

Kentucky Garden Club next spring. The Mengels will set up 13 Christmas trees in November.

Stu & Carolie Sherard drove about a million miles from Tucson to Glacier National Park to hike. (What, there aren't any trails in Arizona?) The five-day stroll was preceded by two nights and one day with **Lew & Fran Higinbotham** in Missoula, MT. This is where it gets a little hard to believe: Carolie made Lew's tour of Missoula sound interesting. There was the University, the carousel, the Children's Theatre, the Smoke Jumper School, and old Ft. Missoula. Who knew? Who knew?

Todd Stong earned a Global Humanitarian Award from the Worldwide Organization for Women, in part due to his work in constructing a 264-foot timber bridge across the River Eze in Nigeria. This bridge went up with hand tools wielded by 30 local volunteers at a tenth what it would have cost the government. Todd also dispenses micro-grants to indigenous entrepreneurs: small cash grants that allow, say, a "mom and pop" kindling supplier to get started in business. This tidbit of news only scratches the surface of Todd's exploits. You already knew from reading these pages over the years that all six Stong sons are PEs but more on the accomplishments of our classmate is to come. Monitor this net at all times.

Skip Holcomb and **George Carnes** died in September, Skip being interred at Arlington, George at Ft. Huachuca. Please remember these two who went too soon and their widows, **Mary Ellen** and **Isabel**, in your thoughts and prayers. And **Bob Redmond** is fighting hard to recover from hospitalization for brain tumors and lung cancer. Whatever the ultimate outcome, we honor his courage in quipping, "Well, I'm still on the right side of the grass!" when being discharged from intensive care in late October. God bless them all.

1963

DICK JAMES

8310 Cedardale Dr.
Alexandria, VA 22308
703 360-4996 H
703 587-5330 Cell
dick.james@cox.net
Subscribers:

To start the column, a big congratulations is due to **Roger & Karin Bivens**, who both not only did well, but fabulously well in the granddaddy of all Ironman Competition in Kona Hawaii (21 Oct 06)! You have to qualify to compete for the World Championship

in Kona by running another Ironman somewhere else in the world. The Bivens qualified in Austria earlier in the year, which was an interesting process in itself. Karin won her age group, and automatically qualified for Kona. Roger finished second in his group, and at the slot distribution meeting after the race, the winner was nowhere to be found, so Roger got the invite to Kona. Both finished in Kona within four minutes of each other, 15 hours and 39 minutes for Roger, and 15 hours and 43 minutes for Karin. Individual times for Roger/Karin: 2.4-mile swim 1:41/1:47, 112-mile bike ride 6:59/6:50, and the 26.2-mile run 5:52/6:02. (I'm exhausted just writing about this! I need to take a nap before continuing with the column.) One news article thought that Roger & Karin were the oldest couple ever to participate in an Ironman. The Bivens moved to Tucson, AZ, three years ago from California. Karin & Roger



1963—Bob & Kit Wood with Tom & Sue Wilson in Alaska.

raised two sons, Mark and Michael. Karin ran her first marathon at age 50 and qualified for the Boston marathon, which she as done three times.

I had a note from **Curt Esposito**: "Mary Lyde and I enjoyed a wonderful ten-day hiking vacation on Madeira and the Azores this summer as part of a Walking Softly group out of Oregon. We had fantastic weather, spectacular views, great food and wine, and some really challenging hikes, including the climb up Portugal's tallest mountain, the 7000 ft Mt Pico in the Azores. The climb up was an exhilarating challenge, but the equally challenging return trip down the volcanic "non-path" prompted me to think this was not such a good idea after all." He went on to say that son Gar-



1963—Gary & Karin Bivens, super athletes.

land. Meanwhile, your tolls continue to pay his mortgage! Both Curt's and Mary Lyde's Senior and Super-senior tennis teams lost at Mid-State, so Curt says his tennis is up to par with this golf.

I heard from **Bob & Kit Wood**, who moved to Ft. Collins, CO, upon retirement in 1991. Bob taught high school math for a number of years, but has now joined the fully retired ranks. **Al Chapman**, Bob's M-1 roommate plebe year, stopped by for a visit. Al has been commuting fro Chicago to Denver to help manage the construction of a large shopping center in Aurora, CO. Al says that he got to sleep in the Robert H. Wood National Military Museum (and bedroom) in his basement and found it quite comfortable. He also enjoyed one of Kit's outstanding pecan pies for which she is



1963—Mary Lyde & Curt Esposito are guilty of PDA in the Azores.

renowned locally. Bob & Kit took an Alaskan cruise and stopped by to see **Tom & Sue Wilson**. Tom was wrapping up his duties as Director of Transportation I Anchorage, and moving to Florida with an alternate home in North Georgia. Bob & Kit's son Rob is a Deputy U.S. Marshall in



1963—Bob Wood and Al Chapman in Colorado.

Grand Forks, ND. Daughter Suzanne is raising here two little ones in Belleville, IL, where her husband Mike is a newspaper editor, and Suzanne edits a medical newsletter from home. Daughter Elizabeth is an executive in the health insurance business in NYC.

I got a note from **Wally Speed**. He and a colleague and friend from days as prosecutor, Bill Jamieson, spent a week hiking and mountain climbing in the alpine region of eastern British Columbia in August. They helicoptered into an area not accessible by foot, hiked and climbed for five days with a guide, and helicoptered out. He said it was unbelievably beautiful and invigorating! He went on to say, "This was my second year of hiking in the Canadian Rockies, and I love it. It is a total get-away experience from the practice of law (and from everything else), and now I'm back sitting behind a desk again, wishing I wasn't." He & **Jan** plan to attend the Army-Notre Dame game in South Bend in November, and hopes to run into classmates there.

Pat & Gary Coe visited Italy recently with friends from their wine club. They visited Venice, Tuscany, and Rome. In Tuscany, they rented a villa for a week and spent days exploring the countryside, eating Italian food, and drinking lots of Italian wine!

I received a great photo of **Bob Trucksa** and **Jeff Dalia**. They have lived within a block of each other for many years in Albuquerque, NM. They were roommates all four years at West Point. Bob is a retired ophthalmologist



1963—Bob Trucksa and Jeff Dalia in Albuquerque.



1963—Wally Speed and Bill Jamieson in British Columbia.



1963—Pat & Gary Coe at the Trevi Fountain in Rome.



1963—Ray & Esther Ong, Emie Villarino, and Paul Reh in Manila 5 Jun 06.

for animals, and Jeff is a retired psychologist. Also got of photo of **Ray Ong & Esther** on their 43d anniversary. **Paul Reh** happened to be in the Philippines for a month with his significant other, Emie Villarino. Paul was best man at Rays' wedding 43 years ago, and was

there to help celebrate their anniversary. Paul was also Ray's first roommate in beast barracks in 1959.

It was reported that **Tom & Ginger Griffith** went fly-fishing in Idaho. They rented a cabin and fished the Henry's Fork and the Madison up in Montana. Ginger said she got such a kick out of putting on her waders and going out into the middle of these pristine rivers. Ginger caught the one duty fish. They had a moose join them

the first day in the river. And one day a bear mauled a husband and wife about 10 miles from where they were fishing. And Ginger says, "You call this a sport?"

A note from **Mike Vopatek**. "We have had several successful mini-reunions. We would like to continue doing them throughout the country. If anyone would like to organize one, please contact me at 800 925-3308. I will help arrange for seed money and pass on any lessons learned from other mini-reunions."

There is a list of "lost" classmates on the <aogusma.org> web. Our class

includes **Jack Adams, Lloyd Asbury, John Bell, Ralph Brown, Tim Brownback, Steve Buckheim, Harold Caldwell, Bobby Clements, Mike Gilbert, Richard Hudson, Frank Kelly, Bill Kuhns, Mike Miller, Ray Moses, Jim Nolan, Rob Odland, Jim Sarn, Don Smith, Emmette Smith, Bill Stennis, Bert Westbrook, and Charlie White**. If anyone has any information on these folks, please contact <tammy.flint@usma.edu>. Copy me on the e-mail.

Just another reminder, the Golfing Grads this year will be held 26-29 Apr 07 at Amelia Island Plantation, 30 miles due east of the Jacksonville, FL, airport. It

is billed as the 19th Annual Reunion and Golf Tournament. This is a great venue, and promises to be a super gathering. Put it on your calendar!

Until next time!

1964

GEORGE G. JACUNSKI
5650 AIA South #103
St. Augustine, Florida 32080
904 471-0312
wp25090@west-point.org
Subscribers:

Just returned from a month's sojourn to Thailand and Viet Nam. The Thailand portion of the trip was principally driven by the 16th Interhash held late October in Chiang Mai. This was my third Interhash and I can assure you they are not to be missed. The next biannual event will be in Perth. The gods must be with me because the last night of the event, who among the 6,500 participants should walk right by me with two beers in hand but **Marty Michlik**. I recognized him despite is total lack of hair, but he had no idea who I was. Must have been the beers.



1964—Interhashers.

After Thailand I headed to Viet Nam and Saigon, Delat, Cam Rhan Bay, and Nha Trang. Must say Viet Nam is a hopping place and everyone is busting their tails to make a buck. Things there are still very inex-

pensive and it is worth the visit. In Delat we tried to convince them that three old retired colonels (I was with **Ed Corcoran** and **Bob Shohan**) posed no threat and tried to get into the Military Academy which is still



1964—Stapleton entertaining the troops.



1964—Tulane game gathering.



1964—Faulds and friends.

in operation. They did not agree and after many phone calls from the front gate access was denied.

It was somewhat different at Cam Rhan. The airfield there is now the official airport for Nha Trang. Other than the airfield there is nothing left to see but a lot of good old U.S. right angle road intersections. The Vietnamese have built a four lane super highway along the coast from Cam Rhan to Nha Trang and have sold all the beach front property along the way to big resort developers. Nothing has been built yet, but the place promises to become Asia's Riviera. Nha Trang already is the place to go for the locals and the Russians. The beach clubs are still there, much upgraded, but sadly for those of us familiar with Nha Trang, François and Fugats no longer exist.

From the front **Jim Stapleton** reports he will take one more R&R with **Carolyn** in early December and then permanently return to the land of the big PX by Christmas. **Al Russo** sent along a photo of Sergeant Michael Russo and the aforementioned Stapleton on the occasion of the former's visit to the Green Zone.

Ray Paske provides a photo of former Army greats in attendance at the Tulane game. Unfortunately this robust group despite best efforts was unable to assure victory on this day.

Our next photo is from the marriage of **Jim Harding's** oldest son, JR, & Erika. That's Jim in the background in uniform as best man. Wedding occurred 12 August in Orlando. As an interesting aside, JR & Erika are high school classmates. Further, her father and Jim went to the same high school two years apart. JR as many may know is a quadriplegic. But besides a full-time position in education within Florida, JR has just finished a four year presidential appointment on



1964—Harding wedding.

the Federal Access Board and was recently appointed by Governor Jeb Bush as Chairman of the Transportation Commission for the State of Florida.

Apparently **Tom & Gloria Faulds** were in attendance at this years Thayer Award event. I say apparently because I can't imagine where else they would have been in the same photo with the awardee, **Tom Brokaw**, and **St. Peter**.

Our final photo, like the others without much accompanying verbiage is of **Dave & Cathy White**, and **Ray & Bobbie Jones** on the occasion of the latter's spring visit to Savannah. Ray continues to teach business at Loyola in Baltimore. Dave is retired and entertaining visitors.

Finally, I include the announcement of a mini reunion to take place in May. This



1964—Whites and Jones in Savannah.

was supposed to in this column two issues ago, but somehow slipped through the crack. The Charleston contingent is beginning to plan a mini-reunion and invites all to consider joining them. They are looking at May 24-28 (Memorial Day), 2007 and any dates before and after you might individually choose to stay. That weekend is particularly appealing because the 2007 Senior Open will be played on the Ocean

Course at Kiawah Is. and it is the opening weekend for Charleston's famous cultural event, Spoleto. The concept came as the result of a brainstorm session at a dinner party hosted by the **Marinos** for the **Muirs**, **Cromarties**, and **Basts** (visiting from New York). Right now what they need from you is a tentative "yes" that you might want to come as they need to block rooms at local hotels and would want to get back to you with specifics about the golf tournament and Spoleto. So, if you think you might want to come to historic

Charleston next May, email Ann Muir at <annmuir@comcast.net> and let her know a tentative number that would be interested. A.S.A.P.

1965

DENNIS R. COLL

3 Sun Valley Court
Lake in the Hills, IL 60156-4473
847 404-1767
847 658-1050-Fax
DC65Scribe @Comcast.net
aogusma.org/class/1965

Subscribers:

Greetings once again from Chicago! Hope all is well at your end of the Long Gray Line! The big news right out of the box was **Walt Oehrlein's** induction into the third class of the USMA Sports Hall of Fame. The nearby photo of the Supe and the AD shows our inductee with his award for squash and tennis. Representing S&D at the ceremonies were: **Wollen**, **Kantrowich**, **John Johnson**, **Lewis**, **Stichweh**, **Paske**, and **Bumpass**.

He was joined as an inductee by his brother **Ernie** as well as two others that



1965—Walt Oehrlein's induction into the USMA Sports Hall of Fame.

many of us will remember. Our old Plebe Q-back coach (and All American), **Don Holleder** was inducted as was a great pitcher from the early 1990s (**Steve Reich**), who played during the time that several of our off-spring were cadets (and baseball players). Steve was KIA in Iraq. Eleven were inducted, bringing the total to 41.



1965—B-I Firsties mini.