

8/26/10



### **Well, we did it again. We held our fifth “WSMR Kids’ Reunion”!**

In 2004 there was the all 60’s reunion for LCHS and the LCHS class of 1964 reunion. We survived and worked with both reunions to ensure that dinner dances did not conflict with one another. This year as well as our “2010 WSMR Kids Reunion” there was the all 80’s Mayfield High School reunion and another “WSMR 2010 reunion” that was organized by a group of 80’s kids. Nonetheless, we had a wonderful reunion put on by a new committee. Hopefully next time we can set something up that only competes with ourselves. (Maybe the next can be in the spring when it is cooler or sometime during the “Whole Enchilada.”) I would love to see more local (Las Cruces and El Paso) WSMR Kids attend. (Someone please communicate with us – what we need to do to get them to attend....)

Loretta and I arrived early Friday afternoon and made a beeline to Roberto’s in Las Cruces. I would almost give anything if we had one in the north Dallas area. I have been here for 40 years and know a lot of people that feel the same way. (They serve Tex-Mex here.)

Back to the reunion – after my green chili fix – we headed to Hotel Encanto for registration. It seems that when you go to get registered, you end up staying around to see who else is coming. That is when the conversations begin. We had allotted a few hours before having to retire to get ready for the dinner dance. (By the way, the t-shirts were fantastic. The best price we ever received and we hardly had to lift a finger. You ordered them on-line and they were waiting at the hotel upon arrival.)

Off to the New Mexico Farm and Ranch Heritage Museum. Robert Ice from NMSU did some verbal interviews in the lobby – we may hear more about those later. One room was set up for dinner and another for dancing. Music was provided by one of our own, Larry Fiedler, one of the local WSMR kids. Jack Diven used the Organ Mountains as a backdrop to take photos. What a neat place – we had it to ourselves. Awards were presented and plaques were handed out.

The next morning we went to the base. It is always a highlight of the reunion to be able to stop at the top of the pass to look down over the Tularosa basin and the WSMR main base. Surprisingly enough, the desert was green. There had been plenty of rain in proceeding weeks. It was easy to see that many of the non-bearing mulberry trees had been removed and new housing built. (As it turns out, many of the yards were a variety of rocks. Present day kids don’t have as many yards to mow for cash as we did.)

Check out the pictures of the O’club, museum, school, missile park, V2 building and more on the website. We are asking everyone that took pictures to pass them along. Jim Fulp and Stephenie Crowley will be putting together the memory book electronically, and we need your pictures. Please send them to Jim. I also hope someone can get access to the pictures taken by the base photographer.

I personally got to go back on base and visit Jim Salvador at the youth center. He was instrumental in helping the get kids a new “Teen Club” after the old one was taken down. Now, it too is gone and the youth center has extended resources at the school cafeteria for present day kids as well as new resources for the kids. As it turned out, not many kids were on base. I guess some returning troops were on vacations with their families.

Saturday evening, as you can read on the web page, was an evening at Sunland Park. Great food – more green chili. Sunday we went to White Sands National Monument. It is always a treat to go there. I love the desert and the views it has to offer, especially the Organ Mountains at sundown. We really did not get to visit the old neighborhoods (what’s left of them), or see the old theater with its thicker paint and higher prices. The days of the popcorn and a movie for 25 cents are long gone.

I guess some of you may not have as fond of memories of your stay at WSMR or your stay was too short to get attached. I lived there more than some and not as long as others. I love the desert and the views it has to offer. Especially the Organ Mountains at sundown.

I could go on and on about life on base in the 50’s and 60’s. The population of kids on base has decreased from those years. Yes, there were some 70’s and 80’s kids that attended, and then some from the 90’s and 2000’s. I wish more of those kids would get on board and possibly take what we have started and run with it. Forty percent of attendees were kids that graduated in the 70’s, 80’s and 90’s. The rest were from the 50’s, 60’s and parents. It is not an “Old folks’ reunion – it is for ALL WSPG and WSMR kids.

So, let’s not wait 4 years to start planning before having another reunion in 6 years. That is too far out. I know quite a few of the 80’s kids went to the other reunions. I would like to see people step up and plan another reunion in 2014, and would also like to continue to see local people step up to the plate to plan this reunion. Next time, let’s try to find a time that does not conflict with other reunions. Divergence is the reason this reunion started.

Hats off to the “new” reunion committee for a job well done. I know the “old” one really enjoyed having nothing to do.

Respectfully,  
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