

CDR SUMNER K. MOORE, USN(ret)
308 MANSION DRIVE
ALEXANDRIA, VA 22302
703-549-8739
sk48moore@aol.com

CLASS OF 1948 SHIPMATE COLUMN

MAY 2005

It may be May, but when this was written it was still winter. Now in May the midshipmen are about to abandon the Yard for other pursuits, including first commissioned duty, some leave, and generally a chock-full summer. It's great to be young. This month we have a couple of luncheons and always interesting incidents among our Classmates, but not enough of them are reaching me, hence, a short column. Let's start with an update on the Class website, which resides at the Alumni Association's www.usna.com.

At the moment John Tsiknas, out on Point Loma in San Diego, has succeeded in getting the site formatted and approved, and now accessible. Of course, you need a computer and an email address. In response to our request that you please send us your email address, or update the one you have changed, we have actually received a few, indicating that some Classmates, in seclusion up 'till now, are on deck. Please update your address to Dick Scott, rscott57@edurostream.com, or me. When you enter www.usna.com, go to "classes", punch 1948, and a bunch of options will pop up, one of which is the website, on which you click. *VOILA* ! The website will be a whole new world with the potential of bringing the Class closer together. At the moment, it is mostly under construction, as you can see. It won't be fully operational for a while, but it will fill in fast. As for me, I retain a heavy mistrust of my laptop, which knows it is much smarter than I, and is able to cow me at will. There is a special and evolving language used in dealing with these machines, their mysteries, and their products, such as websites. We

are fortunate to have a very willing and literate expert in John Tsiknas, without whom, none of this would have happened. A feature you can start thinking about is an update on you and yours, with fotos, such as was done for the 50-year book, only better, because the pictures will be in color and clear. Stay tuned. Hit me with your questions, and we will find answers.

The DC area Class luncheon, Friday 11 march, saw the USNA Dean, RADM Bill Miller, join us at the Army Navy Country Club. We had 42 lively Classmates and wives, and the food and sauce were more than adequate. We enjoyed Bill Miller's affability, sincere friendship and affection for 48, and his update on the Yard. He said the football team looks very good in spite of a sizeable loss of first classmen. An influx of talented plebes plus the maturing of the underclass should keep us strong. The Class Endowment has helped produce the first graduates majoring in Information Technology, and a very talented lot they are, including a Rhodes Scholar and a Marshall Scholar. He says the Fleet is most anxious to get more well-trained IT grads, and, as predicted, the major is becoming very popular among the mids. He emphasized that in spite of press reports that the number of USNA applicants has been decreasing, it has not affected the quality and competitiveness of candidates. The Classes just continue to get better.

There is an active group of 48s in the Virginia Beach/Norfolk area, and they have luncheons the third Wednesday of alternate months, passing around the responsibility for choosing the location and menu. Jane and I were scheduled to go down on March 15, but had to drop out at the last minute. Bill Chipman reports that they had a fine time, with good Tidewater chow, and libations. Just so you will know who is in that area, these folks were there: Marie and Bill Chipman, Irene and Jim Hayes, Erline and Ted Holt, Jan and Bill Small, Jean and George Parish, Bob Buechler, Mike Childress, Jack Klinefelter, Don Ross, Carl Thiele, Jack

Gracy, Andy McIntire and friend Betty Edwards, and widows Kitty Bacon, Jane Lane, and Jean Resch, who never miss a luncheon.

Dick Rubenstein called from Kansas City about his 80th birthday, which was celebrated at the USNA. I doubt that any of us can top this one, although a lot of 80s are on deck. Dick retired as a captain USNR, and settled in Kansas City. For his 80th, his “kids”, Jane, John, Ann, and James got together and gave him the sponsorship of five Forrestal lectures at the Academy. The first, which featured Roger Staubach as speaker, was held in February and Dick and Jean were there with 11 members of their family and friends. Before the lecture, they dined with the Supe in his quarters, with the speaker and other guests. Roger spoke for some 45 minutes, to the delight of the audience, and in the question session, one mid, now a hero, pointed out that visiting notables have in the past granted some sort of amnesty to the Brigade. He wondered if, since the snow lay round about, and the next day was Friday, whether Roger wouldn't offer a day without classes. Roger grinned and turned to the Supe, who turned to the Commandant, who turned to the Dean. Shoulders were shrugged, and it was granted. Now, I wonder how many of our “kids” would have thought of giving Dad 5 Forrestal lectures for his 80th? Dick said that one of his daughters is very creative.

I trust everyone caught the review of Paul Corrigan's book, “Last of the Aerial Gunfighters”, on page 38 of the March Shipmate. Paul says it is in the Midshipmen's Store and is selling, but easier, you can go to Amazon.com, read Chapter 1, and order it there. He has done a lot of pushing (selling), and it is paying off. He is currently seeking a publisher for a second novel, “Black September” in which terrorists seize a nuclear weapon.

Now, on to the 58th Reunion, set for 14-17 May 2006, in San Diego. The hotel is the U.S. Grant, which, by then, will be restored to its magnificent 1920s glory. The scheduled events

are being priced, firmed up, and are not yet ready for publication, simply because of there might be changes needed. It is going to be a lot of fun without being a marathon. The Committee is going to send out a letter in May to all Classmates who have expressed an interest in attending that will provide comprehensive information about how and when to contact the US Grant, planned activities, and America's Finest City in general. At this time, you will be asked to send in a first deposit. Now a lot of time has passed since the first solicitation went out, from which the list of prospective attendees was derived, and we expect others will want to get aboard. We don't want to lose anyone. Those who were at the 48th Reunion at Monterey know what a great success that one was. It has been one of the inspirations for the genesis of this one. Many who missed that fine event were sorry when they found out how great it was.

The Committee consists of Chuck Gorder, Harvey Humphrey, Troy Stone, Chris Christoph, Bob Neely, Dick Hoffman, Turbo Sturtevant, and Jay Vermilya, with Rhona Gorder as advisor/coordinator (prime mover). See the photo which includes most of them. If you did not previously indicate a desire to join up, and want to test the waters, you need to contact the Gorders at gorder2@cox.net, or 619-239-8700 (Rhona's office) or 619-287-3559.

The Class binnacle list is not tacked to the bulletin board, so it doesn't get publicity, but I am sure at our stage in life, on any given day it would have a lot of names. I expect most of us have chronic complaints, but for the most part they come and go, and we forge ahead one day at a time. We probably don't need publicity, although at any gathering one notes a lot of exchanging of miseries going on. Because we still have a two month delay between my deadline and publication of this column, I don't usually feature Classmate physical problems. They change too fast. In the Washington DC area, we keep the local gang informed by email and phone when the need is there. Maybe eventually the website will fill that role for the Class.

Dave Carruth has provided some photos of the March luncheon.