

## *The Opportunity of a Lifetime (March, 2011)*



*First in Work, First in Fun.  
Senior Class of '61.*

Hi, Classmates,

**Remember** where you were Thursday, May 25, 1961, at 8 p.m.? You were sitting in the auditorium at AHS. We graduated that day from Anchorage High School as the last, best graduating class.

About 560 of our singularly varied group of kids – **some military brats, some native-born Alaskans, some the children of adventurers and opportunity seekers** – marched in, sat, listened to Chaplain Carriker give the invocation, Martha Davis the salutatory, Tom Kelly the Senior Class President's address, and Doug Bruce the Valedictory. Then Mr. Joe Montgomery called our names. **Then we walked and flipped our tassels.** Remember all that?

Maybe we don't remember all of it, especially the boring parts. **Graduation Night** was on our minds. **The future** was also on our minds. We thought we would always keep in touch. Then many of us went our separate ways, to places all over the globe.

Now we have the **opportunity of a lifetime**. Let's get back together, in Anchorage, AK, at the summer solstice, for our 50<sup>th</sup> AHS Class of '61 Reunion, June 17-19.

AHS Class of '61, **come from wherever you are**. Come from 5,000 miles or more – from Alabama, Georgia, Massachusetts, and other states. Come from up the road a bit. Come from outside the U.S. **But come**, by plane, train, cruise ship, walkers, feet – to **re-connect** with the people who helped define your life, **to celebrate** current lives, **to share** memories of those special years with special friends and acquaintances, **to create** new bonds and friendships, and **to honor** those we've lost.

**The Reunion Committee's call is out:** Anchorage's AHS Class of '61, **where are you?**

We have found **284-and-counting** of us, but we are **missing 297**. **Please get involved.**

Here's how to start connecting:

- Go to our **Web site** – [www.AHS61.com](http://www.AHS61.com)
- Go to the **Found Classmates** page on the site, and see who we are.
- Then go to the **Missing Classmates** page and see who needs to be found. **Help us find them.**
- Go to the **Contact Us** page. Here you can connect with friends, send us addresses, phone numbers, and e-mail addresses. Let other classmates know how much we want them to be there.
- Go to our **official Facebook group** and join it.



- Go to the top of any page on the site and click on the **(Registration Form)** link. **Register.** At the bottom of the registration form you may **contribute a donation** to the Reunion to help throw the best 50<sup>th</sup> High School Reunion ever. Print the form out and send it by snail mail. Then click on the “**Return to Reunion**” link to see the complete information about the events: times, places, who may come, maps, and more.
- If you book a room at the **Captain Cook**, remember to ask for the special Class of '61 Reunion rate.
- Go to the **Cruise** page for really tempting information, pictures, and contact information. **The Cruise up the Inside Passage** is an extra-special event, the brainchild of Joel Wight, but you need to act quickly.
- Go to the **Class of '61 Blog** to read and to contribute to our very own class blog. Only classmates can get in to the blog, and there's a place to create an account.
- And best of all go to the **Photos** page! Don't miss it. To send more pictures, contact Ron Thorne at [rpthorne@gci.net](mailto:rpthorne@gci.net). Ron and his son Justin have created this incredible and professional website. A special thanks to them.

**The days are getting longer, time is getting shorter, and we're getting older.** So, let's get together. First, we'll gather Friday, June 17, 2:30 p.m., at **Anchorage High School** to hug, kiss, gasp, and be grateful we're all there.

Then we'll move on to the **Ice Breaker** and registration at the Hotel Captain Cook's Quarter Deck. There will be a Sock Hop, picnic, and other ways to reconnect.

Remember, go to the Web site at [www.AHS61.com](http://www.AHS61.com) for the complete schedule and maps, and to register for our 50th Reunion.

Other links of interest:

*State of Alaska Travel Information*

[www.travelalaska.com](http://www.travelalaska.com)

*Alaska Travel Industry Association Hottest Deals*

[www.alaskashottesttraveldeals.com](http://www.alaskashottesttraveldeals.com)

*Anchorage Convention and Visitors Bureau (ACVB)*

[www.anchorage.net](http://www.anchorage.net)

*AlaskaInfo.org*

[www.alaskainfo.org](http://www.alaskainfo.org)

*Alaska Tourist*

[www.alaska.net/~logjam/tourist.html](http://www.alaska.net/~logjam/tourist.html)

Don't miss this rare opportunity.  
The AHS Class of '61 Reunion Committee