

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



JOIN US FOR LUNCH – SEPTEMBER 16TH

REGGIE VACHON '58 WILL SPEAK

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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

Our August luncheon was held on the 19th, the third Friday of the month, at the Jock's and Jill's Sports Bar in the Brookhaven area of Atlanta, and as usual, it was great to see the many alumni in attendance. There was not a scheduled guest speaker as attendance is historically low for our late summer luncheon, but Tom Ross, our June speaker joined us again, and shared some great additional anecdotes about his time in Viet Nam as an Army Special Forces Officer. Chapter members in attendance included: Jim Ravenel '45, Jim Hatch '47, Duane "Duff" Young '46, John Stark '51, Glenn Brewer '51, Bill Rentz '55, Dale Herndon '56, Reggie Vachon '58, Ed Hux '61, Bill Holmes '64, Bill Williams '65, Joe Frazer '65, Les Gable '70, Mitch Rowland '71, Bob Schultz '71, Steve Frederick '72, Mike Loes '74, Cleve Cooper '75, Gary Hoy '84, and Andy Guth '89. It was great to see everyone.

One of the "regulars" who was unable to join us was **George O'Connell '35**, who had a prior engagement and was unable to attend. As I learned that day, George celebrated his 92nd birthday the day following the luncheon. **Reggie Vachon '58**, George's nephew, assured us that all was well with George and that we could count on seeing him at our September luncheon. In fact, Reggie will act as our guest speaker at the September luncheon and will fill us in on the incredible career of his uncle. George is an interesting man who has served his country for many years and I look forward seeing George again and to listening to Reggie's presentation. We are very fortunate to have George as a member of our Chapter.

On Saturday past I was fortunate enough to join with a group of fellow alumni to watch Navy open its football season with a well-contested game against Maryland. While we came out on the short end of the score I was impressed with the team and the game. I believe that I heard the announcers say that Navy had the “youngest” team in Division I football. If they mature and grow into their roles I think the team will do quite well in the coming months and years. It is really enjoyable to realize that Navy football can compete effectively at the upper levels of college football again, and it’s great to be able to watch the team play along with other enthusiastic fans (i.e. fellow alumni and families) at a local establishment. This opportunity will be available often throughout the football season.

For those of you who are unaware, check out our schedule of events at www.usnaaa.com, our local chapter website for the dates that Navy football games will be shown at Jock’s and Jill’s Sports Bar in Brookhaven on Peachtree Road. Navy signed a contract with the College Sports TV to televise all of its home games. Craig Martin, the manager of the Brookhaven Jock’s and Jill’s has agreed to show those games on a screen in the establishment, and to provide us with a semi private viewing area. The events are pay as you go and very informal, but a great way to see a lot of Navy football without using all of your frequent flier miles. I hope to see many of you at the games that I attend.

The Board of Directors has begun discussions about how to conduct an effective survey of our membership and local area alumni to determine what we can do as an organization to better support the local alumni. Our intent is to solicit input from as many folks as possible, gather as much data as possible, and do it all for the least amount of money. If any of you has an interest in assisting with this effort please contact a member of the Board and we will welcome your help.

We continue to sponsor events that contribute to the camaraderie available to USNA Alumni in the Atlanta area. Our schedule of events is available on our website and is extensive. Please take a moment to check us out at www.usnaaaa.com and then join us at one of our luncheons, or at a football game broadcast at some point during the season. If those “four years together by the bay” meant anything to you, I don’t think you will be disappointed.

BEAT ARMY!
Steve Frederick ’72 Chapter President

Upcoming Events

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

Saturday, November 5, 2005 –1:30 pm

Tulane at Navy Football (Homecoming) –
Jocks and Jills

Additional Evening Social Event

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

With the class of 2009 starting the academic year, we are well into the admissions cycle for the class of 2010. In Georgia, we currently have 280 students applying to USNA.

Senator Isakson is holding a state-wide Academy Day on Saturday, Sept 17th from 9:30am to 11:00am at NAS Atlanta. Those that wish to attend must register at <http://isakson.senate.gov/academy.htm>. Students interested in any of the academies in grades 8-12 are welcome.

I was at USNA last week for a training session for all the area coordinators for the Blue and Gold program. One of the speakers made a statement that I feel very strongly about, "It is now our time to serve, to pay back USNA for everything that it has given us and to pass on to the next generation all the history, honor, and leadership that the Academy has to offer." Volunteering as a Blue and Gold officer is what he was referring to.

I get asked a lot about the Blue and Gold program and who can participate. A BGO is a USNA Blue and Gold Officer. BGOs perform counseling and interview students that are applying to USNA. A BGO performs a very important and needed service to the Academy Admissions office by providing a face-to-face interview with the candidate and evaluating the student for their true desire to attend USNA and serve in the Naval service.

Who can be a BGO? A BGO can be an active duty or reserve officer, retired military, a civilian who was an Academy graduate, or civilians who are parents of midshipmen or graduates. We are always looking to add BGOs to our great team here in Georgia; we currently have about 80 BGOs in the state. We need BGOs no matter where they live in Georgia. If you are interest in being a BGO and helping USNA get the most qualified and motivated students, please contact Cindy Miller at (770) 650-8921 or cindymiller@1990.USNA.com.

How much time is involved? Within the first two years of being involved in the program, BGOs are required once to attend a one-week training course in Annapolis during the summer. USNA pays for your transportation, lodging at Bancroft Hall, and food at King Hall. BGO work can accommodate almost anyone's schedule. We

have airline pilots, drilling reservists, active duty, retirees and those that work "normal" jobs in a lot of different job fields the program. As a BGO, you can determine how many schools and students you want under your area of responsibility. Since it is all on the computer system now, it is requested that all BGOs have a computer with access to the web.

What do BGOs do? USNA Admissions has a computer system and web site that lists all the students that are applying to USNA and their information such as school they attend, SAT scores, whether they passed the medical and physical tests, nomination information and when the student submitted the required application paperwork. As a BGO, you have access to the students that are assigned to you. We initially contact all candidates and introduce ourselves as the BGO. When a student has completed about 50% of the required paperwork, we interview them based on some guidelines given by USNA Admissions. The interview is then input into the computer system by the BGO and is presented to the admissions board when the students' record is reviewed. BGOs are also able to assist the student to make sure that the information in the computer system is correct so that only the correct information is presented to the admissions board. In addition to working with students, BGOs go into their assigned schools and talk to counselors, attend college fairs, and work with congressmen and senators on their nomination committees and with their Academy Days (Academy Days are where the congressman invite students of all grades that are in their district and interested in any of the academies to come and talk to academy representatives).

What do you get for being a BGO? In some cases, you can receive drill credits toward retirement (without pay) but in most cases, BGOs do it because of their love of USNA and the values it instills in the midshipmen. By working as a BGO, we insure that the high standards in leadership, morals, athletic ability, and academics are maintained at USNA. It is a wonderful way to help young students and help ensure the future of America.

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

Address Correction Requested