

# ◆ POST - MONITOR ◆

VOL 23-ISSUE 02 WEBSITE: [HTTP://SITES.GOOGLE.COM/SITE/LRDALUMNIASSNNEEDTOKNOWNOW](http://sites.google.com/site/lrdalumniassnneedtoknownow)

2015.08



**The Alumni Anthem**  
Over the years and  
at younger ages ...  
'GS,' 'E' and 'O'  
were our gauges

But now we've reached  
the best of stages  
Being one of the  
Center's Sages

**Long-Range Detection**  
denotes and represents  
all who served the  
mission throughout its  
inception and history

Recognized for 65 years  
of service to our country  
16 September 2012  
**1947 – 2012**

A 65TH COIN WAS NOT MINTED



## \*SAGE SALUTE\*

AFTAC ALUMNI ASSOCIATION PROUDLY PRESENTS



**WORLDWIDE REUNION, 2015**

**AFTAC WORLDWIDE REUNION 2015, May 29-31**

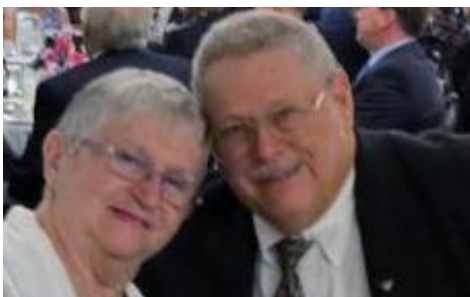


**PROUDLY PRESENTING THE AFTAC ALUMNI ASSOCIATION COIN.**

**"Standing on the Shoulders of Giants"**  
**Hosted by the 'AFTAC Alumni Association,' "Serving**  
**Those Who Served, and**  
**Those Still Serving, for over 30 years."**

DEBORAH CARSON, 'MAJOR ARRANGER,' SUBMITTED TWO ARTICLES ABOUT THE REUNION, FIRST, THIS 'SALUTE' TO A TRULY DESERVING INDIVIDUAL AND FOLLOWING THIS, A 'SPOTLIGHT' ON THE REUNION ITSELF.

**Pete Gilbert**



Pete and Shirley Gilbert at the banquet

You all know by now, the reunion was a grand success. While every committee member and volunteer worked diligently to make it happen, there is

one individual who really went above and beyond in his gargantuan labors. The AFTAC Alumni Association would like to highlight that individual for his >>>page 3

## \*SAGE ALERTS-WHAT'S COMIN' UP\*

IN TRUE ALERT TRADITION, WE ASK SAGES AND ACTIVE-DUTY TO 'REPORT IN'

**SEP 11, 1130-VIII ANNUAL 'SOCIAL SEPTMBER'**  
**Membership/Elections, Manatee Cove Golf Course**



EDITORS  
The election meeting is held on a **Friday** at  
**lunch time** to encourage attendance by  
active-duty, assn members and >>Pg 3

## FALL GOLF N'GETOGETHER

ED LINDSAY, 'MAJOR ARRANGER'

Ed reports, 'Save the Date.' We have been confirmed for the Fall Golf N'Gettogether, for 25 Sept. A 1300 shotgun start at Manatee cove...Fees and details will be released later this month.

Updates will be provided on the website and eALLerts.

## \*ACTIVE-DUTY ALERTS\*

IN TRUE ALERT TRADITION, WE ASK ACTIVE-DUTY AND SAGES TO 'REPORT IN'

## ACTIVE DUTY SCHEDULE, SAGES WELCOMED



'Winter Social' and 'Toilet Bowl' TBD. See 'Active-Duty' section for more, if any, information. **Sage Contact** for tickets, Carol Snyder, [carol.snyder@us.af.mil](mailto:carol.snyder@us.af.mil)

**NOTE:** Alert updates are posted at our website: URL above in 'Banner' Area. **Pg 5, 'Calendar,'** has a complete listing of alumni and active-duty events. You can also 'Auto-Receive' 'eALLerts' (deaths, breaking news, etc)-contact your editors, [chrisjohn2@gmail.com](mailto:chrisjohn2@gmail.com)

## \*SAGE/ACTIVE-DUTY EVENTS-WHAT'S GONE OFF\*

IN TRUE ALERT TRADITION, WE REPORT 'EVENT DATA'

'Event' reports, if any, follow 'Alert' reports later in this issue.

**ASSOCIATION INFORMATION** *Deceased. (D)***Honor Roll: Alumni Of The Year Recipients (20)**

Sean Ryan/2014-Lonnie Gibbons/13-Gene & Dee Melchior/12-Dale Klug/11-Jack Smith (D)/10-Jack Jackson/09 (D)  
 Bob Wiley/08-Bill Schmied/07-Deborah Carson/06  
 Mike Black/05-Joe Goldian/04-Pat Snyder/03  
 Joe Johnson/02-Jim Payne/01-Ben Vlassick (D)/2000  
 John & Christel (D) Horsch/99-Frank Hall/98-Judy Milam/97  
 Carl Gailey (D)/96-Clark Creery/1995

**AFTAC/Long Range Detection (LRD) Alumni Honorarium**

Several ongoing projects represent and honor Center people and history. Two, 'Hall of Heritage' (data/artifacts) and the '20-Year Wall of Service' (alumni who served the Center for 20+ years and have mailed in their photos/bios), are housed at AFTAC Headquarters. Another is an **AFTAC display at the Encampment, Wyoming** (see my editorial, we are not sure of the status-several Sages are checking).

**Association History** A group of retired/active duty AFTACers, by invitation from then CC, Col **Clapper**, met at Patrick AFB, FL, on March 12, 1985, and formed the **AFTAC Alumni Association (AFTACAA)** (chartered, 1986). (from 2001-2014, we were renamed 'Long Range Detection' (LRD)). --The Association provides a forum for those wishing to maintain a relationship with the Center and its people, active-duty and retired. Membership is open to all who serve/served our mission in any organization associated with LRD (AFMSW-1, 1009th SWS, AFOAT-1, 1035th FAG, and AFTAC), and any field detachment. Of note, there are several Sages who recall an earlier effort to form an association in 1976.

**There is this Association and two Chapters**

**1. Florida 'AFTAC Alumni Association':** (application-back page)-**Dues, \$10/FY** (1 Oct-30 Sep) payable in Oct/**\$75 for life**. Most monthly meetings are at 1600, second Monday of a month (verify if coming) at the AFTAC HQ (Bldg 10989), or other venue, at Patrick AFB, FL-details, see 'Sage Schedule' at back of issue. Contacts: Clark **Creery**, ccreery@cfl.rr.com, mailing address is: **PO Box 254892, Patrick AFB, FL 32925-0892**. The Association has several communications resources, the triannual newsletter, '**Post-Monitor**' (namesake of prior active-duty publication, 'Monitor') & multi-page Website, see banner on previous page, with assn/alumni news and photos-we provide a '**Breaking News**' service at the website and thru instant notification, what we term, 'eALLert,' for time sensitive data at <http://groups.google.com/group/aftac-lrd>.

**"PERENNIALS"** (5+ years board service) Clark Creery-Newsletter, 85/89-95, Pres 94/95, Webpage/Mbrshp, 01/10-Current; Frank Hall, Pres/Vice 89-98/01; Judy Milam, Sec 89-06, Hospitality since 01 Pres 04; Eunice Harris, Hosp 89-00; Mary Welch (D), Mbrshp 91-99; Carl Gailey (D), Treas 91-99; Swede Swansen, Pub 93-06; John & Christel (D) Horsch, Newsletter since 96; Pat Snyder, 'Insider/Sage Shop' 96-2010, VP 04, Sec 05; Mike Black, Webmaster since 96; Jim Payne, Mbrshp 99-04; Joe Goldian, Treas, since 2003; Randy Vlassick, Mbrship 04-09; Sean Ryan-Secretary since 2009.

**2. Colorado Chapter:** Formed Nov 1986, **\$5/year**, they publish a newsletter, 'Echoes', have several meetings and social events a year. See website at <http://www.aftacco.org> for additional information and email contacts.

**3. California Chapter:** Formed 1999, **\$10/year/\$75 lifetime**. For more, email, [TOD.Alumni@AFTACWCC.org](mailto:TOD.Alumni@AFTACWCC.org)-mail, Alumni Assn, PO Box 3974, Citrus Heights, CA 95611-3974. The Chapter meets several times a year, publishes a newsletter, '**Depot Fallout**' and has a website, <http://www.aftacwcc.org/>



**"FROM THE HORSCHES MOUTH"**

# EDITORIAL SPEAKING



1985 BYLINE BY COL CIAMBRONE (D). LEFT, AFTAC ALUMNI ASSOCIATION COIN. RIGHT, RECENT PICTURE OF MY SON JOHN DAVID AND HIS WIFE DEBBIE.

I want to take some of your time here to remember the outstanding WWR 2015 held the last days of May.

**#1**-it will always be one to remember for the fact the new HQ's building was open and the presentation in the auditorium. I have been to many and this was one of the very best. From the first video about our history, to Col **Worley's** (AFTAC/CC) 'Status of Command,' to the selection of our first 12-Selectee's to the 'Wall of Honor (see NOTE following),' to the final tribute video, to the 'Burger Burn' at Stonehenge, it could not have been done better. Thank the Command Section and all those Active-Duty I saw everywhere taking care of us ... you 'Carry On' for us very well and we thank you from the bottom of our hearts for all of this.

NOTE: Clark **Creery**, our 'Membership Chair,' has done an excellent posting of the 'Wall of Honor' selectee's on our website and their accomplishments, <https://sites.google.com/site/ldalumniassnneedtoknownow/scene-sages> While you are there, please notice Clark has posted multiple pictures of many events at this location ... please take some time here and poke around

**#2**-while it was a team effort, and many contributed much, I want to particularly recognize three people on whose shoulders much of this reunion's success rested, Frank **Calenda**, Pete **Gilbert**, and Clark **Creery**. Frank was in charge of the 'Registration Committee' and as such, he and his team, responsible for getting all who attended and their information right and in a correct manner. Pete wrote an amazing program that did this and provided invaluable products on every matter, attendees, costs, etc. Clark was there to assist this effort and add much to the overall success of the information and presentation.

Recently I was again reminded how interactive we are with the active-duty. I received an invitation to Lt Col Richard E Goodman II's promotion ceremony occurring on 30 April, the presiding officer was BGen Thomas **Bussiere**, Deputy Director, Nuclear, Homeland Defense, and Current Operations, Joint Staff. This invitation was not just to me, but to be posted and extended to all alumni to attend. What a gracious gesture to extend this invite to all who went before, thank you, Sir --to my knowledge, this had never been done before --Col Goodman is the Director of the Laboratory Operations Directorate (see pictures at our website, <https://docs.google.com/viewer?u=v&pid=sites&srcid=ZGVmYXVsdGRvbWFpbm9hZnRhY3Bob3Rvc3xneDozNTUzM2M1NjhiMGRjNzlm>) NOTE: It is also noteworthy AFTAC CC/Col **Worley** did this very same thing for the 'Change of Command' on 19 June. Thank you, Sir, this is fully illustrative of your commitment to the alumni. >>>continued on 'The Back Page'



\*\*\*\*\*

**\*ALERTS-WHAT'S COMIN' UP\*** <<< Pg 1

**MEMBERSHIP AND ELECTION MEETING** alumni. Attendance is always up for this important meeting so be there! **NOMINEES:** The Committee, Terry Hammond, most recent past President, and two qualified members, Frank Hall and Bob Wiley, met on 30 June 2015 @ 1130. All current officers indicated their willingness to continue to serve for the next FY, and one member volunteered to be included in the election. After consideration of the volunteer's credentials for the position, the nominees submitted for the FY2016 election by the committee are: a. President, Lou Seiler; b. Vice, Ed Lindsay; c. Treasurer, Joe Goldian; Secretary, Sean Ryan (current) and Arlin Massey (new volunteer). Nominations will be accepted from the floor on the day of the meeting, 09.11, of willing attendee(s). Lunch (pay as you go optional) 11-1300. (Note: Lunch Service Hours for Fairway Snack bar are 1030 - 1400, for your dining pleasure, before and after meeting). Arrangements, Sean Ryan

\*\*\*\*\*

**\*EVENTS-WHAT'S GONE OFF\*** <<< Pg 1

**SAGE SALUTE PETE GILBERT** (continued from page one) contributions to AFTAC 2015 Worldwide Reunion registration and financial reporting and say "Thank You" publicly. Let me introduce that man, **Peter Gilbert**. "Pete" was a member of AFTAC for his short 4-year Air Force tour early in his career but is a faithful alumni member for many years. Without hesitation, he volunteered his services to the registration/financial chair, Frank **Calenda**, to host a separate web site and write the programming for the reunion web registration and financial tracking processes.

There were nights after nights until 10 or 11pm of endless phone calls to work on planning strategies, correcting "glitches", trips back and forth to Silver Springs (where Pete and his wife **Shirley** live) so they could work side-by-side to make sure that the program not only worked flawlessly, but that it also produced reports that the chairperson and all the other committee chairs could use on a recurring basis and have the most up-to-date information. Not only did he give up his time while on family vacations, but his wife Shirley was denied many hours of his attention.

After months of planning, design and re-design, and final tweaking, he deployed a web page for the reunion registration participants to move into today's world of social media as well as a paper copy for the members without computer connections. Not only was this success evidenced by the simplified registration process, but also behind the scene by the numerous financial reports available to the reunion chairperson and the committee chairs. These reports provided real time data essential to managing an attendance of 240 registrants. The reports were used to determine how

many people registered, how many and who would take the Cape Tour, who was golfing, how much food was needed for the ice breaker, who needed to submit their information for the AFTAC Building briefing, how many meals for the banquet and what of the three selections, even from what states people were coming. Also of great importance, we could track those registered who had paid (income) and what our outstanding financial obligations/contract commitments were, when we reached contract numbers ... how financially stable we were at any point in time.

This effort required, on his part, over 400 pages of documentation, 12,400 lines of code and upwards of 34,000 command words. His estimated hours of work to accomplish this feat were right at 1,200. In today's world of software development and coding that could potentially equate to approximately \$3,000. Pete completed this effort at no cost to us. Not a bad effort for our 4-year recruit. We even have the documentation to repeat this success for Florida's next reunion hosting.

But he didn't stop there, he has agreed to "continue working on the membership database program and will see it through to completion." He will work with our membership expert, Clark **Creery** or anyone else that requires assistance keeping track of our members. "I plan on being as much of a help to your organization as I can." Thank you, Pete, for your faithful service to this organization and we look forward to seeing you at our alumni meetings. Pete and his wife Shirley deserve special thanks from all of us. Please do that. Here's his email address: [pete@seagullusa.net](mailto:pete@seagullusa.net).

\*\*\*\*\*

**\*SAGE SPOTLIGHT\***

AFTAC ALUMNI ASSOCIATION PROUDLY PRESENTS

**AFTAC WORLDWIDE REUNION 2015, May 29-31, REPORT**

Well, the AFTAC 2015 Worldwide Reunion has come and gone and what a great success it was. With more than 240 people in attendance from 27 states (including Hawaii) and even someone from Australia.

There was a lot of camaraderie and socializing going around. Those of you who attended know what a grand time we had. This article is for those who could not attend this reunion, but should be planning to attend the next AFTAC Worldwide Reunion 2017 in California.

As the Reunion Chairperson, I want to thank my co-chair and those committee chairpersons and the many volunteers who spent the 14 months planning and executing the reunion plans. It was a privilege to work with such a professional team. These Florida alumni members dedicated their time and efforts to making this one of the best reunions hosted on the Space Coast.

**A BIG "Thank You" goes out to:**

Lou **Seiler** – President AFTAC Alumni Association  
Arlin **Massey** – Reunion Co-Chairperson  
Bob Wiley – Dates and Venue Committee

Frank **Calenda** – Registration/Financial Committee

Eric **Lam** – Publicity Committee (replaced by Arlin Massey)

Judy **Milam-Henderson** – Hospitality Committee

**Special mention:** Peter **Gilbert** – Webmaster, Registration Page, ‘Saluted’ in my previous report (Pg 1), and all the co-chairs who diligently supported these efforts behind the scene, the many volunteers who spent so many dedicated hours for this effort.

Bob **Wiley** made a good choice when he researched and recommended we contract with the DoubleTree by Hilton Cocoa Beach Oceanfront, 2080 North Atlantic Avenue, Cocoa Beach, Florida. Our contact, Morgan **Childrey**, ensured we had the best rooms, received excellent service from the staff, and they accommodated all our needs for the various hotel activities.

Frank **Calenda** orchestrated our registration and financial tracking. For the first time, we did “on line” registration. Our mastermind, Peter **Gilbert** (see separate article, Pg 1), spent untold hours and lines of code perfecting our registration process (which included both paper and e filing) and the tracking of income and expenses. While they were busy on registration and finances, Clark **Creery** and John **Horsch** kept the official AFTAC Alumni web page and our Reunion web site populated with updated information as well as sending all those eALLerts you received. They also posted information on Facebook, Linked In, and published a special Reunion newsletter.

Although we started out with Eric Lam as our Publicity person he was replaced by Arlin Massey due to an Air Force conflict for Eric. Throughout the year we published many updates, emails, and listed our reunion on the Air Force web site. We sent multiple announcements to the AFTAC active duty for posting on their internal “Skynet.” We even made over 200 personal phone calls to our local Florida members. We advertised our sponsors on our web site and a poster board at the reunion.

In case you missed the schedule for events, we started early registration on Thursday for those arriving for the Friday morning activities. Activities included a Cape Canaveral Tour, Golf Extravaganza, Ice Breaker, AFTAC Briefing and hosted lunch, formal Banquet, and final farewell Breakfast. The hospitality rooms also opened on Thursday and remained open for the duration. Reunion registration tables were manned and scheduled for strategic timeframes to make it convenient for guests to receive their welcome packages.

Early Friday morning, the Cape Canaveral Tour went as scheduled with two large coach buses taking us to many interesting spots on the station. Stops were made at the old 1868 lighthouse and the Air Force Space and Missile museum where some of the selected guests “launched” a missile. AFTAC was represented in the museum by a replica of the Vela and DSP satellites. We toured many of the old launch pads where space history was made in its heyday. There was a stop at the Mercury 7 Memorial at launch complex 14

and a near-by pass at the operational vertical launch complex with an Atlas poised and ready to be launched within days. Little did anyone know that the Cape Canaveral tour was at risk because of heightened security concerns. Last minute efforts on behalf of both AFTAC and 45th Space Wing Commanders saved the day. Our 45th Space Wing tour guides John Hilliard and James Hale did an excellent job ensuring everyone was too impressed with the facts about the Cape to notice some of our destination buildings were bypassed.

That afternoon, there was the golf extravaganza (see that report following) that challenged the expertise of even the most avid golfer. Ed **Lindsay** and Tony **Calenda** put their heads together to come up with the most unusual challenge. Each player, on a three member team, was allowed one club. Any member of the team could use any one of the three clubs but it seemed that long drives were difficult using a seven iron. Points were awarded for double bogies, bogies, pars and eagles, not that there were any of those. Combined with the golf, each golfer was awarded points for giving the proper answer to AFTAC-related questions posted at each tee-off pad (e.g., Who directed that AFTAC be established?). Each correct answer was awarded a point. Finally, there was a treasure hunt included in the game to get more points. Items such as an Australian pine needle or a sea shell were items that would get you a point. All in all, it was fun, even for the novice golfer. A great time was had by all and the Florida weather was perfect.

That evening, the Ice-Breaker was a fulfillment of one of the main reasons for the reunion. There was much back-slapping, hugging, hand shaking, and hours of storytelling. “Weren’t you at det xxx?” “Didn’t you and I go bar hopping in Korea in 1964?” were some of the overheard questions. Camaraderie was being practiced in the true sense of the word. The golf awards presentation by Ed Lindsay added more hilarity to an already comical event. The DoubleTree certainly delivered on the food and beverages. For the first time ever, there was food left over ... no one went home hungry or thirsty. The stories, the laughs, and yes a few tears were carried over to the well-stocked hospitality room later that evening. The hospitality effort consisted of two large rooms. One room contained beverages and snacks of all sorts plus the chairs and tables that were constantly filled with storytelling members. The other room contained historical photos and memorabilia that were enjoyed by everyone. Dr. Mike Young provided most of the photographic items and asked that anyone we recognized in the photos be identified. Chances were that a familiar photo could be found if one leafed through the many books.

Saturday morning saw friends meeting for breakfast and getting ready for the new AFTAC Operations Facility event. Carpooling was the game plan for those without transportation or needing directions. A well-organized security check at the building entrance put

over 200 people through the highly technical turn stiles, down the Hall of Heritage, and into the beautiful auditorium. First order of business was the new Wall of Honor inductions, honoring individuals that had greatly contributed to the AFTAC mission over the years. Selected for this honor were: Col (ret) Thomas **Ciambrone**, Lt Col (ret) Albert Howard **Hayden**, Dr. Marcel **Kniedler**, CMSgt (ret) Kathy **Leggett**, Col (ret) Charles **McBrearty**, Mr. Doyle **Northrup**, Col (ret) Thomas **Niquette**, Mr. Marv F. **Owen**, Dr. Frank F. **Pilotte**, Dr. Carl **Romney**, Mr. Walter **Singlevich**, and Mr. Delbe **Solari**. Following was a highly informational, unclassified briefing by Colonel Chris Worley, the then AFTAC commander. Not only was his presentation informational, it contained a bit of humor that only he can deliver. Immediately after the briefing, the active duty members of the AFTAC Boosters club hosted a cook out to the rear of the building in the area named Stonehenge, called so because of the large stones placed in a circle around the field.

Saturday afternoon was free time to rest up from the activities, although the hospitality room was again a crowded meeting place to tell more stories and meet more friends. Throughout the weekend, Judy **Milam-Henderson** and her co chairs Gene and Dee **Melchior** ensured the hospitality rooms were fully stocked at all times. Starting early morning with coffee and donuts till late at night for final night cap, the rooms were always hustle and bustle between activities. Slides shows were looped to show past event activities and photos of alumni members. Many coins, shirts, jackets, etc. were purchased as souvenirs. Great Job!

The Saturday night banquet was well attended, over 200 people. The banquet room was filled with men in coats and ties and beautifully dressed ladies. The social hour heard more "old timers" stories and more back-slapping and hand shaking. Laughter was the order of the evening. The colors were posted, the invocation given, a video honoring our comrades who had passed since the last reunion was shown, and dinner was served. During dessert, entertainment was provided by The **Adagio Sax Quartet** for everyone's listening pleasure. Following dinner, the Alumni President Lou **Seiler** took the podium and introduced Dr. Glenn **Sjoden**, the AFTAC Chief Scientist. Dr. Sjoden gave an excellent presentation of his biography and his association with the organization over the years clearly tying into the theme "Standing on the Shoulders of Giants."

Once again, the Doubletree staff did an excellent job serving that many meals and desserts. That finished, many people said their good-byes but equally as many again headed to the hospitality room, one of the most popular places during the reunion. The closing of this area at around midnight signaled the official end of the reunion.

A farewell breakfast was an option for everyone to attend on Sunday morning prior to their departure. These were the last good-bye's given and many times

heard, "See you at the next reunion."

Finally, a hearty "Thank You" goes out to all of you who attended. After all, without you it wouldn't have been a successful reunion. It's time to turn the reins over to the California Chapter for AFTAC 2017 Worldwide Reunion. See you there.

### 2015 WorldWide Reunion Golf Extravaganza

ED LINDSAY

It was a warm afternoon on 29 May 2015. AFTAC alumni and their spouses had begun to gather at the Space Coast the night before and some had just returned from a wonderful tour around the Cape Canaveral launch facilities and the Air Force Station. Twenty-eight of these worldwide travelers arrived at the Cocoa Beach Country Club for what they thought would be a nice leisurely 9-holes of golf. Ohhh were they in for a surprise.

The Extravaganza Director, Tony **Calenda**, had devised an event that would try their minds and physical abilities to their limits. The crowd started to arrive from 1200 – 1230. They had been told that all their needs would be met. No need to bring your clubs from Australia, or Virginia, or Georgia...Tony was going to make it easy on them. For the low entry fee of \$25, they would get the golf experience of a lifetime. As each golfer arrived, they were allowed to choose one golf club and were provided with 3 balls. There were murmurs and queries as to what the wily 2nd generation AFTACer had up his sleeve.

Ten minutes before tee off time, Ed **Lindsay** took the microphone and began to lay out the Rules of Engagement. The players were to go out in groups of three. Each member could use any of the three golf clubs that their group had chosen. There were also putters that were already staged at each of the nine greens. The players would use those putters or the clubs they chose to finish out each hole. This made for an interesting format as we had two individuals that are left handed.

It was individual competition for HIGHEST score, unlike standard golf...with the following points being given.. Bogey=1 point, Par=2 points, Birdie=4 points, Eagle=6 points.Ed explained that this was a representation of what we all had experienced as AFTACers. Being provided the bare bones of tools, supplies, and instruction---then go out and figure how to make things work...by our wits...and adapting to our environment.

An added twist was that a question was located at each hole that referenced a piece of AFTAC Trivia..i.e What year did AFTAC relocate to Patrick AFB? Each correct answer would be worth 1 point...there was also a scavenger hunt...9 items were listed...from an AFTAC coin to a seashell...each of these would be worth one point. With quizzical looks on their faces, the golfers were sent out to try their hand at this bizarre event.

The first 15 minutes were a circus as 3 of the groups ended up on other holes on the course...things finally worked themselves out and the games were afoot. Tony and Ed circulated around the course. Answering

questions and allowing the golfers to use one of their clubs from their full bag. After a little under 2 hours of play, the weary travelers made it back to the clubhouse and were released to the Icebreaker back at the hotel, where results would be given.

As the masses gathered at the Ice breaker, swapping stories of the day's events and memories of times at locations far and near, it was time for Ed Lindsay to step up to the mic again to give a recap of the day's event. The best scores of the day went to the following individuals: Don **Gilbert** - 35 points; Jim **Whidden** - 32 points; Dave Money - 30 points; Judy **Niquette** inched out Becky **Lehnerz** for closest to the pin.. She performed that feat using Ed Lindsay's driver, well done.

Other prizes were given to participants to acknowledge their prowess on the links. A video was provided to Chuck **Conrad** for a way to improve his game. Dr. **Sjoden** came in with a whopping Zero points, so was provided A Dummies book on Golf. Golf photo frames were provided to Becky **Lehnerz** and Tom **Witherell** for their performances. Finally a book was provided to Tom **Niquette** on the history of some of the aspects of golf.

Overall it was a great time...stories were swapped and tales were told. The best thing was to see so many come together and pull together as a team...it was like we had never left each other.

### 2015 AFTAC Spring Picnic, May 2nd

ED LINDSAY

After a few delays concerning the day of the function (originally set for April) and the venue (Fran Jamieson Regional Park), the day had finally arrived.

The AFTAC Picnic committee had chosen to have the picnic at Pavilion #4, by the lake at Wickham Park. The weather was predicted to cooperate, so buoyed spirits were in abundance. And since the AFTAC Alumni was in charge of the Beer wagon, lifted spirits were right in our wheelhouse.

Our party planners extraordinaire, Michelle and Sean **Ryan**, had volunteered to get the site set up and get there early to coordinate with the beer delivery man and TSgt **Burnett**, the picnic Chairman. Michelle and Sean got the lowdown and set up the area with a pavilion cover and chairs. It was a site that was ready for some business.

Frank **Calenda** and Michelle and Sean headed the first shift to get the ball rolling and the suds flowing. A few Alumni members set up roots at the nearest picnic table, so we had all the bases covered. Next came along Ed **Lindsay** and Steve **Revels**...Frank and Michelle hung out for morale support and more customers showed up to partake of the golden amber and adult cider. Sean came back periodically and Dan **Gilb** took his turn at the spigots.

There were many events taking place around us and the silent auction wasn't so silent. We had a steady flow of customers and a constant swapping of stories

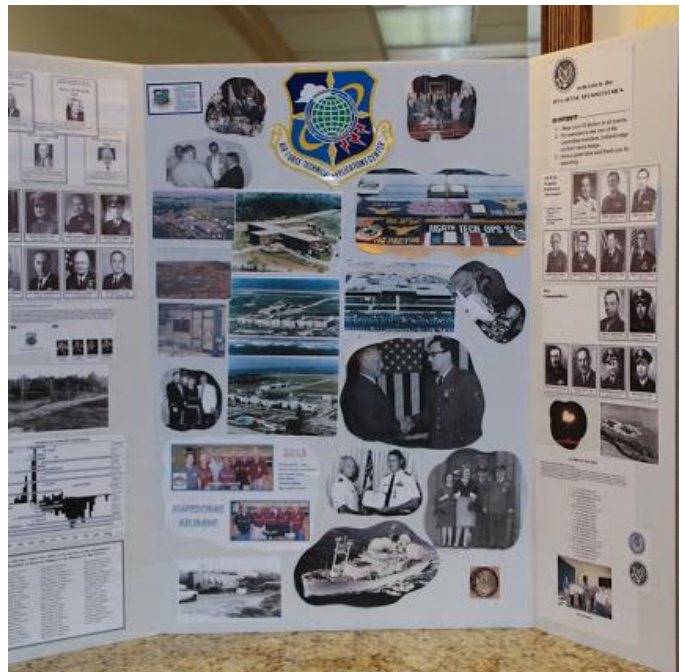
and reestablishing old friendships and starting new ones.

All in all there were 325 AFTACers and their family members that attended. Twenty-eight of those were E4 or below and were able to attend the picnic for free. As the picnic wound down, Sean, Michelle and Ed declared last call. Then 20 minutes later called out the final last call?!?! Michelle expertly started breaking down the beer wagon and we said our final goodbyes to friends, new and old.

If I missed anyone that assisted with the day's activities, please accept my apologies...it was a great day and good times.

**Scene Sages** (Lou Seiler, Posted by Clark Creery)

Reunion, See them all here: <https://sites.google.com/site/irdalumniassnneedtoknownow/scene-sages>



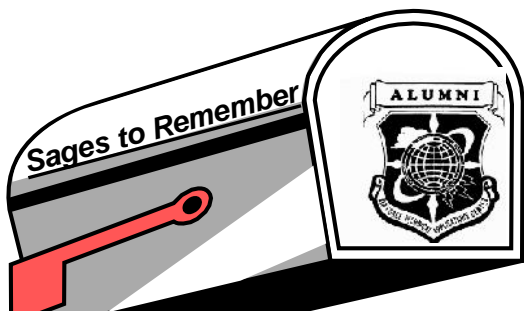
A 3-D Station

Lonnie Gibbons, CO Chapter, Alumni of the Year, 2013, tells a tale, wife Virginia looks very doubtful!!

Behind them, Joe Goldian and Deborah Carson, AFTACAA, work hard to prevent the first crisis.







### ***Personals ...***

Wherein alumni report major events or turning points in their lives that are of interest to fellow Sages. Please send information about awards, births (children, grandchildren), weddings, retirements, illness, deaths and other events (military or otherwise).

### ***In Memoriam***

- |                       |                 |
|-----------------------|-----------------|
| 1. Helen Alexander    | 2. Jack Jackson |
| 3. Herbert John Pabst | 4.              |



### ***Rest in Peace***

#### **1. Helen Alexander**

DELBE SOLARI, CONVERSATION WITH BILL ALEXANDER

Helen L. Alexander, Indian Harbour Beach, FL, Helen Louise Alexander, 74, died peacefully in her sleep at home in Indian Harbour Beach, FL on Tuesday, March 31, 2015. She was born to the late John Paul and Edna Isabel Fitzpatrick on December 13, 1940, in North Platte, NE. After graduation from St. Patrick's High School she relocated to Alexandria, VA, where she worked as a dental assistant. There she met her future husband, William Alexander. They wed in 1966 and shared his military life for 27 years, living in Virginia, Japan, Nebraska, and finally, Florida. Always a talented seamstress, Helen found her true passion in quilting during the last decades of her life, producing numerous heirloom quilts and forming lifelong friendships while working with local groups who share a love for the art and sponsor sewing programs for the disadvantaged.



She also fostered a fondness for sewing and quilting with her daughter and granddaughters who knew her as "Goatie." She is survived by her husband, William; son, John of Port St. John; daughter, Brigid Grace of Indian Harbour Beach, and three granddaughters as well as sister, Rhea Merriman (Tuscon, AZ), brother Thomas Fitzpatrick (Mobile, AL), and brother Paul Fitzpatrick (North Platte, NE). She was a devoted wife, loving mother, and doting grandmother. She is gone from our

world but lives on in our hearts and memories. A Celebration of Life was held at the Fraternal Order of Police Lodge at 1049 Julia Dr., Melbourne, FL on April 12, from 1-4pm, with a short service at 1:30pm. In lieu of flowers, please send donations to Eduquilters, 145 Hwy A1A, Satellite Beach, FL 32937. Anyone wishing to leave a message or share a memory is asked to visit Helen's memorial page at <http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/floridatoday/obituary.aspx?n=helen-alexander&pid=174571542&>

#### **2. Jack Jackson**

OBITUARY NOTICE PROVIDED BY CLARK AND RUTH CREERY.



Melbourne, Walter "Jack" Jackson passed away peacefully at William Childs Hospice House on Tuesday, April 28, 2015. Jack was born in Philadelphia, PA. He served 17 years in the USAF, and lived in the Melbourne/Palm Bay area. Jack is survived by his daughters; Sheryl Ray and Sandra Carter; sister, Naomi McNulty, and granddaughters, Katie and Frankie. A Memorial Gathering was held at Beach

Funeral Home, 4999 N Wickham Rd, Melbourne, on Monday, May 4, 2015, from 10-11, with the Memorial Service at 11. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to cancer research, Honor Flight and St. Jude. Online condolences for the family may be left at Jack's webpage at [www.beachfuneralhome.com](http://www.beachfuneralhome.com) - See picture, guest book and more at: <http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/floridatoday/obituary.aspx?n=walter-jackson&pid=174754788#sthash.1xZmKoVu.dpuf>

#### **Memoriam, Sean Ryan and Family Members**

SEAN RYAN, PROVIDED BY FAMILY MEMBERS

Walter Norman "Jack" Jackson, 16 December 1940 - 28 April 2015, age 74, passed away peacefully on Tuesday, 28 April 2015, after bravely fighting cancer this past month. For those that knew him, not just local, but world-wide, one can recognize, or agree, what a great, caring, Wing-man, and dedicated person, let alone Airman, Jack was, in his career, both on and off-duty. Not just in his military service, but to those of his fellow Alumni and others. He set the standard, as a role model for so many Airman in his career, and Alumni. Jack was truly an outstanding person, gentlemen, Airman, Friend, and Alumni member. He never hesitated to step-to-the-plate at any time in his career or volunteer with Alumni events or be at functions. Jack, was there. He will be greatly missed by so many. Please continue to keep Jack's Family in your thoughts and prayers.

#### **3. Herbert John Pabst**

CONTACTED BY BILL SCHMIED

Herbert John Pabst, 93, died July 18, 2015 at home in Denver. Herb was born October 28, 1921, in Lincoln, Nebraska, to the late Henry and Katherine Pabst. He graduated from Lincoln High School in 1939 and attended the University of Nebraska. He was drafted into military service in 1942 and ended up serving in the Army Air Corp as a radio operator for the B-29s based in Guam until 1946 when he was discharged at Fort Logan in Denver. He was married to Vernetta L. Prosch September 1, 1946, in Bloomfield, Nebraska. He



worked as a Civilian Training Specialist for AFTAC at Lowry AFB for 30 years. After retirement, he and Vernetta moved to Sun City, Arizona, for nearly 18 years and returned to Denver 4 years ago.

Herb was an avid golfer and played regularly through his 90th birthday. He loved to dance, was a dedicated family man with nearly 69 years of marriage to Verny, and was active in the Lutheran Church in Denver and Sun City. He was preceded in death by his parents, 1 brother and 3 sisters. He is survived by his wife, Verny, sons Randy (Susan) and Ken (Vicki), and four granddaughters, Katie Pabst, Joanna Moore, Krysta Pabst, and Keri Pabst. In lieu of flowers memorial gifts can be given to Hospice and Messiah Community Church. Formal Obituary may be seen here, <http://obits.dignitymemorial.com/dignity-memorial/obituary.aspx?n=Herbert-Pabst&lc=2155&pid=175330093&mid=6525214>

**Bill added,** For those who did not know Herb, for many years he was the ATC Supervisory Training Specialist (GS-12) assigned to SPINSTRA which evolved over the years to be the 3454th Technical Training Squadron when he retired in 1980. Herb had a key role in the development, implementation, and scheduling of the officer and enlisted training courses to support AFTAC requirements. He was a great asset to AFTAC as well as to ATC, and he has been a member of our Colorado chapter since 1991 including his time living in Arizona. We will definitely miss Herb at our alumni gatherings.



**TAPS** (1st Verse)  
**In Memory of Those We  
 Knew Well Now Gone  
 But Never Forgotten**

Gen. Daniel Butterfield, 1862

**Day** is done; gone the sun,  
 From the lakes, from the hills,  
 From the sky.  
 All is well, safely rest,  
 God is nigh,

**Fading** light dims the sight,  
 And a star lights the sky, gleaming bright;  
 From afar, drawing nigh,  
 Falls the night.

**Thanks** and praise for our days,  
 'Neath the sun, 'neath the stars, 'neath the sky;  
 As we go, this we know:  
 God is' nigh.

**Scene Sages** (Lou Seiler, posted by Clark Creery)  
**More Reunion Pictures** (see pg 6)



The buses are loading for the Cape Canaveral AFS tour. How many do you recognize. See a link to all these pictures at <https://sites.google.com/site/ldalumniassnneedtoknownow/scene-sages>

The busy lobby as Sages come and go, checking in, leaving for the tour, asking questions. I recognize Dan Gilb on the left and Edna Calenda on the right.





# MAIL - CALL



Any requests for action should be sent to  
**AFTAC Alumni Association (AFTACAA)**  
**PO Box 254892**  
**Patrick AFB, FL 32925-0892**

Missives requesting no action may be mailed/emailed to the editor, '[chrisjohn2@gmail.com](mailto:chrisjohn2@gmail.com).' Those may be edited for clarity and space but not normally for punctuation, wording, etc; opinions are those of the writer(s) and may not reflect Association belief or policy.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Thanks to all who contact us!** We publish all correspondence, unless otherwise requested, so your name, and the memories it invokes, may be recalled. Normally, we will not include personal information, e.g., address, phone number, etc, unless you ask or seemingly appropriate (e.g., follow-up).



04.07-CLARK CREERY, MEMBERSHIP CHAIR, SENT THE EPOMO LINK TO ESUBSCRIBERS AT 1600 AND WROTE:

"I called you to say the ePoMo hit the streets at 4pm (1600). I just finished reading almost every word. You continue to amaze me .... Primo issue. Thanks, Clark, as so do thou! Without you it would not have gotten to our readers so efficiently, and not near so informatively without all those who sent items in and our reviewers quick turnarounds, Frank Hall, Judy Henderson and Susan A Romano/CC/PA.

## FIRST eSAGE(S) TO 'REPORT IN'-FIRST 24-HOURS

**Geno Wagner, email, 1807,** Just a note to let you know that I got the POMO perfectly. That thing is getting bigger and bigger. And yes I have all the paperwork and money sent in and am ready for the reunion. I'll be there if I'm still looking DOWN at the grass, you know, in the upright position. Thanks for all you do. Thank you, Geno. I checked when you wrote and 64-Fellow Sages had also taken a look, this morning, 04.08 @ 0600, it's almost 150!! Glad you're going to be here for the reunion; members like yourself make it so worthwhile.

## MAIL-CALL

**Jimmy Davis, email, 04.09** John, I did get the latest Po/Mo thank you very much, but I have been tied up

and am glad I waited 'till now to let you know that I had received it....am forwarding the attached because it is another bit of information which may be appropriate for the next issue of the Po/Mo. Thank you, Jim, we have used your report at the 'Feature Articles' Section under 'BS.'

## WorldWide Reunion 2015 Mail:

**Mike Sparks, Facebook (AFTAC Alumni ... unite), 06.03**

Finally got home from a wonderful reunion week in Florida. Kudos to the planning staff. I know how hard it was to make everything appear seamless. Really impressed by our private tour of the Cape and a great big thank you to Col Hilliard - a font of information. Great fun catching up with people I hadn't seen in 20+ years. Looking forward to the next time we meet. Mike, thanks for taking the time to write, it was a lot of work but so worthwhile for our fellow Sages.

--**also writing here - Judy Milam,** It was terrific to see Alumni members having fun and getting acquainted or reacquainted with active duty and other Alums. Thanks for attending. It sure was Judy, and thank you for the great 'Hospitality Suite' you and others so aptly provided.

--**Chuck Conrad,** From start to finish, this reunion was a standard setter! The committee picked a great venue and scheduled a perfect set of events. Anything I say seems like an understatement ... it was that good!! Sincere thanks to the hard working committee. And thank you for your attendance, Chuck. And you are right, a new building can only happen once!! Appreciate the pictures you added.

--**Billie Brown,** A BIG THANK YOU to all that worked so hard to make the recent reunion so successful. It seems everyone went above and beyond to ensure that those attending were made to feel welcome. For those that could not attend you missed one of the best reunions, ever. As a spouse of an alumni it was so fulfilling to see the alumni reconnect with some they had not seen for years. Special thanks to John Horsch for picking out our table for the banquet. It was such a pleasure to sit next to his table and with such great tablemates. Thank you, Billie, it was told you and Jerry were the hit of that table!!

**Editor's Note:** This is a just sample, see more online.

**Shulstad, BrigGen (retired) USAF** sent us this reunion thank you with a bit of AFTAC Trivia. QUOTE: I want to commend and thank you, Lou **Seiler** and the entire WW Reunion Team for a truly great weekend filled with memorable events. I had a great time and enjoyed seeing old friends and getting an update on AFTAC.

Here is a bit of trivia for the alumni archives that you may want to pass onto HQ AFTAC and (the alumni). I believe I was the first general officer to begin his AF career in AFTAC at the McClellan Central Laboratory where I ran one of the radio chemistry units from 1968 to 1972. I have attached my bio FYI. (Editors Note: Link to this bio, <http://www.af.mil/AboutUs/Biographies/Display/tabid/225/Article/105545/brigadier-general-raymond-a-shulstad.aspx>)

But, I was not the last general officer to do so! This week LtGen Ellen **Pawlikowski** pinned on her fourth star and will assume command of AFMC on June 8th.

She entered the AF on an education delay in 1982 at MCL and served there until 1986 when she transferred to HQ AFTAC at Patrick AFB for a three year tour. Here is a hot link to her bio: <http://www.af.mil/AboutUs/Biographies/Display/tabid/225/Article/104867/lieutenant-general-ellen-m-pawlikowski.aspx>

Thanks again for putting on such a great reunion! And thank you for attending, Sir, and this interesting note of thanks.

**Dale Klug, email, 07.22,** From Jane **White** @ Chechon Children's Home in Korea, the orphanage Det 452 has supported for many years. "Dear Family and Friends, First of all, Thank You for your support and prayers especially in the last three years. We are still not out of the woods but God is still in charge and sometimes it gets difficult waiting for His time. I would like to ask for your Prayers for me. Thank you for Praying for me. Jane still in Korea. We hope you knee surgery went well and you are recuperating.

#### Sage Report(s)

ITEMS OF INTEREST SHARED BY SAGES. HYPERLINKS WERE ACTIVE WHEN CHECKED. IF THIS IS NO LONGER TRUE, RECOMMEND A WEB 'SEARCH.'

**Lonnie Gibbons, email, 04.21,** sent a reminder of retiree's eligibility for eyeglasses annually. If you are near a base (50-miles), you may take your prescription with you to the optometry section and place your order. Lonnie adds the additional information if you are not near a base contact, <http://www.med.navy.mil/sites/nostra/FramesLenses/framepdfs/blankfilled.pdf>

**Gary Hamm, email, 04.26** (Editor's Note: Gary sent this to Bob Fitzgerald and Bob passed it along. Not only as an item of interest to our Sages, but he expands on the nickname mentioned here later in our BS section!!) I'm still alive and kicking. I was with you at Eielson (Drizleart ring a bell?) Anyway I thought you might find this YouTube video interesting. [Air Weather Service: Nuclear Test Sampling & Weather Reconnaissance circa 1970 US Air Force](http://www.weather.com/Weather/Reconnaissance/circa-1970-US-Air-Force)

**Tom Niquette, email, 06.21** (NOTE: 6 jobs in the military that require insane brainpower) Subj: look at #4. 6 jobs in the military that require insane brainpower <http://www.wearethemighty.com/tough-military-jobs-2015-06#ixzz3dn9kp4pH> Thank you, Sir, we knew this all along, didn't we? But, nice to see it recognized in this manner.

**David Bagby, email, 07.03** NOTE: Dave made us aware of this interview between Studs Terkel and Paul Tibbitts. We researched and found the following link, 'The Big Bang,' good reading, <http://www.theguardian.com/world/2002/aug/06/nuclear.japan>

**Sean Ryan, email, 07.10** Old landmark building at Patrick coming down. The old AFTAC building, a landmark at Patrick Air Force Base, is being demolished. Check out this story on <http://www.floridatoday.com/story/news/local/2015/07/09/old-landmark-building-patrick-coming/29926325/>

**Clark Creery, email, 07.11** Tax Season-Good Info for those Retirees that deal with DFAS and myPay, <https://retireenews.wordpress.com/2015/06/21/tax-season-will-be-here-before-you-know-it/>

**Scene Sages** (Susan Romano, posted by Clark Creery)  
**Wall of Honor Induction**, see all the pictures here, <https://sites.google.com/site/Irdalumniassnneedtoknownow/scene-sages>



The Induction Scene in the AFTAC HQ's Building Briefing Room. The presentation is ready and the ceremony will soon begin for the first twelve selected and to be honored.

Some of the inductees, or representative, are pictured. Front Row: Bob **Wiley** for Howard **Hayden**, Judy **Henderson** for Doyle **Northrup**, (Deceased), Mickie **Solari** for husband, Delbe and Mrs **Romney** for her husband, Dr Carl **Romney** (D) Back Row: Marv F. **Owen**, Mr **Pilotte**, representing his Dad, Dr Frank **Pilotte** (D), Tom **Niquette**, Charles **McBrearty** Jr., Mr. **Pilotte** also representing his Dad, Dr Frank **Pilotte** (D)

Not present or represented: CMSgt Kathy **Leggett**, Marcel **Kniedler** Deceased, and not represented, Tom **Ciambrone**, Walt **Singlevich**





The time since the last edition of the PoMo has been a busy indeed. In May we had the World Wide 2015 Reunion. And what a time it was, with well over 200 members, spouses and friends in attendance. The whole extended weekend was filled to the brim with activities for everyone...a tour of Cape Canaveral, an AFTAC briefing in the new building, a dedication of the AFTAC Wall of Honor Ceremony, a burger burn by the active duty AFTAC Boosters Club, an "unconventional" golf tournament, the Friday evening Ice Breaker, and the culminating Saturday evening banquet. The guest speaker(s) were fabulous. An excellent time was had by all. Everyone left looking forward to the 2017 reunion event to be held in California! A special Thanks and "Well Done" to all those who contributed in so many ways to making the reunion a success.

Then in June the Alumni were invited to the AFTAC change of Command Ceremony, where we bid farewell to Col. **Worley** and a big hello to Col Jennifer **Sovada**.

We are now turning our attention to supporting the AFTAC Winter Social and to the planning for the 2016 Annual Snowball event in February 2016. And let us not forget that September is the Annual Election General Membership Meeting. The nominating committee has again provided a recommended slate of nominees for the ballot, and of course nominations from the floor are always accepted (with the nominee's approval please!) We plan to hold this meeting at the Manatee Cove Golf Course Putter Room on PAFB over the lunch hour to encourage our active duty members to attend, so look for the details elsewhere in this issue of the PoMo.

For those of you that attended the reunion, you may have noticed our new AFTAC Alumni Challenge Coin! It is a really good looking coin, well worthy of any "challenge," so if you didn't pick one up at the reunion, you can order yours through the SAGE Shop (also listed here in the PoMo!) I carry mine proudly and hope you will also!

Well, it would appear that I have reached my allotted space, so until next time.....



**Florida Membership/Sages WorldWide (WW) Directories:** WW is an expanded listing of all who serve(d) and we have recorded. See at <https://sites.google.com/site/lrdalumniassneedtoknownow/> -Pg 07.' Directories available via email to requesting paid-up members.

## BOARD MEETINGS

### Board Members

#### *Elected*

President-**Lou Seiler** Vice-**Ed Lindsay**  
Secretary & Publicity-**Sean Ryan** Treasurer-**Joe Goldian**

#### *Appointed*

Activities-**CMSgt Matthews/CCS**, Hall of Heritage-**Mike Young/CC HO**  
Hospitality-**Judy Milam-Henderson**, Web/Electronic Media-**Mike Black**, Clark **Creery**, John **Horsch**, Membership-**Clark Creery** Post-Monitor Editor/Alumni of the Year Coordinator-**John Horsch**  
Sage Shop-**Steve Revels/HQ IG**  
#####

### A Minute with the Minutes

**AFTAC Cares:** Program supports deployed AFTAC members. Sages are thanked for their support. (see active-duty section/Assn website for more information)

**Golf:** Ed **Lindsay:** There will be a 'Golf Extravaganza' during the WorldWide Reunion, see pg 3. Join us there.

**Hall of Heritage:** Mike **Young** (Historian)/CC HO, reported on several projects going on to make the new building a showplace for all the history of AFTAC, to include many artifacts collected over the years highlighting AFTAC's unique mission. The names of the 12 inductees into the Hall of Honor will be highlighted in the showplace, and a 25<sup>th</sup> AF film crew is making a virtual tour film of the building. There are a lot of exciting things happening to highlight the history of AFTAC.

**Membership:** See Following 'Musings.'

**Post-Monitor:** John **Horsch.** Almost 300+ eSubscribers 'clicked' the issue at 'Box.com' for 'Previews/Downloads,' - meaning, try ePoMo, you'll like it., you 'see/do more' with ePoMo!!

--**Website report**, Visitors/Average 3-pages/Avg Time spent 3:22/From USA 328/1-several from other countries, eg, Australia, Canada, Iran and Italy

\*\*\*\*\*

### 'Membership Musings'

CLARK CREERY, MEMBERSHIP CHAIR

It is with much difficulty that I attempt to provide the latest Alumni information that covers the period April 2015 until July 2015. My difficulty results from my use of a smart (dumb) phone, a laptop with Windows 7.1 and a desktop with Windows 8.1. Let us hope that the Windows attempt to release a much better Windows program (version 10.1) will solve some of my issues. Beware of Windows 8.1 because they neglected to tell me that signing on required two methods. One for your local machine and the other for a Windows Server somewhere out there somewhere. Anyhow here goes nothing:

**Lifetime members:** Michael **Sparks**, Richard **Goodman**, Aaron **Trudel**, David C. **Jarman**, David **Good**, John **Giles**  
**Sustaining members:** Richard **Pivarnik**, William **Strader**  
**Brand New Members:** Taylor **Miller**, David **Goebel**, Sharon **Tosoro**, Jonathan **Vannoord**, Garritt **Labar**, John **Wallace**  
**Distinguished Member(s):** Colonel Christopher **Worley** (Departing CC) and Colonel Jennifer P. **Sovada** (New CC).



**Lost Sages:** We need your assistance with members who have incorrect data and I have had to suspend their information, Carl D. **Raines**, a Lifetime Member last seen in the Jacksonville, FL and Arthur S. **Reinhart**, a Lifetime Member either in Boise, ID or Reno, NV. If you can **help please** do. **Additional information:** The master database has been reviewed and compared to our listing in the Google Groups area of the internet and we have had to make 162 changes/corrections to the data that we have. Please, if you move, get run over by a bus or something like that, let us know or have your closest friend call.

**Statistics:** Here are the numbers that bore everyone to tears, but I must report them: Master Database: 4664; Florida Members: 641; Florida Lifetime Members: 564; California: 138; Colorado: 94; Post Monitor Distribution: Electronic Notification: 355, USPS Mailing: 290

**Reunion:** Since the membership requirements of our latest reunion (and what a great job everyone did) it left me out in the rain because now I have to work on other projects. Above all, please keep us informed so I do not have to spend hours and hours trying to determine where I failed first grade math in school. We thank you all for your membership and thanks to the Active Duty folks who support the Alumni and keep us on track. Clark Creery, Msgt, Retired, Boeing Quality Engineer, Retired, Q-Bit Corporation Documentation Manager, Retired



## COLORADO NEWSLETTER, 2015.01 EXTRACTS

# ECHOES

President, Steve **Clark**-Vice, Darrel **Kline**-Treasurer, Bill **Schmied**-Newsletter Editor, Jerry **Moxley**/Publisher, Ken **Behrens**-Webmaster, Bill **Harris**-Website @ <http://www.aftacco.org/>. Membership: 87



(Also published in last PoMo)  
**FL Editor Note:** Jerry **Moxley** (Moxi), ECHOES Editor, advises **Sages** can request a complimentary 'electronic' issue via email, [mox@wispertel.net](mailto:mox@wispertel.net), on a one time basis for review and consideration of joining the Denver Chapter.

## Events Calendar

WEBSITE (URL @ OFFICER LISTING) HAS INFO/UPDATES-CONTACT IF ATTENDING.

**-General Membership Breakfast**, last held in February, check the website for the next and much more.

## Colorado Chapter First Newsletter?

FLORIDA EDITOR

**Charles Toner** has an interesting report in this ECHOES that contains the possible first newsletter of this Chapter, written by Ben **Vlassick** (D) in Nov 1986. There was a mailing list of ~115 names. From this he apparently received 18 responses and put together a 'SAMPLER', dated Mar 1987 with three forwarding \$5.00 to become the first dues-paying members.

See Jerry's offer above, this might be a good copy to ask for if you are interested.



## September Breakfast

Top Left Picture: Both Frank and Jeanne **Barbosa** are former AFTACers residing in Aurora and joined our alumni chapter at this meeting.

Top Right: Bill **Yohman** lives in San Angelo, Texas, and just happened to be visiting our area when he heard about our breakfast. He too joined our alumni chapter at this meeting.



Left: MSgt **Brown**, the new superintendent at Det 46 made the trip from Colorado Springs and was introduced to and received a welcome from our members

## CALIFORNIA NEWSLETTER, 2015.04/07 EXTRACTS

# DEPOT FALLOUT

2014-15 Board: Dave **Tarquino**, President; Joe **Johnson**, Vice; Ken **Denbleyker**, Chairman of the Board of Directors (COB); George **Thompson**, Asst. COB; Bob **Fitzgerald** (D), Director At Large; John 'Butch' **Kemna**, Treasurer; Dennis **Nolan**, Asst. Treasurer; Bob **Baker**, Secretary; Ken **Breitwieser**, Asst. Sec; Dave **Price**, Membership; Don **King**, Newsletter Editor; Bob **Fitzgerald**, Webmaster - Website @ <http://www.aftacwcc.org>. **Florida Editor's Note:** *The 1st Page of this 'Fallout' is available at the website - full earlier issues are also available. This editor can personally attest to the value of re-viewing CA's posted issues. There are articles of high interest for Sages not available elsewhere, better yet, become a member..*



## Events Calendar

Just a reminder business meetings are the 2nd Monday of March, June, September and December at 7:00 PM at the Lionsgate Hotel on McClellan Park. The meetings last about an hour and all Alumni are welcome.

(Always check our 'Events' page, <http://www.aftacwcc.org> or call ahead to our President to confirm time & place.)

## A Word from the President

DAVE TARQUINO. FROM THE 2015.07 ISSUE

We will hold our bi-annual election of officers this year at our Fall Social, November 14th. The Nominating/Volunteering ballot is included in this newsletter. Ken **Denbleyker**, Chairman of the Board, will be beating the bushes looking for Alumni to fill positions and all positions are available. More to come from Ken in the near future. The location of the Fall Social is to be determined. We have been going to the China Buffet for the past few years but we might try something different. We will let you know in the October newsletter.

Our business meetings and social events are open to the entire AFTAC family. Put the dates on your calendar and join us if you can. Our next business meeting is 14-September at 7:00 PM at the Lions Gate Hotel, at McClellan Park.

## WHAT IS AFTAC AND WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO ME?

BY DON KING, WCC NEWSLETTER EDITOR, FROM THE 2015.04 ISSUE

We have an incredibly rich heritage! Did any of you enter the Air Force with a goal or dream of doing the jobs that we did in AFTAC? Did we even know that a thing called AFTAC or its predecessors existed? Think of the career fields that we did know about related to being part of the traditional Air Force. They all sounded exciting and part of that third dimension of the air - Pilot,

navigator, bombardier, gunner, radioman and tail gunner, just to name a few. And then there was the ground crew of mechanics, technicians and other "keep them flying" guys, proudly working their hearts out to send their knights in shining armor with their deadly weapons out to vanquish the enemy. Recalling the images in the WWII newsreels of countless B-17's, B-24's, B-29's, P-51's and P-38's covering the sky on their way to destroy the war machine of the enemy, it was easy to imagine being up there part of it all.

Yes, we were wearing blue uniforms rather than brown, signaling that a new guard was taking over. And we were all pretty young when the image of a mushroom cloud entered our reality. Some of us heard it real time for the first time ever as President Truman announced over the radio the use of the first atomic bomb against the Japanese homeland. Some heard through our relatives or read it in our history books. It was otherworldly, like something out of Terry and The Pirates or Steve Canyon. But we all knew that we had entered a whole new world where the stakes of war had just gone up at an exponential rate! We didn't see beyond our knowledge that we were to become the roundtable of a worldwide Camelot. Little did we guess what lay ahead as we entered through SPINSTRAS or other avenues.

It was clear that we were not into something that was run-of-the-mill stuff. The secrecy involved and demand told us volumes about the importance of what we were embarking upon. It was exciting and caused the adrenalin to surge as we realized that we were part of something far bigger than our preconceptions of our Air Force careers could have conjured up!

And we also recognized that we were not just replaceable pegs to be dropped into appropriate holes as needed and then discarded. We were a select few with a mission that was to become unending in the struggle for survival in a dangerous world. How well we did our job meant the difference between keeping a lid on nuclear warfare and its consequences or seeing the world descend into a holocaust magnitudes greater than the despots of the world were already accomplishing with conventional arms.

WE ARE AFTAC! We have always been a fraternity. We have always been a family. We span 65 years as this highly unique calling. In order to keep this rich heritage prospering, please consider volunteering to serve the WCC in whatever way that you are moved.

## Website Activity Report

BOB FITZGERALD, WEBMASTER, [WWW.AFTACWCC.ORG](http://WWW.AFTACWCC.ORG)

**NOTE: Florida Editor's compilation of Bob's report:** April-June, unique visits, over 16K, Avg per day, 180+, Most popular, Home and Picnic. **Check it out, see what those thousands are seeing.**

## Membership News

DAVE PRICE, MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN, FROM THE 2015.07 ISSUE

Members = 147 Life Members = 137. Annual membership fee of \$10 is due by 01 Jan each year.



# MONITOR *ing Active*

## Duty Doing' from around the AFTAC world

### Command Section



Col. Jennifer P. Sovada

**Commander/CC/2015.06** Colonel Sovada graduated from the U.S. Air Force Academy in 1994. She is a career intelligence officer who has commanded an intelligence squadron and served at the squadron, center, major command, joint, and interagency levels. NOTE: Complete Bio: <http://www.afisr.af.mil/units/aftac/index>



CMSgt Matthew Brown

**Superintendent/CCS/2014.05, AF/AFTAC1988** The Chief has served in various positions in AFTAC. Additionally, Chief Brown has deployed with the WC-135 and operated in a wide variety of mission techniques within AFTAC. Education: All NCO Academies. Complete Bio, same as CC above.



**EDITOR'S NOTE:** AS I WRITE THIS, AFTAC IS TRANSITIONING FROM CMSGT BROWN BEING IN THE CCS POSITION TO INCOMING CMSGT NEIL JONES BEING IN A NEWLY ALLOCATED SLOT OF COMMAND CHIEF MASTER SERGEANT. CHIEF JONES IS SCHEDULED TO ARRIVE SOMETIME IN AUGUST AND WE WILL HAVE MORE ON HIM IN THE NEXT ISSUE. HIS BIO MAY SOON BE AVAILABLE AT THE URL ABOVE.

CHIEF BROWN WILL CONTINUE WORK AT THE HQS, AS HE WRITES BELOW. WE CANNOT THANK THE CHIEF ENOUGH FOR HIS SUPPORT DURING HIS TENURE. THERE WERE MANY CHANGES AND CHALLENGES, AND HE HELPED US IN EVERY WAY POSSIBLE. THANK YOU, CHIEF, AND WE LOOK FORWARD TO A CONTINUED BUSY AND POSITIVE RELATIONSHIP. **THE CHIEF WRITES:**

AFTAC'ers, now and before, in case you missed the news, I wanted to let you know that after a lot of hard work, we finally succeeded in getting approval for AFTAC's first ever Command Chief position. Regrettably, due to HYT limitations, I was not eligible for consideration to fill the seat, but until our new Command Chief, Chief Neil Jones gets here and takes over, I'm proud to continue in the interim as your acting Command Chief. Neil and I have been working long-distance together since he was first selected by Col Sovada, and I'm certain you won't be disappointed. Neil brings an amazing level of professionalism and a technical back-

ground which will be invaluable to AFTAC. I'm expecting him to arrive in Aug, and after a short overlap I'm moving to the Materials Directorate where I get to continue working with this great AFTAC mission, and the best folks in the Air Force!

The approval of an AFTAC Command Chief change reflects highly upon the professionalism of each and every one of you and I see this as validation of the importance of what we do here. The work that you do stands by itself in my eyes, and this change helps the rest of the Air Force understand our contribution even more. Thank you for all that you do and your continued support! Regards, Chief Brown. Thank you Chief, we will miss you in that office, but look forward to your continued work with the alumni assn.



## AFTAC Cares

### Packages for Deployed

Details and needed items, at Alumni Assn website, 'Need To Know Now' link. <https://sites.google.com/site/lrdalumniassnneedtoknownow/aftac-cares-program-support-our-deployed>

**'Cares' Contact:** Carol Snyder, Carol.Snyder@us.af.mil, We currently have 9 AFTAC deployed, some have written 'notes of appreciation,' see following.

**NOTE:** Carol forwards these notes and we post them at the association website (URL above), and, as possible, in the PoMo. Often, these 'Thanks' make very good reading and provide insight into what our deployed experience. **'Thank You(s)' follow:**

**07.14 Posting.** Please tell the powers that be that I received my AFTAC Spouses care package and am very appreciative. Thanks, V/r **Mike Myers**, Capt, USAF

**05.06 Posting.** It's already been three months!! I hope the next three fly by just as fast. Work is about the same, samples come in, we test them, instruments break down, I look around for something to break, nothing is available, I eat chocolate, call another lab to get help, my lab techs take the instrument apart, everything magically starts working again, then we repeat the process. It's lovely. So I might be exaggerating a little. We've really only had a couple of problems with instruments and to be honest it makes the day much more exciting when they break down. Being in AI Udeid is great, I basically get to experience all the advantages of being deployed without any of the disadvantages. Granted, I am excited to see plants again and have an

*EVENT/****ALUMNI INVITED*****	DATE/TIME	LOCATION	POC/REMARKS
WindDown	1st Friday Each Month/1530	Outside HQ's Building	See website/calendar note below.
AFTAC Alumni Assn Monthly Meet	2nd Monday/Ea Month/1600 or other designated time	1545 HQ's Lobby or other Venue	See website/calendar note below.
Burger Burn	Every Thursday/1100 -1230	HQ	See website/calendar note below.
Pack-n-Wrap for the Troops	Bi-Monthly/1830	Various, contact POC	See website/calendar note below.

**\*Ed Note: Active-Duty recurring events, Alumni Always Invited ...** for a complete current and recurring listing, see the **'Schedule of Events'** kept up to date by the Chapter Secretary, Sean Ryan, <https://sites.google.com/site/lrdalumniassnneedtoknownow/4-active-duty-schedule>.



air conditioning unit that doesn't blow clouds of dust everywhere but there are some definite bonuses. For example, last week we received several boxes of Girl Scout cookies and a cute note from the troops. The cookies were delicious! A couple of weeks ago I was off base with some of the other CGOs and discovered an amazing cupcake shop (which is actually called Amazing Cupcakes) and yes they taste just as good as they look. I wish I could fit the entire store in my suitcase. Last week I also had a chance to tour a B-1 with some other poor CGOs who (like me) hardly ever get to work with or even see planes. Hope everyone is doing well! --**Jennie Wood**



### The Boosters Club Report

**President:** SSgt Bruno-**Vice:** SSgt Doerr, **Secretary/PA:** A1C Vera-**Treasurer:** A1C Scarber-**Clothing Sales:** SSgt Vanzandt-**Fundraising:** A1C Stinson  
**SSgt Bruno's report:** *Winter Social*. Tentative date, Dec 11, Capt Curtis **Medve** is the head on it.

We are still awaiting word on The *Toilet Bowl*, it has not yet been assigned to a group.

**PoMo EDITORS NOTE:** To follow all events at the Center we pass on information via 'eALLert's' to subscribed members (open to all, email 'chrisjohn2@gmail.com' to enroll) and/or the <https://sites.google.com/site/rdalumniassnneedtoknownow/Home> 'Breaking News' and/or 'Calendar of Events,' Page 05. Check often

### AFTAC 'Now'

SUSAN A ROMANO, AFTAC/PA, PROVIDES ITEMS OF INTEREST ON A REGULAR BASIS AND WE POST THEM AT THE ASSN WEBSITE, [HTTPS://SITES.GOOGLE.COM/SITE/LRDALUMNIASSNNEEDTOKNOWNOW/](https://sites.google.com/site/rdalumniassnneedtoknownow/) 'PAGE 1-BREAKING/NEWS TO KNOW,'-CHECK THERE OFTEN. AS SPACE PERMITS, ABSTRACTS FOLLOW WITH A LINK TO THE COMPLETE STORY, OFTEN WITH PICTURES. LINKS WERE CURRENT AT THE TIME OF WRITING BUT MAY BE MOVED, IF SO, CHECK 'NEWS/ARCHIVES.' SUSAN'S ITEMS MAY ALSO BE POSTED AT THE [HTTP://WWW.25AF.AF.MIL/](http://www.25af.af.mil/) ED NOTE: CHECK ALSO FACEBOOK SITES, 'AFTAC ALUMNI OF THE WORLD, UNITE,' AND '99105 99104 99106 99125 9S100.' AT TIMES THERE THOSE WHO SERVE/SERVED OUR MISSION WILL POST THERE.

**08.06 Posting: AFTAC experts educate students at STEMiversity** A trio of highly skilled technicians from the Air Force Technical Applications Center here traveled to Milledgeville, Ga., June 22-23 to educate and mentor area high school students. Aptly called 'STEMiversity,' the summer program focuses on science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) and gives underrepresented middle and high school youth an opportunity to conduct experiments and use precision instruments in real-life laboratories. [http://](http://www.25af.af.mil/news/story.asp?id=123455222)

[www.25af.af.mil/news/story.asp?id=123455222](http://www.25af.af.mil/news/story.asp?id=123455222)

**08.01 Posting Air Force removes nuclear excess from Alaska** 7/31/2015 - EIELSON AIR FORCE BASE, Alaska -- The Air Force Technical Applications Center, headquartered at Patrick AFB, Fla., removed excess nuclear material from one of the center's seismic arrays on Burnt Mountain, Alaska, and transferred it to a repository at the Nevada National Security Site after nearly 15 years of inoperability. <http://www.25af.af.mil/news/story.asp?id=123454814>

**06.20 Posting. Sovada takes command of Nuclear Treaty Monitoring Center** Members of the Air Force Technical Applications Center said goodbye to one leader and hello to another at a change of command ceremony today (06.19). Col. Christopher A. **Worley** relinquished command of the nuclear treaty monitoring center to Col. Jennifer P. **Sovada** in front of more than 350 people in attendance. Maj. Gen. John N.T. **Shanahan**, commander of 25th Air Force, officiated the ceremony. <http://www.25af.af.mil/news/story.asp?id=123451439>

**06.12 Posting. AFTAC inducts 12 to historic Wall of Honor** Combined, they have an astounding 347 years working in the field of nuclear technology and long range detection. One alone logged 60 years of federal service – 22 active duty, 38 civil service. And now, they are all part of an initial cadre that will forevermore be memorialized for their significant contributions to the nation. The Air Force Technical Applications Center here inducted 12 men and women May 30, 2015, to its newly unveiled Wall of Honor ... <http://www.25af.af.mil/news/story.asp?id=123450477>

**05.20 Posting. AFTAC seeks long, lasting relationship with local school** It's always fun for military members to visit local elementary schools to meet with the students and spend time in the classrooms. But when a general officer makes the trip, especially a visit to an impoverished facility. <http://www.25af.af.mil/news/story.asp?id=123448585>

**04.22 Posting. AFTAC hockey team plays FIT in charity game** It may have been 84 degrees outside, but inside, the ice was frozen solid and the enthusiasm sky high. Thirteen members of the Air Force Technical Applications Center here faced off against players from Florida Institute of Technology's hockey team March 21 to raise money for the wounded warriors. <http://www.25af.af.mil/news/story.asp?id=123445937>

**04.03 Posting. Two AFTACers to escort WWII vets to Washington, D.C** Through an essay contest conducted at the Air Force Technical Applications Center here, two members of the center will escort a pair of World War II veterans on an upcoming Honor Flight to Washington, D.C. <http://www.25af.af.mil/news/story.asp?id=123444010>

1. "Commander's reCall"/(2007.09) (last report)
2. "I Remember ..." /This issue
3. "A Family Affair"-Parent/Child Serve LRD (2007.09)
4. "Sage Stars"/Post-Service Success (2013.08)
5. "BS Tales"/(This Issue)
6. "Where In The World Is"/(2012.08)
7. "Tom's Trivia"/(2014/04)

**NOTE: 'FEATURE ARTICLES' DO NOT ALWAYS HAVE INPUTS.**  
*We list them in the hope it will trigger you to sit down and share a tale or two. It is also a reminder of our dependence on you, our readers AND WRITERS!!*  
 Send inputs to 'chrisjohn2@gmail.com' or mail to the Alumni Address (see pg 2, left column).

### "I REMEMBER ... "

LRD HISTORY BY THOSE WHO WERE THERE

PREPARED FROM YOUR INPUTS. We solicit your **unclassified** 'Long Ranger' career memories/reports:

**HONOR ROLL:** Jack Binkerd, John Horsch (3 reports), Jim Payne, Tom Ciambone (D), Robert Jones (D), Mary Miller, Jim Davis (7), Rick Holderman (2), Carl Raines, Dan Burk, Harry Bedsworth, Walter Franks, Bill Braukman (D), George Kraus (2), George Walters (2), Marvin Ross, Joe Marshall, Chuck Conrad, Joe Johnson (2), John Bright (3), Robert Mason, Curt Smith (3) Jim Lillethun, William Koerschner, Glenn Kennedy (D), Tom Dunn, Bob Long, Vern Mikkelsen, Brian Swan (D), Bruce Deffler, Les Miller, Clark Wilberg, Lloyd French, Tony Balentine, Wayne Myers, Clark Creery, Gary Warfield (D), Clentis Bailey, Dr. Romney, Bob Chadwick, Dave Wingfield, Bill Moran, Ron Geleta, Harry Hodges, Mary Welch (2, D), Karl Starzinger, John Johnson, Buford Clendenen, Brian Berenbach, Gene McKay, Gary Hamm,

WE LOOK FORWARD TO YOUR 'I REMEMBER' REPORTS

#### Gary Hamm Reports, 05.20

##### Ah, The Bittersweet Memories of Lowry

IT WAS DIFFICULT FOR THIS EDITOR TO DECIDE BETWEEN 'BS' (BOLDLY STATED) OR 'I REMEMBER ... " ON THIS ONE. IT WAS SO CLOSE TO THE EXPERIENCE I HAD I PLACED IT HERE. While at Lackland AFB for basic training, amid the flurry of testing we had, one day we were all taken to what I thought was just another aptitude test. Instead, it was for assignment to a technical school. The sergeant told me that I had two choices: first was that I would be sent to the University of Maryland to learn Russian. The second was that I could be interviewed by some officer – a Major, I think. I would not be told what I would be doing if I accepted. Only that I would be going to tech school at Lowry AFB in Denver. I always wanted to go to Colorado, nor didn't want to learn Russian. I was asked to do some math problems – solve the square root of a number and such stuff. I was accepted – and off to 6 ½ years of the most fascinating stuff a young geek could possibly desire. I was designated 99125L and my class at Lowry was 21112L at SPINSTR.

I arrived via train from Lackland AFB sometime in the wee hours of October 1962. Upon entering the barracks on "Lowry 1" the first question was "Are there any '99's" here?" There were several of us and we were told, "Oh, you're the guys that get to carry .45 caliber sidearms. That, of course was just a myth that existed at that time.

After awhile we settled in to the open-bay barracks in P.A.T.S. (Personnel Awaiting Tech School)– and assigned details until the time for tech school arrived. The barracks were heated by coal furnaces and that aroma will always remind me of my time there. One person



volunteered to have the permanent detail of "Fireman" – the poor sap that had to shovel coal into the furnaces. He and his fatigues took on the permanent layer of coal dust. Perhaps this photo will trigger some memories for some lucky guys!

>>>Pg 18, Right Column

### "BS TALES"

PREPARED FROM READER INPUTS. We solicit your **unclassified humorous** 'Long Rangers' tales. We recognize some may be, 1. 'Barely Substantiated' and/or 2. 'Boldly Stated (BS):

**HONOR ROLL:** Jack Binkerd, John Horsch (6 reports), Ben Vlasick, (D), Brian Berenbach, Mike Gingrich (2), Frank Liberatori, Bill Taylor, Frank Calenda (6), Ron Cook (3), Walter Franks, Ken Oyer, Bob Chadwick (4), Frank Szachta (4), Chuck Wallace, Jon Kempe (D), George Kraus (2), Bud Horrell, Mike Steskal, Ray Copeland (4), Geno Wagner, Harold Huhs, Jack Wagley, Leroy Jones, Jack Dorneden (D) (7), Clark Creery (6), Richard (Alkie) Summers (2), Les Miller (2), Jon Richardson Mike Higgins, Kenneth Stanford. Dick Grim, James Gindlerperger, Harry Joseph, Brent Braud, Charlie Penn, Joe Johnson (2), Bill Moran, John Griffiths, Dave Jarman, Gunther Lang, William Flowers, Tony DeMarco, Jimmy Davis, Bob Fitzgerald, Bill Alexander,

WE LOOK FORWARD TO YOUR 'BS' INPUTS, AND, WE ALWAYS LET OUR READERS DECIDE THE MIX OF 'I' AND '2!'

#### Jim Davis Reports, 04.15

Joe (Johnson), it is always special when one hears from ole (and yes OLD) and special friends, and yes my mind is still pretty good at 87 and I do remember and have a lot of good and special memories of our association.

I still consider our trip down to Alamo, Nevada, one of my fondest memories of you....and yes, I have another special memory where we did a little survey in Alaska near Eielson when they were preparing to move from 204 over to 207..we'd set off a little dynamite charge to get a signal...and at the end of the day...or when the survey was over we would sometimes set off a little charge on a tree to see the results there....and yes, I was really saddened to hear the passing of Frank Winter....like you, he was a special person and I truly enjoyed the association with him which began following your and my association in Nevada.

I met Frank in Pinedale to help install the LP equipment there...had only seen the LP in Kingman, Arizona, but for some reason Frank Galiney thought I was an expert after having only seen it.. As you well know it was pretty sensitive stuff and difficult to work with in the

beginning...and Frank Winter was in the same boat, in other words like the "blind leading the blind." Anyway like always we managed to get the job done and headed to another location to repeat the same experiences....the experience at Pinedale didn't help getting the job done at the other location!!

Joe, as I say you are one of the "SPECIAL" members of AFTAC that I have a lot of respect and admiration for.....you know what you were doing and certainly taught me a lot there in Alamo...but we did have fun as well didn't we? Remember the little creek where we went swimming and swung out over the water on a rope???? and our trip out on Lake Meade to do a little water skiing...I never did learn the art of that.....Take care Joe, thank you for the contact and please stay in touch.....Jim Davis It's great to read the memories of these early troops. I was lucky enough to know and work with them.

### Bob Fitzgerald, Reports 05.08

WE MENTIONED BOB'S REPORT IN THE 'MAIL-CALL' SECTION. "I was NCOIC of the Physics Unit at Det 202 and my shared 'office' consisted of a middle isle with either 2 or 3 desks on each side of the room. Mine was at the back right corner of the small, crowded room. One morning I came in as usual and walked to my desk to get started on the day's data and after I sat down at my desk I noticed everyone in the office had turned and was smiling at me for some reason. I didn't see anything wrong with the way I put my uniform on that morning or anything else unusual around my area so I got up and walked around to the front of my desk and there in front of me was my "R.L. FITZGERALD" nameplate



now reading "L.G. DRIZLEFART". I started to laugh and turned around when I noticed the Detachment Commander, Col. Franz "Herb" Dettmer and the Operations Officer and many others were peeking in the door and laughing their heads off along with everyone in the office. It seems the guys that worked the night shift had a slow night, did the deed to my nameplate and let everyone else in on it before I arrived. I never did live that one down.

As I said above, seems I couldn't get rid of that nickname the rest of my time in AFTAC (ret. 2/28/1977) ... That is except once for a short while there at MCL around 1970-71 when I was NCOIC of a research unit that created the Ge(Li) Gamma Ray Detector and one of our guys changed my nameplate again to something that ended in "FARTGELI". That's what I get for obtaining that chrome USAF nameplate with removable/moveable chrome letters when I was stationed at Hickam AFB back in 1957 or '58. It did not occur to me then that anyone would someday unscrew it and change the letters around.

When I went to work for the State of California's largest data center in 1984, they even tagged me with a computer Userid (it had to be 8 letters and begin with "DC" for Data Center) and I ended up with "DCDRIZLE". Well, since retirement from the state and getting my own email address for home a long while back, I have used "dcdrizle@pacbell.net" for most all my communication with the organizations with which I'm involved and a lot of others.

NOTE: What you see is a photo of my chrome USAF nameplate today – as it was then except that someone knocked it off my desk when I worked for the State of California and broke the "T". Unable to obtain a replacement for it, I did the best I could to make a suitable substitute for it.

### Judy Milam-Henderson Reports, 05.18

JUDY'S MEMORY WAS JOGGED BY THIS TALE AND SHE ADDED ONE OF HER OWN!

Nice article. Reminds me of a nameplate I once used. When someone in our office was promoted from Major to Lt Col, the new Lt Col took his old Major leaf and put it on my name plate. It stayed there for years, and I can't tell you how many times people came into my office and hesitated before deciding whether or not to call me "Major." In fact, I think a few people did address me as "Major" over the years.

### Bill Alexander, Reports, 06.12 - The Martini Club

VERY WELL DONE, BILL, AND WHILE NOT EXACTLY MISSION RELATED, I AM SURE, ON BALANCE, THESE GATHERINGS WERE AN OVERALL BOOSTER TO MISSION ACCOMPLISHMENT I've recently been reminded of a short chapter of my military life which I had all but forgotten and, loath as I am to dust off memories which should be better left undusted, I consider this one relatively inoffensive and besides, the statute of limitations has probably run its course. In the teen-age years of AFTAC I found myself, a newly minted Ssgt, at Hq and working for the (even then) renowned Delbe **Solari**. Now Delbe's circle of friends tended to meet informally now and then to discuss policy and, being on the whole somewhat loquacious, generally required ample liquid lubrication to insure proper functioning of the oratorical apparatus.

It was my good fortune to be invited to one of these sessions where, by chance, it was disclosed that most attendees had a predisposition for martinis as their cocktail of choice. As I recall then, one member, known by the initials Ed **Gardiner**, proposed a weekly gathering of those interested, to enjoy the heady delights of good gin, tempered somewhat with vermouth and garnished with olives, companionship and sparkling conversation. The proposal was well received and shortly thereafter a hardy band gathered weekly to fulfill the club charter. In due time rules were proposed, debated and finally accepted. These boiled down to:

1. The club would meet weekly. As I recall it was each Wednesday, after duty hours.



2. During each meeting a minimum of a fifth of gin must be consumed.

3. The quality of the gin was established as "Gilbey's or better".

4. Club meetings would be held, in rotation, at members residences.

Vermouth quality was not, to my recollection, established. Nor were olive brands or the method of mixing martinis. In a pitcher, stirred, not shaken, and served on the rocks was the de facto rule. The traditional martini stemware was usually eschewed in favor of glassware with generally greater capacity and lesser fragility.

This purely liquid diet was somewhat tamed with bar snacks at the first few gatherings but very soon members wives started providing droolable delicacies. I've often wondered whether this was cooking competition or an effort to save our innards from the raw stuff we swilled down. Maybe both.

Initially there were, if memory serves, six members. This number changed from month to month from a high of (I believe) around ten and a low - before disbanding, of three. Rule # 2 made it impossible to survive below this number. Guests were common and I remember vividly someone inviting a guest and upping the ante with an extra fifth of gin which, naturally, had to be consumed.

Several attempts were made by nefarious members to detract us from our stated club goals and developing principles. On one occasion someone replaced the de rigueur gin with vodka, adding cocktail onions to the mix (a dead giveaway). He barely escaped having onions stuffed up his nose.

Of course there was the St. Patricks day meeting with emerald green gin and the evening that Frank **Winter** observed, while sadly staring into an empty chip bowl, that "somebody took all the big ones". I guess you had to be there.

On one occasion, at the conclusion of a club meeting at the Solari residence, I was deemed unfit to drive (a generous understatement) and, after a splendid spaghetti dinner, usurped one of Delbe's daughter's beds for the night. I think she's forgiven me by now.

Among the stalwarts passing through club membership and going on to greater things, I remember: Ed Gardiner, Delbe Solari, Ken Frigen, John Montgomery, Art Hall, Frank Winter, Glen Kinman

There were others I'm sure but memories are fragile things at best, and more so when eroded by alcohol.

I can't recall a single deleterious incident arising from the club's conduct although I've wondered from time to time, whether the damage we did to the mission, through undoubtedly impaired performance on days following club meetings, was, if not balanced, at least lessened by the interoffice bonds forged and bolstering of an already high morale level.



'I Remember' continued from pg 16

After trudging through was seemed to be an endless period of time, we were finally moved to "Lowry 2" on the west side of Lowry to much nicer and more comfortable living quarters (see picture below). We finally graduated in the summer of 1963. Off to MCL... and beyond.



The Base Exchange, and a good hangout even if we did not have any money, and the chow hall where I spent one wonderful week at the dreaded "Clipper" that steam-cleaned all the dirty utensils and dishes (good times) all because I naively replied "whenever I need to" when asked by our NCOIC, "How often do you shave, airman?" Thanks, Gary, this was well done and brings memories back to many of us.

## "TOM'S TREASURE OF TANTALIZING AFTAC TRIVIA"

IN HONOR OF TOM CIAMBRONE (DECEASED)



'Trivia' was suggested and initiated by Ex-CV (9/81-5/87), Col/CMSgt (Ret/Honorary) Tom **Ciambrone** (pictured), who, in the '80's, knew the organization like no one else. He asked all Sages to send unclassified ideas for this series and to provide additional information, or corrections, when appropriate.

We ask 'those who remember' to provide content to continue 'Tom's Trivia,' please search your memory bank and send us a TAT.

\*\*\*\*\***SAGE SCHEDULE**\*\*\*\*\*

1. **WindDowns**-(normally sponsored by the active-duty force) are scheduled for **1st Fridays** at 1530 taking place to the west of the HQ building, fondly referred to as 'Stonehenge.'

2. **Alumni Assn Board/Membership Meetings-Normally-2nd Mondays** at 1600 just inside the HQ Building, #10989. Park across the street and the meeting will be in conference room just to the left as you enter the front entrance lobby.

a. If a **Federal Holiday**, the meeting will be the next day.

b. **Quarterly**-meetings during the last month of a quarter (Mar/Jun/Sep/Dec) may be a luncheon, or a dinner, and at the venues noted below. **NOTE:** Sites/Times will be determined at the preceding meeting and announced via eALLert and posted at the association website. Other Patrick dining venues (Tides, Golf Clubhouse, Marina, Dining Facility), and off-base sites, may be considered for any meeting.

**Active-Duty & Alumni are invited to all events.**

**BEFORE COMING VERIFY DATE/TIME/VENUE ONLINE**

**AND/OR WITH YOUR EDITOR**

**'chrisjohn2@gmail.com'**

**September**

**04, 1530-WindDown**

**11 (Fri vs. Mon), 1145-Board/Membership/Elections, Tides**

**October**

**02, 1530-WindDown**

**12, 'Off-Site' Board/Membership Meeting, Site/Time TBD**

**November**

**06, 1530-WindDown**

**09, 1600-Board/Membership Meeting**

**December**

**04, 1530-WindDown**

**14, 1600-Board/Membership Meeting**

3. **Traditional Event Plans and Timeframes**

**(Bold Dates may be tentative-others for planning only)**

**A. January-April, four events** (months may vary)

1. SnowBall XVIII

2. Center Annual Awards Banquet

3. Center Annual Picnic

4. May XXVIII Annual Association Spring Golf N'Getogether

**B. May-August, one event** (months may vary)

Nominating Board (ex-prez+2) selects slate for publication

**C. September-December, 4 events** (months may vary)

1. **11 Sep**, Annual General Membership & Elections Meeting, '**Sociable September VIII**'-will be held on a **Friday at lunchtime** to enhance the opportunity for, and encourage attendance of, members and all alumni & active-duty.

--**Alumni of the Year (AOY) Selection Committee** (prior AOY's) meet following this annual meeting

2. **Sep 25th**, XXVII Annual Association Fall Golf N'Getogether

3. **Oct 1st, Alumni Assn ANNUAL FY DUES DUE**

4. **Dec 11**, (usually the second Friday), Center Winter Social

**D. WorldWide (WW) Alumni Reunions**

Normally scheduled 'every other year.' Hosting rotates between the Association and the two chapters. Last host, FL-2015.05, CO-2013.06 and CA-2011.05. T

The next is scheduled to be hosted by the **California Chapter, mid-2017**

\*\*\*\*\***SAGE SHOP**\*\*\*\*\*

Orders, unless otherwise instructed, to: AFTAC Alumni Assn, ATTN: Sage Shop, Steven Revels/IG, PO Box 254892, Patrick AFB FL, 32925-0892. Also reach Steve, by phone:321-494-6867 or Email: steven.revels.1@us.af.mil

**SHIPPING: Add \$5.00 for shipping/handling of 1 Item & \$1.50 for each additional. (no shipping cost for Logo pins)**

**The shop can also be perused on our website:**

<https://docs.google.com/viewer?>

[a=v&pid=sites&srcid=ZGVmYXVsdGRvbWFpbmXzaXRlc2FsdW1uaWZpbGVzfGd4OjMwMjQ1NT15MWRkOTZkNjI](https://docs.google.com/viewer?)

**NOTE:** '*Sage Shop*' Chair, Steve Revels, has taken pictures of some of the inventory and Clark Creery, 'Membership/Web' Co-Chair has posted same at URL above.

**ITEMS AVAILABLE FOR SALE**

**SHIRTS NOTE:** Most shirts are available in any size/color, including women's sizes. The AFTAC alumni patch can be either appliquéd (pocket remains) or embroidered (not on pockets). Colors listed are on-hand; if items are not on-hand, they will be ordered. Call/email to verify availability.

**Golf/Polo Shirt - 50/50 w/pocket; \$18:** Sea Teal (aqua blue), Jade (medium green), Forest Green, Navy, Red, White, Royal Blue, Teal, Maroon, Black

**Golf/Polo Shirt – Dri-Fit Fabric w/pocket - \$24:** Navy, White w/o pocket - \$22: Navy, Red, Royal Blue, Maroon

**50/50 T's – w/o pocket - \$8:** Light Blue, Royal blue, Navy, Ash Gray, Purple, Red, Fuchsia, Stone Washed Green, Mint Green, Jade Green, Black

**Dri-Fit T's – w/o pocket \$13:** Royal Blue, Navy, Red, Maroon, Tropic Blue

**SWEATSHIRTS/WINDBREAKERS/HATS**

**Long sleeve fleece sweatshirt - \$18** (most sizes/colors)

**Windbreakers - \$24** Royal Blue, colored Alumni emblem

**Hats – \$8.00** Blue/White

**COINS/PINS**

**AFTAC Alumni Association Coin: \$10** (featured in this issue with the 'Reunion Report').

**AFTAC Alumni Association Pin: \$3**

**50th LRD Commemorative Coin: \$3**

**60th LRD Commemorative Coin: \$4**

(NOTE: 60th coin flaw: AF Date, Sep 12 vs. 18th

**NuDet NDS 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Comm Coin, Sold Out**

**99/9S Coin: \$10**

**AFTAC 'Traditional' Coin:** HQ-aircraft/motto/logo @ reverse **\$10**

**AFTAC Top 3 Coin: \$10**

**AFTAC Logo Pin: \$3.25**

**CLEARANCE ITEMS:**

**Golf Shirt \$5** - Blue, w/word 'Alumnus'; 2-Large, 4-XL

**Nylon Jacket: \$10** – Royal Blue, w/white emblem with 'Alumnus'; 1-XL

**SAGE SHIP MERCHANDISE FROM OTHERS**

**AFTAC SEO Airborne Coin** - SrA TJ Benscoter - 402-232-1917/Theodore.benscoter@us.af.mil or SrA Chris Hayes 402-232-9182/Christopher.hayes.13@us.af.mil

**Det 45 has minted a commemorative coin.** Contact the CO Chapter Treasurer, 'Bilschmied@aol.com,' for info/purchase.

"Tom Trivia," if any, Answer:  
None this issue



continued from page 2, 'Editorially Speaking'

As you may have read in my boiler plate (pg 2), we are not sure the AFTAC display at Encampment, WY, is still viable. During the reunion, Bryce **Dunn**, Rick **Philips**, and I discussed this matter. Bryce offered that he and Rick would drive from the Denver area, check, and try to get that display reinstated, if needed. We count on you guys for doing this and a report of your adventure, Thank you guys.

And I must say a few words of thanks to our outgoing commander, Col **Worley**, and a welcome to the incoming CC, Col **Sovada**. In an event you see reported in the active-duty section the guidon has been passed.

--Col Worley was a very good friend of alumni and could have provided no better support to the Association ... time and again he assisted us in our endeavors and never failed to go out of his way to make sure he, and his staff was doing all that could be done for us on every occasion

--I must also mention AFTAC's CCS here, CMSgt Matthew Brown ... he steps down as the 'Superintendent' position is changed to a 'Command Chief' slot. We will learn more about this in the future. Chief Brown also was a major alumni supporter and held a position on our board. We wish him well as he continues his service at AFTAC HQ's.

**Sights on the Tour** (Judy Henderson, posted by Clark Creery)

**More Pictures from the Reunion**

See links to them all at <https://sites.google.com/site/lrdalumniassnneedtoknownow/scene-sages>



Some of the satellites we saw along the way.



**Membership Application**

(complete and mail to ATTN: Membership Chair) (address/contact information on Page two, left panel)

**FLORIDA** Alumni Association dues (check one, enclose sum): \_\_\_\_\_ \$10 annual dues \_\_\_\_\_ \$75 lifetime

**SPECIAL OFFER**, for first time (new) members only, 3 year's dues for \$20 \_\_\_\_\_

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

PHONE NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL/HOME PAGE (optional) \_\_\_\_\_

NOTICE: Membership information will be passed to Association and Chapter members, and may be made available on the website(s) unless stated this information is not to be released.

**SELECT PUBLICATION DELIVERY MODE:** I choose to receive the triannual newsletter, **Post-Monitor** via  
(X one) (Same Day as 'Printer') Electronic (Link/PDF) \_\_\_\_\_ (Hard-Copy, Several Weeks Later) USPS \_\_\_\_\_

**IN GOD WE still TRUST - ALL OTHERS, WE used to MONITOR!**