

Summary Report
2013 Pioneers of Stealth Reunion
San Diego, CA.

Total Reunion Attendees: 66 members, 60 spouses/guests. Total: 126
Total Banquet Attendees: 130 (includes speaker and guests)

	<u>Approx No.</u>	<u>% of Total</u>
Approx. Hospitality room attendance:	Wednesday: 60	46%
	Thursday: 90	69%
	Friday: 100	77%
	Saturday: 60	46%

Note: Hospitality room attendance can vary significantly from the above, based on time open, distance to restaurants, overlapping activities, etc.

Total Reunion Costs: (Rounded)	Banquet Costs: \$ 5150
	Hospitality (net): \$ 1650 (includes returned items)
	Other: <u>\$ 1300</u> (room, prizes, bus, admin)
	Total: \$ 8100

Cost per attendee to PoS Treasury: approx.: \$23 per person (excludes banquet and lodging)

Hospitality Room Consumption:	Wine (white): 42 bottles (of 48 purchased)
	Wine (red): 24 bottles (of 24 purchased)
	Water: 29 bottles (of 120 purchased)
	Beer (Light) 30 cans (out of 144 purchased)
	Beer (Reg.) 56 cans (out of 72 purchased)
	Soda (Diet) 28 cans (out of 72 purchased)
	Soda (Reg.) 27 cans (out of 36 purchased)
	Iced Tea 4 gallons (out of 6 purchased)
	Popcorn: 3 large bags (out of 4 purchased)
	Chips: 3 medium bags (out of 10 purchased)
	Trail Mix: 1 medium bag (out of 10 purchased)
	M&M's 1 family size bag (out of 4 purchased)
	Mixed Nuts: 4 large tins, all consumed)
	Cheese: 12-14 lbs purchased, all consumed
	Crackers: 6 standard boxes, all consumed
	Cherry Tomatoes: About 20 dozen consumed

Recommendations for future reunions:

Hospitality Room Lessons Learned:

- (1) No matter how hard you plan or what complex math you do on the above data, you won't get it exactly right, so don't stress out about it. The 2009 reunion had about 50 attendees, while 2011 Maine Reunion had about 90. As indicated above, we had about 130. It is an interesting

exercise to try to scale the hospitality room requirements to the number of attendees. We tried to do it, averaging the suggestions between Jerry's summary (in the PoS website archives) and some private communications with Jack Twigg. You can judge from the above data how well we did and make your own adjustments.

- (2) Unopened snack foods are usually returnable (we used mostly Costco), liquor usually is not (we donated our extra liquor to a local military charity).

This was not a light beer crowd, and even regular beer consumption was minimal. Wine was much more popular. One theory suggested that the men drink beer, the women drink wine. That was not the case in San Diego, as you can see by the numbers. In fact, most of the men, from what I observed, were drinking red wine.

- (3) We bought some quality red and white wines, and the amount of white wine we bought was pretty close to accurate. We definitely underestimated the red wine consumption, suggest next time a ratio of 3 bottles red for every 4 bottles of white. Interestingly, the wine was cheaper at Trader Joe's, even with the CA sales tax, than at the Navy Exchange. Given the locale and weather, we thought many more people would be taking bottles of water with them, either to the beach or on local excursions. We overbought, see above, but water is cheap as you know, better to have too much than not enough.
- (4) The chips and trail mix were hardly touched. Popcorn and mixed nuts were very popular.
- (5) We made our own cheese trays, much cheaper than buying premade trays (of the order of 50% less). The cherry tomatoes were from our garden (maybe 500 or more of them), and they went fast.
- (6) Don't forget the non-edible essentials- plates, plastic-ware, plastic glasses, paper towels, serving utensils, bowls, and trays, wrap to cover left-over food, can/bottle openers, cork screw, etc.. Also poster boards for displays (we displayed menus from local restaurants, see below).
- (7) We kept the hospitality room open for a few hours each day (minimum) for 4 days. Attendance is less on the first and last day, depends when people arrive and when they leave. We felt that anything worth doing is worth overdoing, you can do whatever you think is best.

Organization:

Make sure you read Jerry's excellent summary of the 2009 reunion. This summary should be used in conjunction with his information.

We had some pre-reunion logistical issues with having the Reunion on an active Military base, but nothing that couldn't be mitigated when you have a Flag officer in the loop. For the next on-base reunion, make sure you have the details on what is needed for (unescorted) civilian base access, bus transportation (if used), vehicle access/insurance requirements, etc. Also, make sure you know the deadlines for getting this information to Base Security.

For lodging, we had to go through the 800# Navy Lodge system for all civilians (retired military is not an issue, they can call themselves, but it makes it easier for the organizer if they go through the 800# system). We had to submit a list of "authorized" attendees prior to them calling, you can read the hoops we had to jump through in any of the early emails we sent out. Basically, it was (1) attendee informs organizer of intentions, (2) organizer informs local base housing contact and creates a running list, (3) base housing contact contacts 800# and authorizes attendee to make a reservation, (4) base housing contact informs organizer that the attendee is "good to go", and finally, (5) attendee calls 800# and makes their reservation w/deposit.

This year was the first that we offered “scholarships” to members that otherwise could not afford to attend. Unfortunately, the availability of same did not manifest itself until a few months before the reunion, when most of the attendees had finalized their plans. If scholarship money is still available for next reunion, make sure the word gets out. Remember also that any and all scholarship recipients are to remain confidential, only the reunion committee (including the organizer) needs to be in the loop.

Running the Hospitality Room is a major undertaking and is time consuming. We had a LOT of spontaneous volunteers from the general membership in setting up, running, and taking down the area each day. I imagine this to be the norm with the quality of people we have attending; but don't be afraid to ask for help.

Prior to the reunion we went to the local tourist information sites (usually located on major highways into or out of a tourist area) and gathered quantities of brochures. We placed these in the “information packets” (that also contained the badges, reunion schedule of events, etc.). Not sure how many were used (San Diego has a plethora of local attractions as the attendees discovered). One thing, however, that proved very popular was the list of local restaurants. This did require some legwork on our part, physically going to any restaurant that didn't have their menu online. We added information to the list for folks with special dietary needs (Vegan/vegetarian, gluten/dairy free, etc.) which I know was greatly appreciated by those who were affected.

When organizing the banquet, again make sure that those folks with special dietary needs can be accommodated. Nothing can spoil a banquet for an individual than not be able to eat at the banquet, the main event of the Reunion. I suggest a line be included in the reunion sign-up sheets (via the website), which is what we had.

The golf tournament was fairly straightforward to organize as my brother and I do this routinely in the San Diego area. All of the prizes were donated by us from our semi-infinite stash of prizes collected over the years, don't try to duplicate it or you'll drive up the costs considerably. A prize for the top one or two finishers (or teams) is fine. There were about 24 golfers participating in San Diego, but we did have about 6 last minute dropouts. Arrange for tee times well in advance at a local course. Overestimate the number of players, you can usually cancel unused tee times a week or so in advance (depends on course policy). The tournament format we used (Peoria) is straightforward (at least to us), and it serves as an “ability equalizer” given the lack of official handicaps of most of the players. The tournaments at the two previous reunions were less formalized than ours (no pre-assigned foursomes, no sign in sheets, etc.), but all worked out very well. Either way works, everyone has a good time. I (Steve Bepko) am certainly willing to help in any tournament endeavors if requested.

More detailed data on the reunion is available if desired (brands of wine and nuts, overhead vs. recurring costs, etc.). If you want it and my Excel spreadsheet hasn't gone south, I'll be glad to compile whatever information would be helpful to future reunion organizers.

Submitted by:

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