



Feb Club Emeritus

What is Feb Club?



In 2008, a small group of Yale alumni were bemoaning the fact that their busy lives did not allow them the chance to just hang out with their Yale college friends. What they needed was a stress-free, easy and fun way to get together. What they built was Feb Club Emeritus.

Feb Club Emeritus is series of parties for Yalies around the world. Each night of February, there is at least one party. On most nights, there are many. From Atlanta to Zanzibar, and everywhere in between, over 100 events each year draw over 5000 Yalies. This is during what everyone remembers as one of the worst months of the winter in New Haven on the Yale Campus. (To alleviate the February doldrums, there have student versions of Feb Club since the mid 1970s.)

A benefit to Clubs

The distributed nature of Feb Club events, in both location and time, gives needed flexibility to local Clubs – especially small Clubs. Many clubs (and local chapters of SIGs) have large regions that they cover – and parts of those regions have a low density of alumni. This makes it very difficult to schedule, plan, or budget for events to serve all of a region’s constituents. In contrast, a Club (or SIG) can work with its scattered members to hold several small Feb Club events across its region – even on different days. For example, the Colorado Yale Assoc. has sponsored as many as seven Feb Club events around the state during February of one year.

How a Feb Club party is organized



Local individual hosts are in charge of organizing each event. They can represent local Yale Clubs, local chapters of SIGs, a group of Yale friends, or just a Yale alum who likes to host Yale parties. The parties have three rules: 1) No speeches; 2) No fundraising; and 3) It’s just a party. The “Ministry” of Feb Club maintains a website that lists each event and helps hosts keep track of attendance. It coordinates with the Association of Yale Alumni, local Yale Clubs and uses social media to publicize its events.

The parties are as diverse as the locations. The Yale Club of New York throws a kick off event that routinely draws 1,000 alumni (photo above). Yalies in Hawaii throw Feb Club on a beach (photo below). London Elis go to a pub, while their French classmates sip wine. Some events are large, many are small, all are different. In its first 7 years, Feb Club Emeritus has had over 500 parties, held events on every continent and has drawn over 35,000 guests from the Yale College Classes of 1941 through 2014, as well as graduate and professional schools.

A way to engage – or re-engage

Feb Club Emeritus has become known among Yale alumni groups as an annual social hub. Many Yale clubs use them to attract those who otherwise are not interested in alumni gatherings. Half of the attendees in Atlanta our first year had not been to a Yale event since leaving campus. We hear the same thing time and again. That the promise of no speeches and no fundraising is a draw. As is the fun and, ultimately, the people.

A benefit to Yale

Feb Club Emeritus has turned into a rallying point, drawing people into (or back into) the Yale alumni fold. Some come for the party, and check back in once a year. Others find connections and become involved.

