

**USMA CLASS OF 1958
SEPTEMBER 2012 NEWSLETTER**

Letter from the Executive Committee Chairman (Jim Hall jbh58@verizon.net)

As of this writing, the First Class Club enhancement project nears completion (see detailed report below from Tony Smith). The fund drive was a great success – thanks to the leadership of our President, Jack Bradshaw, and most especially for the many generous monetary contributions received from our Classmates. Tony Smith and Dale Hruby spent many hours and made numerous trips to West Point coordinating the many engineering design details and getting all the appropriate approvals from Academy Officials. As a result of their hard efforts, we hope all will join us in reviewing the finished product during our 55th reunion next May.

Please take note of the important data-base reminder from Paul Ruud below. If you haven't updated your entry yet, it's time to do so. The goal is for all to submit updated entries by our 55th next year.

The Washington Mini-Reunion is just around the corner. We look forward to seeing many of you in DC next month (5-8 Oct.)

58 Is Great!

2012 Washington DC Mini (Palmer McGrew < PALMERMCG@aol.com>)

I will paste below the current registration status. If your name does not appear, you aren't registered no matter how much you may have intended to take care of that. Right now we are making some interesting "bets" based on how many we think will attend vs. how many have registered. We could lose a maximum body part if a lot of folks we think are coming don't. If you are coming and not registered. please immediately go to:

<https://www.kintera.org/AutoGen/Register/ECReg.asp?ievent=1027239&en=kvLQJ4NRIjISL5NWJgIOI5OWIvJ7JcOSIoJXJeOZLfJTliNaE>

and register. Then come back for task two.

We must tell the hotel what entree you want for the banquet dinner. Please go to this site to register your preferences. If you don't do that we will have to guess, and our guess will be the omnipresent chicken. Go to:

<http://www.westpointaog.org/58ReunionMealChoice>

And finally, we need to know how many want to go on a tour of the new Air & Space Museum (Udvar-Hazy). If you want to go to Udvar-Hazy so indicate to Alan Chase (n66928@aol.com) and make sure you signed up for bus transportation on that day.

Memorial Articles/Taps (Jack Downing < ejdowning@cox.net>)

Memorial articles and TAPS: The following link leads to the WPAOG'svcdirections for Memorial Articles and TAPS

www.westpointaog.org/sslpage.aspx?pid=757

or log on to WPAOG site and, under poop sheets, click on TAPS Memorial Articles. It will take you to the same page. "Testimonials" can be left in an area just after the Memorial Article. This does not negate the eulogy page of the West-Point.org at

<https://tools.west-point.org/listing.mhtml>.

You have a choice of either or both.

Data Base (Paul Ruud <ruud@starband.net>)

The Executive Committee continues to urge classmates to update their personal data in the Class database. Access procedures remain unchanged. Go to

<<http://usma1958-reunionbook.west-point.org>>

If you have forgotten yourvpassword, follow the instructions to have it emailed to you. The good news is that classmates now have access to all the files in the database. The bad news is the glacier-like pace at which we are updating our files. A brief discussion of the database will be held during the class business meeting at the DC mini reunion.

FCC (Tony Smith <aasmith58@msn.com>)

As of Labor Day, the construction of the retractable enclosure over the patio of the Club is nearly complete. The enclosure itself is complete. Still to be accomplished are:

(1) decorating the concrete floor of the enclosure with black and gold flakes over a gray base, a 6' USMA logo and a couple of 4' Firstie uniform insignia (i.e., the black bust of Pallas) and

(2) installing handrails to comply with code requirements. If the weather cooperates, this work should be completed by mid-September.

See Ed Weckel's photos on the class Website of the partially-finished structure.

We held the customary handover of the First Class Club on 16 Aug. As usual, we had a packed house from the class of 2013, and, as usual, the incoming Firsties were most grateful that the great class of '58 had shown the creativity and foresight, now 19 years ago, to endow West Point with such a well-appreciated facility that will enhance their final year.

What was unusual this year was the enthusiasm of the class of '13 concerning the Firstie Club. Every year, the incoming Firsties are grateful, but '13 was over the top. Once we finished the brief handover ceremony, a long line of Firsties, led by First Captain Brandon Whittington (from El Paso, defensive back on football team, Mech E major) and the class president (Tim Berry), trooped up to the stage to shake the hand of every '58er present. That's never happened before.

In addition, the class of '13 has appointed two Firsties to act as "liaison to the Firstie Club". Before we left for the evening, one of them pulled Jack Bradshaw, Dale Hruby, and me aside to discuss with great enthusiasm their plans for the Club for the coming year.

In addition to Jack, who made some well-chosen and well-received remarks on behalf of the class, and Dale, others in attendance were Dodie Hruby, Butch and Marilyn Saint, Doug Sedgwick, Brad Johnson, Munge Moore, and, of course, Bonnie.

Wounded Warrior Mentor Program (Lee Miller <mlmiller58@verizon.net>)

As many of you know, the Wounded Warrior Mentor Program was founded in 2004 at Walter Reed by Pete Brintnall, John Herren, Bob Tredway (deceased and missed) and Lee Miiller. Our mission is to assist Wounded Warriors and their spouses via a one on one combat veteran mentor to a new productive life and profession with a three to five year horizon with the pillars of the organization being education, internships and jobs. We also have a follow-on mentor program with mentors in waiting all around the country to enable the transition of the mentorship to a follow-on mentor anywhere in the US and Puerto Rico, when the WW and family go home.

We have grown to approximately 350 mentors mentoring about 400 Wounded Warriors (800 successfully mentored over the past eight years) with programs at the new Walter Reed National Military Medical Center, Ft Belvoir and Ft Meade and with outreach program established at Brooke AMC in San Antonio, Ft Gordon, the VA Richmond Poly Trauma Center, the Marines at Kaneohe Bay, HI and lastly Ft Eustis (founded and run by Tony Nadal). We are a 501(c)3 with virtual offices and are all volunteers with no one on the payroll. Although the Class of '58 founded the organization for which we are very proud, our mentors come from all academies, all services, ranks and genders. Likewise with the Wounded Warriors and military families we assist. Our mentor ranks remain heavily laced with classmates and West Pointers, many in leadership positions this support greatly appreciated.

Up to this point we have basically funded the operation from our own pockets. We do have administrative expenses such as printing, office supplies for the organization as a whole etc. We have recently learned that some of you have been contributing regular to the Wounded Warrior Project, a huge organization with a budget of \$40 million (40% overhead) and all paid employees. We work hand in hand with this organization but they complement our efforts by organizing events, trips, providing plane tickets, setting up and running schools for IT etc. They do not provide a one on one mentor to any extent for the Wounded Warriors. They are nationally known with publicity and fund raising. We work with them and appreciate what they do but we are not in the business of initiating and supporting events, we are in the business of mentoring Wounded Warriors. The bottom line is we are asking that you identify with the Wounded Warrior Mentor Program, our CI of 58 sponsored organization, and if you are so inclined to contribute to our mentoring Program. We would appreciate your support. Please mail any contributions via check made out to the "Wounded Warrior Mentor Program" and mail the check to George Lawton, our treasurer, at 11900 Paradise Lane, Herndon, VA, 20171-1519.

Ski '58 Durango, CO (Ben Franklin <electraben@gmail.com>)

Set aside February 24 through March 2 for the Class of '58 Ski Mini. We'll be in Durango, CO, Mountain Resort (DMR). You can look forward to some of the following "signature activities" in Durango:

Skiing at DMR, of course (Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday and maybe Saturday and even Sunday.

Dinner at the Sow's Ear (one or more nights) <http://www.buzztown.com/business/21436/sows-ear-restaurant.htm>

A ride on the Durango and Silverton Narrow Gauge to Cascade Junction
<http://www.durangosilvertonrailroad.com/>

Walk Main street (hasn't changed much in 130 years).

A taste of Serious Texas Barbeque: <http://serioustexasbbq.com/testimonials.html>

Lodging is relatively inexpensive (not yet finalized) and lift tickets cost \$46.

