



# Bushy Tales

Dedicated to all who attended London Central  
High School in Bushy Park, London England from  
1952 to 1962



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Visit the Bushy Park Web Site at <http://www.bushypark.org/>

## Class Representatives

1953 - Jackie (Brown) Kenny

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1954 - Betsy (Neff) Cote

[betsycote@charter.net](mailto:betsycote@charter.net)

1955 - Nancie (Anderson) Weber

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1956 - Glenda F. Drake

[gfdrake@swbell.net](mailto:gfdrake@swbell.net)

1957 - Celeste (Plitouke) Brodigan

[Mbrodi1939@aol.com](mailto:Mbrodi1939@aol.com)

1958 - Pat (Terpening) Owen

[nemoamasa@worldnet.att.net](mailto:nemoamasa@worldnet.att.net)

1959 - Jerry Sandham

[Jerry.Sandham@aig.com](mailto:Jerry.Sandham@aig.com)

1960 - Ren Briggs

[renpat1671@unedspeed.net](mailto:renpat1671@unedspeed.net)

1961 - Betsy (Schley) Slepetz

[sbslepetz@erols.com](mailto:sbslepetz@erols.com)

1962 - Dona (Hale) Ritchie

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## Roster Changes

### Correction to email addresses:

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Byron Williams (57)

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Lloyd Bess (59)

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**Email addresses no longer valid:** If anyone has a current email address for any of these people, please contact Pat Terpening Owen (58) at [nemoamasa@worldnet.att.net](mailto:nemoamasa@worldnet.att.net)

Kathleen Gfeller Smith (54)

Raymond Harper (54)

Marilyn Whaley Alefsen (56)

Yvonne Penny Parrish (57)

Paul Westin (58)

Dwight Filley (59)

Loren Haatvedt (59)

Larry McDowell (59)

Ann Nelson Davis (59)

Jack Bunton (60)

Stuart Randall (60)

Dale Morfeld (61)

Kaye Baron Hunter (61)

Margaret Bouterse Clement (61)

Patricia Griffin Ford (61)

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### **Look Who We Found**

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**Roger H. Ayer (62)**

[nodj@comcast.net](mailto:nodj@comcast.net)  
I saw a notice on the MAY 2002 Bushy Tales  
that you were looking for Roger H. Ayer.  
Here I am in Gainesville, Virginia.

**Nena G. Guilsher Soldatenkoff (57)**

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### **Classmates Who Have Transferred To The Eternal Duty Station**

Our love and prayers go out to the family and friends of our classmates who have gone on before us. We will miss them, yet we can find comfort in knowing that one-day we all will join them for the greatest of all reunions.

**Sharon Smith (57)**

**Jack Daener, Jr. (57)**  
Per obituary records.

### **Reunions**

**(Editors Note: The latest on the reunion in San Diego is on the last two pages of this issue.)**

### **SMALL WORLD DEPARTMENT**

**Duane Smith (60)**  
[DHSmith@aol.com](mailto:DHSmith@aol.com)

My sister Sharon Smith attended in 1957. She is no longer living. By the way I had a nice conversation with **Connie Newlin (60)** Drennon who lives in Akron, almost a neighbor. Our kids went to the same school.

**Pat Terpening Owen (58)**  
[nemoamasa@worldnet.att.net](mailto:nemoamasa@worldnet.att.net)

I located **Judy Burks Schroeder (59)** and in sending e-mails back and forth, discovered that for about 3 years she'd lived within 4 blocks of me and our children had gone to the same school. Then she moved away.

I was searching Google for **Sharon Amundson Orff (61)**, and found a piece about her father. In reading it, trying to see if I could locate Sharon, I saw a name that was familiar and in reading further, I found that her younger sister Susan Amundson Chan, lived in my neighborhood, our children had gone to the same school, and we'd both done volunteer work at the school at the same time. But I still wasn't able to get an address for Sharon. A couple of days later, I went to a nail appointment, and who should be there, but Susan. She gave me information about Sharon, and we discovered that we'd both been at Wethersfield at the same time.

**Connie Newlin Drennon (60)**  
[cdbdrenn@uakron.edu](mailto:cdbdrenn@uakron.edu)

I have now been in touch with Duane H. Smith. We live, not in Akron, but in the town of Fairlawn, population only about 6,000. We are stuck with an Akron postal designation. Our kids attended the same schools. We have probably worked the same concession stands years ago at football games to help support the large high school marching band. He is on the foundation board of a great local museum house where my husband guides two afternoons a week. Keep up the good work. It has been so great to find Bushy types unexpectedly and it is all your doing.

**Does anyone else have any SMALL WORLD stories?**

### **Memories of Bushy**

**From Pat Terpening Owen (58)**  
[nemoamasa@worldnet.att.net](mailto:nemoamasa@worldnet.att.net)

I found a site at Google which said "Sales Reps Wanted" and the contact person was Robert Kulesh, so I sent an e-mail and asked if he was the Robert Kulesh who'd attended Bushy Park. Below is his reply.

**Robert Kulesh (55)** [RKulesh@msegrip.com](mailto:RKulesh@msegrip.com)

I wish that I had such good luck on long shots in Las Vegas..Yes, I am the same Robert Kulesh who went to Bushy Park in 1953-54... so much time has passed but I still remember well...in fact I was in the UK a few years ago and a friend of mine took me through Bushy Park.. I could not locate the old dorms and campus but did see a few deer that looked familiar... I now live in Los Angeles area.

What a GAS!!!! I have only had a few minutes to run through these pages (of the newsletter) but it is wonderful that so many people have so many good memories after all of these years...I do too. The names sound familiar in some cases but it's very difficult to put faces to them... anyway our faces today are not the faces of those yesterdays. Now a question for you- What are you doing scanning ads for sales reps in the trades??? I am VP of Sales & Mktg. for a company called Matthews Studio Equipment in Burbank Ca. We primarily manufacture equipment for the motion picture industry but also have a very nice line of visual merchandising equipment. I cannot figure out how you found my name... Have you ever made contact with a Joan Harding?? Her Dad was a Coast Guard Admiral based in London and she was the first love of my life and when I was sent back to the States for my last year of high school my very young heart was broken.... The San Diego reunion sounds very interesting.

**From Sherry (Burritt) Konjura (57)**

[sherger@juno.com](mailto:sherger@juno.com)

Great issue! I just finished reading it and thoroughly enjoyed it, as always...even the memories of people I didn't even know! Seems like their memories always evoke something that I also remember.

Re: the question from Mike Downend on page 9. I remember when he and Betsy's (Elizabeth Manning's) sister, Pat got married. It was quite a lovely affair in a church in downtown London. The only problem was that someone had forgotten to pick up the license and the Priest couldn't marry them until that was secured. BIG PROBLEM...the license office was closed! But (and I don't remember exactly how) someone got in touch with the right people and they agreed to open the office long enough for the license to be picked up...but it would take time. So, all the guests who had, by then, gathered in the church went to the reception hall at the American Embassy and commenced with the reception.

When the word came that the license had been picked up, we all went back to the church for the ceremony, then back to the reception again! The London papers picked up on the story and it was splashed all over the newsstands the next day with huge pictures of the wedding party, including Betsy who was her older sister's Maid of Honor.

I was in on all this because I met Mike's younger brother, Nelson, who was in London for the wedding, at a party and we began dating. I was his date for the wedding and we wrote to each other for some time after that. Since I was planning a career in theatre, Mike could very well have been remembering me. I did spend the night at the Manning's home, and can't think of anyone else he might have been referring to.



THE BRIDE (left) and her sister Elizabeth Mary, 16, who was her bridesmaid, at the American Embassy this afternoon.

**From Ron Miller (56)**  
[randb38@msn.com](mailto:randb38@msn.com)

I ran across the attached photos of Bushy Park days today and thought I'd scan them and send them to you guys for whatever use you might like to make of them in the newsletter.

**(Editors note: He sent me the pictures but I was unable to put them in the proper format to fit in the newsletter. Sorry.)**

I was at Bushy Park from November 1954 until late October 1955, most of my junior year and the beginning of my senior year. I left suddenly and in a state of shock when my Mom was killed in a car accident a month after my 17th birthday in October 1955.

I believe that many of my memories of my time there were affected by the trauma of my Mom's death and the fact that I had to leave without saying goodbye to my friends there. Although I have been able to look at the Yearbook and other photos on the web, I have a problem remembering many of the people who were my closest friends. I do have very happy memories of Coach Cannon, both as a Coach and History Teacher, and of the basketball team and cheerleaders, especially our trip to the season ending tournament in Frankfort, Germany. I remember the long bus rides from Lakenheath/Mildenhall, the good times in the dorm (both the boys and girls), bad meals in the cafeteria (I still don't like

shepherd's pie), weekends in Bovington, train rides from Teddington to London, a great prom with a big band at a posh hotel in London. Maybe I remember more than I think I do. What a fabulous experience for a high school student...things I learned there helped me many times later in my life.

I can't thank you enough, and those who help you, for the service you provide to all of us who were lucky enough to have been students at Bushy Park. I've enjoyed reading each and every newsletter and look forward to more in the future.

The identity of the people in the photos are: BBall Team, back row l to r, Freddie Parrish, Harold Dilly, Teddy Hopkins, Corky Neff, Marshall Kremers, Dave Kramer. Front row, l to r, Coach Cannon, Jim West, Manny Neves, Ron Miller, Bob West, Joel Brown. Top left photo, Tom ??, Dad Monroe (Dorm Dad), Bob Chandonnet, Charles "Denny" Kise. Top right photo, Bob C. ???, Ron Miller. Glenda, perhaps you can identify those with question marks. I'm sure you can identify the locations. By the way, that's Coach Cannon's car in the photo of the school entrance.

**From John Billington (Faculty)**  
[Billinkton@aol.com](mailto:Billinkton@aol.com)

Here is a "Bushy Tale" concerning two teacher friends of the Bushy Park staff that occurred during the 1950s. This incident happened in one of John Billington's science classes in Bushy Park. A most distinguished teacher by the name of Frank Janusz had been studying some early American history concerning members of the Mayflower who came to America in 1620. He was apparently thrilled to find out that an original member of the 1620 group by the name of John Billington had been hung in 1630. Mr. Janusz was so overjoyed with such information about his friend that he

barged into Mr. Billington's science class and informed the students of this newfound truth.

He most eloquently verified with a smile on his face that indeed it was the John Billington of the Mayflower who was the first person to suffer capital punishment in America. Since retirement, Mr. Billington has spent many hours tracing his ancestral bloodline. So far he has not been able to establish a family tie with the John Billington family of the Mayflower. However, through his mother's side he has been able to trace a direct lineage to Richard Warren, a man of considerable godliness, who was on the original manifest of the 1620 Mayflower trip. I am sure Mr. Janusz believes that Mr. Billington is probably afraid to make a complete study of the Billington lineage for fear of what he might find.

### **Mini Reunions**

**From Sandi (Scanlan) Matlack (57)**  
[smatlack@utinet.net](mailto:smatlack@utinet.net)

Mini Reunion in San Antonio

My husband and I and my sister and husband made a trip to San Antonio in April. I contacted Jim Baker before hand and we met at the historic Menger Hotel across from the Alamo for drinks and dinner nearby. We all got along famously and Jim's wife Gloria was just lovely and we all talked like old friends. Jim and I agreed that we had not aged at all in almost 46 years - and no, our eyesight is not failing! I tried to talk them into coming for the San Diego Reunion and if all of 1957 Classmates put pressure on them maybe they will if there are no conflicts. We want to know what happened at the back of the bus going home on weekends according to Celeste and Jim isn't talking!

**From Mike Murphy (58)**  
[OLDSALT1223@aol.com](mailto:OLDSALT1223@aol.com)

Just to put something in the newsletter for next month. Judy Risler Covington and my self (Mike Murphy) went to Houston and San Antonio and visited with Carol Eckels and Dallas Webb. We really had a nice visit with them. San Antonio at the festival was something else. We had a great time. We are both looking forward to the October gathering in San Diego. I have already made our reservations and hope everyone that reads your newsletter will do the same.

### **Do You Remember?**

**From John Jergenson (63)**  
[jwjphx2@aol.com](mailto:jwjphx2@aol.com)

I received the Bushy Tales-May 2003 Issue today and thought I'd add a few comments and a picture.

I was one of those many Bobcats who spent their Sophomore and Junior years at Bushy Park in 1960 through 1962 and then when the school closed to dorm students, we all had to graduate from Lakenheath, and there were a lot of us.

I've attached a photo taken at the Grosvenor House in London of the 1962 Junior-Senior Prom. I don't remember who the couple is standing behind us, but Anne Hathaway (Sophomore in 1962) is on my left, I was a Junior that year and I'm on Anne's right and on my left is Mike Kyle, also a Junior that year and Dianne Lewis was his date, and she was a Sophomore in 1962. It was a prom to outdo all proms. Talk about upper crust surroundings.

I understand from Anne that they spent the entire day off campus at Elizabeth Arden having their hair, makeup and nails done. I guess it was a pretty big ordeal for all the girls. But it is still one of my most memorable events at Bushy.

Mike Kyle and his wife live in Oregon and we have met up with them 3 times for Lakenheath reunions. Dianne I believe is still living in Connecticut. I have everyone's emails if anyone would like them.

Even Mike Gann, who graduated from Bushy Park in 1962, is here in Phoenix with the rest of us. Anne Hathaway, Maureen Custer and myself all live a few blocks away from each other and have kept in contact for over 40 years. It still amazes us.

We even had an old alumni visit Mike Gann last month from Jordan, in the Middle East, when the war began. It was John Higgs. He spent a few days here, but I was only able to talk to him on the phone, since I couldn't get away to see him. I will say one thing, talking to John Higgs brought back some funny pranks in the dorms at Bushy Park.

We talked about the time he nailed a dead fish on the dorm room of myself and Mike Kyle. Mike waited until John went to dinner and then went into his room and put this dead thing under John's mattress and when John found it in the morning, he came over to our door and shot Ronson lighter fluid under our door and lit it. Can you remember that linoleum flooring we had? Well, it was not funny at the time, but it is funny remembering things like that now.

If you want to look up a lot of the Bushy Park alumni who attended Bushy Park in 1960 through 1962 and had to attend Lakenheath, you can check out the great website they have setup at [AHREF=http://lancers.lakenheath.net](http://lancers.lakenheath.net) <http://lancers.lakenheath.net> it is a great website and so many pictures of old classmates, especially from Bushy Park.

Great newsletter and look forward to the next edition.



### **This and That**

As some of you may remember the Midwest had some terrible storms early in May, and a heavy-duty tornado hit the Kansas City area. Here's one person's experience with it.

**Rev. Aaron S. Peters, O.S.B. (57)**  
[aaronosb@hotmail.com](mailto:aaronosb@hotmail.com)

I was right there in the midst of it all on I-435. The little bugger just jumped over and went on its way. Watched it all happening. What hair I had is now gone!!!

**From Jerry Hoffman (59)**  
[riverrun@crosslink.net](mailto:riverrun@crosslink.net)

Information Jerry Hoffman received from Sue Barnes:

A very nice lady called me from the archive office of Bushy Park. I told her about your interest in where the air force base used to be and your school. In 1942 when the ground was given over to the Air Force an agreement was signed that when it was no longer required that it would revert back to Parkland. In 1962 the whole base was razed to the ground in accordance with the agreement but to an

outcry from local people who would have been able to benefit from the good facilities that were there. The site was reached by going in the main gates and turning left. Or going through the gates opposite an entrance to Hampton Court and going all the way down the avenue almost to the end and turning right. There is now a memorial gate there. There are other memorial plaques in the grass indicating the corner of a particular building etc. A small archive has been put together and is mainly items and news cuttings that have been donated.

**From Charles Bailey**  
[chasbailey@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:chasbailey@blueyonder.co.uk)

Hi all, Let me first introduce myself to you.

My name is Charles Bailey and I am English and live in London. I have been in contact with Gary the editor of the Bushy Park Newsletter for a while now and he sends me the newsletter each month as I lived in Teddington in the 1950's in a children's home and visited the base on special occasions like Christmas, Easter, and July 4th. where I would get to see your classrooms. Us kids in the home all had a US servicemen who would act like an uncle to us and would send us treats at Christmas and on our birthdays and would also take us out on trips into London.

I have never forgotten the kindness shown by your countrymen to us at a time when this country was still recovering from WW2 and money was in short supply for splashing about.

Gary mentioned to me one day that he had a good English friend while he was here and would love to be able to be in contact with him so I said I would have a go at trying to trace him which I managed to do within a fairly short time.

I was thinking to myself whilst reading the latest issue of the newsletter that maybe I

could do the same thing for others, so if you can remember the names of any friends you had during your stay on this side of the pond I would be more than happy to see what I can do for you.

I will need their name/s where they lived their age at the time and if possible what school they attended and also the years you knew them.

You can contact me at:  
[chasbailey@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:chasbailey@blueyonder.co.uk)

Regards,  
Chas Bailey

### **Comments From You Our Readers**

From: Celeste  
[Mbrodi1939@aol.com](mailto:Mbrodi1939@aol.com)

It was such a great issue I doubt if anyone noticed. Your work amazes me and I cannot thank you enough for keeping us all together. Hope that life is going well with you.

My middle daughter was married on March 8<sup>th</sup>. my youngest on April 8<sup>th</sup>, sold some property, visited my parents in San Diego and continue working as a volunteer with our local hospital ER and Hospice of Northern Virginia.

Never thought I would be so busy in retirement.

PS Will be writing up an article about Father Aaron Peters (in Who's Who) and sending it on as soon as I get a free hour to put on my thinking/writing hat.

**From Carol Rogers (58)**  
[carol.rogers@autodesk.com](mailto:carol.rogers@autodesk.com)

Just finished reading the newsletter for May and I loved it. I was even able to see a picture of my sister Barbara Cameron in the issue on their trip to Rome. I know Barb has some good memories of their trip. I'll have to check with her and see if she was able to get the newsletter also. I don't always look that closely to the date. I just enjoy receiving it each month. Keep up the great work!!

**From Vicki (Brown) Tidwell (61)**  
[d.vtidwell@charter.net](mailto:d.vtidwell@charter.net)

Hi, I am so happy to be getting the newsletter. I was very surprised to see my name in the current issue! I only wish my maiden name had been included (Brown) just in case anyone out there remembers me. It's funny, but every time I look at the copies Pat Owen sent me of the '59 yearbook I remember someone else (while looking at the sophomores for that year.) I would love copies of the 1960 yearbook and would be willing to pay for them if anyone has the time to get it copied. Thanks for all you do, Gary.

**From Peter Laughlin (56)**  
[Pmclane@aol.com](mailto:Pmclane@aol.com)

I just wanted to say again.....Great work on the school newspaper. I read it cover to cover each month. Will you go to San Diego in October? Does anyone have any pictures of our classrooms at Bushy for publication?

**From Randy Crane (59)**

When in England at a fairly large conference, Colin Powell was asked by the Archbishop of Canterbury if our plans for Iraq were just an example of empire building by George Bush.

He answered by saying that, "Over the years, the United States has sent many of its fine young men and women into great peril to fight for freedom beyond our borders. The only

amount of land we have ever asked for in return is enough to bury those that did not return."

It became very quiet in the room.

**Connie Newlin Drennon (60)**  
[cbdrenn@uakron.edu](mailto:cbdrenn@uakron.edu)

Quite some years ago I ran across a reference to the shorthand teacher at Bushy Park during 59-60. He was Dr. Delvechio (sp?) and was written up in a business teacher's magazine. I think he taught at a college in Kentucky, as I recall.

I know there was a male in the class of 59 who attended Stanford University in Palo Alto, CA. I ran into him when I attended San Jose State. I just cannot think who it was. I wonder if Fred Buhler (58) might know. Perhaps the mystery man is already on the master list. He was there at least two years and probably graduated in 63. Anyone want to admit to being this person?

Your great work is very appreciated. I hope to have more time to do what I like after this school year ends. I am finally ending my term as a substitute teacher.

**Mike Murphy (58)**  
[oldsalt1223@aol.com](mailto:oldsalt1223@aol.com) and **Judy Risler Covington (60)**  
[LCHS60@aol.com](mailto:LCHS60@aol.com)

We just got back from San Antonio from the festival. We visited with Carol Eckles (60) and Dallas Webb (60). We had the best time. Looking forward to the "Gathering" in San Diego.

**(Editors Note: The following two pages are for the Gathering in San Diego.)**

# GATHERING IV OCT. 17<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup>, & 19<sup>th</sup> San Diego, California

We have the place, and we have the time. Please make your reservations as soon as you can. A block of rooms has been reserved. The room rate is good for (3) three days prior to the 17<sup>th</sup> and (3) days after the 19<sup>th</sup>. San Diego is a beautiful location and there are many things to see and do. We hope you can take advantage of your trip and enjoy the area.

**Location:** Handlery Hotel and Resort      1-800-676-6567  
                 950 Hotel Circle N                              tel    619-298-0511  
                 San Diego, Cal. 92108                              fax    619-298-9793

**Package code:** Bushy Park Gathering

<b>Room rate:</b>	<b>single rate</b>	<b>double rate</b>	<b>triple rate</b>	<b>quad rate</b>
	\$99.00	\$99.00	\$109.00	\$119.00

Remember when you call to make your reservations, tell them the package code to get our room rates. (Non-Smoking rooms available)

The Handlery Hotel had a multi-million dollar renovation completed in the summer of 2001.

**Rooms provide:** High speed internet access, refrigerators, coffee and tea brewers, hair dryers, iron and iron boards, air conditioning, color TV, clock/AM-FM radio with alarms

**Hotel Facilities:** Restaurant, meeting and banquet rooms, one-day dry cleaning, baby-sitting service, beauty salon, barbershop, car rental service, (8) lighted tennis courts, (3) heated swimming pools, fully equipped fitness center (free), and many more amenities.

**Web Site:** go to your search engine and enter [HANDLERY.COM](http://HANDLERY.COM) There are several sites to review with photos.

**Thursday and Friday:** Thursday will be travel and arrival. No other events planned.

**Friday** a hospitality room will be available for check in. The hospitality room is ours to use 24 hours a day Friday to Sunday. We are going to have a guided City Bus tour available on Friday. It will be about a 4-hour trip. If you have never been to San Diego this is an excellent way to become familiar with the area. There will be a charge involved, not known at this time.

**Saturday:** We are asking that you plan to be at the hospitality room by 9:30 AM. We have a morning program planned. There will be a buffet luncheon (see page 2) planned from 11:30 to 1:30. After lunch, we are planning a slide and photo program.

We are planning on having a professional photographer for a photo session also in the afternoon. There will be a photo album available for a cost. We are in negotiations with a photographer at this time.

You will note that we are leaving the evenings open. We have not scheduled any other total group activity other than Saturday at the hospitality room. The intent is to allow each of you to make contact with old friends and the time to enjoy their companionship. The hospitality room will be available for you to meet Friday to Sunday AM. We hope the forum that we have selected will provide you and the other Bushy class mates an event to remember.

As with anything that is this large it takes a lot of help and assistance. I want to thank that group of people. Without their support, we could not have pulled this off. There is also a financial burden that must be rendered. Mail costs, printing, decorations, the hospitality room, are only but a few hidden costs. We are asking each of you to help us in this area. Below you will see a request for operational costs. It will be a pool of funds we can draw from to put the event on. All funds that are remaining after the Gathering IV, 2003 will be passed on to the organizers of Gathering V, 2005.

Please fill out the below requested information. You will also have to do a little math and make out a check. Please make all checks payable to, **Ren Briggs**. We are requesting that you return this information as soon as you can but no later than September 15<sup>th</sup>, 2003. We have to let the hotel know how many will be attending the lunch and make payment.

Send to

Ren Briggs  
1671 Monte Vista Dr.  
Bullhead City, AZ 86442-7216

If you have any questions please call **928-758-2963** or [renpat1671@unneedspeed.net](mailto:renpat1671@unneedspeed.net)

-----cut here and return as soon as possible-----

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY / STATE/ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE NUMBER AND E/MAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

**Buffet lunch \$25.00 per person** (all you can eat lunch, and drinks) *we are encouraging everybody to participate.*

Operational cost

**Party number** \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**\$ 10.00**

**Total Submitted** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

*Thank you, and looking forward to seeing you*