

Shipmates,

Sharing some of our vivid (and not so vivid - 20 years ago is a long time!) memories from our time on the Yard during and after Hurricane Isabel. Enjoy!

As the storm approached, we were informed that the Brigade was going to tough it out in Mother B. She was wrapped in sandstone and protected by Poseidon (I was told), so this seemed like a reasonable decision. I'd been through a hurricane when I was enlisted and did the 18 hour evacuation drive only to return and find a few leaves along the sidewalk, so I was excited to just sit back and listen to the wind.

Hurricane Isabel didn't seem overly powerful. There was wind and noise, but it was nothing special. What I was not prepared for was the storm surge that absolutely wrecked the Academy and surrounding areas. The English poet John Donne may have said '*no man is an island*,' but John never said anything about USNA. When the sun came up, we could see Bancroft was surrounded by water on three sides, with Stribling as the singular escape route - only to be met by the risen waters of College Creek creeping towards Alumni Hall and the Worden Field residences.

Always a sleep thief, Colonel J.R. Allen '78 impressed the values of duty upon us (probably with a Kipling quote), and ushered several midshipmen towards their first Navy working party, picking up sticks in the flooded street behind Captain's Row, and scouring the sidewalks of Stribling for out of place vegetation. Annapolis was a mess, but USNA would be tidy.

Following Isabel, the most common phrase we heard was, "Semper Gumby people," as we donned white works and continued classes in sweltering company wardrooms while portions of Chauvenet, Michelson, Nimitz, and Rickover were gutted. Shortly after the hurricane, a Rickover physics mannequin was either put out for garbage or perhaps just to dry, and *somehow* (via fireman carry by plebe Ryan Kimmel '07), the mannequin made it back to the 25th Company wardroom, adorned in Nick Goddard '07's E-5 bus driver uniform, and christened "T.E.D." He was prominently featured in the world famous "USNA Cribs" spirit spot, but was sadly taken from us during spring break 2004.

To this day, when touring family through the Yard, I am required to say, "That fountain was completely covered! People were kayaking in the streets! Colonel Allen made us clean up the Yard!" The Hurricane Isabel experience is indelibly ingrained in my memory.

[Insert Hurricane Isabel Photo #1] Caption: T.E.D., shortly before he was stolen from the 25th Company wardroom during spring break, 2004

[Insert Hurricane Isabel Photo #2] Caption: Aaron Cox, '05 playing in the water. Aaron was killed in a helicopter accident on May 5, 2009. His remains are in the USNA columbarium

[Insert Hurricane Isabel Photo #3] Caption: Looking down the parking lot at Ego Alley.

[Insert Hurricane Isabel Photo #4] Caption: View from Chauvenet stairs adjacent to the Mid Store

[Insert Hurricane Isabel Photo #5] Caption: Ingram Island and Reef.

[Insert Hurricane Isabel Photo #6] Caption: View of Mitscher Hall from the 6th / 8th wing breezeway.

[Insert Hurricane Isabel Photo #7] Caption: View of the '40 is 4.0' fountain from the 4th / 6th wing breezeway.

[Insert Hurricane Isabel Photo #8] Caption: View of Ricketts Hall and Farragut Field from 8th wing.

[Insert Hurricane Isabel Photo #9] Caption: The flooded remains of Boundary Rd. behind Captain's Row.

- Josh Angichiodo, 25th Company, Class of 2006 Vice President

Some other memories from our class:

"I remember several mids canoeing around the yard." - Jonathan Allmond

"I seem to recall hearing that a couple of mids went for a run along the sea wall during the storm and one or both were blown into the Severn. There was a rumor they had to be picked up by the USCG after trying to swim to a buoy." - Chris Whiddon

"Playing board games in the wardroom when there was no power because the administration told us we couldn't leave. We had to play by candlelight at night since there was no power!" - Justin Kirkpatrick

"18th Company set up a game of Risk. We were eating Un crustables and conquering the world for three days! We also had classes in the berthing barge!" - Travis Klempan

"Swimming on Farragut." - LaDoux Coleman

"Trying to stay awake in a DiffEQ class in a wardroom with epic leather couches." - Sam Fromille

"Kayaking in the 7th wing horseshoe. Wrecked sailboats on the sea wall. Relaxing the tie requirement for WWB during classes because the boilers broke or something causing the heat in classrooms to remain fixed at 85 degrees. That rule stayed even after the temperature issue was fixed and we only wore ties for formations." - Gordon McDonald

[Insert Hurricane Isabel Photos 10-16]