

ALUMNI NEWS



The CO's Comments

Commissioning & Frocking

NROTC Ballcaps

Page 9

Alumni Coordinator

Page 10

'73 USMC 2/LTs

Page 11

Dick Barnhart '73

Page 12

Jennifer Kucera '81

Page 15



Captain John "Cosmo" De Pree, CO, PNS

Commanding Officer's Comments

I am proud to report the commissioning of 10 very happy (and exhausted!) Ensigns and 2nd Lieutenants on Friday, June 16th, with a tremendous outpouring of support from our friends, families, and rising upperclassmen. The 45-minute ceremony was simulcast over Facebook Live for those that couldn't attend. The ceremony marked the culmination of

C.O. Comments . . . continued

our rigorous training and education program in Naval Science, and served to hallmark the transition of the senior class from midshipmen and officer candidates to commissioned officers in the United States Navy and Marine Corps.



The ceremony was held at the Learning Innovation Center (LINC), a prominent venue at Oregon State University. It provided a fitting setting for this momentous occasion, as friends, family, faculty, and fellow battalion members gathered to witness the commissioning of these exceptional individuals. The LINC offered a spacious and conducive environment to commemorate their achievements and acknowledge their dedication to serving their country. Adding to the significance of the event, the guest speaker for the ceremony was CAPT Warren E. Sisson, III, U.S. Navy (Ret.). CAPT Sisson holds a notable position within the OSU NROTC, having served as the previous Commanding Officer of the Beaver Battalion. His presence as the guest speaker underscored the continuity of leadership and the shared experiences that connect past and present members of the program.

C.O. Comments . . . continued

The Beaver Battalion congratulates all the newly commissioned Ensigns and 2nd Lieutenants on their remarkable achievement. Their dedication, discipline, and commitment to service have propelled them towards leadership roles in the Navy and Marine Corps. As they embark on their professional journeys, they carry with them the values instilled by the NROTC program and the support of their mentors, peers, and loved ones.



This year also marked Oregon State University's 154th Commencement ceremony. The class of 2023 extends a legacy dating back to the first graduating class of three students in 1870 who join a global family of Oregon State University alumni now more than 220,000 strong. OSU is immensely proud of every graduate and the faculty who contribute to the rich history of this great land grant university.

Commisioning 2023



"I (state your name) do solemnly swear....."



C.O. Comments . . . continued

In other news, I'd like to congratulate two of our Officer Candidates, who both successfully advanced to Petty Officer First Class on the spring advancement exams! Congratulations to Officer Candidates Diana Marie Cruz and Samantha Schacher, who were both frocked to the rank of Petty Officer First Class. Both choose to conduct the frocking ceremony took place on the O-course, an obstacle course that symbolizes the challenging journey they have undertaken to reach this point in their military careers.



The frocking ceremony served as a recognition of Cruz and Schache's exceptional performance, leadership, and potential. As they were frocked to the rank of Petty Officer First Class, they accepted the responsibilities and duties associated with this higher position. Donning the insignia of their new rank, Cruz and Schacher exemplified their readiness to tackle increased responsibilities and contribute to the success of their unit. The O-course, with its demanding physical challenges, symbolized not only the rigorous training they had endured but also their determination to overcome obstacles as they stepped into their new roles.





I'm sure many of us look back fondly at the fun we had doing this!!

OSU NROTC Ball Cap

Finally – A reminder that orders for ball caps are being accepted until July 31st, 2023. Ball cap prices are \$20 per cap for pickup or \$28 per cap with shipping. We will have the ball caps available for pickup at the Alumni Tailgater Event this October, and we can also ship them to you if you won't be able to make it to the tailgater this year. We ask that you pay by cash or check before we place our order, either by dropping it off in an envelope at the unit or mailing it to us. Checks can be made out to "Beaver Battalion".

We are truly excited about offering this symbol of unity and pride! By purchasing a cap, you are not only supporting our unit but also expressing your dedication to the values and camaraderie that unite us.

Please address envelopes to:

Attn: OC Allison
Naval Science
160 Cascade Hall
Corvallis, OR 97331



Alumni Coordinator Notes

Doug Neve

The OSU Joint Service Review and the NROTC Spring Awards Ceremony were held on May 5. Steve Beals (USN, 1990) presented our three scholarships at \$3,000 each to deserving midshipmen.

Dam Proud Day was a success, with our Alumni contributing over \$11,600 to our scholarships. Many thanks to those that made contributions! We are in the process of transferring excess funds into the scholarship endowment fund, which will bring that account to over \$90,000. Our goal over the next few years is to raise the endowment to \$250,000 so that we can fund at least \$9,000 in scholarships in perpetuity. Contributions may be made on the OSU Foundation website by searching for "NROTC Alumni." You can also contact Denise Harrison at the OSU Foundation to discuss making contributions (Denise.Harrison@osufoundation.org or 541-609-9661).

The 2023 NROTC Alumni Tailgater will be held October 14th , which is homecoming against UCLA. Mark your calendars to swap yarns, get a bite to eat, and cheer the Beavers on to victory!

Spring Commissioning on June 16th saw eight Ensigns and two 2nd Lieutenants heading to the fleet.

Congratulations to them!

Don't forget to send me updated contact information if you move or change email addresses.

Hope everyone has an enjoyable summer and hope to see you at the Tailgater this Fall.

Doug Neve

USN 1981

OSU NROTC Alumni Coordinator

***50 Years Ago
Ken Collyer '73 USMC***



In 1973 OSU NROTC commissioned 12 USMC 2/LTs. (Sorry Navy classmates but I don't have a photo of your commissioning class.)

Top Row L-R. Dick Barnhart (commissioned in Aug); Dave Dotterrer, Mike Minter, Mike Karnath, Rod Propst, Jim Carnahan

Front Row L-R Brett Carter, Dave Galati, Larry Hennebeck, Ken Collyer, Mike Gardner, Ron Peck

From Chesty Puller to Marcus Welby MD

Dick Barnhart '73 USMC

In 1969 when I enrolled at OSU, I was a pretty naive and unworldly kid from a rural Oregon upbringing. I applied to be in ROTC because I felt an obligation to serve. I chose Navy because my father had served in the Navy in WWII. I had been awarded a state scholarship, which I would lose if I got an additional scholarship; therefore I chose the contract option, knowing I would be a reserve officer with a three year active duty obligation. It is interesting how one decision can lead to a sequence of events that change your life. I pledged at Phi Kappa Psi where a sophomore (Bill Jorgens, class of 1972) was a squad leader on the NROTC drill team. At his suggestion, I joined the drill team; something I never would otherwise have considered. This resulted in three years of much of my time and energy devoted to the drill team and traveling around the Pacific Northwest to exhibitions and competitions. It also led to forming some close friendships with others on the drill team and some seriously fun parties after drill events. The unsavory details of some of these parties are best left untold. It also resulted in getting to know the Marine Officer Instructor (MOI) who was responsible for the drill team, Major Mike Sweeney. He definitely made a positive impression on midshipmen on the drill team, as evidenced by the fact that most members chose the Marine Option. I took longer considering my options; but early in my senior year, I also decided to "Tell it to the Marines".

The summer of 1973 was pretty crazy for me. After graduating in June, I flew to Quantico for six weeks of OCS where I learned to function under the compassionate and benevolent care of our platoon's Staff and Gunnery Sergeants. I still sometimes wake up in a cold sweat recalling the eloquent language the Staff Sergeant used to remind us what fine examples of American manhood we exemplified. I then came back to Oregon to marry my wife, Charlotte, then back to Quantico in September to begin TBS. While there, I chose Air Traffic Control as my MOS. After completion of TBS in March, I went to Glynco NAS in Southeast Georgia for eight weeks of air traffic control school. From there, I reported to my first duty station at the helicopter station, MCAS Santa Ana. I was assigned to the Mobile Air Traffic Control Unit (MATCU). For a year, I enjoyed the Southern California weather tainted by the Los Angeles smog that descended on us almost every day.

Dick Barnhart (con't)

I began to think about what I wanted to do the rest of my life. I had a degree in Zoology, no money, and I had decided I did not want to make a career in the military. Two friends were in medical school and encouraged me to apply. I knew very little about a medical career, but I had always liked the TV show “Marcus Welby, MD,” so I decided to give it a shot and applied to some medical schools.

I received orders to report to the MATCU at MCAS Futenma on Okinawa for an unaccompanied tour starting in April, 1975. I was fortunate that the Dean of Admissions at Oregon Health Sciences University was kind enough to arrange some unscheduled impromptu interviews before I deployed. I am pretty sure being a Marine helped me get accepted to OHSU. I think the admission committee looked favorably on my military service, and I received a strong letter of recommendation from Col. Bob Wray who was the C.O. of the NROTC unit while I was there.

My 14 months on Okinawa yielded a variety of experiences. The MATCU was deployed to the Philippines for an exercise that came to a halt when all resources were diverted to the evacuation of Saigon. I also did a stint of temporary duty at an air station in Taiwan. I was the base duty officer the day a typhoon hit Okinawa. Air traffic control at Futenma was pretty uncomplicated, so I was put in charge of the Base Inspections Program and the Officers’ Mess to keep me busy.

I formed a friendship with another lieutenant who liked to SCUBA dive, and we explored Okinawa’s beautiful coral reefs every chance we got. Sea snakes, which have one of the most potent neurotoxin venoms of any snake in the world, are common in those waters. During a night dive, we discovered that they liked to swim up a light beam to inspect the source. Needless to say, this dampened our enthusiasm for night diving.

My tour in Okinawa ended in May 1976; and after returning to the states, I was discharged from active duty and placed in inactive reserves. Charlotte and I then returned to Oregon, where I found a summer job setting chockers and began preparing to move to Portland for medical school. The G.I. Bill assisted in school expenses; and with a state V.A. loan, we were able to afford a fairly new 1,100 square foot house in Southwest Portland which cost the astronomical sum of \$33,000. (I wonder what it would cost now?)

Dick Barnhart (con't)

In medical school, I chose the field of Internal Medicine. After graduation, I completed a three year residency at the Milton S. Hershey Medical Center in Hershey, Pennsylvania in June 1983. I passed my board certification exams and started my career as an internist. I had received a National Health Service Corps scholarship my last two years in medical school. This scholarship required two years of service in a medically underserved area in the United States, and I chose the Indian Health Service. I was fortunate to be assigned to the Navajo reservation at the hospital in Shiprock, New Mexico. It was similar to practicing in a third world country and was a great experience for a young doctor. I saw many medical conditions that are not common outside the reservation; and because sending patients to specialists was difficult, I learned to practice without much help and without access to the latest technology. I also learned to appreciate the Navajo culture and people. A bonus was skiing just three hours away in Telluride, Colorado, before it became a major resort area.

In 1985, I accepted an offer to join another internist in Springfield, Oregon. We grew to a five-physician medical group with an outpatient office and an active hospital practice. Looking back on this, the work was a bit grueling with an office schedule, admitting and rounding in the hospital, and taking night and weekend call. I managed to take enough time off to keep from burning out. By 2007, internists needed to choose whether to practice full time doing inpatient care as a hospitalist, or to maintain an office and do only outpatient care. I decided that I preferred inpatient care and left my office. I took a year off, six months of which I spent working at a hospital on the North Island of New Zealand on a locums tenens contract. On returning, I accepted employment as a hospitalist with Peace Health Medical Center in Springfield, Oregon.

I continued this work until 2018, when I retired from active practice.

In retirement, I continue to do shifts at the Springfield Volunteers in Medicine Clinic. I have made five trips to Uganda where, in addition seeing patients, I am part of a group supporting a rural health team in the Tororo area of Southeast Uganda.

Looking back, I never would have thought that enrolling in NROTC and joining a drill team would set in motion the sequence of events that has been my life.

Jennifer L. (Oster) Kucera
'81 USN

I didn't join the Unit until our Junior year. I came in as a College Program student, without a scholarship. At commissioning, I received a REGNAV commission, an award for College Program students who meet certain scholastic requirements. Hard to believe, but I guess I managed! I think I owe Tom Hagen a big thank you for submitting me for consideration!

I was commissioned as an Aviation Maintenance Officer (AMO), and after a month or two hanging around at the Unit as a brand-new Ensign, I went off to the 16-week AMO School in Millington, TN followed by a three-week Aviation Supply course in Athens, GA. Then it was off to Naval Air Test Center (NATC) Patuxent River, MD (PAXRIV). My first assignment was to the ASW Test Directorate where I was assigned as the Airframes and Paraloft Division Officer. We worked on E-2C's, P-3's, S-3's, and C-130's. We also supported the T-34 and the Admiral's Gulfstream. After that, I was assigned as the Quality Assurance Officer. From there, I went to the Aircraft Intermediate Maintenance Department (AIMD) on the NAS side of the base. I was first assigned to the Aircraft Division Officer, which had airframes and power plants, then as the Support Equipment Division Officer. Because we supported the entire NATC, we basically supported every type of aircraft and support equipment in the Navy's inventory. It was challenging and interesting, and I learned a lot.

After almost four years of active duty, I exchanged my REGNAV commission for a Reserve commission and was assigned to VP-68 which was home ported there at NAS PAXRIV. I was originally assigned as the Maintenance and Material Control Officer (MMCO), then the Assistant Maintenance Officer (AMO), then the Maintenance Officer (MO). After VP-68 I spent a few years floating around in billets with various NAVAIR HQ Units, and in 2001, after 20 years of service, I retired from the Reserves as a Commander.

Meanwhile, back in civilian life, I continued to pursue a career in Naval Aviation Maintenance and Logistics. After active duty, I spent about six months working for a Defense Contractor at PAXRIV while I got ready to pursue a career in civil service. I applied for and got my first job as a GS-11/12 at the Naval Aviation Depot Operations Center (NADOC). I was assigned as the Depot Manager for the A-4 and F-14 aircraft. I loved the F-14! After two years, I received a promotion to GS-13 as the Depot Program Manager for all the Naval Aviation Depots (NADEPs), both government and commercial.

Jennifer L. (Oster) Kucera (con't)

It was a great job and I got to travel to a lot of different sites. From there I went to the Naval Aviation Logistics Center (NALC) where I managed the team in charge of the Support Equipment Resources Management Information System (SERMIS). After that, I became involved in and led a team in Process Definition and Improvement. We worked with many different Navy aviation and logistics agencies, including OPNAV at the Pentagon. It was fun and rewarding work, before Process Improvement became a buzz word and mostly came to mean “let me transfer my expense to you.” By this time, NAVAIRSYSCOM had relocated from D.C. down to PAXRIV, so I started looking for positions there. My first NAVAIR job was as the Assistant Program Manager for Logistics (APML) for a piece of avionics equipment whose designator I can’t even remember. But it was a fun job, got me in the HQ door, and opened the door for moving up. My next position was as a GS-14 in PMA-209 where I was hired as the Product Support Team Lead (PSTL) for the P-3C. The PSTL was really the Assistant APML, but you know acronyms and Navy hierarchies, there’s no such thing as an AAPML, hence, PSTL. Shortly after I took over as PSTL, the APML was transferred. The new APML came on board – and then kind of disappeared. That’s a story to be told over a drink. So, I became the acting APML/PSTL for the P-3C for the next two years. It was my dream job, and I loved every minute of it!

In February 2001, I got married (second time). In June 2001 I retired from the Reserves. In August 2001 I quit my NAVAIR career to follow my husband, then an active duty Marine, to Bangor SUBBASE in Silverdale, WA. They were packing out our house when the first plane hit the first tower.

We arrived in Silverdale, WA in mid-September 2001, where my husband, Mike, reported for duty immediately at the Marine Corps Security Force Company on Bangor. I was able to line up another civil service position before we left MD, and on 1 October I started at the Naval Undersea Warfare Center (NUWC) Keyport. It was a downgrade to a GS-13, but I was very thankful to have it! I was now the Technical Project Manager (TPM) for the MK-30 ASW Training Target, a torpedo-sized underwater vehicle that can be programmed to run certain courses on underwater ranges while emulating various submarines. I had oversight of MK-30 maintenance and logistics, including depot repair/maintenance at Keyport, and organizational level maintenance and operations at three operating ranges: Keyport, SOCAL, and Hawaii.

Jennifer L. (Oster) Kucera (con't)

Occasionally I would have to travel to our East coast counterparts in Newport, RI or West Palm Beach, FL. Tough duty, but someone had to do it. The hardest part of the new job was transitioning from the NAVAIR culture to the NAVSEA culture – the culture shock is real! I retired from this position, after 31 years of total federal service, on 30 September 2012 without a day's regret.

Some favorite NROTC memories: making cookies for exam days; gluing our Mess Night photo to the Class Reunion wall; being the oldest Navy midshipman for the Navy birthday cake-cutting ceremony on the quarterdeck – standing next to the youngest looking 18-year-old midshipman on the planet.

OSU NROTC ALUMNI WEBSITE

<https://osu-nrotc-alumni.org/>

Editors Note

Thanks to those who have contributed the articles included within. (See Dick it wasn't that hard to write up your story!! and Jennifer thanks for agreeing to let me use your story from the '81 cruise book.) I really do need some more input for the next edition so I'm looking for others to add. If you have a story to tell please send it to me. I have the email addresses for most of you. The penalty for not sending me something is public embarrassment in the next edition.

I know that you're out there Don Zinn and Terry Daugherty and I'm waiting for that story you said you'd send along.

And "YES" inputs from current midshipmen are welcome!!!

Email me at kencollier73@gmail.com

See y'all in October at Homecoming.

Semper Fi

Ken

Alumni Group Volunteers

Alumni Group Coordinator

Doug Neve, '81 (USN)
dneve9876@gmail.com (763) 464-4864

Newsletter Editor

Ken Collyer, '73 (USMC)
kencollier73@gmail.com (737) 215 9471

Alumni Group Webmaster

Steve Beales, '90 USN
bealsey@gmail.com

Alumni Advisory Committee

(In addition to above)

Steve Easterday '72 USMC
Dave Galati '73 USMC
Jim McCrae '72 USN
Ron Swingen '59 USMC
Mike Brewer '73 USN
Rod Propst '73 USMC

Terry Robertson '67 USN
Doug Fullaway '74 USMC
Stan Smith '72 USMC
Mark Ripkey '84 USN
Steve Beales '90 USN
Mike Morrissey, '68 USN

[*Click here for Alumni Web Site*](#)

This newsletter is published by the Oregon State University NROTC Alumni Group. The newsletter and other activities are voluntary -- there are no dues, legal organization or financial structure. As individuals we support the military, the university, and the NROTC Unit. However, nothing in this publication should be construed as an official voice of the U.S. Navy, Oregon State University, or the Unit. Opinions expressed in bylined articles are solely those of the authors. Unless specifically noted copyright is waived and contents should be considered in the public domain (credit appreciated).