

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



**CHET GLADCHUK, USNA ATHLETIC DIRECTOR
ADDRESSES CHAPTER AT MARCH LUNCHEON**

FOUNDER'S DAY BALL A BIG HIT

Chapter Web Site:
<http://www.usnaaaa.com>

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GENERAL DIRECTORS:

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

EVENTS CALENDAR:

See articles in the newsletter for details!

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

2004 is starting off as a great NAVY year. The Commander-in-Chief's Trophy is residing in Annapolis and Coach Paul Johnson's recruiting and coaching should keep it there for a while. If you have been reading the Atlanta Journal-Constitution Sports pages during the recruiting season, you will have seen about five notable Georgia High School football players recruited by Navy, including several on the top 50 Georgia prospects list. When Coach Johnson spoke to the Atlanta Touchdown Club last November, he shared the podium with the Offensive Player of the Week, wide receiver Greg Sudderth from Parkview H.S., State 5A champions. He signed him up for Navy. Coach Johnson's reputation at Ga. Southern Univ. accounts for quite a few good players from Georgia, Florida, and South Carolina being on the USNA roster.

Here in Atlanta we were blessed in January by a visit from the USNA Gospel Choir for MLK week, and in February we were delighted to have Alumni Association President and CEO George and Peggy Watt as our Guests of Honor for the Founder's Day/Dark Ages Dinner Dance. George gave an uplifting talk to the 70 present about the great works of the Alumni Association. Among them was Navy's presence at the Houston Bowl. Even though we didn't win and the game was in Texas, it was a spectacular Navy crowd that left a rousing impression thanks to ticket support by the Alumni Association. George also discussed the "Leaders to Serve the Nation" fundraising campaign goal of \$175 million by 2005. The goal has been reached and funding for the USNA Strategic Plan objectives

have been met and will continue to be funded as the campaign continues. President Watt also left a challenge that we can and should do something about. Alumni Association membership reached 49,300 in 2003. The goal has been to achieve 60,000 by 2006. The Atlanta Directory about to be sent out shows about 1,390 alumni living around the Atlanta area. We have about 300 members of the Atlanta Chapter. We can do better than that.

At the Founder's Day/Dark Ages Party we recognized the senior and junior alumni and presented them both with a bottle of USNA Alumni Signature Wine. George O'Connell '35 and Kary Brownlee '93 were the recipients.

In March we look forward eagerly to a visit to our monthly luncheon meeting by Navy Athletic Director Chet Gladchuk. Chet is one of the most energetic and dynamic speakers I have ever heard and he has a great story to tell about Navy athletics. We have some other outstanding lunch speakers lined up, and don't forget our south side Atlanta BBQ at "The Barn" in Tyrone, GA, on Friday, March 26, 2004. There is another Social Hour and Dinner at Jocks and Jill's on Saturday night, April 24. We close out our Events this year with Army-Navy Golf on Friday, May 7, and the world famous Atlanta Lobster Fest on Saturday, June 5 at Red Top Mountain.

Remember these events don't happen by accident. They represent a lot of hard work and planning by your Chapter Board of Directors. We need your ideas, inputs, and participation to keep this great Chapter rolling. Check the website and particularly the Events calendar and give us a call.

Bill Rentz '55, Atlanta Chapter President

2004 Membership Drive

You should have received your annual membership dues form in the mail in early March. We are looking forward to a great response in 2004! If you would like to pay your dues online, please go to the following web page and following the directions.

<http://usna.com/Communities/Chapters.asp>

We are one of three chapters nationwide that offers online payment to its members. Our own Bob

Schultz '71 has spent many hours with the IT people in Annapolis to make this possible. Way to go Bob!!

CAPT Peter M. Knoetgen '77, Speaks About his Middle-East War Experiences at Chapter January Luncheon

Captain Knoetgen spoke to Chapter luncheon attendees about his experiences as a reservist participating in Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom as Commanding Officer of NAVCENT 108, the headquarters reserve unit for the US Fifth Fleet Headquarters in Bahrain.

Captain Knoetgen took command of the unit immediately following the 9/11 terrorist attacks, and initially participated in the crisis response planning and execution of OEF. Over his two-year tour, he served in various assignments with US Central Command and NAVCENT in Pakistan, Afghanistan, Bahrain, Kuwait, Iraq, and at MacDill AFB.

Pete opened with an excellent, and emotion stirring, video of Navy and Marine Corps personnel preparing for their upcoming operations. In fact, the prevailing theme of the information that Pete shared with us highlighted over and over again to the readiness, ability, and effectiveness of the "Navy and Marine Corps team".

Captain Tom Sprague '75, Explains Lockheed's P-3 and S-3 Programs at Chapter February Luncheon

CAPT. Tom Sprague, '75, USNR, a longtime employee of Lockheed Martin in the Maritime Patrol Aircraft Program, gave an excellent slide presentation and briefing on the Navy's workhorse aircraft, the P-3 and S-3, both made by Lockheed Martin. Tom, as a naval reservist, has remained connected to the VP community and told us that in one of his reserve VP command tours he relieved CAPT. George Watt, '73, USNR, as CO.

Tom showed us the number of countries that have purchased the P-3 and the different models and versions of the P-3 that have been put in service. He also described the long range plans for phasing out

the S-3, which is now used exclusively by the U.S. Navy as a carrier based aerial refueler.

He also discussed Lockheed Martin's involvement in the Joint Strike Fighter (JSF) program and plans to use it as a follow-on for the F-22 Stealth Fighter and the F/A-18. Tom's presentation was very interesting and very pertinent to the Navy crowd present.

Chapter President Bill Rentz '55, welcomed several newcomers to the area and Chapter meetings, and described the ways available to renew Chapter membership for 2004. Of special note is the new "On-line Dues Payment" feature available to Atlanta Chapter members through the Chapter web site, thanks to the pioneering efforts of our webmaster, Bob Schultz '71. Only two other Chapters in the country currently have on-line dues payment. Bill also covered the Chapter's upcoming Social activities and the luncheon speaker schedule for this Spring. He urged everyone to call their classmates, shipmates, squadron-mates, and neighbors to get them to join us and not miss out on the camaraderie and fellowship that we share.

The following alumni attended the luncheon: George O'Connell '35, Paul Smith '42, Jim Ravenel '45, Jim Hatch '47, John Stark '51, Perry Stephens '51, Johns Jaudon '55, Bill Rentz '55, Mike Miller '56, Carl McCallum '60, Paul Hurst '62, Dick Fitzgerald '62 and his wife Dee, Tony Womble '63, Stew Caldwell '65, Jon Barton '66, Lee Whitfield '71, Steve Frederick '72, Ben McMillan '74, Gehrig Wiles '74, Michael Lores '74, Don Patten '74, Tom Sprague '75, Ed Brownlee '81, Linda Bolen '83, Gary Hoy '84, Mario Maddox, '85, Terry McElroy '86, Mary McElroy '87, Brian Pilger '93, Drake Henderson '94, Ken Graves '94, and Sonor Aksoy '00.

2004 Dark Ages Party – Founder's Day Celebration a Great Time!

On Saturday evening, February 7, 2004 the fourth annual Atlanta Chapter Dark Ages/Founder's Day Party was held at the Cobb Galleria Centre in Marietta. This year's party was again in celebration of the founding of the United States Naval Academy on October 10, 1845, and in honor of the Brigade of Midshipmen.

On that date, through the efforts of then Secretary of the Navy George Bancroft, the "Naval School" was established on a 10-acre tract of land that was previously an Army base named Fort Severn. Just

seven professors and 50 Midshipmen comprised the entire faculty and student body. Today the Brigade is over 4,000 strong with an academic staff of nearly 600.

The party was a formal, black tie optional, event for Atlanta Chapter members only. The catered five-course meal was absolutely the best, from the appetizer to the main course to the dessert. The majority of the men arrived dressed in tuxedos, with their escorted ladies in equally formal attire. It was a great looking room full of alumni, spouses, and dates! Hey, we clean up pretty well!

After dinner Chapter President Bill Rentz '55, addressed the crowd and reminded us of the purpose of our gathering. He then introduced our guest of honor for the event, George P. Watt, President and CEO of the U.S. Naval Academy Alumni Association.

George covered a number of topics on the subject of the Brigade of Midshipmen and the support thereof. That support is provided by what George calls the "extended Brigade", which is the combined "family" of the Alumni Association, the Chapter organizations, the Class organizations, and Parents Clubs throughout the country. George was delighted to report that they had just surpassed the 175 million-dollar private fund-raising goal to support the Brigade in the pursuit of excellence in athletics, scholastics, ethics, and leadership. George also told of the efforts to rebuild and recover from the 80 million dollars in damage that the Naval Academy sustained in the wake of hurricane Isabel.

Alumni present at the event represented a seven decade span of classes. The junior alumnus in attendance was Kary Brownlee, class of 1993. The senior alumnus in attendance was CAPT George O'Connell, USN (retired), class of 1935! Upholding the finest tradition of a former Midshipman and Naval Officer by never showing up unescorted, George was escorting Ms. Aline Cofield for the evening. The senior couple led the way by getting out on the dance floor and getting the after-dinner party started.

What a night! What a party! What a terrific group of people! In attendance at the event were:

Jan & Jon Barton '66, Jody & Paul Borer '70, Kary Brownlee '93, Dee & Art Butler '61, Ann & Stewart '65, Marilyn & Joe Frazar '65, Karen & Steve Frederick '72, William Hastie '60, Lynn & Jim

Hatch '47, Helena & Mike Herger '90, Nancy & Paul Hurst '62, Muriel & Ed Hux '61, Francis Jones, Rhonda & Glenn Klein '73, Thallia & Mario Maddox '85, Marilyn & Carl McCallum '60, Mary '87 & Terry '86 McElroy, Dolores & Mike Miller '56, Barbara & Lorie Moore '64, George O'Connell '35 & Ms. Aline Cofield, Michelle & Brian Pilger '93, Amy & Phil Polefrone '74, Carol Sue & Jim Ravenel '45, Susan & Bill Rentz '55, Joan & Winston Rorabaugh '70, Carole & Mitch Rowland '71, Linda & Robert Schultz '71, Nick Ward '74 & Jean Jacobs, Sharon & Lee Whitfield '71, Catherine & Will Wood '66, Steve Maconi (USNA Foundation Trust), Peggy & George Watt '73 (President & CEO USNA Alumni Association).

Vernal Equinox BBQ **at "The Barn" in Tyrone, GA**

On Friday, March 26, 2004 at 7pm, we are planning a south metro area BBQ dinner to allow more alumni who live south of town to get involved.

We are expecting many new faces to attend this Southside event. Alumni from the Northside, come on down and show the guys down South that it's possible to travel from one side of town to the other to attend a Chapter event. Alumni from the Southside, this event is in your backyard, so come on out and meet your Shipmates!

\$20.00/person. Includes dinner and open bar.

U.S. NAVAL ACADEMY ALUMNI ASSOCIATION
ATLANTA CHAPTER
P.O. BOX 76684
ATLANTA, GA 30358

Address Correction Requested.

RSVP Requested - please reply to: Mitch Rowland '71 at grumpymitch@prodigy.net or 770-487-9746.

Monthly Luncheon Details:

We hold monthly luncheons 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

March 26, 2004 – 7pm

Vernal Equinox BBQ Bash – “The Barn” in Tyrone, GA
Contact: Mitch Rowland.

April 24, 2004 – 6pm

Saturday evening social and buffet. Jock' & Jill's in Brookhaven. RSVP required. Contact: Bob Schultz at (770) 448-4299.

May 7, 2004 – 9:30am

Army-Navy Golf Championship, Ft. McPherson, GA
Contact Will Wood at (770) 673-2746.

June 5, 2004 – 4pm

Lobsterfest at Red Top Mountain
Contact Mike Herger and Carl McCallum.