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McConnells Survive Pres Miller

While back east with West Point and Affiliation stuff, **Pres Miller** stopped off in Chattanooga to watch and support a triathlon and visit and sponge off of **Tom & Brenda McConnell** around Labor Day. Before arriving in Chattanooga, Pres got a message from Tom about a water leak affecting the ceiling of the guest bedroom. Upon arriving at their home, Brenda showed Pres the room with a large hole in the ceiling about the size of a king size bed. Pres quickly retreated to the Downtown Marriott. In a very kind gesture, the McConnells picked Pres up the next night for dinner in a rooftop club in downtown Chattanooga, which gave Pres an impressive view of the city along with an amazing meal and more than a few adult beverages. The McConnells are doing great and all is well in 'nooga! Pres returned home Monday with a slight headache and only a mild southern twang.



[Photo #1a – “Tom & Brenda McConnell flanking Pres Miller after only a few sips of their first cocktail at a club in Chattanooga”]

Andy & Betty Shaffer Attend Ceremony To Name School for GEN Tommy Franks

Andy Shaffer dropped an email to share that he and his bride, **Betty**, attended a dedication ceremony for a Midland elementary school to be renamed for GEN Tommy Franks – an adopted son of Midland, Texas. GEN Franks was born in Oklahoma, but he got to Midland as fast as he could and graduated from one of the local high schools there one year ahead of First Lady Laura Bush. During the ceremony, he said, “Midland, Texas is the American dream.” After the ceremony, Andy & Betty attended a private luncheon with the General and his family where they learned just how funny he can be – especially after hearing that the school named for

him was the former Crockett Elementary, which was closed at the end of the last school year after remaining on the "Improvement Required" list for six years...



[Photo #1 -- "Andy & Betty Shaffer with GEN Tommy Franks"]

Goodells Host Companymates for Solar Eclipse and Society Luncheon

Rick & Pat Goodell invited **Pete & Cathy Swan, Ralph & Linda D'Alessandro** and **Jack & Bobbi Munson** to join them for the solar eclipse at their home in Portland where they experienced a 99.4% coverage of the sun. Unfortunately, the Munsons could not attend; however everyone else reported a spectacular experience. The next day the West Point Society of Oregon hosted (retired) Senator Bob Packwood as the luncheon speaker. Rick's connection with Senator Packwood is through Bobbi Munson, and the Senator entertained attendees with some colorful stories from his time in office. After that, Pete and Cathy left for a conference on Space Elevators in Seattle and Ralph & Linda went to visit Ralph's son in Bend, OR.



[Photo #2 -- Rick Goodell, Ralph D'Alessandro, Senator Packwood, and Pete Swan at a WPSOC meeting in Portland, Oregon"]

Report on Colorado Classmate Annual Gathering

It befell on **Larry Stevenson** to report on the annual classmate gathering in Colorado. This noble group of Colorado "front range" classmates, in addition to a monthly lunch held at one of Colorado Springs' premier saloons, also holds an annual picnic which took place in late August. Both because of its central location, and to get a free reservation at a nice picnic grounds maintained at Air Force expense, they assemble almost every year at the Air Force Academy.

Their attendance was down a bit this year, but all attending enjoyed great weather, great food, something close to true war stories, and of course, great kinship.



[Photo #3 -- “L-R: Lynn Cianco (Robbie Robinson's fiancé'), Grace Orahood (Gary & Patti's granddaughter and USAFA sophomore; and yes, her other grandparents are "those" Orahood's), Patti Halstead, Mike Billingsley, Gary Halstead, Grace's USAFA roommate, Natasha, and Robbie Robinson linger over what looks to be a great dessert”]



[Photo #4 -- “L-R: Janean and Mike Hart, Larry & Cheryl Stevenson, Gayle and Chuck Jones, Joe Henry, and Diane Billingsley at the Class' annual Colorado picnic”]

Jim Craig Requests Colorado Classmates to Exercise 2nd Amendment Rights

Ralph Tildon was the first to alert us that, after 41 years of dealing with cancer, **Jim Craig** entered hospice care in his Colorado home in mid-August. Despite this ongoing heroic clash that he endures, he took on the mission of our class 50-Year Affiliation Program plaques – a daunting task and he did it with much grace and professionalism. When **Paul Baerman** and **Chuck Canella** visited him, they asked if he needed anything. Jim responded that he would like to shoot his new Class commemorative Kimber hand gun that he had not had a chance to do yet. So, **Bob Hensler** and Chuck took Jim out to Bob's gun club and let him bang away. Bob reported that it was an incredibly fun time for all. Bob and Chuck took him through a sequence of dry firing to rejuvenate skills not used for 30 years according to Jim – then, they went live. From one of the pics, you can see that Jim did quite well given the circumstances. He mentioned that he was pretty rusty, which Chuck replied with "Jim, you'er sandbagging us..." Given that the

Kimber is a tad smaller than a full house 1911 but chambers in same .45 ACP cartridge, it has a bit of muzzle flip, which Jim controlled well. Only Jim could make a guns and hunting enthusiast like Bob into an even more fired up zealot.



[Photo #5 -- “Jim Craig being coached by Bob Hensler while Jim shoots his class pistol”]



[Photo #6 “Chuck Canella, Jim Craig, and Bob Hensler celebrate Jim’s tight shot group”]

Classmates Participate in Affiliation Class Ring Presentation

These days, Firsties receive their rings en masse in a ceremony on The Plain from their TAC NCOs. They also seem to uniformly wear their rings on their saluting hands – a real taboo in earlier days. This year, since the Cadets receiving their rings was our 50 year Affiliation Class, our class was represented at the ceremony by Class President **Dutch Hostler, Dale Hansen, Claude Johnson, Tom Jewell, John (Tony) Dodson, Steve Frushour, and Pat Toffler**. Many Cadets took advantage of the venue of the open air ceremony by culminating the event with some fine cigars. The Cadets still wear the all-white Uniform India. **Dutch & Megan** and **Dale & Joyce** attended the Ring Banquet as official guests representing the class. At the Ring Banquet, Dutch presented Two-Ring prints to the 2018 Class President, Ring & Crest Committee Chairman and First Captain.



[Photo #7 -- “Dale Hansen, Dutch Hostler, Claude Johnson, and Tom Jewell comparing their crass mass of brass and glass with members of the Class of 2018”]



[Photo #8 -- “Tom Jewell donating his ring to the Ring Melt made him enough of a celebrity to get his picture taken with First Captain Simone Askew”]

Classmates Participate in USMA Leadership Activities

After the March Back and Acceptance Parade, AOG sponsored the annual 1967 Leadership Conference in conjunction with a Military Academy Liaison Officer and Field Force Conference which brought lots of classmates together. **Larry Jordan**, of course, in his capacity as AOG Board Chairman, not only attended both events but was also an officiator for the dedication of Davis Barracks (located at the site of Bldg 720, USCC S4, and the “All Over Bush”). **Bob Alexander** and **Jim Kimball** were there representing their respective local West Point Societies. Bob has been President of the Hampton Roads, Southeast Virginia Society for the past five years and Jim isn’t too far behind with his Chattanooga Chapter. The Military Academy Liaison Officer admissions instruction event brought **Dale Hansen** and **Jim Altemose** in from their respective areas. Everyone met at the rear of Herbert Hall where the AOG sponsored a joint event with a Western theme which must have been something to see. Larry, Bob, and Jim joined **Ralph & Florita Tildon** at the Dedication of the new Davis Barracks.



[Photo #9 -- Larry Jordan and Jim Altemose being “Western” at AOG’s Herbert Hall”



[Photo #10 -- “Jim Kimball, Larry Jordan, Florita & Ralph Tildon, and Bob Alexander at the dedication of Davis Barracks”]

The 2017 March Back – and More -- According to Dutch Hostler

Dutch Hostler has had a pretty intense summer. A couple of months ago, his sister passed away unexpectedly leaving their 94 year old mother alone in New Jersey which necessitated Dutch to leave Hawaii as ground was finally being broken for his and Megan’s retirement home. While Dutch was seeing to his sister’s estate and relocating and settling his mother, Megan kept him informed of construction progress with periodic photos of construction progress and a whimpering contractor. Dutch took a break from family matters to participate in the March Back. Since he is still on the mend from hip surgery, he took the stroll in from the Ski Sloop. Later that week, he represented the Class at WPAOG’s annual Leaders’ Conference. During the conference, he presented the Two-Ring prints to the AOG on behalf of the Class. He also represented the Class at the Acceptance Parade at the end of that week before returning to South Jersey and family matters and prior to returning to West Point for Ring festivities and accompanying Megan back to Hawaii. He still has much to do in connection with family affairs in New Jersey, but hopes to remain in Hawaii for a few weeks before they return to the mainland for the class Queen Mary 2 fall foliage cruise. Following the cruise, they both plan to spend some more time in New Jersey.



[Photo #11 -- “All 16 classmate March Back participants: Front Row: Craig Carson Tom Kurkjian, Craig O’Connor, Dutch Hostler, Jerry Holderness, and Jim Carman; Back Row: Tony Ambrose, Jim Tallman, Dale Hansen, Jock Merriam, Bob Lower, Doug McKenna, Dave Martin, Skip Greeby, Terry Wildrick, and Pres Miller”]



“ [Photo #12 -- Megan & Dutch Hostler on their way to the Ring Banquet”]

The 2017 March Back According to Skip Greeby

Skip Greeby was more verbally expressive than most March Back contributors. While he slipped in a photo of a sign leading onto Flirty that seems appropriate for our age group, he also reflected that 72 classmates joined the March-Back with our 50-year affiliation class when they were plebes three years ago. This year, they were Firsties leading the new USMA 21 plebes. How quickly those three years went by. This year, 16 classmates – most from the march three years ago – felt that the march-back represented somewhat of a closure. While he was seen in most photos in the proximity of **Tom Kurkjian**, he was quick to note that E2 was the best represented company with Skip and **Jock Merriam**. He also mentioned that E2/G2 will meet in

Williamsburg, Virginia on October 20 for its second company reunion. Last year, Jock & Malena hosted the event in Palm Beach, Florida, and this year will be hosted by Harry & Mary Bennett. Since F2 and B2 are leading the way with company reunions, at least E2/G2 can be at the head of the late ranks.



[Photo #13 -- “Dale Hansen and Skip Greeby after the carbo loading meal prior to the March Back with Jim Tallman in the background”]



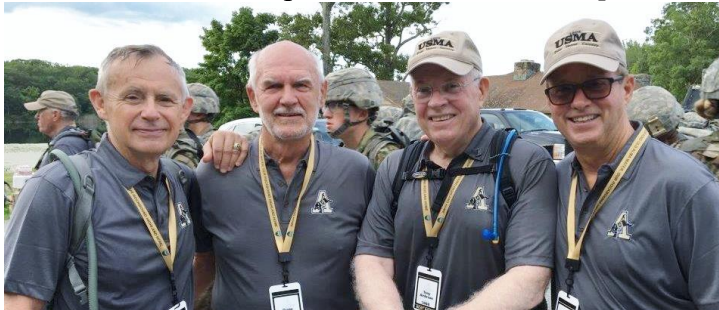
[Photo #14 -- “Terry Wildrick, Jerry Holderness, Tom Kurkjian, and Skip Greeby forming and yukking it up at the Ski Slope”]

The 2017 March Back According to Craig Carson

Craig Carson’s photos were more of individuals in a rugged setting and included a few New Cadets. Although he was pretty good at identifying classmates, I had to consult with the attendance roster supplied by Pres Miller and guidance from Dutch Hostler on close calls. While Craig’s photos leave little doubt that he made the “long” march, there does not appear to be any perspiration stains on either group of marchers.



[Photo #15 -- “Craig Carson with two New Cadets from the platoon he walked with”]



[Photo #16 -- “Craig Carson, Craig O’Connor, Tony Ambrose, and Pres Miller coming on the trail at the Ski Slope”]

The 2017 March Back According to Pres Miller

Pres Miller was the first to report on the 2017 March back with – instead of thousands of words – a bunch of photos and not too many words. He still does the “long” march – cross country from Buckner back to USMA main post – like so many that Dutch Hostler initiated back when grads began being allowed to trek with the New Cadets. Others do it for the breakfast of things that their brides won’t let them eat at home anymore.



[Photo #17 -- “Dave Martin, Craig Carson, Tony Ambrose, Craig O’Connor, Terry Wildrick, Doug McKenna, Pres Miller, Dale Hansen, and Bob Lower at the oh dark hundred Buckner breakfast prior to the March Back”]



[Photo #18 -- “Pres Miller, Dale Hansen, Jim Carmen, Doug McKenna, Craig O’Connor, Dave Martin, Jock Merriam, Dutch Hostler, Skip Greeby, Tom Kurkjian, Jim Tallman, Jerry Holderness, Terry Wildrick, and Craig Carson having way too much fun at the Ski Slope”]

Allan Crecelius Joins the Hedleys in Alaska Late Ranks.

In the last set of Notes, I reported on the Alaska adventures of **Mike & Janean Hart, Jim & Pat Thome, Bob & Ann Sweeney, and Jim & Kathy Kelley. Margie Hedley** snuck a photo in of **Ray Rhodes** and **John** at Denali. After the Notes were posted, **Allan Crecelius** had a short term memory flashback and remembered that he & **Sandy** spent 10 days in July on the Crystal Serenity doing Alaska from Vancouver – round trip. They took Alan’s two sisters from Indiana and Illinois, who had never ventured west, and they had the experience of a lifetime.



[Photo #19 -- “Allan Crecelius and Sandy Comrie keeping the Hubbard Glacier close to cool their drinks”]

John ONeal Planning for Reunion

At our 45th Reunion, **John ONeal** once again realized the value of classmate closeness and friendship. He worked hard to rally the old A2/D2/G2/H2 gang for the reunion, and once again that group answered the call with the largest company gathering. After returning to Tuscaloosa from a two year stay in Oregon, he is back to doing some friendly arm twisting. He said that Oregon is a beautiful state and he and **Fran** did make good friends, but it just wasn't “home.” So rather than divorcing John as he became more and more depressed, Fran agreed to

move back to Tuscaloosa. They live downtown, rather than in a 'burb,” so they can walk to restaurants, church, and the University of Alabama with its library, gym, and racquetball courts.

Jim Swinney Once Again Counting Days

Jim Swinney checked in to celebrate life with classmates and loved ones. He is marching on – unless you count the missing gall bladder from last summer and seven stones in his common bile duct, which still have to be removed. His golf game is improving -- but it had nowhere else to go but up. He and **Lucile** have picked out excursions for the class two week Queen Mary 2 fall foliage cruise beginning September 22 from NYC. The ship stops in Newport, Rhode Island, Boston and Sydney, Nova Scotia on the way to two days in Quebec, and visits to Saguenay, Gaspé and Halifax on the way back. The last I heard, Jim & Lucile will be traveling with **Chuck & Joyce Canella, John & Francis Dallen, Chuck & Phyllis Giasson, Dale & Joyce Hansen, Bill & Sandy Hauck, John & Margie Hedley, Don & Gail Hall, Dutch & Megan Hostler, Bill & Patty Marriott, and Ray & Mary Jane Rhodes**. I know that all are hoping for gorgeous fall scenery, a memorable shipboard experience, and that the old girl turns out to be as nice as her posters! In addition to this pending cruise, Dale & Joyce Hansen’s 2017 travels have been to Australia, Scotland, and biking in the Lake Champlain, Vermont area. After the cruise, they will travel to Sri Lanka on a tour sponsored by Joyce’s alma mater and two other “Seven Sisters” schools.

Bob Lorbeer Becomes Another Ranger

One of my favorite AOG workers and sleuths sent us word that last July 1, **Bob Lorbeer**, now a Prescott, Arizona resident, was sworn in as an Arizona Ranger in the staging area of the Rodeo Parade minutes before the start of the parade.. After the swearing in, he mounted up his palomino and joined the other parade participants. As you know, Bob is no stranger to riding horses in parades. While residing in Sacramento, California, he rode in 18 Rose Bowl parades with the Long Beach Mounted Police. The all-volunteer “Modern Day” Arizona Rangers was created in 1957 by a small group of the original 1901-09 Arizona Rangers and its members come from all different backgrounds including former law enforcement, and military. Bob spent a combined 41 years active and reserve military duty, still loves “the cowboy” and owes his life and those of his soldiers in Vietnam to being a Ranger.



[Photo #20 -- “Bob Lorbeer (left) being sworn in as an Arizona Ranger prior to saddling up for the Rodeo Parade in Prescott, AZ”]

Dennis Manske Back on the Appalachian Trail

This spring and summer, **Dennis Manske** resumed his trek on the on the Appalachian Trail. From late April thru mid-June he hiked from Daleville, Virginia to Port Clinton, Pennsylvania, thus adding 490 miles to last year's 727.5 which put him well over half way with 972 miles remaining. He came off the trail in late-June to volunteer for Bike Virginia for the 22nd year for about a week to help on the course between Buena Vista to Stanton, Virginia. He reports that he has enjoyed the history of our great Nation that he has passed along the way as well as the non-hikers – particularly churches that set up meals near the trail for hikers and The Appalachian Trail Conservancy and its affiliates which maintain the trails, shelters, privies, water sources, signs, and markings. During the rest of the summer, states were sampled in rapid succession – Pennsylvania, New Jersey, New York, Connecticut, Maine, Vermont, and New Hampshire – all containing friends and relatives who enabled him to continue on his journey.



[Photo #21 -- “Dennis Manske thinking about what’s illegal in New York that isn’t in Pennsylvania – or the other way around”]