



Benedictine High School

Class of 1957 Quarterly Newsletter

FALL 2008 NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 1, NUMBER 1

Here we go. You ask, where? Good Question.

Fifty years is a long time. It can be a lifetime. Since our graduation in 1957, we have invested the most productive years of our lives in our careers, families and communities. During our BHS years, we shed our innocence and added basic core principles that were sustenance for overcoming the many obstacles we faced. Each class member tells his own story. Some took a distant path "away" from Richmond. Others remained nearby in the Richmond or Virginia area. Yet we have *one thing in common* – we all started from the same place at the same time. With the Class Reunion last year, both groups reunited. You could say we have returned home and feel "at home" with our class again.

The Reunion has triggered a desire to stay in touch and that is why this newsletter was born. How we proceed will be a work in process. Your input is appreciated. *In this inaugural issue*, Bill Bain will report the "hot class news" with his regular column, "**The Chop Block**". I will explain some Class website features in "**Website Bytes**". Your suggestions for future newsletters are appreciated. Email me or "Chopper".



Bob Ayres,
Assistant Editor
& Webmaster



THE CHOP BLOCK

Bill "Chopper" Bain, Editor

VISION 2012 Committee Report Expected Soon

According to Vision 2012 committee chairman, Mr. James Harenchar '82, the Vision 2012 committee of 17 school staff and alumni was formed to examine the ideals, images, parameters, and criteria to assure that our high school provides an experience that is responsive to the educational needs of all our students and our community both now and in its next century. The committee has been meeting and gathering information since 2007. Reportedly the committee findings are now in the hands of Mary Mother of Church Abbey for study. No specific release date has been announced but some close to the study feel it could be by year end or the first quarter of 2009. If the report is released before our next newsletter, we will send you a special news bulletin.

Bill Bain,
Editor

Class News and Notes

The time and date for the next Class of 1957 lunch has been set for Wednesday, Nov. 12 at noon at Extra Billy's ,4899 W. Broad St near Willow Lawn Call me at 804-740-1818 if you plan to attend.



There happens to be a few more "Big 7-0!" birthdays in November, December and January.



Les Merkel Nov. 12

John Kiernon Dec. 18

Frank Doherty Nov. 7

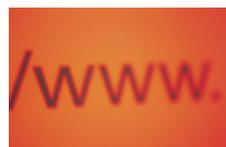
Paul Myatt Dec. 29

Andy Thacker Nov. 11.

Arthur Zohab Jan. 26. 2009



Joe Koster, underwent quadruple heart bypass surgery September 11th. He is progressing well and thanks all that have extended their wishes for a quick and full recovery.



Website Bytes

Bob Ayres, Webmaster

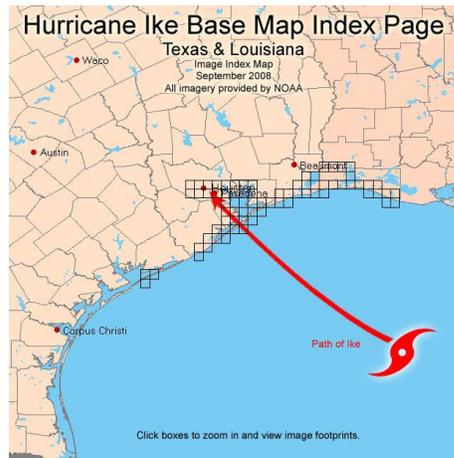
Contact information

Staying in touch requires having current contact information. In the last sixty days, you should have received an email requesting you update personal contact information for our class website, www.bhs-class1957.com. This information is our "lifeline" for keeping you up to date with everything that's going on with our class. If you have not responded yet, please email me at rbayres@earthlink.net and we will quickly get it done.



"In his Own words"

Class of '57, Andy Thacker Survives "Ike"



Yes I'm stubborn, and I rode the hurricane out. At 4 a.m. (Sept. 13) I was walking around in the eye of the storm. It was a really big eye, and took an hour to pass overhead. The storm was relatively quick; it only took about 24 hours for it to come and go. Lots of wind and rain ... sort of like our politicians.

The storm took its toll on the Gulf Coast. Many of the towns on Galveston Bay are not there anymore. About one third of Seabrook either washed away or was underwater. There were boats on many People's lawns. The storm was only a category two in terms of wind, but because it was so big it was a category four in terms of surge.

Because my neighborhood was new, the houses all met the new windstorm requirements. My house is supposed to withstand 150 mile an hour winds. It did, and I only lost a few shingles. Four sections of my fence blew down the back yard and the light pole at my pool broke in half. This surge rose into the streets of Seabrook Island, but it did not reach any of the home's. We are probably at one of the highest elevations in town. Everything on the other side of the highway was underwater.

Centerpoint provides the electricity to over 2 million homes on the Gulf Coast. 99% of the customers lost power. That's about 8 million people. I had no power for 12 days, no phone or computer for 10 days, no water for two days and no cell phone for four days. It seems the generators providing the electricity for the cell towers when the power went out ran out of gas. Since we couldn't go anywhere and were basically out of communication with the rest of the world, we helped each other. We were a community of generators, with extension cords running everywhere ... across the street and between houses.

Since no one had anywhere to go because all of the businesses were closed because of no power, we all got together and fixed each others' houses. After a few days, we'd taken down the boards, replaced shingles, re-erected fences, cleaned pools and picked up and stacked debris.

So now we're pretty well back to normal, whatever that is. Thanks for all the care and offers to put me up. I remember that next time one comes through, and maybe I'll take you up on it. The last hurricane to hit Houston was 25 years ago; hopefully, we have another 25 years before the next one.

Andy

Dr. Andrew J. Thacker
Professor Emeritus
International Business & Marketing
California State Polytechnic University, Pomona

WANTED: More Class Wisdom and Yarns

One dividend "survivors" of our vintage can draw from are the many life stories and wisdom learned along the way. Maybe, it is something we can all gain from and you would like to share it with the class. Just like Andy's personal story about his heroics with "Ike", we are interested in your yarns from today or yesterday. Maybe it is something learned from your career experience or a life principle you were taught and want to share. Or it could be a simple "how to" you want to add to the classes' list.

If so, email me your offering. Keep it under a 1,000 words. Those articles selected will appear in the next quarterly newsletter and on our class website.

Next Quarterly eMail Newsletter: Winter Edition, Feb., 2009

BHS Class of '57
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