

**U.S. NAVAL ACADEMY
ALUMNI ASSOCIATION
ATLANTA CHAPTER NEWSLETTER
JUNE 2005**



**BILL RENTZ CONCLUDES HIS FOURTH
TERM AS CHAPTER PRESIDENT**

NEW ADDITION: CHAPTER TRUSTEE UPDATE

PRESIDENT

Bill Rentz '55

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Steve Frederick '72

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GENERAL DIRECTORS:

Stew Caldwell '65, Joe Frazar '65, Paul Borer '70, Mitch Rowland '71, Lee Whitfield '71, Ples Bruce '77, Linda Bolan '83, Terry McElroy '86, Matthew Kirby '94.

BLUE & GOLD CONTACT

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PRESIDENT'S CORNER

This will be my last President's Corner and Mary McElroy's last newsletter for a while at least. We both have to go on to other things, but we won't go far. The election of Chapter Officers and Directors for 2005-2006 will be held at the June 17 monthly luncheon meeting. The nominated slate was announced last month and will be announced again at Lobster Fest on June 11. The slate was nominated in accordance with the Chapter By-Laws by a three man nominating committee. According to the By-Laws, any member can nominate a candidate for office to the President from the floor at a meeting prior to the election and the President can take a voice or written vote from the members present at the monthly meeting.

The following are the Nominees:

President: Steve Frederick '72

Vice President: Mitch Rowland '71

Treasurer: Eric Busko '88 (2nd term)

Secretary: Paul Borer '70

Director for Membership: Ples Bruce '77

Director for Brigade Support: Stew Caldwell

'65

Director General: Joe Frazar '65

Director General: Matt Kirby '94

Director General: Terry McElroy '86

Director General: Peter Knoetgen '77

Director General: Mary McElroy '87

My thanks to all for their willingness to serve and I urge your support. Show up at the June monthly meeting to give them your vote. We also have an interesting speaker on June 17, Major Thomas A. Ross, US Army (retired) Special Forces, a local Atlanta businessman, who has authored an important book on his perspective on the Vietnam War. Tom is also a member of AVVBA, and if you were not able to be present for their annual dedication on May 26 of the memorial to a fallen Atlantan, CDR Bill Stoddard '49, located at Colony Square on Peachtree Street at 14th Street, you missed one of the most moving ceremonies you will ever see. Next time you are near midtown, stop by to see the memorial, take your hat off, put your hand over your heart, or leave your hat on and salute, and thank an honored veteran who made the ultimate sacrifice on our behalf. Remember also that he left behind a brave widow, Janey Stoddard, who raised their six children and 15 grandchildren, who were all present for the dedication. It was an honor to meet them all. ADM Jim Ellis '69 and Capt Clint Johnson '60 were the speakers and both gave moving and touching speeches. We are trying to get a videotape which we will show at a future event. My hat is off to the AVVBA for a class act!

By the time this is out the world famous Lobster Fest will be history. We will have shared it with some guests and Parents from the incoming midshipmen Class of 2009.

A great Navy Day! Again, these events and activities don't happen by themselves. They are the result of a lot of work by some dedicated people.

If you didn't get a copy of my May 2005 Board of Trustees Report, let me know and I will send you one, plus I'll tell you how to get on the Alumni Association's email list. The 2005 dues mailer should be out and the Roster of 2004 Atlanta Chapter Alumni members, a benefit of Chapter membership, should have made it through the mail to your hands. I repeat, all of these things don't happen by themselves. Look up a classmate, shipmate, squadron mate, or neighbor and encourage them to join.

Bill Rentz '55, Atlanta Chapter President

Navy Takes 9th Annual Army-Navy Golf Classic to Make it Seven in Row!

Press Release by event coordinator Will Wood '66

Atlanta, GA (AP)

Demonstrating an amazing ability to defend the fort, members of the Naval Academy Alumni Association of Atlanta (Navy) battled both weather and the Whoops to once again put the West Point Society of Atlanta (Army) to shame in the ninth annual Army-Navy Golf Classic. This was Navy's seventh straight victory and eighth win out of nine meetings since this annual spring competition was begun in 1997. As before, the golf competition and awards dinner that followed took place at the Golfers Club at Fort McPherson. About \$1,700 was raised to provide tuition for needy youngsters in the Atlanta area to attend the SummerScape math, science, and computer camp at Georgia Tech this summer.

Despite a rash of injuries to Navy regulars and a less than spectacular turn-out from Army, we still had a total of about 60 golfers, with some 34 from Navy. Using the modified Stableford scoring system, the final score was Navy at +40 to Army's -11. With the number of new folks participating this year and our regulars back next year, we hope to have a really tremendous event next year with record attendance as well as record support for our charity.

Despite a shortened event due to rain, everyone enjoyed the golf and the camaraderie as well as a very fine dinner with prizes. Prizes this year included engraved cocktail glasses, many golf shirts, an executive note pad, other golf paraphernalia, a \$160 dinner, and more.

Participating in the 2003 Army-Navy Golf Classic: Bill Wright '50; John Jaudon '55; Jack Clay '56; Paul Hurst '62; Tony Womble '63; Lorie Moore '64; Bruce Abel; Stewart Caldwell '65; Mike Donohoo '65; Paul Thorsen '65; Joe Frazar '65; John Johnson '65; Jack Johnston '65; Doug Metzger '65; Larry Bergen '66 and guest Bob Masse; Will Wood '66; Jim Theis '71; Lee Whitfield '71; Mitch Rowland '71; Steve Frederick '72; Bill Schenzel '75; Ron Hertwig '77 and spouse Rhonda; Jeff Johnstone '80 and guest Richard Batelaan; Andre Swoope '81; Brad Jones '83; Wendell Ross '87; Greg Reppar '90; Kary Brownlee '93; and Dan Cahill '03 and guests. Navy again brought more players to the field of honor than Army (36 for Navy to 22 for Army).

Many Navy folks took home some super raffle prizes. Navy also took all three special prizes with Greg Reppar winning a \$30 gift certificate for longest drive while similar prizes for closest to the pin were won by Jeff Johnstone and his guest, Richard Batelaan. In the Stableford competition, and winning increasingly bigger gift certificates, were Mitch Rowland in 5th place, Brad Jones in 4th, Jack Clay in 3rd, and Paul Hurst in 2nd. Rhonda Hertwig, wife of Ron Hertwig, took first place and won a nice gift certificate as well as the traditional set of engraved cocktail glasses.

Steve Frederick, incoming USNAAAA Chapter president, accepted the traveling trophy on behalf of the winning team and asked all of the Army and Navy competitors to go out and talk about the event and get more classmates and other academy alums to participate in next year's event such that the 10th annual version of the classic sets records in every category.

We look forward to the 10th renewal of the classic in May 2006 and invite all golfing USNAAAA members in the Atlanta area to join us for the competition and camaraderie. It's always a fun time for all.

Many thanks to event coordinators Will Wood '66, and Jeff Johnstone '80 for organizing another great competition and terrific day on the golf course.

**Major Thomas A. Ross, US Army
(retired) will speak on June 17th**

Major Thomas A. Ross, US Army (retired) Special Forces, is a local Atlanta businessman, who has authored an important book on his perspective on the Vietnam War.

Major Ross will speak about his experiences, his book, and will offer some of his books for sale following the luncheon.

Blue & Gold Officers Update

Blue & Gold Officers are volunteers that assist USNA by performing the face-to-face interviews of students that are applying to USNA. For more details, please see past articles in the USNA Atlanta Alumni newsletter or contact Cindy Miller at (770) 650-8921 or cindymiller@1990.usna.com. We are in need of Blue & Gold officers in the Roswell/ Alpharetta/Cumming area and in Macon. If you can help, please contact me at the above phone number or email address.

A tale from the USNA candidate recruiting trail:

Cindy,

I'm pleased to report that our part in the College Fair at Rabun Gap Nacoochee School went off beautifully.

We were placed in the back of the library. Originally, we were to share a table with Western Carolina University, but there were two empties behind us, and we were invited to take over one of them all to ourselves, which WCU appreciated, also. Before ever seeing the place and the layout, I'd hoped we would be in the back of whatever room we were in. Prayers answered. We didn't want the idlers and anti-military types making cracks as they went by. As it was, we had only one or two of these, even though Momma in the second group picked up material.

We enjoyed lunch in the dining hall beforehand, sharing a table with some juniors, although I didn't see any of them at the College Fair later. And one was a Navy Junior. But it was a good lunch. The parents of one said they'd be by later because of their intense interest, but we didn't see them, either. I don't think their daughter shared their excitement about USNA.

That 50 to 60 surrounding schools changed to 25 when I got there. And while there, we heard that some of those schools planned to send a bus with their kids. The only kids we talked with had RGNS

logos on their polo shirts, so if any came from elsewhere, we didn't see them.

However, the hostess group told us that several students came through the door asking only for USNA and asking at which table were we seated. We estimate that through the course of the afternoon we talked with about six (6) really serious candidates and not too many others. But these took a lot of time. (By a little after 1600 there were hardly any students in the room, so we vendors wrapped up and left before the official 1700 closing time.) I recall only one candidate who was a junior, and the rest were freshmen and sophomores. These we made sure got the 2005 Summer Session pamphlets and told them to keep up with it on the Internet. Second Lieutenants Whitney Vaughn and Michael McFarlin arrived about 1420 and jumped right into the middle of the two or three I was talking with at the time. I pointed to them, stepped back, and went to retrieve the camera while those two literally held their audience, parents and students alike, in rapt attention.

Were I to characterize those two Marines' collective attitude, it would be "Extreme Enthusiasm." And the kids ate it up.

Having recent grads there made a remarkable difference. At dinner we talked about the changes of the past 50 years at USNA (which seems like only last month to me), and it was amazing. So having them there was a stroke of genius for keeping the record and facts straight.

RGNS Headmaster John Marshall told me as we were on our way out that three of their students were accepted at Princeton last year. That's a far cry from just a few years ago when Sheryl's niece and nephew graduated from RGNS and the usual fare for graduating seniors were nice little liberal arts colleges nobody ever heard of.

Afterwards we went to dinner at Mama G's. I thought later we should have gone to the Dillard House nearby to the campus, but you can remember that for next year. But dinner was excellent at Mama G's, and they had the roast beef.

I can honestly say we thoroughly enjoyed our afternoon and the company. Thanks for the opportunity. And you definitely want to go there next year if they have another. This was their first ever.

John

Chapter Trustee Update

I came to Atlanta in 1972, joined the Atlanta Chapter in the fall of that year and was honored to serve as its President in 1973 and 1974. The Chapter had about forty to fifty members and most were very colorful with many stories to tell. The majority had served in WWII and, or Korea and being in their company and to know them was an honor and a joy. Many are gone now, but they were truly one of a kind.

Since that time, the Atlanta Chapter of the USNA Alumni Association has grown in its member participation, its activities and its sophistication. We have evolved into one of the most active and relevant of all the chapters. We have a large contingent of active members who give of their time, talent, and enthusiasm and share, along with their spouses, significant others in our camaraderie and common interests. Our Chapter is under the watchful eye of USNAAA because we have earned their attention. What do we do?

- We have interesting and informative monthly luncheons
- Numerous annual activities that are well planned, enjoyable and offer something for everybody:
- The Dark Ages-Founders Day Party is a black tie event with guest speakers from the Naval Academy:
The Superintendent; The Commandant;
President of USNAAA: and hopefully soon the Athletic Director or Head Football Coach:
- The Lobsterfest is probably the largest, longstanding event of any Chapter

- The Army-Navy Golf outing is a great chance to get together with our West Point pals to kick their tails on the links, share laughs, friendship and dinner every May
- The Army-Navy game get together for more of the same
- The Jocks and Jills informal evening dinner get togethers
- Sponsor and interact with the USNA Gospel Choir every January to enjoy uplifting and talented singing and to spark interest in the Naval Academy
- Watch, together, Navy Football at Jocks and Jills on closed circuit TV all season long.
- A wonderful Christmas Party at the home of one of our members (last two years at Mike and Susan Lores)
- Other large events which do not occur annually such as Navy-GA Tech Football games and receptions;
- Group dinners at restaurants such as the one last year at Babette's Café.
- We have a Board of Directors which meets monthly and more often if the occasion requires.

The Board of Directors is composed of twelve members, each with a title, task and responsibility and the overall charge of carrying out the Mission Statement of USNAAAA and of USNAAA.

- A first class Website designed, developed and implemented by our own Bob Schultz
- A Vice President of Information Services who keeps a database of our constituency and keeps it continually updated - Mike Herger
- A model Blue and Gold Committee which is well recognized by National and has its finger

on the pulse of interested and qualified high school students in our Chapter area - Cindy Miller

- Members who have in the past, or are currently serving as heads, or members of Service Academy Selection Committees for our local Congressmen or Senators
- Interaction with The USNA Parents Club and Navy League in our area
- There are many other people (and events), all of whom (which) play a role in our Alumni Chapter

Now there is a new precedent which has been set. It is the goal of any chapter to have a Trustee on the Board of Trustees of USNAAA . USNAAAA has placed two Trustees from Atlanta on the Board and we believe it is a first. Our current President, Bill Rentz, who has done an outstanding job in that capacity, will complete his term in office next month and has been elected as the Eastern Region Trustee by a vote among four candidates in this region. I was appointed your Chapter Trustee by your Board for the next term. We will both serve three years.

I hope you had a chance to read Bill's excellent report of the May meeting of the BOT and his interesting account of what transpired. Bill and I have both served as President of the Atlanta Chapter and past Trustees of the same. There are many incredible things happening at the Academy and the next three years are going to be filled with advancements and improvements. We are excited to be serving you and USNAAA. I will be reporting to you on these things and new ones which will be developing, as well. Please let me hear from you with your comments, suggestions, and concerns about things evolving at the Academy and at USNAAA.

I would like to thank you all sincerely (each and every one) for your interest and participation in our Atlanta Chapter. You are, with your interest and participation, what fuels the Chapter and makes it what it is.

Carl P. McCallum, Atlanta Chapter Trustee

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