

Skyline High School

50th Reunion Evaluations (Grouped and Anonymous) Sequoiah Country Club (and two other venues), 9/25/15-9/27/15

(returned by email, compiled by cut-and-paste
with color separating comments— posted by Bill Martin 12/5/15)

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Please state your likes and/or dislikes about the following elements of the event.

1. Contact mechanics, pre-reunion business, RSVP notifications, name tags:

Very good

Wonderful!!! As always, the name tags were perfectly outstanding! 50 years of cheers and gratitude to Eve!

Very good. I was in contact all the time.

All very organized, congrats to this year's committee!

Worked well.

Seemed smooth to me.

No problems. Everything seemed easy.

All aspects of information and contacts were great. I have some problems with the website but I am not a techie and it gets a little easier each time I go.

Generally, I think all of these topics were handled really well. The class reunion web site, Evite, emails, social media, phone calls and printed postcard invitations... all these methods were necessary to reach as many of our classmates as possible.

Everything was really well organized. The name tags were especially helpful!

I'm dumb about Evite, so that was confusing. Even though I paid early, I kept getting notices to pay. Absolutely loved the name tags- very super clever keepers!

The 'personal visit' [by Bill Martin to Bozeman, MT] was more than sufficient! Website was easy to use.

Great job keeping us informed. Name tags were a big help and well done.

Excellent job!

Like

Great

Notifications might have been a little wordy. I'd keep information simple and easy to follow. RSVP notifications were straightforward and it was good that they were repeated! Name tags were amazing. Looked fantastic and Eve laid them in the boxes so that they were easy to give out.

Terrific

I think it all went well.

It was all good. . . great job!!!

Great job in this area. Lots of reminders, etc. Name tags too low. Some people didn't hike them up.

All Great

Worked well! Name tags a must, never know who your talking to without them.

Pre-reunion contact was great, website worked super, loved the name tags. In fact (wife) would like the name of the company you got them from.

Good

Would have appreciated email confirmation of receipt of payment. I kept receiving reminder emails. Everything was good and went smoothly but I felt a little uneasy about the receipt of my payment.

I thought the email communication was great. Keeping us informed as we got closer to the reunion.

2. Our reunion venue (Sequoyah Country Club):

Very good

Worried at first about finding it, but got great directions from the hotel, and the signs were very much appreciated. A lovely place, and the room(s) were perfect. Originally stated that the rooms would be on different floors. I prefer the way it was for us. Wonderful flow--with no traffic jams. Allowed for visiting without any obstacles or distractions.

Nice place. They could have used better directions in the parking lot as to where the entrance door was. Also directions to the handicapped parking.

Beautiful! Reserve it again for our 55th!!!

Excellent contact process, RSVP and having names on website of those anticipating attending. Name tags were terrific!

N/A

Enjoyed the facility.

Perfect choice.

Good location, nice country club.

Sequoyah is beautiful and should be repeated as a location! Very good traffic flow (inside) and parking was easy.

Fabulous. Such a beautiful site.

The venue was excellent—nice surroundings, good space for quiet talk as well as dancing. Comments on the food later.

Loved the venue.

Reasonable venue--approach was well marked. Hope they weren't too grossed out by our casual dress. Beautiful location with lots of room. Noise level was high but that is to be expected with a large group.

Hoity Toity for y lifestyle.

Very nice venue

Great

Perfect place. Beautiful setting, plenty of room to move around. Let's have it there again!

Some classmates, in phone conversations, were reluctant to attend for two reasons: were unfamiliar with how to get to venue, no hotel nearby. Although I attempted to allay concerns, was not successful in all cases.

Very nice. It would have been nice to have a place with accommodations available.

Thought the club was just right. . .good dance floor and plenty of room to mingle.

Lovely—lots of rooms. We weren't crowded and could move around.

Excellent. . .especially liked the room setup with music, food, and slideshow/bar in adjacent rooms rather than upstairs.

Very nice, but please see comments in #8, below.

Nice location, but too cut up. Dancing was a flop in the back room and music was not good. Need to keep the party all in the same room, including the dancing area.

Sequoia was a great location, good set up, but they ran out of food and they should have had the food set up to go down both sides of table for faster access. They should have had the appetizers set up out in the main hall to spread it out a little.

Good, right size for the number of people attending. Nice place and staff.

Beautiful

The country club was beautiful

3. The No-Host cocktail arrangements for both Friday and Saturday nights (if you attended):

Sat night good. The Plank too noisy.

Friday night seemed dubious at start, without a special section for us to gather. It did work out, but a quieter, separated location would have been appreciated

Saturday night: Would have been nice to be able to purchase a bottle of wine for our table, instead of doing individual glasses. Somehow, I didn't think a single glass of wine would have cost that much.

Saturday only. Bar service was good.

I thought "Plank" was really noisy and we really needed our own room. No name tags at that point so many of us were not sure who was part of our group. We kept looking at anybody in our age range who came in the door and asking if they were from the Skyline group. Also, I had a problem with my server adding an exorbitant tip to my bill. Did anybody else have this happen to them??? I called the manager and he refunded the whole tip amount.

Terrific

N/A

Everyone seemed fine with the set up.

Friday's event was a bit noisy but seemed to work well. Wish more would have attended. Saturday's event was such fun with a good atmosphere. Let's do this again.

No host cocktails at Jack London Square: much too noisy and there was not an area specific for us. Had "other people" sitting among some of us....and not enough places to sit or stand together. It was a good place to get some dinner and it was much quieter in the dining area so we could talk with friends there. At Sequoyah, it was fine but seemed a bit pricy....or maybe I had expensive taste.?

The No Host Cocktail was great and very easy access (nice long bar).

Friday night cocktails were really fun, although having a separate room would have been helpful as Plank is an incredibly noisy environment. Saturday evening cocktails were excellent. Sequoyah seemed to have enough bar tenders.

Very good. Parking was easy, service good.

Friday night was fun but too loud for those of us hard of hearing-

Did not attend Friday due to travel schedule.

Friday night venue would have been better if there were places to visit with less noise. Food at the cafe in the back was reasonable and a good place to visit.

Stunningly expensive beer; Negra Modelo for \$8. 5x cost should be enough.

Did not attend.

Great

Thought Plank was great. Would be nice to reserve space outside, if that's possible (easier to hear (!) and more private. Bar at the country club was easy to access, never crowded, separate from tables—perfect!

Terrific

Good idea. No wait. Very satisfied.

Was good. Service was good.

Good. . . a little noisy.

Saturday night very good. Didn't attend Friday night due to location. See #8 below.

OK it helps to keep the cost down. Maybe 1-2 bottles of wine at dinner tables for dinner?

No host worked good, got a little crowded at bar at Sequoia, should have had 3 bartenders

Good

I only attended the Saturday night function but thought it was run well.

4. Buffet dinner choices and quality on Saturday night:

Food great

Great. Nice that it wasn't just a "go through once and it's gone" set-up. Having different stations was a super idea. (Did I just allude to a "super supper"? Yes, I did!)

Choices were a little sparse but what was there was good.

I thought the food was different but very good! Who needs the same old buffet food???

Saturday night was very good. Easy to get served at the bar. I did not attend Friday night event.

N/A

Great!

Very, very nice. Great food selection.

Excellent. Appreciated the selection and quality. Best meal during our stay.

Dinner was outstanding!

Delicious. Great selection. We were standing in line a long time before someone from Sequoyah came over and told us that we could go directly to individual stations without standing in one long line. Someone also mentioned to me that they had run out of a particular item, but I'm not sure what that was. All in all I thought the dinner was quite good. Improvements to having enough of each menu item and better communication as to how to proceed to the various stations would be helpful and streamline the process.

The food was very good but there needed to be service in the buffet area to replace what ran out. For those returning later for desert, there was no silverware or plates.

Too much pork and shell fish- very little for vegetarians.

Meat was excellent, salad okay, couldn't find enough carbs--had to go back for another drink!

The food at the buffet was very good and there was plenty of it. Would have been good if we could have had the cake brought out a little sooner. The personnel were friendly and did a great job serving the food.

Too much meat, too much sugar, not enough salad

Very nice, but maybe a few more choices

This is my one complaint. I am a vegetarian, and I barely got enough to eat. There wasn't even a chicken or fish option.

Thought it was all really good--and organized well

Food was brought out to buffet unevenly. Was no staff on hand to monitor what was going on in buffet lines. No one on our committee was monitoring either. Found out when someone complained to me. Were out of several items when I went through line (last)--I had to "grab" server to try to get more food. Empty plates refilled when everyone else had already gone through the lines.

Okay. Not my choice for a buffet. Food variety seemed disjointed.

thought the food selection was good. Plenty of food.

To be honest, not great. I expected more from a country club. They cleared the buffet tables way before the designated time to eat was over. I had enough but I think some people didn't even get to eat. It seemed as if they ran out of food.

Excellent, though ran a bit out of food at the end.

Excellent

Food OK if you got there early, could not believe they ran out? That was BAD! I heard a lot of bad comments regarding no food and dinner was to be served another 45 min to eat. I hope you got a credit? Maybe too many choices might have been the reason they ran out. You didn't know what was there till you got to end where the meat was being served.

Dinner was OK, just ran out of salad and other items which shouldn't happen.

The quality of food was fine but the mix of Asian and German sausages seemed to be an odd combination. Would of preferred a a more traditional American meal of green salad, side vegetable, and the sliced beef or chicken.

Delicious

The food was great but another choice like chicken or fish would be a nice idea.

5. Program:

Created more time to visit

NOT having a program was wonderful. I do think Larry didn't need to say as much as he did, but it was so far superior to past reunions. Wonderful that when he was done, that was it.

Could have been a little more structured.

Minimal! Good! ! Larry did a great job!

Very good. Enough choices for me. Glad we did not spend too much money on the food as that was not the main reason I attended.

N/A

Perfect

Brief and to the point recognizing those who put in so much effort. I liked it.

Guess it is difficult to please everyone....we were a noisy bunch and hearing each other was difficult (or I don't hear as well any longer). I would have liked to have known what more people were doing, where they lived etc. Maybe a questionnaire? I would not have known that another grad lives near me if Jan and Babs had not informed me. I had stories to share regarding alumni I had run into odd places over the years... As I said, it is difficult to please everyone.

Program was fine allowing visiting! I did not see a list of obituaries. It might be nice to have a sign in list on a wall. I couldn't recognize many people or see the names without getting into their personal space!

Wonderful. Short & sweet.

Really good balance with memory table, photographs, and just time to talk with others.

Excellent program.

Just great— short and sweet.

Glad it was short and to the point!

Short and sweet, my kind of thing, and very well done.

No comment

Very short was perfect. I couldn't hear what was said from the far side.

Terrific

Not too long which kept everyone's attention.

Enjoyed the low key program. Much more time to mingle and dance.

A warm greeting by Tim and thanks to all the worker bees. Perfect. We do not need entertainment. We are the entertainment. Thanks you, thank you for no program. I feel the last reunion (45) kept some of our classmates from returning for this one.

Short and sweet.

Excellent

Well we now have gone from one extreme to almost nothing. I suggest we contract other reunions and ask what they do for their programs? We need more of something to make it a special night. After

dinner it just died, dancing was out of sight. I think that was a main issue. People just kind of hung with their table groups. Many left early there was nothing to do but talk if you knew enough classmates.

Program was short and sweet, you want time for people to mingle and they got it.

It was OK that it was short as it gave more time for people to visit.

Excellent

I liked the idea that the program wasn't completely impacted with speakers but rather the chance to mingle and catch up with old friends.

6. Music and dancing:

Nice

Great set-up. It was there if you wanted it, but not intrusive if you didn't want it. I like that there was a flow from "gathering" to "dancing" and back, with no hassles, and no intrusions on others.

Didn't stay.

I was glad it was in another room because I wanted to talk to people and not dance. Bad back, bad feet, "old" stuff.....

Short. Sorry the speaker could not get the Pope or Donald Trump in his stead.

Perfect

Not observed. It must have started after I left.

Didn't hear the music and didn't dance.

Didn't stay that late or know it was on the venue.

Really nice to have a separate room for that so it did not interfere with visiting each other and conversing. However, since so few people seemed to be dancing, I don't think we need to offer it at future reunions.

Didn't participate.

Can't comment, missed that part.

Did not participate.

Not too many people took advantage of this but having it in a separate room was a good idea.

There was?

Like

I didn't even know there was any!

Don't know— never got in there!

Terrific

Not great

Music selection was great. Enjoyed hearing the music that was popular during our high school days. A lot of fun!!!

I never see the point in this. It is a big expense and I come to talk and connect not to dance. I know to some people this is important but I don't know why. Thank you for having it in another room so we could still hear and talk in other rooms.

Very nice. . . not too loud.

All good

POOR on both, bad location. Very poor music selection which didn't help! Sounded more like the 50's. We need the dancing in the same room for all enjoy, dance and watch.

Music should have been played in background during early part of evening when people were talking. Because it took so long for everyone to go through dinner line, it got too late for the dancing.

Would of preferred a DJ that could tailor to the audience dancing. For the next one I may be able to offer my DJ services. I have done music for two of the class of 65 reunions in the past.

Even though it was not used much I thought it was very nice.

Didn't stay for the dancing as I came alone.

7. Sunday brunch (if you attended):

N/A

The venue and room set-up were great. Even if you didn't sit next to someone, you could see them at the rest of the tables. Amazing that the kitchen could get that many plates out at relatively the same time. I thought it was going to be a buffet. I'm glad it wasn't. Sitting and visiting while someone else brought the food was perfect. The food was pretty good. A lot of it, for those with bigger appetites. A great way to close off the reunion weekend.

Didn't attend.

Good location, good food, I liked the table set up so we could see everybody around the room.

Did not attend.

Did not attend.

Did not attend.

Expected a buffet but the food was "good" though way too much of it. It was nice to have "light" and to be able to see people. Had more opportunity to talk to people I barely spoke with the night before. Glad we went.

I didn't attend the brunch...this I remember reading about the first announcement and don't really remember anything else about it.

Very good brunch. Would have been nice to have a venue with a view, but that would have added to the cost which was very reasonable at Buttercup Grill. Since the table set up was a doughnut shape, there was not a lot of opportunity to mingle. The room felt a bit tight for the number of people who attended.

The room was a little small, but service and food were good. A buffet would have been nice, but there wasn't space in this setting. But it was very enjoyable.

Did not attend.

Did not attend--had to leave early Sunday. Would have attended if I had had the time.

Another opportunity to visit with classmates.

Did not attend.

Did not attend.

N/A

Did not attend. Next time I probably will.

Good

Sorry, could not make it.

Did not attend

Didn't make it.

8. Anything else you wish to share?

More talk time. Not sure how to do it.

GAZILLION thanks to the committee for arranging such a memorable reunion weekend for us. Their hard work, and attention to detail showed, and made it a perfect event. Two suggestions/concerns: First--It would have been nice to know who else was staying in each hotel, and which rooms, so we could hook up on purpose, instead of randomly running into each other in the lobby. Second--Many attendees flew in for the weekend, making it difficult to get to the different venues. Perhaps some way to hook up with others who had a car, so they could ride together. Yes, the hotel had a shuttle for Friday and Sunday, but that left flyers stranded for the big event on Saturday.

N/A

I can't wait till the 55th!!! Same places would be good, except "Plank".

Thanks to the planning committee for all their hard work; especially to you Bill and to Tim and the group!

Hopefully, I'll make the next one.

Just my thanks for all you and your team did to make our 50th reunion a great success and lots of fun.

Appreciated all the work that went into putting a reunion together! Thank you everyone. One comment I received was that it was too expensive for people who lived out of town....cost of travel, hotel, meals and the reunion itself. That surely eliminated a few people. I missed the "picnics" in the past and think that some sort of out door ---but under cover--venue might work well with a catered bar-b-q. Outdoors where acoustics isn't an issue. If you have a place that allows alcohol, beer and wine could be included or it could be byob. More and more, people are appreciating a more laid-back event. Is there a way we can find out where people are so we can contact themI'll check the website. Thanks again. It was a memorable experience and am glad I attended.

I thought it was a wonderful evening. I wouldn't mind doing it again in 5 years.

Thank you Bill for all your hard work. It was fun seeing you even for a brief visit. I am still getting used to retirement and learning how to handle my time. Keep in touch! Yes, I would like to know how others felt about the event.

Fabulous reunion. "Thank You" to all the committee members for creating such a wonderful series of events.

Thanks very much to the committee for all their hard work to make a really well-organized and enjoyable experience. Congratulations!!!

It was an absolutely wonderful, fun memorable event and appreciate the hard work and organization of all those involved. Think we should do it in 5 years rather than 10 for obvious reasons. Lets do it again while we're still alive.

Great job!

Thank you to everyone who helped put this reunion together!!! I had a wonderful time and will cherish the memories of the event. Job well done!!!!

Thank you for doing it.

Thanks to everyone who worked so hard.

Great to see everybody in an excellent setting.

Where the 45th may have been the worst reunion we've had (!?!), this was the best! So much nicer venue than a hotel. Let's do it again exactly the same!

"Clean-up" committee members departed in advance of clean-up, leaving those of us still there to deal with (Tim did the heavy lifting, I think). Oops. Loved the pre-party on Friday and the brunch--more time to talk to people. Would also like to encourage obtaining people's (short, 1-page) bios. Would have loved to have had before, but after would be great to have after, too.

We had a really good time and will definitely go to the next one.

We had a really good time. Great Job!!!!

I just wish more people would attend. Out of a class of about 650 we should be able to get more attendance. I still feel a no host bar with appetizers for \$25 or \$30 a ticket would attract more people and be more affordable. The bar was no host at this one and the tickets were what, \$85? I know we paid for

dinner and the lovely setting. Just an idea. I know it has worked well with other class reunions and at \$50 a couple it may bring in more classmates. Please don't take my suggestions as criticism. You guys put in lots of hours to give us a wonderful evening. Thank you.

Although Sequoyah CC was a very nice place, my preference for Friday night and Sunday brunch would be somewhere on the other side of the tunnel such as Danville, San Ramon, Pleasanton. I think downtown Oakland is no longer a desirable place to be especially Fri night. Also, I'm going to purchase a video, but I do hope (& assume) the Video's won't be posted on the website due to privacy issues since the videographer was asking names, where we live etc. Thanks to all who put so much time into this great reunion and a special thanks to you Bill for creating such a friendly website!

Really appreciate all the time and work you and committee put into the event. I should have no reasons why I can't help out on next one. Put me down on the list. I had my daughter's wedding the week before, that's like putting on a reunion. All married now, have one granddaughter and waiting for more.

Your whole committee did a great job from letting everyone know of the function, website, constant emails, slide show, to reception with name tags and all! Well Done!!!

Thank you and your committee for all the work that goes into a reunion. It was fun to see people who had never attended a reunion and also folks that keep coming.

I wanted the opportunity to tell the committees what a wonderful job they all did to make this night so special. Also, the table of memorabilia was a great idea and I just loved the nostalgia.

General Responses (not to particular questions)

Hi Bill,

Sorry, had a computer melt down and can't type in replies.

However, here is quick summary:

First thank you to you and reunion committee for tons of work on this.

Can only imagine what it took to pull this off! Secondly, thought the event was very successful. Pre-planning mechanics, notices were well done. Name tags were clever and very helpful, including tags for the guests. Would have been hard to find people without them!

Registration and photo taking was smooth and friendly! Thanks for the photos, nice touch. Decorations and mementoes were nicely done. Sad to have a list of those who are no longer living, but the small memorial and naming were very touching. I think most people appreciated your doing that.

Food was ok. Ran out and then replenished. Not the best given the Bay Area gourmet scene. However, it really didn't matter that much. Fun was meeting people and having "something" to eat. Bar was great.

The venue allowed space to move around. Did not feel crowded or stuffy and views outside were beautiful! Dancing might have been better attended with a DJ, but maybe not.

This was my first reunion. Did not make the other events. My husband and I enjoyed ourselves. I knew and still only know very few people. It was great to see you and Eve Staccati and others. Had some

fun conversations with people I only knew by name, so it was nice that everyone was so friendly and the mood was very upbeat.

Last but not least, glad you introduced former teachers. Nice of them to attend. All in all, a great job! I sent similar remarks to my sister, June Mansfield, Class of 67. They used them for their planning.

Best wishes,

Hi Bill,

My response to all of your questions is "It was all Good". I was not able to attend the no host cocktail event, but did attend the Reunion and the Breakfast / Brunch. Very enjoyable!

A Great Reunion!!! When is the next one?? Everything was an excellent choice. My rating is %100 for all venues!!! Thanks for your hard work!!! Sorry Bill Nelson couldn't attend. Tim did a outstanding job!!

Everything was great. I don't know how it could have been better.