

Coordinator's Corner

*** MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR THE 2012 REUNION ***

Plans are just about finalized for our next reunion. The dates will be Wednesday, September 12 through Sunday, September 16, 2012. Our host hotel will be the Marriott, Naperville, which is about 30 miles west of Chicago. Our tour company will be "About Tours". Contracts have been signed and all that is left is fine-tuning and "tweaking" as needed. Registration letters will be mailed and/or e-mailed by Harland Hamm, our Secretary/Registrar, no later than mid-March 2012.

I'm very excited about staying at the Marriott-Naperville Hotel. When Linda and I toured the hotel during our site-visit, we had to wear hard hats. You may ask "Why?" Let me explain: Marriott recently purchased the hotel from the Holiday Inn chain and has completely gutted the building. It is being redesigned, refurbished, and updated with state of the art amenities. The scheduled opening is in March of 2012, and they are right on schedule. Take a look at this website which is a video of what is planned for the new hotel. <http://www.nctv17.com/napervilleneews17/article.php?id=915>. Because it is a new hotel and they are looking for business, I was able to negotiate a price of \$98 a night, **including** tax and breakfast. There is also ample free parking.

A new outdoor mall is within walking distance of the hotel, and the charming town of Naperville is just a short drive away. The hotel will offer free shuttle service within a 5-mile radius. Unfortunately, none of the hotels I visited offer shuttle service to and from the 2 Chicago airports. With input from Frank Chesla, who lives in the Chicago area, we were able to choose, what I think, are some great tours. Here's a brief description of our agenda:

** Wednesday evening, September 12, we will be going to Tommy Gun's Garage, a roaring twenties speakeasy, to enjoy a musical comedy review and dinner.

** Thursday morning we will head for Chicago, stopping at Soldier Field to visit a veterans' memorial. We will then take a Cruise on the Chicago River to view the beautiful architecture of the city. Following the cruise we will visit the Navy Pier, Chicago's top attraction. Once used for shipping and naval training, it has been converted to a shopping, eating and entertainment complex. Lunch will be on our own.

** Friday morning we will depart for the Great Lakes Naval Training Center, about 1 hour from the hotel. We will enjoy a narrated tour of the base by a Navy staff guide, conduct our memorial service, and enjoy lunch at the Officer's Club Port O'Call Restaurant with its view of Lake Michigan. We will be unable to attend a basic training graduation as we would have to leave the hotel around 6:30 a.m. to arrive in time to go thru security and be seated 1 hour before graduation, as required. Also, I've been told that even though graduations are held on Fridays, there is no guarantee that there will be a graduation on any given Friday, even if we signed up to attend one.

** Saturday will be a day on your own to explore the area or just chill out.

** Sunday evening will be our banquet.

Let me know if you have any questions - phone: 703-941-2842, e-mail: mpollack11@cox.net. In the meantime, keep an eye out for your registration letter early in 2012 – and get those registrations in early.

Enjoy the rest of 2011, stay healthy, and see you in Naperville.

Mike Pollack
Reunion Coordinator