo attached; handshake with VADM King, COMNAVFORV—boats in the background.) It was a sad duty because I knew—as did my sailors—that much of the equipment and supplies that we turned over would find its way to the black market. I also had no illusions about the ability of the Vietnamese to continue the war effort once we left. Slightly more than two weeks prior to that turnover ceremony, I had participated in the last two Swift Boat firefights. Six months prior, I had been the point man for the naval invasion of Cambodia.

In February, with those operations in mind, I contacted the editor of *Naval History* magazine, a U.S. Naval Institute publication, to find out if he would be interested in hearing my sea stories. He agreed and I began the laborious process

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