

Greetings, Illustrious Class of 1973!

This year's NCLS wrapped up on 26 Feb. Once again, the Academy pulled off an outstanding event. This year's theme was Professionalism and the Profession of Arms. Our investment into NCLS is well placed and yielding results. Class President Ron Scott sent out his comments on NCLS in an email blast to all. Borrowing some of his words:

“The Class of 1973 was recognized throughout the event as the flagship sponsor. . . . There are two takeaways from this distinction. First, the Academy leadership, and especially the cadets, clearly knows that the Class of 1973 endowed the NCLS with a multimillion dollar gift. This allows the planners to build in a margin of excellence for speakers and a first-class venue well into the future. Second, and more importantly, the cadets visibly see that the Class of 1973 walks the talk. At the Thursday evening banquet, prior to the Class of 1973 John and Lyn Muse Lecture, the emcee introduced the Class of 1973. To see 30 or so classmates standing in the Arnold Hall Banquet room is a powerful testament to our belief in and commitment to the importance of character-based leadership. The cadets truly get it and frequently single out our classmates during the various speaking sessions to thank us.”

Along with Ron, I'd like to encourage you to view two of the presentations: Simon Sinek's, at <http://tinyurl.com/h8uhqyq>; and SSgt Spencer Stone's, at <http://tinyurl.com/ha4r3gg>. Sinek's was simply one of the best talks I've ever heard. I believe they said his "Start with the Why" is the most-listened-to TED Talk ever. SSgt Stone is the USAF airman who foiled the terrorist on the train in Belgium. His talk is absolutely riveting. If you are getting email blasts from me, you should have received Ron's synopsis. If you're not, please send me your email address so I can include you in email blasts in the future.

And, now, what you're really reading this for: News on classmates. It's a little sparse this time. Be sure to send your updates in by about the 15<sup>th</sup> of July.

After 36 years supporting DoD, NOAA, and NASA contracting as an IT Security Professional, Ernie **Maravilla** (CS-11, CS-15) figured it was time to start the next best chapter in his life - retirement. He's off to join his lovely wife Kathy at their new home in Santa Fe, NM. His plans are to play a little golf, get back on his mountain bike, catch up on neglected books, do a bit of traveling, and otherwise relax. Sounds like a plan, Ern. Now if you can only execute it!

In looking for classmates in Colorado, I ran across Clyde **Awtrey** (CS-29), who is now pastoring Mountain View Lutheran Church in Thornton. Other classmates I'm aware of who have entered the clergy include Roger **Winburg**, Monsignor Steve **Rosetti** and Tom **Blase**. Any others? Please let me know.

Speaking of unusual vocations, how about unusual



Ernie **Maravilla** with Checkpoints at the NASA Johnson Space Center Mission Control Center

avocations? Please email me your stories of interesting/different/extreme/harrowing/exciting/rewarding adventures/hobbies/endeavors. I'll condense here and post the full story on the website.



L to R – Ken **Adams**, Sam & Joan **Torrey**, Kim & Fil **Thorn**, Don & Kyong **Gross** at Grim Reaper Mini-Reunion in Phoenix

Tom **Kennedy** (CS-31) came through with a 31 update again. Thanks, Tom! In addition to pix above and to the right, he sent the pictures below of Fil & Kim **Thorn** with their latest grandkid; and Dan **Connelly**, still playing backgammon. Tom also reported that in February, Charlie and Pam Meyer became grandparents for the first time. Congrats to The picture below is Tom, checking out the ceremonial start of the Iditarod Sled Dog race Anchorage. He notes he then did some skiing Alyeska. So, 65 is the new 45?

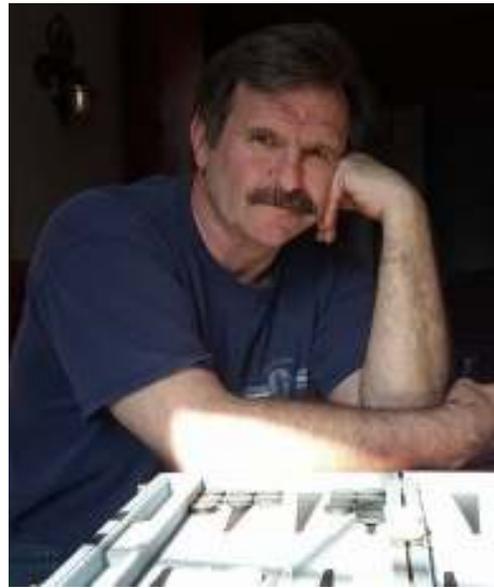


Tom **Kennedy** at the Iditarod start

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Kim and Fil **Thorn** with Newest Grandchild



Dan **Connelly** Still at Backgammon

Rich **Fazio** (CS-16) is organizing monthly class luncheons here on the Front Range. If you'd like to attend, please respond to the emails. If you're not getting them, please let me know. Right now, they are planned to be informal gatherings: come when you can and leave when you must. As more of us retire, the departure times are expected to get later as the stories get better...or at least longer. Rich and Teresa, Ron and Mary **Scott**, and Pris and I "tested" the concept in Monument last month and wound up not breaking up until 3:00. My tale of bats (think flying rodents, not baseball) in my 141 on takeoff out of Dover and subsequent escapades upon landing at Andrews was roundly enjoyed. I'll have to write it up and get it posted to the website. There's simply not enough room here.

Let me include a reminder we are trying to capture our class history. Contact me or Don **Rightmeyer** at [donrightmeyer.com](http://donrightmeyer.com).

[The following announcements were not included in the print version of the June Checkpoints, as inputs were submitted 18 April, but I thought it only appropriate to include them here. Please see more at [www.usafa73.org/gone-but-not-forgotten-a-recnt-look-back.html](http://www.usafa73.org/gone-but-not-forgotten-a-recnt-look-back.html).]

Gary **Wigle** (CS-25) passed away on 23 April, a week after having a heart attack in the middle of the night of 16 April at his and his wife Linda's home in Covington, Washington, just outside Seattle. Gary retired from Boeing just a couple of years ago, and he and Linda enjoyed traveling and local theater.

Clay **Stewart** (CS-02), the number one graduate in our class, passed away not two weeks later on 5 May after suffering a stroke at his and his wife Nancy's home in Leadville, Colorado. His memorial service and inurnment were held at the Academy on 13 May. After retiring to Leadville in 2000, Clay dedicated himself to his community. The tributes to his contributions to Leadville at the reception on the 13<sup>th</sup> were touching and inspiring.

Please remember both Linda and Nancy in your prayers in the days and months to come.

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

Mike Arnett