

Illustrious classmates,

This past June we entered our 50<sup>th</sup> year since graduation. Amazing. We are blessed to still be around. By the time you read this, we will be 11 months from our 50<sup>th</sup> reunion, 2-5 Nov 23, Army game weekend. The game will be played at Empower Field at Mile High, the Broncos' home stadium. Our hotel HQ will be the DoubleTree on the south side of Colorado Springs (subject to change) to avoid splitting the group for the Friday dinner. There's no other venue in town, other than the Broadmoor, that can accommodate such a large gathering. There was quite a bit of sentiment to move it to September for better weather, but several things caused us to have to keep it with Army weekend. First, as we found out this year, September does not guarantee good weather. The CU game on 10 Sep was rainy and cold. Second, we won't know the actual schedule for the non-Army home games until late Feb or March next year. That's too late to begin planning, and since TV dictates the schedule, one or more could be on Friday or late on Saturday. We considered away games, but found out that we would have no access to the cadet area those weekends. We also considered having our hotel HQ in Denver, but one of the attractions for people to come to the reunion is to be in the immediate vicinity of the Academy and Colorado Springs.

Kudos to A.J. **Ranft**, for his work as our AOG Class Advisory Senator. His report from the July meeting: "The AOG Class Advisory Senate met in July. Minutes are <https://tinyurl.com/y7e6m6dc>. Good meeting, featured the Director of Admissions. Lots of interesting info on his slides at <https://tinyurl.com/33v8avx5>. Discussion also included pitch for AOG membership for all. This is a new



John **Mann** and "Tow 73"

and good deal so I'd encourage anyone not an AOG member to take advantage and join. Link on AOG site." A.J. subsequently solicited feedback from classmates about the minutes and briefing. Feedback was very close to 50/50 in support of/opposition to the direction the Academy is going, just as the country is split politically. Now on to news.

John Mann reports: "I've returned to the Alma Mater working as a tow pilot at USAFA's airfield supporting the Cadet Soaring program. It's an interesting and rewarding gig, supporting the next generation of cadets and future officers. The call signs we use are interesting, as we use the last two tail numbers. In this case, 'Tow 73.'" Well, done, John!

Jack **Hudson** continues pressing the limits of human endurance on his bicycle, well on his way to his goal of 10K miles this year...that's 10K as in 10,000, not a 10K. He has successfully hooked his sons and now

grandkids on the pedal pushing. He's also working on 73,000 exercise repetitions this year. More power to ya, Jack!

Chris **Derry** hosted several members of Tuff Two for a get together in Bowling Green KY. Tom **Swertfager**, Les **VanHeeswyk** and Steve **Dalrymple** attended and had their photo taken in front of Aviation Heritage Park in Bowling Green KY. "The park is teaming with River Rats to preserve our aviation heritage. Great place to visit."



Les **VanHeeswyk**, Steve **Dalrymple**, Tom **Swertfager** and Chris **Derry**

Al **Nacke** initiated a Seagram's Seven reunion 12-16 Oct 2022. 13 classmates, 11 spouses, and Tim McAllister's widow, Mary Lee Busic (Tim died of cancer in 1979) visited Stalker and Gerry **Reed** on the first anniversary of the car accident that paralyzed Gerry, to encourage her during her miraculous recovery. Al brought his bluegrass band to his back porch open house to lead our singing. During the four-day event, they toured the local Atlanta area, did a four-mile golf cart excursion through Peachtree City, and attended the 49ers and Falcons game in town.



Seagram's Seven reunion attendees: L-R: Mark **Coffman**, Ted **Munsch**, Steve **Paquette**, Jim and Tina **Amos**, Jay **Jabour**, Kim and Dennis **Rensel**, Stalker Reed, Mary Lee McAllister, Al and Debby **Kinback**, Bill **Patterson** (kneeling), Nancy and Brad **Young** (Nancy standing behind Bill), Lorretta Patterson, Bob **Manson**, Chris and **Al Nacke**, Susan and Greg **Chapman**

From Tom **Kennedy**: "Captured a great photo of Richard and Connie **Hayes** at the Van Gogh Exhibit in North Charleston SC. They've also spent some time recently in Eastern Oregon where Richard continued with his birding, and later they passed through Taos and Sante Fe – but folks, they are South Carolinians! Then Phil and Chris **Yavorsky** joined Tom and Betty **Kennedy** at the Seattle wedding of TJ Kennedy (USCGA Class of 2012) and Amanda Adams in Seattle. After the wedding, they traveled to Sequim, WA for a chance to visit with Charlie and Pam **Meyer** on their farm. Always good to celebrate and visit with fellow Grim Reapers." Unfortunately, I don't have room for the pix, so you'll have to check them out at [usafa73.org](http://usafa73.org).

Don **Ramm** was asked a question by some fellow Vans RV-12 owners about a runway east of Jack's Valley. It wasn't there when we were and he hadn't flown T-41s at the Academy, anyway. I'll leave it to the interested student to check it out at Google Maps and figure out what it was.

Happy holidays to all!

"Here's a toast...to the host...of the men we boast"

[usafa73.org](http://usafa73.org)

[facebook.com/groups/usafa73](https://facebook.com/groups/usafa73)

[mewe.com/group/603dad3c2edb8c5cb4d7ebde](https://mewe.com/group/603dad3c2edb8c5cb4d7ebde)