

USAFA '68 Classmates & Spouses

Mid-Cycle Class of '68 Gathering Update – Mar 2025

This item is a follow-up to my previous interest letter regarding a potential mid-cycle class reunion. In it I requested feedback on the potential to gather at one of three following locations, and provided some related internet links for further evaluation.

- A. Sun - Fri period in Branson, MO. in May to get the Spring weather and before the end of school schedules that bring in many families.
- B. 2025 Cherry Blossom festival in Washington, DC. for some of us to finally see the Cherry blossoms in full bloom.
- C. Either a 9-day / 8-night Music City cruise between Nashville and Memphis, or a Sun - Fri period at Nashville, TN (that could include a Showboat cruise). March to May or September to November are said to be the best times to visit Nashville. That reduces to April – May and October – November for Memphis.

Although I reviewed the responses relatively quickly, family medical problems in Florida along with several local family medical issues and taxes have inhibited my providing this feedback until now. My apologies for my tardiness.

I sent out 94 interest emails directly and posted the same interest letter on the class website. I'm not a Facebooker so I didn't use that point of communications. Of the 94 interest emails plus a few more resulting from word of mouth, I received 17 responses (18% of emails), 14 of which (15% of emails) were positive to at least some degree.

11 of the 14 positive responses were interested in Banson (44% of responses), 9 interested Nashville and/or Memphis (36% of responses), and 5 willing to endure another visit to the Nation's Capital (12% of responses). There are some overlap and rank ordering information with the returns that were not consistent enough to be of value. *But given the response, I would only look to Branson or Nashville for a location at the above time periods.*

From one perspective, these numbers might suggest that the mid-cycle gathering isn't worth pursuing any further. With 476 classmates currently living, my interest solicitation covered almost 20% of the class. Even with a generous assumption that the survey was a valid representation of the opinion of the entire class, that would

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mean that at most 70 classmates, perhaps many with partners, that might be interested. Realistically, however, some would obviously have conflicts that would prevent their participation.

Given the passage of time, my family obligations and first level feedback, it is my observation that I/we would only have time to set up something for the fall time frame, if we go forward at all – i.e. **Nashville**.

Given my personal plans / family commitments, I can do some preliminary rummaging for the Sept – Oct time frame and see if I can find anything that looks interesting and reasonable. If anyone would like to share the investigation, I'd be happy to share the load. Similarly, if this is a proverbial "No-Op" call in your eyes, I'd appreciate knowing that as well. A significant enough "No-Op" feedback would put a blanket on my efforts.

That's the current status and plan. My apologies for the delays and priority conflicts that I've had to deal with. Hopefully, something of interest and value will come of this, or we can terminate and refocus on the 60th reunion in 2028.

Cheers!

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