

# U.S. NAVAL ACADEMY ALUMNI ASSOCIATION ATLANTA CHAPTER NEWSLETTER JULY 2005



\*\*\*

## STEVE FREDERICK '72 ELECTED CHAPTER PRESIDENT

\*\*\*

## NEAL THOMPSON TO SPEAK AT JULY LUNCHEON

\*\*\*

### PRESIDENT

Steve Frederick '72  
H: (770) 419-9224, W: (770) 423-9298

### VICE PRESIDENT:

Mitch Rowland '71  
H: (770) 487-9746 W: (404) 822-3863

### TREASURER

Eric Busko '88  
H: (404) 816-1691, W: (404) 607-5723

### SECRETARY:

Paul Borer '70  
H: (770) 551-8787, W: (770) 364-4332

### DIRECTOR - MEMBERSHIP:

Ples Bruce '77  
H: (770) 437-1221 , W: (678) 595-9484

### GENERAL DIRECTORS:

Stew Caldwell '65, Joe Frazar '65, Pete Knoetgen '77 , Terry McElroy '86, Mary McElroy '87, Matthew Kirby '94.

### BLUE & GOLD CONTACT

Cindy Miller '90, H: (770) 650-8921

### WEBMASTER

Bob Schultz '71  
H: (770) 448-4299; W: (770) 236-7891

### DATABASE ADMINISTRATOR:

Mike Herger '90  
H: (404) 378-2122; W: (404) 773-6785

### PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Having just been elected to serve as the President of one of the most active and respected local chapters of the U.S Naval Academy Alumni Association, I can only say that I am sincerely honored. This is the only local chapter that I have ever been involved with, and it is a great one. There have been several presidents that have served since I became involved in 1992, and they have all done an outstanding job. I can only hope to continue that legacy. I consider myself very fortunate to succeed one of the best in Bill Rentz '55.

Luckily, Bill will remain very involved with the Chapter as a past president, and even more significantly, as the Eastern Regional Trustee on the Alumni Association Board of Trustees. However, our representation at that level goes beyond Bill. Reflecting Bill's leadership, Mike Herger '90 led a membership drive last year that resulted in the Atlanta Chapter growing in size to the sixth largest in the nation, thereby earning the Chapter representation on the Board in the form of a Chapter Trustee. Carl McCallum '60 now serves in that position and we are very fortunate to have two great representatives at the national level. Bill and Carl are both well known and respected at the national level, and their voices are heard. They will do a great job in Annapolis and in bringing the information back to us so that we can stay informed.

You may have noticed the role change for Mary McElroy '87 on our newly elected Board of Directors. Mary served as our Chapter Secretary last year and this year will serve as a General Director. Mary wanted to stay involved with the Chapter, but realized that she

might need more time to devote to her new position as the Athletic Director at Georgia State University. Mary had been an Assistant AD in the Georgia Tech athletic department, and prior to that had worked in Annapolis with the Naval Academy Athletic Department and Alumni Association. We have always been very impressed with Mary and the job she does, so her selection comes as no surprise. It is an honor well deserved and we wish her the best.

One of the things that I enjoy most about this Chapter is the monthly luncheons with the guest speakers. The July luncheon will be no exception, with author Neal Thompson as our guest speaker. Mr. Thompson has written the highly acclaimed biography of Alan Shepard called "*Light This Candle*": *The Life & Times of Alan Shepard*. I am really looking forward to meeting Mr. Thompson and hearing what he has to say about a great American and fellow Alum.

I look forward to seeing each of you at the luncheons and at our many other events during the year. I am very excited to have such a terrific group of officers serving on the board this year and am looking forward to continuing the great legacy of this chapter. Please feel free to contact me via e-mail, phone or face-to-face at any of our events regarding the Chapter and what we can do to make it even more fun and inclusive. I see my job as reflecting the needs and desires of the membership, so please communicate with me whenever and wherever you can.

BEAT ARMY!

Steve Frederick '72 Chapter President

---

## **LobsterFest Attended by 200**

The Chapter's 31st Annual LobsterFest cookout on Saturday, June 11th, at Red Top Mountain State Park in North Georgia just managed to sneak in around the outer bands of tropical storm Arlene as it worked its way north from the Gulf through Alabama and Georgia! The event was attended by 200 alumni, family, and friends, who consumed 285 lobsters and 200 pounds of mussels.

Also in attendance at this year's event were nine Georgia high school students who have been accepted to the Naval Academy as part of the incoming Class of 2009. The Chapter extended invitations to them and their parents to join us at the LobsterFest! Thanks to Cindy Miller '90, our Area Blue and Gold Coordinator,

and Tim Phillips '89, our Chapter Academy Awareness Rep, for coordinating this effort.

The live Maine lobsters were flown in direct from Captain Morrill's in Brewer, Maine a day before the event, and "put up for the night" in a Delta reefer at the airport. Also available on the serving line was a terrific home-made salad prepared by our "kitchen queens" from fresh vegetables they sliced and diced earlier in the day. Hundreds of ears of corn and fresh French bread (brought by the Slemendas) were also consumed by day's end! Of course, Marilyn McCallum brought her secret recipe special sauce for the mussels.

Our kitchen queens were: Marilyn McCallum (wife of Carl '60), Linda Schultz (wife of Bob '71), Sue Rentz (wife of Bill '55), Mary Lou Blair (friend of Sue Rentz), Fern Johnson (Sue's mother) Karen Frederick (wife of Steve '72), Catherine Wood (wife of Will '66), Ann Caldwell (wife of Stewart '65), Carole Rowland (wife of Mitch '71), Jody Borer (wife of Paul '70), and Karen Waldrop (wife of Keith '64) and Carol Sue Ravenel (wife of Jim '45).

Our check-in crew was headed by Chapter Treasurer Eric Busko '88, with a team consisting of Jim Ravenel '45, Cherylin and Doug Cutter '64, and Lissa and Tim Phillips '89. Mitch Rowland '71 sold raffle tickets for bottles of Naval Academy Signature Wines and a \$100.00 Home Depot gift certificate. Mary McElroy '87 and husband Terry '86 handled the decorations this year, with an assist from Jody and Paul Borer '70 on the big gold N-Star that went up on the wall.

Our hard working lobster/mussel/corn cooks were Carl McCallum '60, Steve Frederick '72, and Paul Borer '70. Our duty hamburger and hotdog cook, Mike Donohoo '65, was back again this year! Mike provided bratwurst for the workers early in the day so that they didn't have to work on empty stomachs until dinner time. Thanks also to Jim Slemenda '66 who was our beer/wine/soda man again this year!

Musical entertainment was provided again this year by the Hanson's, a local husband-and-wife DJ team.

Thanks to the McCallums for coordinating the event this year. And many thanks to all of the volunteers who worked so hard to make this event possible! It's an 8-hour day before everything is cooked, served, cleaned up, and put away, most of it spent on your feet and moving!

Bob Schultz '71.

---

## Major Tom Ross, Author of "Privileges of War" Speaks at June 17th Chapter Luncheon

### New Officers and Directors Elected

The first order of business was to recognize SOPA, CAPT George O'Connell, '35, who continues to lead the way by example in Alumni spirit. He had recently returned from his 70<sup>th</sup> Class Reunion in Annapolis and gave us a full report.

The second business item was to seek the approval of the previously announced slate of Chapter Officers and Directors for 2005-2006. A request for additional nominations was made and since none were offered, the nominations were closed. Chapter members present then by voice vote unanimously approved the slate. Our thanks are extended to those willing to serve in the coming year and we pledge our support in your efforts on our behalf.

Our speaker was Thomas A. Ross, an author, Atlanta businessman and jeweler, and a member of the Atlanta Vietnam Veterans Business Association. Tom is originally from Florida, but moved to Atlanta 16 years ago. His visit was most timely because of the recent dedication of a memorial by the AVVBA on May 20, 2005, at Colony Square (Peachtree and 14<sup>th</sup> Street) to CDR Bill Stoddard, USN '49. Tom is a retired Major, U.S. Army Special Forces. He told us he volunteered for Special Forces because he wanted to be trained and armed to best ensure his survival. The book "Privileges of War" is dedicated "to the more than three million men who served with honor, and, especially, to each of the more than fifty-eight thousand who died or were declared missing in action in the Republic of South Vietnam.

Those in attendance were: George O'Connell '35; Jim Ravenel '45; Jim Hatch '47; John Stark '51; Perry Stephens '51; Mike Nassr '54; Dick Yantis '54; Bill Rentz '55; Jim Todd '55; Mike Miller '56; Reggie Vachon '58; Mary Ellen Vachon; Marie Vachon; Bill Holmes '64; Jon Barton '66; Jim Slemenda '66; Paul Borer '70; Richard Click '70; Les Gable '70; Mitch Rowland '71; Lee Whitfield '71; Steve Frederick '72; George Foley '72; Ed Smith '72; Mario Maddox '85; Christopher Thompson '92; and our Guest Speaker, Thomas A. Ross.

Bill Rentz '55

### Blue & Gold Officer Update

The class of 2009 was inducted on June 29<sup>th</sup>. 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](http://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](mailto: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.

2005 Membership Drive

We are looking forward to a great response to the 2005 membership mailer that should have arrived in your mailbox recently. 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>

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 \$14, which includes service charges (tips). Please bring exact change if you can.**

---

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

**Address Correction Requested**