

2023, Another Year

We have been fortunate to see another year arrive and to maintain involvement with family and friends. However, it seems that there is an increasing stream of our friends and family passing on. The positive side of our longevity is that we get to greet a new generation. We have read in previous newsletters that Myrtle Siemers Larson, Judi Marcellus and others have growing lists of great grandchildren. That is a true blessing.

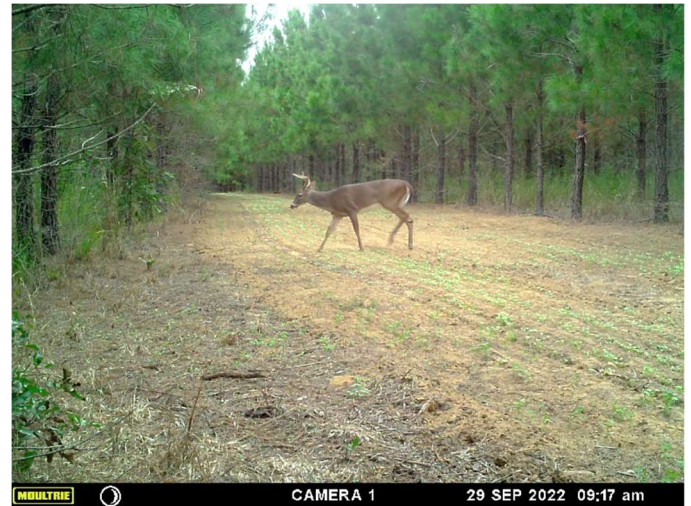


Classmate Stories

Classmate **Roy Kaple** lives in St. Matthews, South Carolina and shared some photos of his wildlife food plots. He has four acres on which he feeds deer and turkeys.



This photo was taken by a remote camera, showing the turkeys eating seeds that had not yet been buried in soil.



This view shows one of the deer eating some of the veggies Roy planted that have popped up.

It is encouraging that Roy has the vision and energy to provide this service to wildlife in his neighborhood.

Roy reports that storm Ian passed by with 60 mph winds and 5+ inches of rain but left no damage.

Roy also passed along this photo of what the parking situation could be like at the next reunion.



Harry Doernste has let us know he is still very much alive. He attended the 45th class reunion and we lost track of him since then. He lives in Poquoson, VA. "Physically, I was doing great until November 1 of 2021, when I stepped (not fell,

stepped off a ladder 4 rungs up a splintered my left femur. They put an 11-inch rod in it and 5 months later the pin that held the rod in place came loose. So they had to do a complete hip replacement. (No biggie, it turned out great.) Then due to excessive physical therapy (and old age) I lost all the cartilage in the other hip, so 2 months ago they did a complete replacement on that hip. I am walking again - just came back from a 9-day deer hunting trip in my original home area in Pennsylvania.

Note to self and others: **Stay off ladders and step stools!**

Roy Kaple has informed us of the death of **Nancy Ringwalt Beighle**. He was told this by Robert (Bob) Withers who was Nancy's Uncle. He said she passed away Sunday evening February 5, 2023. He did not provide the cause of death, but Roy knows she was having health issues for quite some time.

Roy writes, "Time is definitely taking its toll on our Classmates. I can tell you I had fun getting old, but it is difficult staying here."

We are not traveling as we once did but have a major trip coming up next month. [i.e., March] We have a granddaughter getting married in Sunnyvale, California. We will be traveling with our son and daughter-in-law so that will be helpful. We have had a really Cold and Wet January, with 10 inches of rain, and several nights in the teens. Should start to get better now, but we were living in Columbia, South Carolina when there was a 23 inch Snowstorm in 24 hours in March 1973, and the next year a severe ice storm in March. All we can do is grin and bear it."

October 2022 Luncheon

The previous class reunion luncheon was attended by twelve classmates. It was a lovely, shiny day on St. Pete Beach, with a sizeable number of beach visitors enjoying the sand and warm Gulf waters.

(Right now, the beaches are also crowded, and we are anticipating further Spring Break crowds. However, Red Tide has been an issue for several weeks, with the smell and effect on nasal passages not very pleasant.)

Here are some snapshots from the luncheon.



We were delighted to see Ed Parrotte come for the luncheon. He also brought his daughter Christy and one of Christy's friends. Ed was so happy to see us that he insisted on buying lunch for the whole group! It was a wonderful gesture and was greatly appreciated by all.



Ed's daughter, Christy (left) and her friend helped to decorate the luncheon with their youth and beauty.



Regulars present were, L to R, Phyllis Reichelderfer Doescher, Lil Olsen Classen, Maggie and Karl Maier.



Cloe Carroll Dance and Harriette Bey Urbahn enjoyed the gathering.



Sherry Nichols Rasmussen (SPHS '55) and Margaret Ritter Kellestine were lunch buddies.

Funnies

Sandra Collins Stevens lives in Texas and has shared some of these with us:

- You drop something when you were younger, you just pick it up. When you're older and you drop something, you stare at it for a bit contemplating if you actually need it anymore.
- Being a little older, I am very fortunate to have someone call and check on me every day. He is from

India and is very concerned about my car warranty.

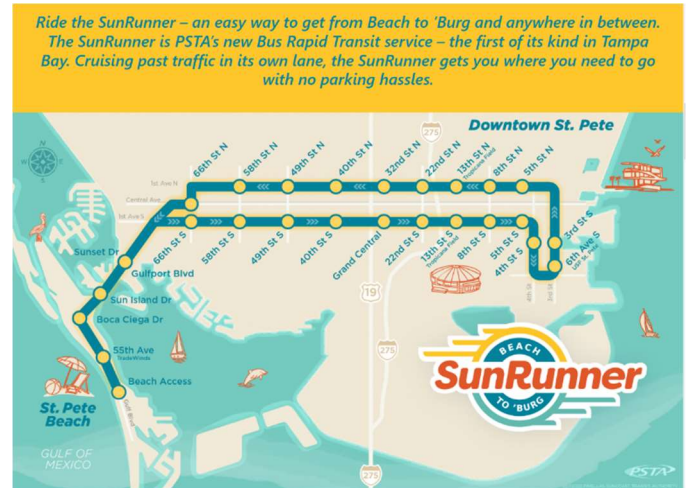
- I'm in a Wal-Mart parking lot watching a woman who can't remember where she parked. Every time she holds her remote in the air, I honk my horn.
- I want to be 14 again and ruin my life differently. I have new ideas.
- At my age, rolling out of bed in the morning is the easy part. Getting off the floor is a whole other story.
- I may not have lost all my marbles yet, but there is a small hole in the bag somewhere.
- A police officer called the station on his radio. "I have an interesting case here. An old lady shot her husband for stepping on the floor she just mopped." "Have you arrested the woman?" "Not yet. The floor's still wet."
- I don't let my age define me, but the side effects are getting harder to ignore.
- Had a bad mix-up at the store today. When the cashier said strip down facing me, apparently she was referring to my credit card.
- Do you ever feel like your body's "check engine" light has been on and you're still driving like everything is fine?
- It turns out that when asked who your favorite child is, you're supposed to pick one of your own. I know that now.
- I can't believe I forgot to go to the gym today. That's seven years in a row.

- Every family has one weird relative. If you don't know who it is, then it is probably you.
- Imagine, if you will, a world in which YouTube, Twitter and Facebook merge to become known as YouTwitFace.
- I tried to sue the airport for losing my luggage. I lost my case.
- On average, a Panda feeds for about 12 hours per day. This is the same as an adult at home under quarantine, which is why we call it a "pandemic."
- I got over my addiction to chocolate, marshmallows and nuts. I won't lie, it was a rocky road.
- Am I getting older, or is the super market finally playing great music?
- Without freedom of speech, we wouldn't know who the idiots are.
- My boss wanted me to sign up for a 401k, but there is no way I am going to run that far!

SunRunner Bus to St. Pete Beach

There is a new bus service from downtown to St. Pete Beach. One of the stations is right at the parking lot of PJ's Oyster Bar on St. Pete Beach, where we have luncheons. Stations have been built all along 1st Ave N and 1st Ave S to access the service. This express service was funded by the county, state and a federal grant. Right now, it is free as an inducement to get people to try it out.

This is a timely addition to our transportation system because beach parking, if you are not staying on the beach, is very hard to find.



The fastest part of the route is away from downtown traffic. Boarding west, beyond 22nd Street is the better choice.

With all the hotels and high-rise condos downtown, this service gives city dwellers easy access to Gulf beaches.

Next reunion luncheon is Saturday, April 8, 2023

Location is PJ's Oyster Bar. Gathering time is **12:15 p.m.** If you plan to attend, please let Lil Olsen Classen know by **Thur., April 6.** Lil's phone is (727) 743-1462. or classen625@gmail.com

PJ's is located at
7490 Gulf Blvd,
St. Pete Beach, FL 33706

Class Contacts

Secretary/Treasurer: Lillian Olsen Classen, at classen625@gmail.com or 6501 17th Ave W, Apt J207, Bradenton, FL 34209-7817. (727) 743-1462.
No donations are needed until further notice.

Classmate updates, photos, news-to-share, etc., should be sent to Ron Rasmussen, Editor, 10212 58th Street, Pinellas Park, FL 33782-2632, or r.rasmussen@ieee.org

Class Website, where you can find back issues and addresses for classmates: <http://sphs1954.org/>