

September, 2010

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Class News: 1963

The Association of Graduates recently notified us of the passing of two of our classmates: Ray E. "Buzz" **Patterson**, CS-19 Class of 1963 passed away on 22 May 2010. Services were held in Laguna Beach, CA. Condolences may be sent to his family in care of his wife, Cindy: Mrs. Cynthia L. Patterson; 835 Van Dyke Dr.; Laguna Beach, CA 92651.

Daniel J. **McDonald**, Jr., CS-22 Class of 1963 passed away on 8 July 2010 In Raleigh NC after a long illness. A memorial service was held on the 11th of July at the Brown-Wynn Funeral home in Raleigh NC. Private interment will take place at a later date. Memorial contributions may be made to the American Cancer Society, 8300 Health Park suite 10, Raleigh NC 27615. Condolences may be posted at www.brownwynne.com or may be sent to his family in care of his wife, Marcia: Mrs. Marcia McDonald; 2409 Tyson St; Raleigh NC 27612-4728.

Big doings are planned for this year's mini-reunion. First, Navy is coming to play football in our back yard the 2nd of October. We'll have a tailgate before the game **which starts at 1230** (please note the time change). Bob will have the gold class flag flying in northwest stadium parking lot (usual place) before 0900 hrs. He hopes to have some USAFA golf carts to assist those with special needs to get to the stadium from the parking lot along the upper road to the top of the stadium. An hour after the game we'll gather at Arnold Hall (north mezzanine) for our cup turning ceremony and a catered, casual dinner for those who want to stay. Per a note from **Diff**, there will also be a presentation by the Class Gift Committee.

The Class Gift Team will meet at the Academy Friday Oct 1st in advance of the mini reunion. The Team will review gift plans and progress, including a robust "beta" version of the proposed USAFA CLASS HISTORIES website and kiosk presentations, and confirm future actions. Pat **Wynne's** ring and the JFK cup will be placed in our cups case with a special Arnold Hall ceremony as part of the post game memorial for recently deceased classmates. The formal placement ceremony with Pat's ring will take place at the 50th or as the family decides. Same idea holds for the JFK cup. The Team intends to have a video team for the weekend to record activities, interviews, and short videos of classmates for heritage purposes and inclusion in our class history presentation. Be there, be early for the mini activities and get a firsthand update on our gift plans. If you haven't been to a mini, you are missing a very special time with classmates."

To sign up for the mini-reunion dinner please contact Bob using his e-mail address bcahayes@comcast.net or telephone: 791-481-9693. Bob says he will be out of town beginning the 17th until the 27th of September but the good news Denny **King** agreed to take calls regarding sign up for the dinner and mini. His number is 817-919-0719. Please try to email or call Bob or Denny before the 28th of September. Based on last year, the charge for dinner should be about \$15 each. Finally, the best source for football tickets is the AFA Athletic Dept on line site--www.goairforcefalcoms.com. Please pass the word. This will be a truly fun time.

Jim **Hannam** sent a picture documenting the attendance of two Golden Boys at the River Rats Reunion in Orlando back in April. Pictured are Lucky **Ekman** and Jim Hannam with Bill Campfield, a former boss, at the Flight Suit Party. This was Lucky's first attendance at a River Rat Reunion since the 1973 First Real reunion. Lucky still fits into his 70's era flight suit; mine is of a later and larger vintage. Jim added that Lucky and Kaye still live in Panama City, Florida but are considering moving to the High Desert in the near future.



Jim also reported on a mini-class reunion celebrating the 47th anniversary of the Class of 63 Graduation (5 June 2010). “Ed and Carolyn **Pickens** invited the following 63'ers and spouses to his West Virginia retreat in Lost River, West Virginia: Doug and Jan **Hardgrave**, Harry and Mary Beth **Wilson**, Jim and Maureen Hannam, Dick **Guild**, Fred and Diane **Frostic** and Bud and Joyce **Gilligan**. The Frostics came in from Rhode Island and the Hardgrave's from Georgia. There were three days of story-telling, feasting, remembering old friendships and jaunts and of course, Ed Pickens carding his best ever golf game. We toasted our departed classmates. It was a ‘wild and wonderful’ time (at our age more wonderful than wild) in the Mountain State.”



L to R: Hardgrave, Wilson, Hannam, Guild, Pickens, Frostic and Gilligan

You may have seen some news articles during mid-June announcing the recovery of the remains of airmen missing in action in Southeast Asia and their subsequent internment at Arlington Cemetery. In addition to the normal media, the Air Force Association *Daily Report* of June 14th listed the same airmen and shortly thereafter the Air Force Personnel Center printed a similar report in their *Retiree Newsletter*. Although I have not received any official confirmation from the AOG, our classmate Thomas B. **Mitchell** was listed in each report of those recovered and interned. After researching a couple of MIA websites that give the names and short bios of those killed or missing and presumed dead during the war in Southeast Asia, I am confident the Thomas B. Mitchell mentioned in the dispatches was our classmate.

Bob **Mazet** forwarded an e-mail he received from Grant **Bornzin**. Some guys will go to great lengths to have fun: Grant writes that he is “. . . living a strange life in a typical Chinese factory dormitory. I assume that you

know about the highly structured and institutionalized factory life of China. In some respects it is a throwback to the 19th century factory life of the early industrial age in the West. However, the scale of this in today's China is unimaginably huge by comparison. I came here at the invitation of a Chinese couple that I have known for some years at Saddleback Church. I am doing some consulting for their factory (almost 2,000 people) in Tang Xia in Guangzhou not far from Hong Kong, but I am also doing some other things for our PEACE Plan at Saddleback. We also get some time on weekends to do road trips and work for "Him". FYI, we may be going on a "jeep" trip to Mongolia in a couple of months to race up/down sand dunes in 4WD. There is some kind of club of well-to-do-Chinese who don't know what else to do with their fortunes. This isn't as good as sniping pirates off the coast of Somalia, but it will have to do for now." Thanks to Grant; some pictures next? I hope.

Nostalgia and Memories Time: this old photograph of the Wing March-on during the September 22, 1962 football game between Air Force and Colorado State was offered by Tom **Fryer**. I think you should be able to recognize the Wing Staffers (note the lack of name tags) in the photo but just in case you have a problem the answer will be included in the Web Site version of this article.



That's it for now. We are looking forward to seeing many of you at the mini-reunion. Until then, take care.