



Florida Military School

Alumni Association



Vol. 6 Issue 3

July 2, 2009

“Return of the Knights” Reunion

Only **27** Days and counting !!!!



From the President’s Pen -

Max Elliott '58

This will be the last newsletter before the reunion. It will kickoff at the end of July. The time is nigh! And I am really looking forward to seeing everyone again.

The 50th classes have set up a dinner and activities (Thanks Thornton). The WiFi set-up is looking good (Thanks to Asa). Class representatives are contacting their classmates (Thanks all of you!). Other classes are setting up side meetings and events (Thanks again all). Sue and I have found a few new FMSers. Some other FMSers have found us via the FMS web site (Thanks again, Asa!).

I have heard from some Friends of FMS from the early years, Barbara Green and Janice Smith Knecht. They are thinking of coming to the reunion, too.

The FMS Book is at the printers (Thanks Sue and Harry). The FMS Directory database (Thanks EJ) is completed and is in the process of being updated and finalized (Thanks Sue). Again, thanks to all that submitted articles, pictures, and memories! And whopping thanks for all the donations, registrations and book orders that have been sent to FMSA!

Many at the Holiday Inn Express are working hard to make this reunion a pleasant success (Thanks Ms. Lillian and thanks Chris). They are looking forward to us being there as we are looking forward to being there. The shuttle from the Daytona Beach airport and the complimentary breakfast are just a sample of the amenities that await us, not to mention the pool and tennis courts. These folks, the Holiday Inn Express staff, really want us to enjoy our visit and be happy and satisfied!

It is still not too late for anyone to submit “goodie bag” items to be inserted in the welcome package. If you, or your business, wish to contribute items, please contact Sue or me.

Please note, that if you have access, please keep up the progress of the **FMS Reunion 2009 – The Return of the Knights!** on our official web site (www.fms-assn.org). Much thanks for everything that our webmaster, **Asa Dean (1960)**, has contributed. Note also that Asa is the mastermind behind the WiFi project.

Thursday, July 30th 2009 is NOT a long time away! It is now **LESS THAN ONE MONTH AWAY!** **START** making plans, **MARK** the dates on your calendar, **MAKE** your Holiday Inn reservations, **REGISTER** with FMSA, and **SHOW** up!

FMSA Official Website:
www.fms-assn.org

FMS Reunion 2009

“The Return of the Knights”

July 30, 31, August 1, 2
(Thurs. – Sunday)

Reunion Registration fee:

\$60* per cadet and **\$40** for guests and spouses

* Includes a copy of the Coffee Table Book and 2009 Directory

We have not increased the registration fee since our first reunion in an attempt to keep the reunion affordable to all. The \$60 per cadet includes a tote bag complete with a copy of the current Cadet Directory, a copy of the coffee table book, program and ticket for the buffet Saturday night. The \$40 spouse or friend fee does not include the books or bag. Each attendee will receive a reunion nametag. The deadline is quickly approaching so don't delay. **Send in your registration form today!**

HOTEL RESERVATIONS

Please do not confuse your hotel reservation with your reunion registration. They are not the same thing. You must make your hotel reservations directly with the hotel, but your reunion registration needs to be made with FMSA. A registration form is included for your convenience. We have already received several and the hotel reports that many have called in for their hotel reservations. Don't delay in making your reservations so that you do not get closed out.

Holiday Inn Express – Daytona Beach, FL

(note the change of venue)

**2620 International Speedway Blvd.
(I-95 exit 261A south or exit 261 north)**

Room Rates:

Double: \$59 per night plus tax
King: \$59 per night plus tax
Suite: \$89 per night plus tax

A block of rooms is reserved for FMSA so be sure to mention FMS when making your reservations. Holiday Inn Express will honor the rates for three days prior and three days after the scheduled reunion if you would like to make it an extended vacation.

Director of Sales: Lillian Hess
(Formerly our contact at Holiday Inn Deland)

Phone: 386-258-6333, or
doshiexpress@elitehospitality.com

Amenities include: Complimentary Full Breakfast Buffet daily, Business Center, Olympic Swimming Pool, 6 Lighted Tennis courts and fitness room. In room coffee-maker, ironing board, hair dryer, complimentary wireless high speed access, and private balcony. A **Free shuttle** is available for the nearby Daytona International Airport.

Early Bird Special !!!

For those people arriving early for the reunion, the Classes of 1957-1961 would like to invite you to join them for a **river cruise** on the Halifax River. The "StarLite Princess" offers a noon sightseeing cruise with optional lunch on **Friday at 12:00.**

If you will be arriving by 11:00 AM on Friday, please consider joining the anniversary classes on this cruise. The cost for the cruise is **\$14.95** (lunch not included). Please contact Thornton Ridinger at (386) 405-1027 for additional information and to **make reservations by July 15.** We hope you can join us.

REUNION REGISTRATION-

A downloadable form is available on the FMSA website, or you may use the one included in this newsletter. **Late registrations after June 30th, will include a \$20 late fee. Make your reservations EARLY!!!! No refunds available after July 15th.**

Reunion Registration fee:

\$60* per cadet and **\$40 each** for guests and spouses
* Includes a copy of the Coffee Table Book.
(Additional copies available for order.)

BOOK ORDERS

FMS COFFEE TABLE BOOK (“The History of FMS”)

The book is a reality! This limited edition volume will be ready for distribution at the July reunion. It will be a limited edition so once the books are sold there will be no more. Cadets registering to attend the reunion this summer will receive a copy as part of their registration. We feel this will be a book that you will be proud to display and it will become a collector's item. There will be 32 color pages included in the 136 page volume that contains well over 200 photos.

If you are unable to attend the reunion, or if you would like an additional copy of the book, it will be necessary for you to pre-order it as we will only print a limited number of copies. For your convenience, an order blank is included in this newsletter and it does need to be returned **ASAP.** The cost of each additional book is **\$50**, and this price includes shipping.

HELP - STILL WANTED -

In these trying times, that is a sign that gets attention more than ever. And we are hoping that it will get yours. **Seriously, we do need help!!** This reunion can not be a “two man” job. Yes, we have done it several times and it does get easier each time but **we still need others to assist.** ([Especially those areas in larger print below](#))

There are so many areas that we can use your assistance. Some people have stepped forward already to volunteer but there are **still jobs that need you.**

GOLF Anyone?

Contact Pete Bulat at jbulat@cfl.rr.com (407-905-7844) if you are interested in a Friday game.

- **Registration** – short shifts, could be combined with hospitality. We need people to work the shifts.
- **Greeters - Jim Turner** will coordinate this group who will act as our official greeters . Volunteers needed to assist him on Thursday and Friday.
- **Raffle** – selling tickets, conducting, etc. **Trudy Bulat** has volunteered to be coordinator. This lady with her “Purple Pumpkin” was hard to say “No” to at our last gathering. She has several fund raising activities planned and would gladly accept help.
- **Duck Race** – selling tickets, assisting with the race. **David Tooker** did such an outstanding job last time that we have recruited him again. This year it will be bigger and better and remember the prize is \$\$\$\$. He will need assistants to pull it all off.
- **Ghost Tour** – Harry Silvis has prepared our Ghost Tour posters, but he can use help in the set up, etc.
- **Hospitality** - shifts maintaining the room. We do need a **coordinator** to oversee the operation of this room. And we also need hosts and hostesses to man a shift or two during the weekend. (**NOTE:** any class group that would like to sponsor any hospitality event would be welcome. Or donations of soft drinks, iced tea, and beer, etc would be welcome)
- **Memorial Service** –Thornton Ridinger is coordinating this event. He will need help with the set up, and people to participate in the service, or to give out the programs, etc.
- **Sports** - a **coordinator** to work with Lillian Hess in organizing the following activities, plus others to coordinate the specific sport.
 - **Tennis** – organize matches, etc.
- **Ladies Coffee Hour** – A sponsor and a coordinator is desperately needed for this special event. Other hostesses to assist are needed as well. (The hotel will provide coffee for this event and set it up for under \$90.)
- **Goodie Bags** – someone to gather items and prepare the bags. The gathering should be done prior to the reunion and perhaps some local cadets could handle the preparation of the bags, so they are ready to distribute by Thursday afternoon when registration begins. Items are also needed.
- **Auction** –Prior to the reunion, we need items for the auction. The possibilities are endless...single items, perhaps a weekend in someone’s timeshare or beach house; items from businesses, etc. The auction can

only be fun and productive if we have good things to auction.

- **Farewell Coffee Hour** - another good opportunity for a class group to sponsor at minimal cost. (the hotel will provide coffee and set ups for under \$90)

FMSA operates entirely by donations and monies we can raise with various fundraising activities, such as the Raffle, Duck Race and Auction. Without those activities we would have ended our last reunion well in the red. But thanks to you all, we had enough money to keep the association operating for these past few years and allow us to continue publishing the newsletters. The reunion itself is not a money making event. In truth, we are really lucky if we can break anywhere near even after all the unforeseen incidentals are covered. We would have been almost \$4000 in the red after the 2006 Reunion if it hadn’t been for the results of the various fundraisers at the reunion.

Several events at the 2006 reunion were sponsored by individuals or class groups. The D.J., the cocktail hour, the coffee hour and the videotaping of the weekend were some of the events sponsored by cadets. This time we would welcome sponsors for the Hospitality Room, and the Ladies Coffee Hour. The cocktail hour this time will be a cash bar, but if a group wanted to sponsor cocktail nibbles that would be nice. We will use a DJ for our Saturday night music and a sponsor is always welcome for that as well.

We have sponsors for the videotaping of the major events again this year and for the webcast.

It seems we are always asking for help but we are totally a non-profit organization and have been kept afloat only by your generous support.

SPECIAL 50th Classes’

’57, ’58, ’59, ’60, ’61

ACTIVITIES

Thornton Ridinger, coordinator

As noted in previous newsletters, the first five year classes (1957 - 1961) will be getting together on Thursday and Friday (July 30th and 31st) for a special celebration of their 50 year association with FMS.

After gathering at the hotel on Thursday afternoon, the group will be going to Gene’s Steak House for a wonderful evening of fellowship and great food.

On Friday, there will be a river cruise on the Halifax River on a paddlewheel boat, the StarLite Princess. This is a new venue for Daytona Beach with a large stern-wheel boat that cruises the Intracoastal

Waterway. In another article in this newsletter, you will note that any "early birds" from the later classes are invited to join this expedition.

Following the two hour cruise, many will be traveling to DeLand for a nostalgic visit to the FMS museum room and the old campus area with its sign, its pillars and the memorial plaque.

Then it will be back to the hotel to greet the others classes as they come in for the reunion and for dinner with their classes.

2009 Directory

Cadets registering to attend the reunion this summer will receive a copy as part of their registration. If you are not able to attend the reunion, or would like an additional copy of the updated directory, they are available for \$ 10.00. An order blank is provided in this newsletter.

Live Webcast of FMS Reunion 2009 –

by Asa Dean, Webcaster Master!

Thanks to the magic of the internet, anyone not able to attend the **Florida Military School Reunion 2009** *live* can become *virtual* participants and see and hear some of the events on a computer. Also, family and friends staying at home can observe the activities. Actually, anyone with a computer that has access to the internet can take part, world wide! Even live participants who are hotel guests, taking a brief respite from the activities, can see events on their computers from their rooms.

A Webcast (aka netcast or streaming video) is somewhat like watching a television broadcast. You can see and hear people, but they can't see or hear you. Some expensive and complicated Online Meeting systems allow two way voice and video amongst many people, but that's not for us. All of this is without cost to FMS Association. The equipment and setup time has all been donated.

For the adventuresome, while you cannot talk to others in the traditional aural sense, you can chat with (type to) other participants or with me, the "Webcaster Master!" Cool, huh? Anyone can observe other people chatting with each other, but you must first become a Ustream member to be able to participate in the chat. It only takes a couple of minutes.

We hope to cover most of these events: Ladies Hour, Memorial Service, Pool Party, Duck Race, Raffle, Auction, Cocktail Hour, Buffet, Breakfast and the Business Meeting.
Enjoy!

Steps to view as a virtual attendee -- Option #1

1. Turn on computer
2. Start your browser (Firefox or Internet Explorer)
3. Copy and paste this URL:
<http://www.ustream.tv/channel/florida-military-school-50th-reunion>
4. Scroll down, if needed
5. Open the window to full screen
6. Bookmark the website for future viewing

Steps to view as a virtual attendee -- Option #2

1. Turn on computer
2. Start your browser (Firefox or Internet Explorer)
3. Enter this URL: www.ustream.com
4. Click on "All Live"
5. In the search field enter "Florida Military School"
6. Click "Search" button
7. Scroll down to see the FMS Shield Logo
8. Click the logo.
9. Scroll down if needed
10. Open the window to full screen
11. Bookmark the website for future viewing.

THE CLASSES OF '65 & '66 To Gather.....

Harold Kaniaris & Robert Mouro '66

The Classes of "66" and "65" request the presence of you and your guest for a social and dinner at **7 P.M., on Friday** the 31st of July at the **Buca Di Beppo Restaurant** in Daytona Beach. Any other class that wants to come will be more than welcome. Buffet or order off menu and drinks. You pick the cost and time you want to spend with us. Buca Di Beppo Restaurant is just a short walk from the hotel. We will break and resume at the hotel for more social time. We all look forward to seeing you at the reunion this summer. This is scheduled for the time set aside for class gatherings at the general reunion so you will not miss out on any of the reunion activities. The social time will go on all wee hours of the night and NO DEMERITS will be issued for being up after TAPS.

TREASURER'S REPORT

On May 15, 2009 we had a balance of \$4,005.27.

Inflows	book orders	1,050.00
	Donations	2,920.00
	Registrations	2,260.00
	Total Inflows	6,230.00

Outflows	newsletter	120.00
	Supplies	128.65
	Total Outflows	248.65

Net Inflows/Outflows	5,981.35
New balance on June 28:	\$9,986.62

Respectfully submitted,

Thornton Ridinger, Treasurer

2009 REUNION

Schedule of Events

THURSDAY, July 30th

Focus Day of the 50th Reunion Classes

50th Reunion Classes – 1957, 1958, 1959, 1960 and 1961

GENERAL REGISTRATION for the Return of the Knights reunion will be available Thursday for the convenience of those arriving early.

There are any number of relaxation activities in the vicinity.

Those wishing to venture a bit further may wish to explore the Deland area, visit FMS Museum and the old school site, or even venture off to Disney World, Sea World or the Spaceport. All are in easy distance from your hotel location.

Special 50th Reunion Banquet

A special banquet for the reunion classes is being planned for this evening. All of the reunion classes will meet



together at **Gene's Steak House** at **6:30 p.m.** for a cocktail hour prior to the dinner at **7p.m.**

FRIDAY – July 31st

GENERAL REGISTRATION will be available during the day. Attendees will receive their nametags and goodie bags at this location.

The late afternoon/early evening time is a great chance for a group to sponsor a cocktail party or various groups may wish to plan an outing or dinner together. We purposely did not over structure this evening for the convenience of those who wish to relax and visit.

SATURDAY – August 1st

Registration will continue for those late arrivals.

A Ladies Coffee Hour is planned for **10:00 a.m.** in the Hospitality Room. This will be a time for the ladies to visit and we will have a special gift bag for them at this time.

We have changed the **MEMORIAL SERVICE** to a new day this time. We will hold our service at the the Holiday Inn Express at **11 a.m.** (Room location to be announced later)

In response to the requests that many made at the 2006 reunion, we will attempt to arrange a series of **"Meet & Greet"**

gatherings. These will be small group visits with the Colonel and other faculty members. These will be held in The Board Room and the Upper Deck area at various times on Saturday and available on a sign up basis so as not to overload any session. The sign up sheet will be available at registration table.



Lunch will be at your leisure. After lunch you may wish to continue the relaxation activities or plan

to join us for a **POOL PARTY** from **2 – 5 pm.** A cash bar will be available.



The culmination of the activity will be our infamous **DUCKRACE.** There will be more ducks available for purchase this year and the course is longer so we should have an exciting race. Remember it is to help defray our expenses as well as for fun.

After an hour and a half break for those that wish a quick rest and refresh, we will return for a

COCKTAIL HOUR – by

the pool from 6:30 – 7p.m. NO formal banquet this year, stuck at crowded tables. Instead we will have a **Buffet by the**

Pool beginning at **7 p.m.** and casual dress is encouraged. Even bathing suits will be acceptable for those who wish to continue enjoying the lovely pool.

We will have **dancing** (no speeches) in the poolside Indigo Lakes Room, with music provided by a DJ. During this evening of fun and socializing, we will also hold our socializing, and our famous

Auction. We are soliciting items for this auction now so if you have something you can contribute please let us know. This auction helps us "pay the bills" and also funds our newsletter for the future.

SUNDAY – August 2nd

After a leisurely breakfast, we will gather in the Indigo Lakes Room at **10 a.m.** for our **Business Meeting**. An election of new board will be part of the business. This board will be installed at the Annual Meeting in October. Following the General Business, and Election of New Board Members and Officers, we will have our **RAFFLE** drawing.

Our final official activity will be a **FAREWELL COFFEE HOUR** in our hospitality room. There will also be one last opportunity to visit our displays and make a purchase of a piece of FMS memorabilia provided by our official vender, Harry Silvis ('65).

For those departing – have a safe trip! **We'll see you in 2012 !**

To those fortunate ones who are able to extend their vacation - ENJOY and we'll **see you in 2012** as well!!

Reunion Notes –

FMS GHOST TOURS will be available throughout the reunion in the Lobby of The Indigo Lakes Room by the pool.

A **STATIC DISPLAY and SALES AREA** will be in the Verandah Room next to the Hospitality Room. This area will be available throughout the reunion at posted times. If you have something you would like to display during the reunion this is the area to place it. As before, we will have various CDs and DVDs running and available for sale.

A larger **HOSPITALITY ROOM** will be open in the Plantation Room overlooking the tennis courts and pool. This is a great place to gather and visit or relax with friends throughout the reunion. Hosts and hostesses are needed to staff this room for various shifts.

FROM THE QUARTERMASTER

Harry C. Silvis 65'

The "Return of the Knights", reunion is but a few weeks away. We are trying to get prepared for the sales of "goodies". The History Book of the school will be the biggest thing to hit the association members at this reunion. I would encourage each of you to purchase them and give a copy to each of your children. Remember, there will ONLY ever be 250 of them!!! Just finished designing and sending a patch & pin off to China to have manufactured. May be the last that we are able to make, as while we only have 100 of each made, we must sell at least 75% to break even.

We now have the 1962-1963 picture of the cadet corps available. It is 36" x 11.5" and has been restored. (1 out of 7 cadets that ever attended) The size is such that you can purchase a standard frame from Michaels, Hobby Lobby and just about any other frame supplier for less than \$30.00, when they are sale for 50% off. The cost of the picture is \$35.00 each.

Working on some other ideas but as yet have not worked out the details. As with the rest of the economy our suppliers have been really hurt by the economic downturn and their deals are no longer there. We still have many items that were made in the past that we will bring. Still have copies of the FMS BLAST FROM THE PAST DVD !!!! There will also be the first in a series of US postage stamps commemorating FMS.

Your input is always appreciated!!!

770 421-1415

CLASS of '59'ers CELEBRATE

Six members of the FMS Class of 1959, who are living in central Florida area, got together for an Italian dinner in Orlando on May 23rd, to celebrate the 50th anniversary of their graduation day. They just couldn't wait for the big reunion this summer so they had their own mini-reunion.



They are, left to right, Troy Fletcher, Jim Turner, Thornton Ridinger, Ed Arrington, Brent Rucks, and Dennis Eyre.

LAST CALL - REUNION 2009 REGISTRATION

Name _____ Class Year _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Email _____

Phone _____

Guests Names: _____
(as you want them to appear on nametags)

Registration fee: (\$60 per FMS cadet and \$40 for each guest prior to June 30th, 2009.)
(Late fee of \$20 after June 30th) (Each cadet registration includes a copy of the FMS Coffee Table Book and a 2009 FMSA Directory)

_____ @ \$60 _____ @ \$40 = \$ _____ included

\$20 Deposit per person reserves your places.

Final payment due by July 1, 2009.

No refunds after July 15th.

TOTAL DUE = \$ _____
 Deposit = \$ _____
 Due by June 30th = \$ _____

Make checks payable to : Florida Military School Assoc.

Send to: FMSA

c/o Max Elliott, PO Box 5 , Pierson, FL 32180

MAX ELLIOTT
FMSA
PO BOX 5
PIERSON, FL 32180

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

COFFEE TABLE BOOK And/or Directory

ORDER FORM

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

copies Coffee Table Book ____@ \$50. each (includes shipping)

copies of 2009 Directory ____@ \$10 each (includes shipping)

Total amount _____ Send this order form to:

MAX ELLIOTT
FMSA
PO BOX 5
PIERSON, FL 32180

(Make checks payable to Florida Military School Assoc.)