

U.S. NAVAL ACADEMY ALUMNI ASSOCIATION ATLANTA CHAPTER NEWSLETTER AUGUST 2005



JOIN US FOR LUNCH – AUGUST 19TH

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PRESIDENT'S CORNER

With temperatures near 100° F, it is difficult to believe that by the time you read this the kids will be back in school and we will all be looking forward to Saturdays and Navy football again. As always, our summer months have been busy, hot and fun.

Our luncheon in July featured guest speaker Neal Thompson, author of *Light This Candle*, the in depth biography of **Alan Shepard '45**, America's first man in space. Neal started by describing some of his experiences as the military reporter for the Baltimore Sun in the mid 90's. Interestingly, Neal explained that the first time he visited the Naval Academy he was "intimidated", and that in retrospect, he considers the Academy to have had a "profound effect" on his life. He was immediately informed that the Academy had had that kind of effect on most everyone that was in the room that day. Neal read several selected passages from the book and related entertaining and informative anecdotes about RADM Shepard. He then listened as several attendees told their personal stories about the astronaut. It was a great presentation and as usual, the camaraderie was as good as it gets. (Also see article about Shepard on pg. 2)

July luncheon attendees were: George O'Connell, Jr. '35, Jim Ravenel '45, Mike Rose '48, Duane Young '49, P.L. Stephens '51, Bill Rentz '55, Dale Herndon '56, Neil Block '61, Art Drennan '64, Lorie Moore '64, Bill Holmes '64, Bob Snelling

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Our monthly luncheons are held without fail on the third Friday of the month, at Jocks and Jill's Sports Bar in the Brookhaven Shopping Center, just across Peachtree from the Brookhaven MARTA Station. We open for sign in at 1130 and the chow line opens at 1200. We do not have our guest speaker locked in for August yet, so check our website (see below) for last minute info. Please join us if you can.

During the football season we will meet at the same location to view all of Navy's home games that will be broadcast on the College Sports Network, and each of the games that will be broadcast nationally, except for the Army game. (We make special arrangements for the get together with the Woops associated with that game.) Our plans include having the football viewing get together for one of the home games at a sports bar on the south side of town, to facilitate attendance of the members on that end of town. Please visit our website at WWW.USNAAAA.COM to see our activity schedule and for more information the specific plans for the upcoming events.

Hope to see you at the monthly luncheon on 8/19.
BEAT ARMY!

Steve Frederick '72 Chapter President

Neal Thompson speaks at July Luncheon

Our luncheon speaker for July was Neal Thompson, author of "Light This Candle" a book about pioneer astronaut **Alan Shepard '45**. Neal was a reporter for the Baltimore Sun at a time when the Academy's relationship with the press was not the best. He was determined to do his best to try to change that.

Alan Shepard was the first American in space and the fifth to walk on the moon. Alan's Freedom 7 capsule is on display at USNA. Alan was shorter and smaller than most and compensated for that by working harder and being a bit rebellious. Alan was USNA Class of '45 and a classmate of Chapter member **Jim Ravenel**, who arranged for Neal to speak to the Chapter.

On May 5th, 1961, Alan was sitting in the Freedom 7 capsule ready to make his historic, though short, trip into space. Unfortunately, there were some complications which resulted in a delay of nearly four hours. Alan had consumed considerable coffee before suiting up and climbing into the capsule. He expected to lift off, make the trip, and be back within an hour or so. That much coffee four hours later led to an urgent need for a head break. "No way!" said mission control. Shepard said he couldn't fly without relief. The only way out of this predicament, he said, was to relieve himself in his suit, which he was preparing to do post haste! Mission control, fearing he would get shocked with "fluid" in the suit, shut down power so that his job could be done. With his problem resolved, he was still waiting for problem preventing lift off to be taken care of. He loudly reported to mission control, as follows: "I'm cooler than you guys are. Why don't you fix this little problem and light this candle!" Thus the name of Neal's book.

Many thanks to Neal for relating this great story to us and for signing our copies of the book for us.

Bob Schultz '71.

2005 Membership Drive

We are looking forward to a great response to the 2005 membership mailer that should have arrived in your mailbox in June. Please fill out and return the mailer with your dues as soon as possible. If you would like to pay your dues online, please go to the following web page and follow the directions.

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

Upcoming Events

Friday August 19, 2005 - noon

Monthly luncheon – Jocks and Jills

Saturday Sept. 3, 2005 - 6 pm

Navy vs Maryland Football - Jocks and Jills

Saturday September 10, 2005 - 6 pm

Stanford at Navy Football - Jocks & Jills.

Friday September 16, 2005 - noon

Monthly luncheon – Jocks and Jills

Saturday, October 8, 2005 - 1:30 pm

Air Force at Navy Football- Jocks & Jills

Saturday, October 15, 2005 - 1:30 pm

Kent State at Navy Football - Jocks & Jills

Friday, October 21, 2005 - noon

Monthly luncheon -VAdm Norb Ryan '67,
President of MOAA, will speak – Jocks and
Jills

Additional Evening Social Events

**Two evening events are in the planning stages,
details to follow:**

Friday or Saturday night - exact date TBD
September/October, 7:00 pm Social Hour and
Dinner at Jocks & Jills. Contact: Bob Schultz '71

September/October – exact date TBD, Gourmet
Dining at Babbette's Café in Virginia Highlands.
Contact: Bill Rentz '55

Monthly Luncheon Details:

We hold monthly luncheons at noon on the third
Friday of each month at:

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

Blue & Gold Officer Update

The class of 2009 was inducted on June 29th. This year, 347 Georgia students applied to USNA. Thirty-three Georgia students accepted offers to USNA, 9 students accepted NAPS, and 3 students are going on a USNA Alumni Association Foundation Scholarship that guarantees them entry into USNA next year, upon successful completion of a year of preparatory school.

This year, there are a few changes with respect to the application process. The first is that the entire application process is on-line. The students log into a secure site and enter the data. They even put in the e-mail address for the teacher and counselor recommendations. The students can check at any time the status of their paperwork and when things are submitted from outside sources (transcripts, BGO interviews, medicals). Another change is that the old physical fitness test (PAE) has been replaced with the CFA. It is the same test that both USMA and USAFA will be using this year. It includes a mile run, sit-ups, pull-ups and a few other activities. The last is that the medical exam will not be scheduled until the student has completed 50% of their application paperwork. USNA discovered that they were spending a lot of money on the exams for students who never submitted any other paperwork.

If you know of a rising senior that is interested in USNA, they are behind on the application process if they have not gone to the web site, www.usna.edu, and completed a preliminary application. They also need to be contacting Senator Chambliss, Senator Isakson, and their congressman to start the nomination process.

If you have any questions, please e-mail or call me at cindymiller@1990.usna.com or 770-650-8921. I am in need of Blue & Gold Officers in the Macon area, if you are interested, please contact me.

**U.S. NAVAL ACADEMY ALUMNI ASSOCIATION
ATLANTA CHAPTER
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Address Correction Requested