

# The Old Salt

## Newsletter

Fall 2005

Volume 16, Issue 1

### Heads Up!

- Fall Meeting / Reunion is 22 Oct. General meeting is expected to be three hours before game time.
- Order tickets for the UNC-UVA football game.
- Reserve your hotel if you haven't already. Wyndham Garden Durham is again offering us an excellent rate.
- Details inside.

### Letter from the President by Dick Cashwell '59

#### Dear fellow alum:

Your NROTC Alumni Association had a good year.

We donated \$1,000 to the Memorial Hall commemoration project, which will feature a listing of all UNC alumni who died in service of their Country. The "Wall" (it will not be like the Vietnam Wall in Washington) will be in front of the renovated Memorial Hall.

We continued our support of the Unit by giving awards to graduates and also a scholarship to a current Midshipman.

As always, we need your help recruiting new members for the Association.

Our numbers are strong, but we need more members so our voice will be even stronger as the University decides what to do with the ROTC programs and where to place them as we lose the Armory.

*Pave paradise, put up a parking lot?*

I am not giving up on keeping the Armory, but

we need a big push from all Alumni of the Program if we are to succeed in keeping it. As I have said many times before, do not miss any opportunity to speak to UNC Administrators about its importance. Emphasize that knocking down the Armory for a parking lot provides a sad commentary on the worth of our alumni to the University.

I hope to see everyone in Chapel Hill October 22 for the annual meeting and barbecue.

Semper Fi,  
Dick

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### A Flood of New Orleans Memories

by Dan Rabil '86

With all the recent attention on New Orleans, many NROTC alumni no doubt recalled memories of marching in Mardi Gras parades years ago. In some ways, the Crescent City has always seemed "on the edge," and the (possibly over-hyped?) chaos that followed Hurricane Katrina this summer wasn't that surprising. The city has long had a horrible crime rate and a reputation for mismanagement, but

it was also a fantasy world for young partygoers.

I marched in Mardi Gras parades in all four of my years at UNC. Trips were paid for with funds earned cleaning Kenan Stadium early Sunday mornings after football games.

Some of the most intense partying was actually aboard the bus en route to New Orleans. A keg was tapped before the bus even left

Chapel Hill, and rolling mayhem ensued. I recall Steve Suddreth '83 guarding the head at the rear of the bus with a bottle of tequila, ensuring all midshipmen were meeting minimum military alcohol requirements. I think he ate the worm. Someone sat with a garbage bag in his lap after losing a fight with peppermint schnapps. The bus was an ugly sight whenever we hit New Orleans, but the southbound trips

# Scuttlebutt

**Charles Wolfe '65** has doubled the value of the annual Wolfe Scholarship award to \$2,000.

**LCDR James Harris '90** is assigned to Naval Hospital, Camp Lejeune. He spent seven months south of Baghdad with the 24th MEU, returning in February this year. He married Nancy Hillbeck in May 2004, shortly before deploying to Iraq. While back at Lejeune awaiting orders to the hospital, Jim worked a bit for **Col. Cariker, MOI of UNC**

**NROTC** from 1990-93. Col. Cariker deployed this September to Iraq as the MEF G-3, said Jim. "We were still talking about time at Chapel Hill on [the] Friday before he left (while I was getting him his smallpox shot)."

**Capt Carl Priechefried USMC, '97** and his wife Amy had their first child, Nathan, on April 15, 2005. Carl is with the Intelligence Directorate of US CentCom in St Petersburg, Florida. He spent 4.5 years with 2nd Bn/2nd Mar Regt, participating in operations in Kosovo and Iraq. He won't be able to make the reunion, but "I hope everyone who attends enjoys their return to the southern part of heaven!" [cprieche@hotmail.com](mailto:cprieche@hotmail.com) / (727) 894-5210

**Michael Monette 2001** is stationed at Al Asad, Iraq, and is a member of VMAQ-1 based in Cherry Point. He is an Electronic Counter Measures Officer. "He really loves the flying and the Marines," says his father **Alan Monette '65**. His

wife, Melissa, is also a 2001 UNC graduate and is a nurse in private practice in New Bern. Father and son hope to attend the alumni reunion in 2006, when Michael should be back in the States.

**Dan Smoak '76** retired as a Captain in the Supply Corps on January 1, 2005.

Dan, his wife Linda and two sons Matthew and Jon moved back to North Carolina to be closer to Dan's parents. They live in High Point, and Matthew is now a sophomore at Carolina.

While on active duty, CAPT Smoak was supply officer for the Nimitz (CVN 68) and CO of the Fleet and Industrial Supply Center, Yokosuka, Japan. His final tour was as Deputy Commander, Naval Inventory Control Point, Philadelphia.

## Did You Know?

NROTC is currently offered at over 100 colleges and universities that have host NROTC units or cross-town enrollment agreements. The annual goal for ROTC commissions in the Navy is 1,050 officers, while the goal for the Marine Corps is 225. Scholarship midshipmen must commit after their freshman year if they wish to stay in the program. The service requirement remains eight years of commissioned service, of which at least four years must be active duty. The monthly subsistence allowance, which was \$100 for decades, is currently as follows:

4/c	\$250
3/c	\$300
2/c	\$350
1/c	\$400



## In Memoriam



**W. Mack Morris '44** died Jan 16, 2005, according to the *Carolina Review*.

**Harold W. Rollins '51** died March 5, 2005, after a fall, his

wife Marilyn informed the Association. Harold served on the battleship *Wisconsin* during the Korean War before joining Westinghouse in Winston-Salem. There he oversaw the

design and production of missile guidance systems and worked on the Nike Ajax and Zeus missiles. He was also an owner of Beltway Motors, along with his son, Russell.



**Chris Bishopp**  
**Cruises Inc**  
 866-586-CRUZ  
 704-658-1515  
[cbishopp@cruisesinc.com](mailto:cbishopp@cruisesinc.com)  
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## Whatever Happened to.....?

### Bill Porter '84

After The Basic School and Armor Officer Basic course, Bill stayed in the Corps as a Tanker, mostly out of Camp Lejeune w/2nd Tank Battalion. "Had a great time in the Corps, caught a Med float as a young tank platoon commander, and plenty of time out in the California desert, and briefly in Oklahoma for Advanced Artillery School."

Bill stayed on through the first Gulf War, "with a side stint for two years as an XO at the old Marine Barracks, Sigonella Sicily."

He "saw a few familiar faces over the years, as the former Staff Sergeant Klenowski turned up in 2nd Tank Battalion in wartime as 1st Sgt. Klenowski."

He was "around to see the Corps switch from the old, and I mean OLD M60A1 tank to the new, racecar-looking M1A1. Fitting into the old

tanks was hard enough for a 6'4" guy, but the in the new ones...nigh impossible!"

After leaving active duty in 1992, Bill says he "stayed with the Reserves a bit (mostly out of HQ in New Orleans, where I'd moved to take care of my dad), got all the way out in '95 and went to grad school up in Brattleboro,

*Tanks, Teaching  
and Teriyaki*

Vermont to become an ESL [English as a second language] teacher...then a quick few months in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia as a starving graduate, then on over to Japan in 1997."

He's lived in the "Kansai" region ever since, in the Kobe - Osaka area, in "a small city

called Ashiya, about the size of Chapel Hill." There he teaches "various part-time stints at area universities."

Bill says he is "pretty much acclimated and a veteran 'ex-pat'...got married to a lady from neighboring Kyoto in 2001." They had their first child, Ashley Sarah Porter, in early 2005. "Being a new dad at 42 reminds me of sleep deprivation a la USMC!"

He only returns Stateside "about once every year or so for quick whirlwind visits to my hometown, Hendersonville."

He would love to hear from classmates and fellow alumni.

#### Reach Bill at:

Bill & Kana Porter  
5-6-101 Higashiyama-cho  
Ashiya-shi, Hyogo-ken  
659-0091 JAPAN

[wbporter2@hotmail.com](mailto:wbporter2@hotmail.com)

Phone: +81 (797) 22 0430

### A Flood of New Orleans Memories (cont'd from p 1)

seemed very short compared to the quiet homeward trips.

Drums, chaos and horse-laid "mines" are my main memories of our many parades. Girls screamed "SMILE!" to try to crack our straight faces, and an occasional set of beads would land on a neck or rifle. I can still see Blake Hollar and Tim Fisk '84 screaming themselves hoarse to make their marching commands heard. We kept the drill routines simple to avoid disasters amid the crush. Parades went on for miles. I never knew where we were.

In 1983 we stayed one or two nights, sleeping aboard the *USS Austin* (LPD 4). I walked back to the ship alone one night around 2 or 3 am, having pooped out

before the rest of my comrades. A guardian angel must have guided me safely as I walked down dark streets in seedy neighborhoods, using the river as my only navigational control feature. For the next three years, we stayed at the YMCA on Lee Cir-

*"I am BACCHUS!"*

cle. I can still smell it.

In 1984 we marched behind the float that carried actor Kirk Douglas, who held the title role in that year's Bacchus parade. The float halted in front of the main grandstand. Douglas, apparently none the worse for having tippled a few parade drinks, shouted raucously to the admiring crowd, "I

am BACCHUS!" and dramatically smashed his wine glass to the pavement below.

One year, Pat Connelly '85 led a contingent of mids in search of an oyster bar Pat had remembered. "Where's Cooter's?!" we yelled at cars stopped at the red light. When a guy in a pickup finally offered to take us there, about 15 of us appeared from nowhere and piled into the cargo bed. The truck crept along until a good-natured cop stopped us and ordered us out. I think we took a streetcar from there to Cooter's.

Amazingly, nobody ever got arrested on our Mardi Gras trips, and everyone was always ready and able to march as scheduled. Semper Bacchanalia, Semper Fi.



**UNC NROTC Alumni Association**

2737 Strawberry Lane  
Port Huron MI 48060

Phone: 810-987-4249

E-mail: [drabil@comcast.net](mailto:drabil@comcast.net)

## Reunion Events Schedule\*

Saturday, 22 Oct 2005

TBA - Board of Directors Meeting

10:00 AM - General Meeting/Awards

11:30 AM - Barbecue lunch (catered)

1:00 PM - Football Game (estimated)

*\*Note: Game time has not been announced yet. We will inform alumni through email and the website if the schedule changes. The general meeting should be 3 hours prior to game time..*

## Need a room for the weekend?

A block of rooms has been set aside for our members at the Durham Wyndam Garden Hotel for 21-23 Oct at the low rate of \$69/night, including breakfast. The hotel is located at 4620 S. Miami Blvd., Durham, NC (exit 281 I-40).

For reservations, call the hotel at 919-941-6066 or 800-972-0264. Please mention "UNC NROTC Alumni" to get the \$69 rate.

## 2005 UNC NROTC Fall Reunion Barbecue Registration Form

October 22, 2005

ADULT (ages 13 and up)    \$15/each    X \_\_\_\_\_    =    \$ \_\_\_\_\_

CHILD (12 and under)\*    \$5/each    X \_\_\_\_\_    =    \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\*If you have a very small child who will be eating from a parent's plate, there is no charge.

Donation to the UNC NROTC Battalion    \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total enclosed    \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please provide us with information for your preferred means to be notified of event start times.:

Home phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Work phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

**Make checks payable to "UNC NROTC Alumni Association"**

**Please send your registration form by 13 Oct to :**

Dan Rabil

UNC NROTC AA

2737 Strawberry Lane

Port Huron MI 48060

Registration/payments sent earlier to the NROTC unit will also be honored. Questions? Contact Dan Rabil (810) 987-4249 / [drabil@comcast.net](mailto:drabil@comcast.net)