

Florida Military School Alumni News

FMS Alumni Committee

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“LOLLAPALOOZA”

The first ever, all-class, homecoming reunion for FMS is less than 2 ½ months away!!

As we go to press with this newsletter, the final plans are being made for the biggest, and best reunion experience you have ever had. The committee is working overtime to see that this statement is true.

Everyone is getting excited about this event, and we hope you are, too. The publicity has really helped and as a result the interest has really grown. The local townspeople are behind the efforts, too.



HOLIDAY INN RESERVATIONS

Remember that our special room rates are only available until September 23rd!

Our events coincide with Homecoming for Deland H.S. and a convention for the Florida Poets Society so rooms may be at a real premium in the Deland area. If you wait too long, you may not be able to get a room at the Holiday Inn, and it would be a shame for you to have to miss out on all the spontaneous fun that will occur there.

Everyone knows that the planned events are only part of a reunion. It is the spontaneous

gatherings that occur that often are the most memorable. Don't delay...call today and lock in your room reservations!

FMS REUNION RESERVATIONS

A \$20 deposit will hold your reservations for the Reunion itself. Full payment is due by Sept. 16th. Act now and avoid the late fee after August 30th

Andy Staley, the committee treasurer, is receiving reservations daily. It is important that all checks be made out to "Andy Staley". The \$60 cadet registration fee includes your bar-b-que dinner, the dance, Sunday breakfast, a goodie bag with an FMS mug, and the first edition of the official FMS Alumni Directory.



REGISTRATION CHECK CONFUSION

The Reunion Committee would like to apologize for the confusion related to whom the checks for the reunion registration should be made. The most recent registrations have been received with checks appropriately payable to Andy Staley, but some earlier checks had to be returned to the originators for re-issue. Almost everyone has re-issued their checks, but there are still several outstanding. We need a re-issue of

your check, made payable to Andy Staley to complete your reservation. Those of you that had checks returned, please take a moment to re-issue them soon.

REUNION GOLF

“Best-Ball” Golf Tournament.

The “Best Ball” Golf Tournament that was proposed for Saturday afternoon is not getting the number of players expected. At the time of this writing there are only four definite players and two “maybes”, hardly enough for a tournament. Based on this, the Reunion Committee is canceling the “Best Ball” Golf Tournament for Saturday. Those that paid their fees up front will receive a golf fee refund at the reunion registration (please remind us). We understand that you may still have the desire to play golf on Saturday, or possibly Sunday, and the committee will be contacting the prospective golfers to see if they would like us to set up tee times at a local course.



ALUMNI DIRECTORY

The first edition, Alumni Directory is just about to go to press. A copy will be part of your reunion registration (cadet).

In early April, we had located approximately 200 former cadets. Since that date, we have almost tripled the number! Our first directory will go to press with almost 600 entries!

Max Elliott & Sue Courtney have spent the last four months literally on the phone or on the internet, locating and calling as many former cadets as possible. Many of you have probably talked to one or the other of them as they made their search. Without the Internet, cell phones and phone cards they could never have been this successful. Both have commented that they have met some interesting people along the way. They

talked to parents, siblings, neighbors and strangers. For every “hit” there were usually five or more “misses”. Hundreds of search postcards were also sent out when a phone number couldn’t be found. You would be amazed at how many people are out there with “your name” and who live where you once lived. But the efforts were so worthwhile.

Now our directory will be a “class act”, on a par with any published by Harris Co., or any other organization. Entries will be listed alphabetically with the data sheet bios included; by Class (Graduation) Year; by Geographical Location (City and State); and a special e-mail section for those of you techy types. The book will be coil bound for ease of use, and will include some appropriate artwork and photos.

As was mentioned, a copy of this Directory is included in each Cadet Registration for the Reunion. But what if you can’t make the reunion? Can you get a copy? YES! But again, you will have to act quickly and reserve a copy. Because we are operating so close to the dollar, we will only order a very few extra copies when we go to press. So if you want to be assured that you will have your copy, fill out the order form today and mail it in. Sorry, but this has to be a pay as you go operation, so please enclose your payment, too. Andy Staley will be accepting these orders, as well as the registrations.

We hope this is only the first edition, and you know those become valuable. But at present we don’t know if and when another edition will be printed, so don’t miss out. You can find old friends and classmates quickly. And the geographical section is helpful if you move to a new area or if you are traveling through an area and wonder if any former cadets live there. Reading the bios that were sent back is quite impressive, too. The cadets of FMS have spanned the globe and touched all areas of endeavor, and who knows, you might meet someone new who shares a hobby or interest with you.

ORDERS are due by AUGUST 30th to insure a copy. Act TODAY!!

MEMORIAL SERVICE PLAQUE DEDICATION

Sunday morning at 11 am at the old Pillars! A must-attend event! Be part of history.

A moving Memorial Service is being planned for those we have confirmed as deceased. Widows and parents and friends are being encouraged to attend. A Color Guard will participate as will a bugler and possibly a Piper. A bronze plaque will be dedicated and placed on the remaining pillars as a lasting tribute to the school and to the cadets and staff who were part of that school. This will be a very important part of our reunion, so plan to attend.



SUNDAY BRUNCH MEETING

A delicious breakfast brunch and a serious moment in our weekend, too. Our future is in your hands.

Our 9am Breakfast Buffet will also include our one and only serious meeting of the Reunion. "We've come a long way" but where are we going to go from here? That is the question we will try to answer

Your reunion registration includes this meal, and your ticket of admission will be your reunion nametag. Please plan to join us and help us chart our course for the future.

FMS MUSEUM EXHIBIT

Permanent exhibit space has been located! FMS will have its place in DeLand history thanks to Tom Sperling.

Space has been donated in a DeLand historical museum for an exhibit of Florida Military School history. School plaques have been located and now our historian, Thornton Ridinger is seeking other appropriate donations. It is hoped that we can include a uniform or two, swords, patches, photographs and other suitable memorabilia.

Donations will be marked with the names of their contributor. So dig in those attics and see what you can find. We will even try to locate a manikin to wear the uniforms. Let's make the exhibit one we can look at with pride. We hope to unveil the exhibit during the reunion weekend.

Monetary donations are also needed to provide a display case and other details, so you can support the effort in that way, too.

Contact Thornton if you can help. (386)677-2312 or tridinger@earthlink.net.



HISTORICAL DELAND TOURS

"Mr. Henry Deland", historian Bill Dreggors, will guide the tours.

Bill Dreggors, historian of the West Volusia Historical Society, is arranging for a tour through old DeLand. Bill portrays "Mr. Henry Deland" as your guide. The tour will stop at several of the local sites, including the Old Hospital Museum where our FMS exhibit will hopefully be on display. The tour will last approximately two hours.

Two trips will be offered on Saturday. A morning tour will leave the hotel at 10 am and return shortly before noon, and a second tour will leave at 1 pm. Each tour can accommodate only 40 people so reservations for each tour will be on a sign-up basis at registration check-in. Tickets will be issued at that time.

Bill is a real treasure, so you won't want to miss this trip!



FMS VIDEO

Composite video to be produced. Can you help?

We are trying to put together a single video of the various years that the school was in existence. If you have or know someone who has movies that have been converted to video or movies of the school, please contact:

Rex Riley@floridamilitaryschool.com or (904) 260-2661.



“GIRL TALK”

Things that women want to know, from a woman’s viewpoint.

Leave your formals at home. The reunion dress is casual – all weekend. No “coat & tie” events, not even the dance. We are stressing an informal, relaxed atmosphere. The October weather is usually warm and sunny but Florida thrives on the unpredictable so breezes or showers are always a possibility. Better to be prepared.

Had your fill of “Do you remember....?” and the man-talk? There are plenty of neat places nearby where you can escape. Downtown (Mainstreet) DeLand has an abundance of boutiques, galleries and coffee shops, and closer to the hotel you will find shopping centers with both WalMart and a Big K-Mart, as well as other smaller shops.

Don’t forget a bathing suit. (Especially you Yankee folks!) The pool at the hotel is nice and, near DeLand, you can visit several springs or the beach.

The tours on Saturday, and Sky Dive DeLand will be very interesting for most. Don’t be left home...Come join the fun and make some new friends.

P.S. Did you know that FMS had co-eds? They have been included, too.

Any special questions or concerns? Give Sue a call (386) 672-8686

(sgcourtney@worldnet.att.net)



YEARBOOKS on CD

Lost your yearbook? Interested in other years?

Andy Staley has the answer to your problem. He located copies of every FMS yearbook and has scanned all the pages. These are now on a CD available to you for purchase.

If this interests you, be sure to complete the enclosed order form. Again, checks are payable to “Andy Staley”.

CAMPUS “GHOST” TOURS

Ever taken a “ghost tour” at some famous place? Now you can add FMS to your list.

Today, not much remains of the once proud Florida Military School campus. One by one the buildings have made way for progress or just fallen down in disrepair. But the spirit of FMS still remains.

Once the location of Sky Harbor, Naval Air Station, the buildings were transformed into the hallowed halls of FMS. A self-guiding tour of the old campus area will be available on Saturday afternoon. You can take as long as you want to make the tour, and there are watering holes available along the way. A tour brochure will be available with photos and a brief history of each stop along the way. There will be flesh & blood guides along the route to guide you to the “ghost” haunts.

If you listen carefully, you may even hear the band playing for the Dress Review on the Parade field, or hear the voices of the excited cadets at the old dorms. We are sure with a bit of your

imagination, you will lose yourself in time and the memories will flood back.

This is sure to start the flow of “Do you remember...?” that will mean so much. Some may find it hard to return to the reality of today.

“HELP WANTED”

Hey Mister, can you spare (some) time?

Robert Mouro is looking for a few good men, or women, who would help with the FMS Campus ghost tour on Saturday afternoon at the reunion. Since Robert can't clone himself, he really needs some help. The work isn't hard, and the time isn't long. He needs site guides for the various stops on the ghost tour. The guide will be provided information to be an “expert” on that particular site and will offer tidbits of information to those who stop on the tour.

So won't you get into the *spirit* (excuse the pun) of the day and volunteer a few hours of your time? We guarantee you will meet some interesting people along the way and probably hear some new “whale tales.”

Give Robert a call, (904) 724-4426 or (904) 289-7667 of Lmouro@aol.com.

Be a part of (FMS) history...and also be a temporary ghost. Call today!



ONCE IN A LIFETIME

Why wait? Have you sent in your registration yet?

If you have not joined in, don't fool yourself into thinking that you'll skip this reunion and wait for the next one. It could be a looong wait! Who knows when another event of this magnitude will be planned? This may be a **once in a lifetime opportunity**, and you'll be sorry if you miss out.

Seriously, no one knows if we will ever do this again. We are a select group and every year there are fewer of us and we are just that much

older and less inclined to get things done. We've waited too long as it is to get together.

This is purely a shoestring operation and we are planning on faith that we will be able to cover all expenses and provide a super opportunity for all. It has been a monumental task to bring this all to fruition and the future is uncertain.

Basically, I guess what we are saying is:



“Get off your duff, dig out that reservation form today and get going!”

We are going to have a ball!!!!

CAN YOU HELP?

That touchy subject of money again.

The Committee is keeping a tight rein on all expenditures. This endeavor is not a profit making venture by any means. As the number of cadets located has increased, , so have the associated expenses also increased.

Many of you have generously helped us so far but we would still welcome any financial assistance.

ANY AND ALL DONATIONS WILL BE SINCERELY APPRECIATED AND GLADLY ACCEPTED.

Make all checks payable to and send to
“Andy Staley” – FMS Reunion
11501 Gibraltar Place
Temple Terrace, FL 33617

Speaking of **donations** – if you or your company would like to add something to the Goodie Bags, and advertise at the same time,

Here's your opportunity. Contact Sue Courtney at 386-672-8686 or sgcourtney@worldnet.att.net

Other advertising opportunities? How about a banner in the Hanger? Or maybe an ad in the directory? Again contact Sue. Soon!! We'll be going to press soon.



The Reunion Committee hard at work. Left to right: Andy Staley, Robert Mouro, Thornton Ridinger and Max Elliott. These four members met August 4th to see that everything was on track.

DROP DEAD DATES

AUGUST 30th -

- § **Orders** for additional Directories due to Andy Staley
(if you are not attending or want to order an extra Directory)
- § **Late Fee** (\$15) for Reunion Registration applies after this date.

SEPTEMBER 16th -

- § **Final** Payment of Reservation
\$\$\$ is due to Andy Staley.
(Registrations received after this date will not receive a complimentary Directory or favors in their Goodie Bag as items are being ordered based on the paid reservations on this date. Late registrants will be able to attend events however, however a full registration fee will be required.)

SEPTEMBER 26th -

- § Last day of Guaranteed rate at the **Holiday Inn** (Assuming rooms are still available on site)

OCTOBER 11th ---- OCTOBER 14th

“The Lollapalooza”
Deland Hilton
DeLand , Florida

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OCTOBER !!!