

Steve Stockdale, Class of 1976, challenges '75s claims to fame and... fame. That's it, just fame:

1. '76 was initially issued purple A-Jackets, but I believe sometime during our 2nd class year we had to turn them in and get the 'new' model. This was something we joked about quite a bit. In fact, we had a winter dining-in Feb '76 with Col. Musser (who would become Vice-Comm) and I presented him with a purple A-Jacket that someone had willingly given up as sort of a gag token of appreciation for speaking.

2. '76 had pointed parkas. I think the rounded ones started with '77.

3. '76 was issued slide rules, we never got calculators. I'm trying to find out where that started, but I'm pretty sure it was either with the Class of '79 or '80. One of them got TI calculators (not the HP models that came out while we were there) issued instead of slide rules. But I'm pretty sure that slide rules were issued through '78.

Coincidentally, in '77's yearbook they have a "Remember when" page that relates to these three items. Under the heading of "Remember when ..." they included:

- Parkas were pointed
- Purple A-jackets were authorized
- Calculators were a month's pay
- Slide rulers (sic) were part of the book issue
- Parkas and A-jackets didn't have nametags

I had to double-check about the parkas and A-jackets not having nametags because my immediate recollection was that we had them on both. However, I gave my dad my parka and I have a photo of him in the '80s wearing it and there's no nametag. I have my A-jacket, though, and it does have a nametag stitched on it. I looked through my '73-75 yearbooks and they all showed no nametags on the jackets.

So I'm thinking that when we had to exchange our purple for blue, that's when the nametags got added. If that happened our 2nd class year when you guys were firsties, it would make sense you wouldn't have to have the nametags added if you weren't getting new jackets.

I did find out that the first HP-35 calculator came on the market in 1972 for \$395. The HP-45 followed a year later for the same price. I remember some guys having them in my doolie spring Chemistry class and 3rd class fall Mechanical Engineering class. I think I remember there being some uncertainty about whether they could be used or not, and I also think I remember some guys got screwed early on when they didn't think about the charge running out during a GR ... some things haven't changed.