



## Navigation Panel

[Home](#)

[About Us](#)

[Reunion Information](#)

[Photo Albums](#)

[Alumni Calendar](#)

[Newsletters](#)

[Other Alumni](#)

[History](#)

[Midshipmans Foundation](#)

[Forms](#)

[Links](#)

[Contact Us](#)



## 25th Annual Alumni Reunion (November 5, 2011)

Return to: [Photos](#) [Matrix](#)

### Texas Whips Tech 52-20

**50th Reunion class of 1961 and 40th Reunion class of 1971**

Well we weren't quite sure which team Texas Tech would bring with them when they played Saturday, the one that upset OU or the one that lost to Iowa State, but it became real obvious by the second quarter which one it was. Texas clobbered Tech 52 to 20. So the BBQ was a festive one.

The weekend started early Friday morning, November 4<sup>th</sup>, out at Star Ranch, delayed slightly for the frost on the ground to melt. We had four foursomes this year. Everyone started off with a hot breakfast in the clubhouse before teeing off. There were 10 golfers playing for Navy and six playing for the Marine Corps this year. Once the sun came out it turned into a beautiful day. Around noon players finished and had a nice buffet lunch at the clubhouse before heading out. From the rules devised by Bob Brown we took the best three scores from the Navy and Marine Corps players and averaged them. From the scorecards turned in, Navy won by 7 strokes (92 to 99)! Everyone, though, had a good time.

Nearly half the players then had to rush back for a change and meet at the J. J. Pickle Research Campus for the 3:00 p.m. dedication of the 1stLt James A. Burns USMC Obstacle Course. Dean Randy L. Diehl and Assistant Dean Kathleen Aronson attended the gathering. There were about 50 guests present and four teams of Navy and Marine Corps personnel to demonstrate how to run the course. The PNS, CAPT Dixon, had predicted that the Freshman team would be the one to beat and that, indeed, turned out to be the case. Theirs was the best time. Before the demonstration the dedication program was run by Bob Collins '68, a classmate and close friend of Jim Burns. He recounted his time with Jim and his competitive nature. Jim's sister and brother-in-law, Judy and David Enstone, were present as well. Judy also added her memories of Jim. Lastly LtGen Jeff Howell, USMC (Ret) '61 gave an inspirational account of what the "O" Course represents in building individual stamina and teamwork for Marines. It was a very moving program. Guests were invited to a reception given by the Enstones at the Daily Grill about a mile from the "O" Course after the dedication and demonstration were over.

Friday night, as usual, was a divided evening for alumni. Some went to Scholz's to celebrate with classmates over a few beers. Others went to the Awards Dinner at the Austin Country Club. At the dinner, three of our alumni were honored with the Distinguished Alumnus award. ADM Bill McRaven '77 was unable to attend but said he will be with us next year. Two of the recipients, Bob Armstrong '53 and John Montford '65, were able to attend and receive their awards. Both brought their wife to share the experience. Both men have achieved significant success in their lives as civilians, but it was their recounting of their brief Navy and NROTC times that brought the most amusement to the audience. Bob was in the Navy but spent his entire career on a ship that was German, a spoil from WWII. He spent most of that time just trying to figure out how to read the German owner's manual. John went Marine Option and was a Crow's Nester and a Buccaneer. He recounted a tale about weighing anchor in Littlefield Fountain. As always, our host, Rusty Allman, a classmate of Montford, provided a superb dinner and fine facilities for this event.

Saturday began quite early for the Alumni Foundation board members who met for a short meeting at 7:15 a.m. in Welch Hall. They elected two new directors, Doug Fisher '70 and Kevin Hugman '80. They will be taking over for two directors who are rotating out, John Engstrom '66 and Gabe Salazar '79. Many thanks to John and Gabe for their service and welcome aboard to Doug and Kevin. Gabe will continue to serve as a director on the board of the Midshipmans Foundation and John says he wants to continue to participate as an ex-officio member of the board and our BBQ coordinator. Usually this board meeting chooses the next Reunion date as well but this was complicated by two issues. If we are to do it on a football weekend, the schedule for next year is not yet out due to problems about the future of the Big XII. The other issue was whether we want to continue to be a slave to the football schedule each year. The latter issue had to wait for President Mike Waldron to get some feedback at the General Business meeting from the general alumni membership.

At 8:30 a.m. we conducted a General Business Meeting followed by our annual scholarship awards ceremony. Mike took an informal survey and overwhelmingly, most alumni wanted to continue to hold our Reunion on a home game weekend. The Treasurer's report indicated that our drive for "Life Sponsors" of the Alumni Foundation has grown the endowment to over \$10,000 now. This year we awarded \$34,500 in scholarships and three swords to 21 deserving midshipmen and officer candidates. See the scholarship awards page for details. After the awards ceremony, specialty insignia were pinned on several future aviators, submariners and surface warfare candidates by alumni and staff representatives of those warfare communities.

At 10:00 a.m. around 50 of the attendees strolled over to Memorial Stadium for the Texas-Texas Tech game. Others viewed it at the Alumni Center or just strolled around the campus visiting old sites. The pre-game activities honoring our veterans were inspiring. Four members of the 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne parasailed into the stadium at midfield carrying the U.S. flag, Texas flag, POW-MIA flag and the Longhorn flag. The last one also delivered the game ball. Immediately after that we were treated to a flyover by two F-18 Hornet fighter jets flown by Navy pilots, CDR "Dudley" Norman and LT "Duke" Searles, both with VFA-83, Rampagers, out of NAS Oceana, Virginia Beach, VA. They and their squadron XO, CDR "Bugjob" Markovich, joined us at our BBQ after the game.

At 3:00 p.m. all alumni and friends congregated back at Speedway Plaza for our annual BBQ. After the trouncing in Memorial Stadium everyone who was there could just casually stroll back to Speedway. The folks at Pok-E-Jo's did another fine job of serving up Texas barbecued brisket and sausage with all the trimmings. They served for an hour and a half. Then folks just got to relax, enjoy the beautiful weather and visit with each other into the evening while trying to float two kegs. Officially our time on Speedway Plaza expired at 6:00 p.m. but that didn't stop anyone from sticking around, even after the middle work detail removed tables and chairs.

No stories to share about Sunday morning because I couldn't hang around this year but I suspect that the old tradition of meeting for a "migas" breakfast at Cisco's on 6<sup>th</sup> Street has probably disappeared. If anyone knows differently, please let me know.

By Ed Mergele '75

