

"Reunion Wrap Up"

A big THANK YOU to all of you who were able to join us for the reunion!

Your enthusiasm and desire to reconnect with others is what made the reunion special, fun and memorable!

It was awesome seeing people there who hadn't been to a reunion since our 10th or hadn't attended any of the reunions! Classmates traveled from a variety of states - including CO, CT, FL, GA, IA, IN, MA, NC, NY, PA, WA, NV, MS, VA, VT. As you can see, some traveled quite a distance to "reconnect" with classmates!

PHOTOS

Please continue to share your photo albums to our Facebook page for us to all enjoy. Those who weren't able to attend have commented that they've enjoyed seeing the photos as well! There is a **PHOTO TAB** on our Facebook page. If you can, please post your albums on that tab so we can have them in one spot! Or, if you post your photos in an album on your own page, do an album "Share" to our class Facebook page:

Ithaca High School Class of 1978

TEAM EFFORT

Although many of the email messages and Facebook posts regarding the reunion updates were from me, it was **truly a TEAM EFFORT** in pulling all of this together!

Here is our team of classmates who deserve a special thank you:

...Beginning with **Noni Korf**, who said "YES" last December to co-chairing this event with me. As the "webmaster", she kept our IHS Class of '78 website updated with important reunion information, created input forms for registration and data collection, etc. She often helped keep things realistic and in perspective during the planning process and took several "red-eye" bus rides between her home in NYC and Ithaca to be at the reunion meetings.

... **Bobby Troy, Mark Mecnas, Kathy (Belous) Troy, Bill Chaffee, and Jackie (McDonnell) Bangs** joined Noni and I for reunion planning meetings. Those who wanted to be there but weren't able, provided feedback and ideas through emails and Facebook messages. Thank you!

... **Noni** and **Kevin Stoneman** put together the "Skunk Report" (which can be found on our IHS website) that went out to those who we didn't have valid email addresses for and weren't on Facebook, in effort to locate more classmates (which we did!). **Mark** took care of getting them stamped and mailed after several of us spent the first reunion meeting folding them all while discussing reunion plans.

...**Bobby** used his connections to obtain the VFW for Saturday evening and for our reunion meetings. He also used family connections to provide us with access to the High School for our tour and to a DJ sound system - both through his nephew **AJ Barnes**. **Bobby** and **Mark** set up the sound system and played fabulous 70's tunes at the picnic with Mark's radio.

...**Mark** was my "BJ Shopper Partner" for picnic supplies; scoped out a place for us to have Sunday brunch, and was a huge help with other details.

...**Kathy** "skunk napped" our mascot for "photo-ops" at the picnic and at the VFW - driving around for a week with a "skunk in her trunk" before the events. Early Saturday morning, she met **Bill** at the park to get his picnic supplies. Then, with the help of **Bobby**, moved several picnic tables over to our pavilion (including a children's table) and hung out there for awhile to make sure no random "parkers" messed with our area! She even donned the Skunk costume for some curious kids so they could take photos!

...**Lisa Bontempi** was able to reserve a block of rooms at a hotel at a discounted price for our classmates and helped with the High School tour.

...**Scott Dawson** brought his key board and played some tunes for us at the picnic with his wife Mercy, and also challenged our brains with some trivia.

...**Claire deBoer** helped with preparing the name badges and with the deceased photo collage.

...**Elaine LaRocque** did some research to provide us with an updated deceased list, even though she knew she couldn't attend the reunion.

...**Steve Spalding** was our "beer master" and "Ice Man" for the picnic and took care of getting our beverages set up for us to enjoy!

... **Allison Hogue**, had been one of the key coordinators for the several previous reunions and was always available for us to 'bounce things off of' throughout the planning process - thank you!



Picnic Helpers

It was **fantastic** to see **so many classmates** arrive early to help set up for the picnic; stay to clean up; and/or help in some way during the picnic. Your help was **GREATLY APPRECIATED**. It was fun working all together to get things set up!

Several of us sported **Kevin's "Reunion Wear"** (a.k.a. "Skunky Wear"). Kevin created a variety of awesome designs for shirts, mugs, glasses, etc. and put them on the cafepress site for classmates to be able to order. By the way, they are **still available** if you are interested: <http://www.cafepress.com/ihsclassof78>

I also want to acknowledge:

- **The Haunt - Chris Mazer**, Event Manager - generously waived the cover charge for the second band Friday night for everyone associated with the reunion. He even hired that band with our class in mind, thinking it would be one we'd enjoy. Which we did!
- **The Italian Carry Out** - owned by **Christine & Tyler Salino**, niece and nephew of our classmate **Lisa Cacciotti Garrison**, was the caterer for the delicious food we had at our events.
- **The VFW Post 961 - Jim Prott**s allowed us the use of their facilities, with club prices for beverages, so we could continue socializing after our picnic. Jim recently shared with Bobby that they enjoyed having us there!
- **AJ Barnes** - nephew of **Bobby Troy**, provided us with access to the High School for the tour; helped with the tour; and loaned us his awesome DJ sound system for the picnic.

40th Reunion

Many of you are looking forward to seeing everyone again at future reunions, and those who weren't able to attend, are planning on being at the 40th.

It's 5 years down the road, but you know how quickly time flies.

It's not too early for someone to get the ball rolling and at the very least, set a date set for the reunion so we can all put it on our calendars. I have a files and helpful information that I can pass along to whoever chooses to grab that ball and run with it! Noni and I are proof that a reunion can be planned and coordinated from afar - thanks to the internet and the help of several classmates living in and around the Ithaca area who helped! So, please don't let distance stop you!

SUGGESTION: If you are **interested in being a part of the planning process** for our 40th reunion, I encourage you to **express your interest on Facebook** - that way, a committee can begin to form and you can go from there! Aren't on Facebook? Email me and I can post your interest or better yet,... join!

UPDATING your INFORMATION

As I mentioned in my email, please take a moment to UPDATE your contact INFORMATION so we can have an accurate database of classmates. If at any time your contact information changes, please be sure to update it on the same link: [Updating your contact info.](#) located on our website: www.ihs1978.com.

Using the link, your information is fed directly into a database, and will be a huge help to whoever plans our next reunion.

When you are on our website, check out the **MISSING CLASSMATES** tab -- perhaps you will be able to help provide contact information about another classmate. Thanks!

In conclusion, all I can say is...

Class of 1978 ROCKS!!!

Renee DiPasquale Seibel

By the way....

Who says we have to wait 5 years to get together again?!!

If you have an idea for a weekend trip to the beach or a city or know of an event taking place that you think would be fun to invite classmates to... or just want to have people meet up somewhere for drinks - POST-IT on Facebook and invite your classmates!! :))