

Greetings, Illustrious Class of 1973!

Jack **Hudson**, CS-25, is staying busy after retiring from his position as Director of the National Museum of the USAF in October. He and Marsha stayed in the Dayton, Ohio area, where their three sons and their families live. Cycling continues to occupy a lot of his time. He's in his 10th year of leading spinning classes at the Wright-Patterson AFB fitness center, and in July he will be riding with the USAF Cycling Team in The Register's Annual Great Bicycle Ride Across Iowa. Marsha continues volunteering at the base thrift shop, as does Jack at the Museum, and both volunteer in support of the Catholic parish on base. "Life is good. I had an awesome 36 years on active duty and almost 9 in the civil service, and am grateful to our USAF for these years of service. I'll be happy to provide a guided tour of the Museum for any '73ers who come by Dayton!"

Tom **Kennedy**, CS-31, noted that as we age and move into full retirement, he's not hearing as much from his 31st Squadron Grim Reaper mates, but he had a couple of things to report. The Grim Reapers have had at least two spouses receive new knees just since our reunion. As far as he knew, both are healing nicely, but age is beginning to catch up with all of us. Fil **Thorn**'s final day at work was 13 Dec 18. He feels blessed to be moving on with the next phase of his life. Rich **Hayes** will call it quits on his birthday in March, and Phil **Yavorsky** will hang it up probably in April. That doesn't leave many Grim Reapers still working for a living. Tom also forwarded a picture of Ken and Mary **Adams** (right).



Per Dave **Ellis**, CS-32, the Parachute Team Wings of Blue (PTWOB) were going to "fly" an "Illustrious 73" flag into the stadium prior to the Navy game, but low clouds prevented the jump. Dave said he'll keep the flag for the 50<sup>th</sup> and do some more to embellish it in the meantime. Dave had an "in" on getting the team to fly our flag into the stadium: his son is on the team.

Two guys who continue to fly professionally sent notes.

Right, Scott **Wilson**, CS-38, is in his third flying career, now flying a Citation X for a jet charter company. He invited anyone interested in doing the same to contact him for info. His contact info is in the AOG Graduate Directory, or you can just contact me.



Above, John **Eisenhart**, CS-01, in front of a Falcon 900 bizjet at Zagora, Morocco, a small desert strip near the border with Algeria, taken the same weekend as our reunion.

Our Colorado contingent continued its regular monthly lunches/dinners, plus others during the past few months. Of note, Rich and Teresa **Fazio**, CS-16, our social directors extraordinaire, announced at the Christmas dinner that they were stepping down after more than two and a half years. Sincerest thanks to both. The lunches, dinners and other activities they organized did more than probably anything else to help our class gel here on the Front Range. Gary **Blokland**, CS-33, and wife Judy will be taking over. They are hitting the ground running, and we're looking forward to the venues and activities they arrange in the future.



October luncheon at the Interquest Colorado Mountain Brewery. Front row, L to R: Glen **Johnston**, First Honorary Member of the Illustrious Class of 1973 Mal **Wakin**, Ron **Scott**, Ginny Gallagher (**Haugh**); second row, L to R: Pam **Munson**'s identical twin (name lost—sorry), Bob **Munson**, Pam **Munson**, Mary **Scott**, Teresa **Fazio**, Amy **Smith**, Charlie **Quinnell**, Dennis **Haugh**, Dale **Birch**; third row, L to R: AJ **Ranft**, Bill **Diffley**, Rich **Fazio**, Mike **Smith**, Charlie and Donna **Felton**, Judy and Gary **Blokland**.



Chickenhawk Sink Navy Tailgate, before the interlopers showed for delicious free food. Organized by Don **Sutula**. Front row, kneeling (poor judgment—took a while to get down and then back up): Johnny **Whitaker**; second row, L to R: Willy **Culbertson** with stogie, Mike **Koser**, Don **Sutula**, John **Noss**, Wayne **Maricle**, John **Lauten**, Bruce **Meyer**; third row: Tom **Mayberry's** right side (behind Culbertson), Ken **Volkman**, Gene **Ogilvie**, Rich **Fazio**; back row: Pete **Penta**, Craig **Lady** holding Chickenhawk flag (yes, they have one!).



Chickenhawk Post-Game Celebration, organized and hosted by Joan and Don Sutula. The guys sang "Heart of My Heart." THEN, the ladies took to the fireplace, and sang..."Heart of My Heart." Who do YOU think sounded better? Front row, L to R: Marilyn Koser, Teresa Fazio, Debi Volkman, Ann Lady, Barb Maricle, Dianne Lauten, Wavey Penta, Joan Sutula; back row: Friend of John Noss, Janet Meyer, Barbara Ogilvie, Nancy Whitaker.

Our November luncheon was at the Patty Jewett Golf Course clubhouse. Owned by the city and originally established in 1897, it was the third club formed in the United States for the promotion of the ancient and royal game of golf. It's a wonderfully preserved relic of the good life in early Colorado Springs.



November Lunch at Patty Jewett Golf Course Clubhouse. Front row, L to R: Mary Scott, Teresa Fazio, Judy Blokland; 2nd row, L to R: Pam and Bob **Munson** (CS-34), Rich **Fazio**, Charlie **Quinnell** (CS-27), Lynn and Mal **Wakin** (Honorary Class Member), back row, L to R: Trapper **Carpenter** (CS-09), Charlie **Felton** (CS-10), Dale **Birch** (CS-39), Gary **Blokland**, Steve **Lorenz** (CS-15).

On Saturday, 15 Dec, Gary and Judy **Blokland**, Rich and Teresa **Fazio**, and Charlie and Donna **Felton** assisted in the laying of Wreaths Across America at the Academy Cemetery. Illustrious Class of '73 gravesites were marked with flags, so we could honor our classmates. I didn't get a picture of any classmates' graves with wreaths, but here is the cemetery in December.





That evening, Dec 15, over 30 classmates and wives enjoyed dinner Christmas dinner together at the Margarita at Pine Creek.

For his swan song, Rich called The First Ever on a Recurring Basis Beer Call on 17 Dec at the veteran-owned Red Leg Brewing Company in Colorado Springs. Unfortunately, it was not as successful as his other events, with only Ron **Scott**, CS-34, Gary **Blokland**, and Rich **Fazio** attending. Not to be left out, Teresa **Fazio** called The First Ever on a Recurring Basis Wine Call while the guys were telling lies over their beers. In spite of the excellent Caspian Café venue, Teresa and Judy **Blokland** were the only two who participated. Held on a Monday only a couple of days after the Christmas dinner, timing probably contributed to the low turnout. Hopefully, Gary and Judy will have better luck in the future.

As you may have noticed, this column is definitely imbalanced in favor of Colorado activities. That's because I didn't receive an overwhelming number of inputs for this column. The more you send in, the less I'll have to fill space with what we're doing here in Colorado.

At the end of the Class News column in the December Checkpoints, I cited a website that discussed ham operators' use of "73" as a sign-off, meaning Best Regards. Since I have some space to spare, I thought I would share the story, in hopes that "73" catches on for the class. I'll be using it, in any event. The following is extracted from <http://www.pineapplejuice.net/ham-pine/?p=33>.

In 1859, Western Union standardized what came to be known as the 92 code, in which the numbers from 1 to 92 were assigned meanings. Most of them fell into disuse, although we occasionally see a few remnants.

Code 73 was first used in 1857, with the meaning "My love to you!" But within a short time its meaning evolved from the romantic to strictly platonic – "from a Valentine-type sentiment to a vague sign of fraternalism." It was used as a "friendly word between operators." In early versions of the 92 code, 73 became "accept my compliments." To make a long story short, the meaning of 73 further evolved until by 1908 it acquired its current meaning of "best regards," and came nearly full circle in its use as a friendly word between operators.

Two sidenotes: 73's original meaning of "My love to you" is preserved in the current code 88, meaning "Hugs and kisses." Incidentally, because their meanings are plural, 73 and 88 are always used in the singular. Saying "73s" is like saying "best regardses."

So, for now, 73.  
Mike Arnett

"Here's a toast...to the host...of the men we boast...the U.S. Air Force!"