

### Class of 80 Notes Dec/Jan 2022/3

I did not get much info from my e-mail solicitation but I did pull together a few items.

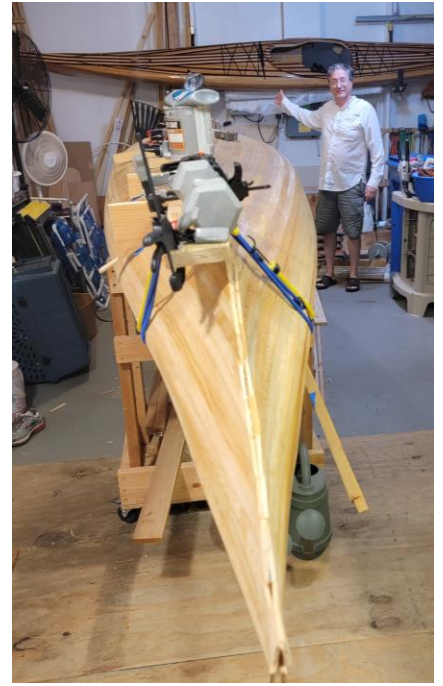
**Bob Acker** reported in that he was able to track down **Ken Spiegel** with some help from **Bob Edrington** which is strange seeing as Bob is in Italy. Ken and his wife Maria are sponsoring a student from Kiev this year. In Ken's spare time he has become an accomplished kayak builder and has built some pretty nice kayaks.

**Mike Fijalka** sent in some pictures of the Annual Hockey get together that **Mark Yost** has been coordinating the last couple of years. It was on Veterans Day and had **Chris Mills, Mike Raber, Rod Walker Lisa Johansen, Sharon Fijalka, Mike Nerino, Joe Lichamer, George Asseng, Dave Stirrett, Jody Turner** and **Jack Gunther**. After the Hockey event, there was a golf outing at Chris Mills' home course. I believe Rod coordinated. **Jim Sartucci** joined, Mike, Chris, Rod, and Mark on the links. George played as well but had to leave before the picture was taken. Rumor has it that Mark had a birdie to go along with the 17 quadruple bogies he had.

On a more somber note for those folks that aren't in the Class of 80 Facebook group or more importantly on our Class e-mail distribution list. Most everyone

must have heard that hurricane Ian went through southern Florida a few months back. What you may not know is that **Bill Brubaker** and wife Sophia had a retirement property in Fort Meyers Beach. The town was in the path of Ian. Anyone that responded to hurricanes Katrina and Andrew know full well the destruction that hurricanes can cause. Bill wanted the Class to know what was going on and that physically they were safe. Bill sent the following to **Joanne Albero** to forward along: We were transitioning down here over a three year period. Very glad we didn't give up our CT home yet. It's a total loss, we had hurricane but not flood insurance. Expect very little from insurance. Our place was in an over 55 community, we're in a camper trying to help all our elder members. Heart wrenching, these people all living independently in a place they worked hard to buy so they could age gracefully. They are in shelters, living in cars, on couches with friends, whisked away to mid western states by relatives and now in an extra bedroom. I have few words. Can you let 1980 know? You can share photos. Let them know we are physically ok and working to help our displaced elderly neighbors. Keeps us from worrying about ourselves.

After Bill's response Joanne put together a GoFundMe page for the class to help out. Bill responded as such: Pride and humility are always at war in us aren't they? I think Sophia and I do not want to burden anyone on our behalf, but we are on the board for our association and we are the boots on the ground helping residents cope and



work through this. We will have to go back and forth a bit and camp while we are down here, we would use funds to help with that and as direct aid to others when needed. We think 193 of our 197 homes will be condemned. No home is livable at this time. Eighty or so residents are homeless. All have lost their community, social life, and support group they relied on as they aged. Proud, resilient, independent people living on their own are now dependent, scared, and depressed living by the grace of others. Some have aged ten years in two weeks, some are simply broken and you can see them giving up.

Joanne listed a goal of \$19800 for fund raising effort. The Class came through with that and more! The funds will support Bill with his efforts. In addition to dealing with his own issues he has been helping his neighbors as many of them are quite elderly and were getting pushed around by the FEMA bureaucracy. Bill has relayed that they will be having their home demolished and a rebuild is not covered by their homeowner's insurance and the future of their neighborhood, their building lot, and their retirement to Florida is uncertain. Keep them in your thoughts this holiday season.

Bill was not the only one impacted. **JJ Wrynn's** father lives in Fort Myers. JJ sent the following: My Dad lives in Fort Myers. He rode out the storm, wound up evacuating to Pittsburgh afterwards. I traveled back to Florida with him on Sunday, have been helping him get settled in this week. We went to dinner tonight. Spotted a couple of familiar faces while waiting for our meals ... Bill and Sophie!! Got to talk to them for a bit before they headed out. They looked great, considering all that's happened. Dad didn't suffer as much damage as the Brubakers. He lives in a high rise in downtown Fort Myers, his apartment was undamaged. His car got totaled when their garage flooded - he also lost a car to Sandy when they lived on Long Island. We had to toss the food in his refrigerator because they lost power for several days. I helped with a few other chores, and am heading home tomorrow.

Another classmate that was affected by hurricanes was **Paul Benvenuto**. He was on the East Coast of Florida and Hurricane Nicole gave him some wind and made his pool look like a swamp but otherwise he says he was unscathed.

And if hurricane talk wasn't enough, our own **Linda Johansen**, assisted in hurricane relief during Ian as a Red Cross volunteer from Connecticut. Linda started volunteering locally in CT with the American Red Cross last November and now is among a group of Connecticut volunteers who will be assisting with the response to Hurricane Ian in Florida. She said she is on standby to be sent to Florida to help the Red Cross for at least two weeks with logistics, which means she will be helping behind-the-scenes with needs such as securing locations for shelters or coordinating transportation. Great job Linda. Everyone stay well as Winter is coming!

