



# Delta Phi Sigma Epsilon Alumni



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Fall 2011/Winter 2012

## Apologies

Hey there, Brothers of the Heart! As you can discern from reading this, the date is at least January 2012, as this is when I wrote this to go with the rest of the enclosed Newsletter. However, it still goes without saying, that I hope you all had a Happy Thanksgiving, a Merry Christmas and are now enjoying the mild weather of the New Year.

My apologies for the lateness of this originally named Fall 2011 Newsletter, that I might as well now officially rename, the Winter 2012 Newsletter. I generally try to put this out to you before Thanksgiving, but got side-tracked with too many of my own projects.

Just before the Spring 2011 Newsletter went out electronically, my basement was completely flooded (twice) with about 2-3 inches of stormwater while I was in Savannah, GA, with Dave Foreman and other friends (See article in Spring 2011 Newsletter). Getting the water out was not an issue, but getting everything dried and then getting the finished basement back to normal pre-flood status was the bigger chore. As I have stated before, I collect all kinds of old breweriana (brewing industry advertising) and because my basement "beer room" was somewhat disheveled, I lost some stuff to water damage and had a lot more substantially damaged by the water. A total remake of that room was the only course of action available to me to prevent that from occurring again. Embarking on that in the summer was a more daunting task than I originally thought. With grandchildren trips, vacation travel, holidays and a busy lifestyle, the work took a lot longer than I anticipated it would. Some work in an alternate display area was literally only completed this week, with the bulk completed though by the end of November. Having followed that path of action, I put the PSE Newsletter on the back burner. Then, with the onset of the Christmas season, everything just got even crazier and I just couldn't get focused enough to sit down at the computer and crank it out. I won't even get into the computer issues, suffice to say that I am a "techno Saur" (tech challenged) old schooler, who is more comfortable with rotary dial phone technology. I do my best to "fit in", but couldn't get by without my wife Sharon and her patience bailing me out when needed.

So o.o.o, I hope you'll forgive the tardiness of this Newsletter. And, the way this winter is going, I'll soon be readying the Spring 2012 Newsletter for your perusal. In any case, I never know how much the PSE Newsletters are even actually looked at or read, so maybe the lateness is a moot point anyway. However, I do enjoy assembling all the information and conveying it to you in my own presentation style, so you're stuck with me until the PSE Board makes the change or "Old-Timer's" disease kicks in.

## Gone Too Soon

With a sudden rush of email traffic on my computer beginning on December 12, 2011, the information filtering out was for any confirmation of the sudden death of Ken Gusewelle. Originally requested by Randy Rothrock (based upon wife Cyndi hearing from a Staunton friend), it soon was emailed to Pat Wesley, Roger Long, Bill Granger, Larry Carl, Ron Rami and myself, seeking information about or verification of what was initially emailed. Then, by December 15<sup>th</sup>, we had received the news that he had indeed passed away on December 14, 2011, from complications of a massive heart attack. Pat Wesley then provided an email obituary notification in the December 16, 2011, newspaper that provided information regarding the upcoming services. Tom Swanson also posted a note on the PSE website that provided information relative to pending services. The visitation was set for December 18<sup>th</sup> and the funeral was the next morning in Worden, IL, just one or two communities removed from where "Goose" grew up in Hamel, IL.

I never expected to hear this news about "Goose", as he was affectionately known to everyone that knew him. Indeed, he and I, along with Bill Weir, had famously (or infamously) cheated death in March of 1968 in the middle of a rushing White River, just below Bull Shoals Dam in Arkansas on a Spring Break fishing trip gone somewhat awry. Another triumvirate of fraternity fishing buddies (John Jachino, Jim Porter & Jerry Gotthardt) nearly suffered the same fate while trying to help us from the 40 degree water that we were partially immersed in. Our rented boat had flipped in the swift water, landing us precariously clinging to a partially submerged tree. The boat owner ultimately saved Goose, Bill & me, by positioning his boat to keep us from going into the rapids nearby and then pulling us individually from the water into his boat. While awaiting that rescue, and feeling the effects of the cold on our immersed extremities, we three Brothers had begun to make our peace with God. I guess that our Maker had other plans for us, as we all went on to various careers and livelihoods, with families of our own.

While in college, Goose had befriended everyone that he would meet. He was the consummate ambassador for the Phi Sig fraternity and its brotherhood. We always thought that he was known by everyone on campus, and for the most part it was true. It must have also been true of his surrounding communities of friends and family and maybe that of his St. Louis workplace family "away from home". I was able to attend the visitation for him, but waited in line for almost 30 minutes (outside & inside), while the line snaked around to minimize the total length of people waiting to pay their respects. It seemed true, that he was known by everyone, old and young, men and women, family and many, many friends.

Goose is survived by his wife Sue, his son Walker (Liz), daughters Brooke and Tori, 3 grandchildren (Logan, Jane & Gage), his mother, 4 brothers & 4 sisters, numerous aunts and uncles, cousins, nephews and nieces and all those who knew him as a friend.

Rest in Peace Brother!

## PSE Golf Outing

With the temperature hovering at a balmy 27 degrees as I write this, it seems a little incongruous that I should be writing about the Phi Sig golf outing that took place on June 4, 2011, at the Minne Monesse Golf Club in Grant Park, IL, hosted again by Tom Swanson. On the other hand, this just might be exactly what we want to peruse right now, in an attempt to brighten up the winter doldrums with thoughts of hitting the greens again, instead of the omnipresent browns and whites of the winter season.

The 2011 version of the annual Phi Sig Open was the first get-together since the Phi Sig Open in May 2009. As you may recall, the 2010 Phi Sig golf outing was not scheduled because of the impending 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Phi Sig Reunion (June 11-13, 2010) held here in Charleston, IL. Inclusive to that Reunion was the golf outing that supplanted our yearly outing in the Chicago area.

With the mantra that "even a bad day golfing is better than a good day at work" firmly implanted in our minds, the group of 20 Phi Sigs took to the course after enjoying some breakfast and/or conversation prior to the late morning tee times. The weather seemed to be "baby bear" perfect, not too hot and not too cold, but just right. With five even foursomes hitting the links, it gave all appearances of being a great day. Those playing were Dave Carrell, Tim Kearns, Bob Kincade, Alan Story, Duane Nyckel, Jerry Nyckel, Rick Ratliff, Tom Swanson, Ron Eichhorn Boone Chaney, Kirk Davis, John Ziebarth, Dick Swing, Jim Porter, Jim Luthe, Jerry Gotthardt, Rick Tate, Wally Kos, Ken Dennison and me, Gary Brinkmeyer. Wally Kos, Ken "Spider" Dennison & Kirk "Herbie" Davis braved playing with me as the last foursome playing the final tee time. With the first tee times finishing up the initial nine holes, the weather began to become the conversation of choice, while the speed of the golfers intensified to match the changes in the weather. The winds were picking up and the skies were becoming ominous, with distant rumblings of thunder coming ever closer. With the near completion of 18 holes for the earlier tee times and we, the last foursome heading for the 15<sup>th</sup> hole, the skies opened up. The lightning that had not been visible earlier and the increased wind intensity forced club officials to blow the horn to clear the course. Sudden strong gusts of wind were bringing down multiple leaved twigs and even some larger branches that we both saw and heard breaking. Throwing most caution to the literal wind, we got the carts retreating to the clubhouse as soon as possible, but by the time we were throwing our clubs into our respective cars, the deluge of rain had deteriorated to a cascade of hail, some as large as golf balls. With a number of us in the bathroom trying to get dried off, the power went out, plunging that bathroom pitch-black. You seriously could not see your hand in front of your face. Fortunately, someone tried to come in, thereby casting some natural daylight into the room, so we could see our way out. The whole group of 20 Phi Sigs congregated on the outdoor covered clubhouse deck to continue watching the hail and branches come down, while sipping our beverage of choice and conversing. With the storm finally passing, everybody made the push to head out to Swanney's for the always welcomed and much appreciated appetizers and pizza that awaited us. I believe everyone, but Jerry & Duane Nyckel, was able to make it out for the hospitality, great food and beverages provided by Tom & LaDonna. The pizza guy always loves to hit our party and leaves well-rewarded for his efforts, while LaDonna's appetizers are to die for and generally don't survive very long. Thank you both for all your efforts. The Swanson hotel was once again opened up to those of us choosing to not risk driving 2-3 hours home after a day of golf and imbibery. Looking out over the fields the next day (Sunday), there were literal lakes of standing water, some from previous rains and wet weather, but many having increased in volume from the Saturday storms. With all the confusion that ensued after getting off the course, we didn't get a group picture, but did get some individual pictures. Don't know where this year will take us, but we will let you know in the Spring 2012 Newsletter

**Obituaries**

**David W. Brown**  
**Kenneth E. Gusewelle**

**PSE Twenty-First Annual Student Awards**

Just when the PSE Alumni Assn. thought that it was approaching the end-game with the mid-year graduation of the only recipient of the PSE Student Award in 2010, along came a new student to Eastern, whose Dad was an EIU Phi Sig too. And, it appears that we may also have another student this coming year, as I have already been contacted by a parent with that information.

On Sunday, August 21, 2011, the Phi Sigma Epsilon Alumni Assn. once again hosted the Noon luncheon and subsequent presentation of the PSE Student Awards to two students at my home in Charleston, IL. If we continue this number growth, we may have to go back to retaining the park pavilion as we did for most of the past awards presentation-that's a good problem to have, to be sure.

For the fourth year in a row, Landon Arney, son of Larry & Laura Arney of Effingham, IL, was a recipient of a PSE Student Award, but because of his anticipated mid-year graduation in December, he was only presented with half of what he would normally receive for the year. A check for \$250 was presented to him-if he would have been in school the whole year, he would have received a check for \$500 and been the first and only student to have received four years of Awards at the maximum \$500 amount. However, the tradeoff was definitely in his favor to graduate early, since the gain in PSE Student Award money is hardly analogous to an extra semester in college. In addition, a first-year PSE Student Award of \$500 was presented to Evan Boone, son of William ("Rusty") & Karen Boone, of Butler, IL. Rusty was a 1979 graduate of EIU, who now works as a finish carpenter for a local building company when he isn't fishing or competing in fishing tournaments.

With the completion of the luncheon and the monetary disbursements, we retreated to the south side of my garage for the obligatory pictures beneath the PSE banner. We then sauntered up to the Phi Sig Archives Room in the second story garage area to show the younger Mr. Boone some evidence of his Dad's years at Eastern and say good-bye to the Arney family, upon completion of Landon's time at Eastern in December. Several pictures from the PSE Student Awards are shown below.



Left to Right  
**Karen Boone, Evan Boone, William "Rusty" Boone**



Left to Right  
**Laura Arney, Landon Arney, Larry Arney**

**PSE Tidbits**

In late June 2011, I received an invitation to attend a celebration for the 60<sup>th</sup> birthday of Duayne Nyckel AND the 65<sup>th</sup> birthday of Jerry Nyckel. Not so unusual, you say! People have birthday celebrations all the time. Oh, did I forget to mention the rest of the invitation. It stated, "Come watch the Aspens change to yellow-gold as we celebrate Duayne's 60<sup>th</sup> and Jerry's 65<sup>th</sup> in Steamboat Springs, Colorado-September 24, 2011". Talk about doing it up right-WOW! Or as I like to say, "If you're gonna be a bear, be a grizzly".

I'm sure quite a few invitations went out to friends and family, all with an RSVP request by mid-August. I did call Duayne in early August, after trying to reach Jerry, to sorrowfully and begrudgingly express my regrets at not being able to make their planned celebration. Jerry, it turned out, was enjoying some fishing and camping time in Glacier Nat'l Park in Montana. Ahh!-the retired life. I told Duayne that the reason I could not attend their birthday bash was that, that weekend was also our date for the Phi Sig Camp-In in Shelbyville, IL. Absolutely true. Had it not been for that, I would have seriously thought about going. Have you ever been to Steamboat Springs, CO? What a gorgeous Shangri-La, in both Summer and Winter, and I would assume Fall and Spring too. Duayne indicated at the time I talked to him, that they had heard from 27 people that were committed to the dinner at the Old West Steakhouse in Steamboat Springs. That included a number of PSE Brothers from all over the country. I received some pictures from Duayne at Christmas-time that showed a group of them, as shown below. Carl Benander lives in Massachusetts, Jerry Gotthardt-Quad-City Illinois area, Bob Hood and Steve Weller-both in Colorado, John Ziebarth-presently in Iowa, but soon moving to New Mexico, Kevin Bachmann-California & Switzerland, and of course Jerry & Duayne, both from the Chicago area. See the picture below:

Hope it was as memorable for you as it was tantalizing for the rest of us. Happy Birthdays!



## Left to Right

Carl Benander, Jerry Gotthardt, Bob Hood, Duayne Nyckel, Steve Weller, Jerry Nyckel, John Ziebarth & Kevin Bachmann

**The population of PSE Brothers** here in Charleston, IL, has expanded by several over the last year, with the re-location of one and the opening of a new workplace for another, although he still lives in nearby Arcola, IL.

Randy Waldron, a 1972 EIU Business graduate, has lived in the Springfield, IL area since graduation and been active in the banking business. After recently accepting the position of Sr. Vice President-Commercial Lending, with the Prairie State Bank & Trust branch here in Charleston, he and wife Linda made the moving transition by renting a condo unit, prior to their intention to build, if they can't find a home to their liking. Both Randy and Linda are avid golfers and have already joined the local Country Club. They have two grown children, who both live out-of-state. Randy keeps in touch with a few Brothers and expects to hook up with Jeff Estes sometime here in Charleston.

Glenn Gentry, a 1987 EIU Psychology graduate, lives in Arcola, IL, where his wife Angie is an elementary school principal. Glenn recently accepted a position here in Charleston as the administrator of the newly built and opened Heritage Woods of Charleston, advertised as "An Affordable Assisted Lifestyle Community for the Older Adult". I recently visited him at his workplace and was quite impressed with the quality of the facilities and the workmanship. It's important that we notice things like that, as we may be living in such a facility in the near future.

**At the above-described Phi Sig golf outing**, Dave Carrell followed through on his promise to donate a couple of Phi Sig paddles that he has had stored away since college days. Like many of us nowadays, we are downsizing because we have just too much "stuff" and we need to whittle it down. Fortunately, for the Phi Sig Archives, he chose to donate them to us.

Like many of us, Dave also had some nicknames attached to his past that have even carried on to the present. I personally call him "Heimer", but I have no idea where that name even came from nowadays. To this day, most of us call him "Townie", since he was from Charleston. On the Phi Sig paddles that were probably from his little brothers, one is denoted, To: Townie '72 - From: Jaybird '72 (Jaybird is Jay Solheim). The other paddle is printed, To: Town Dog '72 - From: Jerry '74 (Jerry, I believe is Jerry Boyd, who is now Dave's brother-in-law). They both now grace the walls of the room next to a number of others that have been donated. Thanks Mr. Heimer.

**As mentioned in the Nyckel birthday article**, the Phi Sig Camp-In is indeed alive and well. And, we as a group, will once again gather at the Whitetail Crossing Cabins that we rent each year, IF we can remember how to get there. Just kidding, or am I. This upcoming September 21-23, 2012, gathering date will mark our 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of getting together as a core group of Brothers and wives, with many others having attended from time to time. With this anniversary, we expect to promulgate some efforts that will truly make this Camp-In a memorable and fun get-together.

To put the experience of our PSE Camp-In into its proper context, we should provide a bit of history about it. It was originally conceived as an attempt at a Pledge Class Reunion by a few members of the Winter 1966-'67 Class, all of whom had already graduated from Eastern and were scattered about throughout the Midwest states. Because he lived in nearby Battle Creek, MI, Charlie Henry took the lead in organizing it and found the original site for it, on the bluffs overlooking Lake Michigan near Benton Harbor, MI. The original members of the 1<sup>st</sup> Phi Sig Camp-Out (as it was tents and sleeping bags to start with) were Charlie Henry, Jim Porter, Ken Gazda (from Winter '66-'67 pledge class), and Gene Everett, Dave Carrell and me, Gary Brinkmeyer, along with our respective wives. Pictures still exist of the great time that was had there in 1973, as do all the memories and stories that emanated from that group and are still talked and laughed about to this day. For the second year (1974) gathering, the flyer that was sent out announcing the 2<sup>nd</sup> Camp-Out, was for a long time thereafter called the Phi Sig Camp-Out and Goose Hunt, in honor of trying to find "Goose" (Ken Gusewelle), another member of the Winter '66-'67 Pledge class. As I understand the story, he had apparently intended to attend the original Camp-Out, but upon not showing up, it became incumbent upon those who did camp, to always look for "Goose", until he did show up. That finally did occur in 1989, at the 17<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Camp-Out in Shelbyville, IL. In the interim, we as a core group of campers, along with many other couples and singles that had joined our group, had traversed to many other camping areas over the years. Many couples became long-term campers, while others came and went for only a year or for a few years. I will not try to list everyone, because I don't want to forget anyone who did attend.

In 1987, we found Lake Shelbyville and all the amenities it provided. The one thing it also did provide, that we got sick of, was too much rain (along with intense thunder and lightning) while we were still in tents and sleeping bags. For the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Camp-Out (no Goose Hunt-we had already found him), we had delegated the wives to find a better solution to "tent-camping", but thinking they wouldn't come up with anything any better. To our surprise, we found ourselves sleeping in a bed indoors, at a facility with Central AC and a large seating/gathering area. We never looked back. Once we had the AC to break up the humid end-of-July mugginess, the age of comfort kicked in and the Phi Sig Camp-Out became the Phi Sig Camp-In. With the problems that became inherent with the Eagle Creek Resort, we found our final destination for the PSE Camp-In at the newly constructed Whitetail Crossing Cabins, at half the price we were paying at Eagle Creek.

With that little bit of history in mind, we offer anyone out there an opportunity to join our 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration, by either stopping by or if you are so inclined, by joining our group on Friday or Saturday, or staying for the weekend in your own bedroom. There are some costs involved, but they are minimal to the experience that you will receive. Those who are already booked include Gene Everett, Jeff Estes, Bob Kincaid, Charlie Henry, Mike Ellis, Mike Goodman, Larry Carli, Dave Carrell, Paul Klopfenstein, Tom Swanson, Tom Andres, and me, along with our wives/significant others and Boone Chaney, Jim Luthe and Rick Tate as singles. Saturday offers a morning golf outing at the National (old Eagle Creek course) and Saturday evening offers the famous Phi Sig Fish Fry and Dinner, featuring fresh-caught and filleted fish provided by Gene Everett. Let me know if you are interested by emailing me or calling me.

**For the 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary** Phi Sigma Epsilon Alumni Assn. Reunion that we had in June of 2010 here in Charleston, IL, we provided a souvenir "favor" for everyone who was in attendance. To get a better price upon the initial investment, we ordered extra "favors", figuring that they would be snapped up as extras or sold to those who were unable to attend, but wanted one. The "favors" were a 12 oz whiskey tumbler type glass with a heavy bottom and a gold rim. They were printed with the Phi Sig crest below the arched Phi Sigma Epsilon logo, with 1930 to the left of the crest, 2010 to the right and 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary below the crest, all in black paint (See picture in Fall 2010 Newsletter). Very attractive! Since we are still in possession of quite a few of them, we would like to offer them to anyone who would like one or more. We are dropping the cost to \$5.00 per glass, which includes shipping. The cost of shipping is typically more than the glass itself. Contact me at psebrink@mchsi.com or call (217) 345-4684.