

Reunion Recap

BHS Class of 1989
20-Year Reunion
July 31 – August 2, 2009
Bridgeport, West Virginia



“Paint It Indian Red”

The reunion weekend began at PJ Kelly's in Clarksburg on Friday night. It was great to see everyone and we all basically hugged and drank the night



away. Many classmates were there that had yet to attend a reunion, like Scott Hunter and his wife Susan, Shannon Snyder Lepre, Cami Thomas McCandless, Julie Rettinger Bechert and our old friends John Billiter and Kevin Seamon. Such nice people

and some traveled quite a distance to help get the weekend started.

Saturday morning began with a tour of the high school, led by Mrs. Rowe. Most of the school looks the same, but there have been some additions, like a new theater and classrooms. There was some difficulty remembering where certain classes were located and teachers' names, (okay - maybe it was just me) but it was nice to see the school again.

We took our time looking at the trophy case and reminiscing about the old days, where we sat for lunch and whom we hung out with the most. And, we all recognized that the tile in the activities area is



the same - lime green with splashes of peach and blue. The gym looks great and the floor has been lacquered to a high shine. Most of the shine probably comes from all the hair spray we used back in the day.

The big event began Saturday evening at the Holiday Inn with happy hour and registration. Classmates were presented with a schedule of events, custom BHS nametag and DVD, which included pictures of the class of '89 from back in the day.



The reunion officially kicked off at 7p.m. with a short welcome to classmates. A prayer and moment of silence followed, read by Class President Mike Pratt, in honor of the classmates who are no longer with us: Jodi Freeman Summers, Jamey Paugh, Jerry Reid and Randy Cox.

Several teachers and coaches joined us, like Mrs. Rowe, Mr. laquinta, Mr. Lanzy and Mr. Jameson. It was nice to see them and they all look terrific. The class picture followed, where we were all sweltering under some really bright lights. Shannon Snyder Lepre commented she kept blinking because of the cameras flashing in our faces. But the picture is quite unique and definitely a keepsake.



We returned to the ballroom for dinner and held raffle drawings for a 50/50 and WV gift basket. Coulter Bracken won the 50/50 and Joe Dinaldo won the basket. They were sitting at the same table, which begs the question - who picked the winning tickets anyway? LOL! The proceeds from the raffles are being used to help fund the next reunion.

Class awards were presented to attendees of the reunion. They received a certificate and hand-painted water goblet, designed and painted by Brianna Dennison Cain.



Awardees included the following:

- Shannon Snyder Lepre** – Farthest Traveler Award from Bakersfield, CA
- Donna Baldini Mitchell** – Lives Closest to BHS Award
- Shawn Wilson** – Most Recent Child Award (daughter)
- Julie Rettinger Bechert** – Most Children Award (4 kids)
- Amy Byard Mehr** – First to Register Award
- Brian Watkins** – Wild Card Award for the longest hair!



Dancing followed the awards and raffles. Everyone did his or her best to cut a rug. One of the big moments came when Gary Lhotsky pulled out some of his old break-dancing moves. That's right, folks! GARY

DID THE WORM, SPUN ON HIS BACK AND STRUCK A POSE ON THE FLOOR! THREE TIMES! It was awesome and pretty impressive. More on Gary and his not-so-great move later in the story.

The other big moment, or so I'm told, is that Shawn Wilson, Mike Pratt and Coulter Bracken also boogied down, just a little bit, but still – they did their thing. Congrats guys!

Classmate Doug Maxwell captured lots of pictures and we thank him for all the time behind the camera, and for using the special lenses and filters for us 35 and older crowd. You rock, Doug!



After the reunion, festivities continued at Donna (Baldini) and Daniel Mitchell's house. They were so nice to open their home to us so we could continue the party. A BIG thank you to the Mitchell's - the party lasted well into the night.



Sunday wrapped up the weekend at Maple Lake with the family picnic. Committee members Brad Skinner and Gary organized the picnic along with Brianna Dennison Cain, Hilary Blankenship Gonzalez and Staci Unger.





Hamburgers and hot dogs were served along with side-dishes and desserts brought by volunteer classmates like, Kim LeMasters Sprouse, Julie Dolan, Jeff Chiodo and John Slavich.



It was nice to see everyone with their beautiful families swimming, canoeing, kayaking, and jumping on the water trampoline.



The picnic ended around 6pm, with many tired kids and classmates; however, one accident did occur. Gary Lhotsky tore his Achilles tendon jumping off the high-dive at the lake. He will have to have surgery, so it looks like break-dancing may be on hold for a while.

Well, that about does it gang! The 20-year reunion for Bridgeport High School Class of 1989 has come to a close. Lots of fun, food and laughs were had by all.

Thank you to everyone who traveled so far to enjoy the camaraderie of classmates. And, of course, thank you once again to the reunion planning committee who worked from Jan. to Aug. to make it all happen.

For those who could not make it, we hope to see you at the 25-year reunion. Just to be safe, go ahead and save the date now: **Summer 2014!** See you then!

Sincerely,
BHS Class of '89 20-year reunion committee:

- Brianna Dennison Cain
- Britt Fresa
- Hilary Blankenship Gonzalez
- Gary Lhotsky
- Jennifer O'Mara Renquest
- Brad Skinner
- Staci Unger
- Stacey Ryan
- Angela Caroli Messe
- Donna Baldini Mitchell



Not picture: Jennifer O'Mara Renquest, Donna Baldini Mitchell, Angela Caroli Messe, Stacey Ryan

Copies of the class favor reunion DVD are still available. Please email Britt Fresa if you'd like a copy. The mailing fee is \$2. If you'd like to order a copy of the class photo taken at the Holiday Inn, email David Lee Robinson at mr_robo@yahoo.com.



Why is Brad Skinner so happy to have Hell Cat back in his possession?

You'll have to email him to find out. ☺