

**U.S. NAVAL ACADEMY
ALUMNI ASSOCIATION
ATLANTA CHAPTER NEWSLETTER
January 2004**



**CHAPTER TURNS OUT TO PULL FOR NAVY
IN THE EV1.NET HOUSTON BOWL**

**USNA GOSPEL CHOIR IN ATLANTA TO CELEBRATE
MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. BIRTHDAY**

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<http://www.usnaaaa.com>

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GENERAL DIRECTORS:

Stew Caldwell '65, Eric Busko '88, Joe Frazier '65,
Mitch Rowland '71, Lee Whitfield '71

EVENTS CALENDAR:

See articles in the newsletter for details!

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Greetings to those who have recently moved to the Greater Atlanta area, or those who have lived here for a while and have not participated in Chapter events, but would like to. We would like to have you join us. Check out our fine Atlanta Chapter website at www.usnaaaa.com for reports on recent events and the Events Calendar for upcoming activities. You will see that your Chapter Board of Directors stays pretty busy planning and organizing these functions and that the people in charge have done a bang-up job in carrying out the plan. We are always looking for more ideas and help from alumni in the area.

Keep reading for more on news and upcoming events!

Bill Rentz '55, Atlanta Chapter

**Chapter Member's Celebrate the
Holiday's at Home of
Bill & Sue Rentz'**

About forty alumni and family members braved the rainy, cold, afternoon and evening on Saturday, December 13th, to celebrate the holidays.

"Navigation" to the event was a bit harder considering the weather, but everyone managed to make it "over the hill and through the woods"

(literally) to Bill and Sue Rentz's house in Locust Grove.

The USNA Alumni Association signature wines that nearly had to be smuggled in from Annapolis via the underground due to some obscure state laws about shipping spirits! Hey, don't they know we "still" make our own white lightnin' up in the north Georgia mountains! What's the matter with them Eastern folks?!?

Thanks again to Bill and Sue for hosting this event and sharing their beautiful home with us. See the website for pictures of the event.

CHAPTER MEMBERS COME TOGETHER TO WATCH EV1.NET HOUSTON BOWL

Twenty-nine noisy and eager Navy Rooters showed up at Jocks & Jills in Brookhaven on Wednesday, December 30, 2003, to watch the Navy -Texas Tech EV1 Houston Bowl football game.

They were members of the Atlanta Chapter, Atlanta Parents Club and families, all Navy supporters with anticipation of an excellent showing and chance to break the tie against Texas teams for 2003. Navy had beaten Rice 38-6 and had lost a close game to TCU 17-3, after leading in the first half. None of us counted on the arm of Texas Tech quarterback and missile launcher B.J Symons. He threw over 50 passes, completing about 90% of them, in fact he was still flinging them with a minute to go, including a flea flicker, with Texas Tech leading 38-14. He threw for 497 yards in the game, a bowl and 2003 record, and too much for Navy to overcome. The lack of class eleven man flop in the end zone after their last touchdown didn't speak well for the opponents and it cost them 30 yards in penalties on the next kickoff (15 for Unsportsmanlike Conduct and 15 for a personal foul).

On the other hand, 2,200 Midshipmen in the stands and a hard playing Navy team won praise even from the Texas Tech coach. He said that he had never seen a team play as hard as Navy did for 60 minutes. The coach also wasn't pleased with the end zone display of unsportsmanship by his team.

Speaking of the fans in the stands, your Atlanta Chapter Board of Directors voted to donate 20 tickets to the game to the USNA Athletic Association at a cost of \$570.00 to be used by Midshipmen and Navy personnel who traveled to Houston for the

game. Several other Chapter members donated tickets at their own personal expense for the same purpose.

In spite of the outcome of the game, it was great fun to cheer for Navy, a team you can always be proud of on and off the field. It was also a pleasure to join forces with some of the Parents Club. Now that is a proud bunch! And we are too of what their young men and women are accomplishing in their education and in their service to our country.

Those in attendance were: Jared and Judy Ogden, (parents of Jared '04 and Commodore of the Philo McGiffen), along with Johanna and John Christopher Ogden; Becky Szurovy (mother of Scott '05 and #76), and Kristin Szurovy, and John Disosway AFA '70; Greg and Catherine Schillo (parents of John '06); Carol Sue and Jim Ravenel '45; Bill Rentz '55, Don Thompson '59, Rick Rodgers '67, Mitch Rowland '71, Steve Frederick '72, Sharon and Ken Thomas '73, Ben McMillan '74, Larry Turner '74, Jim Agnew '74, Ples Bruce '77, Dave DeJarnette '82, Helena and Mike Herger '90, Chris Linnane '92, Hal Perdew '92, Jason Van Matre '94 and Willie Smith '97.

ALUMNI HELP GPTV RAISE OVER \$17,000

On Thursday night December 4th, Navy and Army teams manned the phones at the GPTV studio offices for our annual Army/Navy GPTV Fund Raising Challenge.

Many thanks to Atlanta Chapter VP of Information Systems Mike Herger '90, for organizing the event again this year. Mike reported that the night at GPTV was a great success and that the Navy team prevailed with ease. Army only had six participants. Hey, if you can't field a full team, you better expect to get beat!

The following alumni made up the Navy team: Mike Herger '90, Manny Garcia '84, Al Jones '67, Dick Fitzgerald '62, Steve Frederick '72, Tim Phillips '89, Nick Ward '74, Matt Kirby '94, Dean Cottle '80, Eric Busko '88, Mike Donohoo '65, Terry McElroy '86, Ples Bruce '77, and Murray Scott '90. See the website for pictures!

December Luncheon Update

On Friday 19 December, the Atlanta Chapter held its monthly luncheon meeting at Jocks & Jills in

Brookhaven. Chapter President Bill Rentz '55 briefly update those present on the recent meetings in Annapolis in early December.

He attended the Admissions Standing Committee meeting, where he was given time to thank Capt. Bruce Latta for his interesting talk to the Atlanta Chapter in November and to present him with our prized Atlanta Chapter Apron for use next Spring and Summer. Bill also discussed some of the more interesting goings on at the Board of Trustees meeting which he was allowed to sit in on as a spectator. Of particular interest was the very professional handling by the AA staff, the Board, and Chairman Trost of the four requests for new Chapter affiliation. The Chapters from Austin, Texas; Cape Fear, N.C.; and Frederick, MD, met all criteria and were approved. The USNA OUT Chapter was not approved.

The primary function of our monthly meeting was to allow a venue for business networking. Several business managers or senior representatives stood up and discussed their line of work and their company needs. Also several alumni who were currently actively seeking employment were given time to state their needs.

Bill Rentz also discussed our upcoming Chapter events, emphasizing the need to check our Events Calendar on the website for details. Steve Frederick '72 also gave a brief update on plans for the Founder's Day/Dark Ages Party, and he raffled off a bottle of USNA Alumni Association Signature Wine, a Sauvignon Blanc left over from the Christmas Party. We will do that again at future functions, since we did have a few bottles unconsumed. The winner of the raffle on this day was Joe Frazar '65.

Those in attendance were: Charles Hill '42, Paul Smith '42, Bin Cochran '43, Jim Hatch '47, John Stark '51, Johns Jaudon '55, Bill Rentz '55, Don Thompson '59, Clint Johnson '60, Carl McCallum '60, Stew Caldwell '65, Joe Frazar '65, Bob Schultz '71, Steve Frederick '72, Ples Bruce '77, Rob Burger '86, Ron Surfield '90, and Arnold Galit '92.

Our next luncheon is on January 16, 2004.

CAPT Peter M. Knoetgen, USNR,
Commanding Officer
US Naval Forces Central Command

Detachment 108, USNR 77 Addresses **Chapter at January Luncheon**

Graduating from Kings Park High School in New York, CAPT Knoetgen attended the US Naval Academy, receiving a Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering in 1977. Captain Knoetgen then completed Naval Nuclear Power training and Surface Warfare Officer School.

After serving aboard USS Truxtun (CGN-35) and USS Eisenhower (CVN-69), CAPT Knoetgen served at the NROTC Unit, Georgia Tech in Atlanta Georgia as the navigation and operations instructor for Morehouse College. While at Georgia Tech, Captain Knoetgen earned a Master of Science Degree in Nuclear Engineering.

Entering the Naval Reserves in 1985, CAPT Knoetgen's assignments include: CO, NAVCENT Det 108; Deputy for Mission Effectiveness, REDCOM Southeast; CO, Supreme Allied Commander Atlantic, Det 109; CO NR USS Stephen W. Groves, (FFG-29); CO, NR USS Oliver Hazard Perry (FFG-7); NR Carrier Group 0667; Military Sealift Command 208; and Military Sealift Command HQ 206.

As the DME for REDCOM SE, he was responsible for developing and implementing improvements in leadership, training, and administration for 6,800 reservists in North and South Carolina, Florida, and Puerto Rico. While CO of Supreme Allied Commander Atlantic Det 109, the unit supported NATO operations and exercises in the US and Europe, and was awarded the Bilger award for superior mission effectiveness in both 1998 and 1999. Onboard the USS Perry and USS Groves, CAPT Knoetgen participated in numerous at-sea exercises and counter-drug ops in the Caribbean Sea. CAPT Knoetgen has completed the Senior Naval Reserve Officer Course and the NATO Staff Officer Course at the National Defense University

CAPT Knoetgen assumed command of NAVCENT Det 108 in October 2001 while deployed to NAVCENT Headquarters in Bahrain, leading the Crisis Response Team in support of Operation Enduring Freedom following the 9/11 terrorists attacks. During his tour, the unit mobilized over 70 reservists for OEF and Operation Iraqi Freedom, and supported major exercises in the region, including Bright Star, Lucky Sentinel, Internal Look, and Neon Falcon. Mobilized in 2002, CAPT Knoetgen served with the NAVCENT Deputy Commander at MacDill AFB; as the Deputy,

CENTCOM Liaison Team in Pakistan; as Crisis Action Cell Director in Bahrain; and in Kuwait and Iraq as NAVCENT/Fifth Fleet Liaison Officer to the Coalition Land Forces Commander .

CAPT. Knoetgen lives with his family in Alpharetta..

Luncheon Details:

Regular monthly luncheons are held at noon on the third Friday of each month at:

**Jocks & Jill's Sport Bar & Restaurant
4046 Peachtree Road NE
Atlanta, GA
Phone: (404) 816-2801**

The cost is \$12.

Chapter Events Calendar

January 17, 2004

USNA Gospel Choir to visit Atlanta. Lunch at noon, 2pm concert at Ebenezer Baptist Church (450 Auburn Avenue 404-331-6922). Lunch hosted by Chapter. Contact Stew Caldwell, Nikki Peoples or Cindy Miller.

February 7, 2004

6:30pm

Dark Ages/Founder's Day Party. Guests of Honor are George and Peggy Watt. Location: Cobb Galleria, Contact Steve Frederick and Carl McCallum. Chapter members only by invitation.

March 20, 2004

Vernal Equinox BBQ Bash – "The Barn" in Tyrone, GA

April 24, 2004

Saturday evening social hour and evening meal. Jock' & Jill's in Brookhaven. Contact: Bob Schultz

May 7, 2004

**8th Annual Army-Navy Golf Championship, Ft. McPherson, GA
Contact Will Wood.**

June 5, 2004

3pm

**30th Annual Lobsterfest at Red Top Mountain
Contact Mike Herger and Carl McCallum.**

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P.O. BOX 76684
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Address Correction Requested.