

Videmus Omnia



55th STRAT RECON WING ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 1998

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Greetings from a very torrid Bellevue, Nebraska.

For those of you who were not at the reunion in May, you missed a great time and the splendor of Colorado and the Rockies in the springtime. Our sincere appreciation to **Keith and Jody Smith, Phil and Joyce Carr, Chuck and Pat Holte, Jerry and Marcia Nolan, Rick and Joy Smith and Tom and Celia Reed** for entertaining us in their backyard. It was a fantastic reunion and we can't thank you enough. There is an in-depth recap of the reunion in a following article for your perusal.

A video team from Raytheon E-Systems, led by Harry Charlton, video-taped some very interesting interviews with persons who were involved in historically significant reconnaissance activities during the Cold War. **Robb Hoover** conducted the interviews. He was joined by **Cargill Hall** of the National Reconnaissance Office (NRO), **Svend Christensen** of the

Danish government and the 55th Wing Historian, **TSgt Craig Kibbe**. These interviews are part of a continuing effort to document the significant contributions the 55th SRW made in winning the Cold War and securing the peace we now enjoy. A continuation of Robb's efforts will be a symposium at the magnificent new SAC Museum on Saturday, 12 September 1998, entitled "*Cold War in Flames, the Untold Story of Airborne Reconnaissance.*" That same evening, at the Museum, California Microwave will host the annual Wine and Cheese Party for the STRATCOM Roost, Association of Old Crows. You shouldn't miss these events if you are in the area.

At the reunion we accomplished some important Association business. The membership elected the new Board of Directors. They are **Bill Ernst, Robb Hoover, Charley Waters, Ben White, Errol Hoberman, Don Griffin, Max Moore, Sam Pizzo, Sparky Adams, Jim Maloney, LtCol Bo Marlin** and **TSgt**

Craig Kibbe. They will serve until another election is held at the next reunion. The Board then elected the officers as reported in the following article. To the outgoing Board members, **Keith Smith, Hank Dubuy and Lloyd Navarro**, my sincere appreciation for your hard work on the Board..

Amendments to the Articles of Incorporation and to the Bylaws of the Association were proposed, voted upon and approved by the Board of Directors and the membership. Article III was amended to reflect that the Association was organized for "**...recreational purposes of former members and associates...**" vice "**...members or former members...**" of the USAF unit known as the 55th Strategic Reconnaissance Wing. This was necessary because the 55th SRW no longer exists and we need to draw our new members from the current organization, the 55th Wing. Article VIII was amended to make it possible for the membership to be open to "**...all current and former members and associates of the 55th SRW and the 55th**

Wing...” vice “...all current or former members of the 55th SRW.” The Bylaws received some cosmetic changes necessary to make them comply with the Articles of Incorporation and to provide clarification where needed. You may obtain copies of the amended Articles of Incorporation and the Bylaws from our web site (www.55SRWA.org), or by contacting Max Moore at Cmoore611@aol.com, or 201 Basswood Court, Bellevue, NE, 68005.

The efforts by Lloyd Navarro to arrange for a suitable hotel on the river in downtown San Antonio for our next reunion were met with discouraging results. Rates have skyrocketed to \$190-\$210 per night, which is beyond reason. Therefore, the Board and membership decided to look for another location for our next get-together. Lloyd, I can't thank you enough for your personal efforts in fighting against, what turned out to be, insurmountable odds. We all appreciate your hard work and frustration.

Don Gurney took up the reins and is driving the team toward the next reunion in late September 1999. If you want to help, please call Don at (702) 882-6392, or e-mail him at PIPP1107@aol.com. See you all in Reno! *VIDEMUS OMNIA.. Bill Ernst, President*

* * * * *

COLORADO SPRINGS 20-23 MAY: MISSION ACCOMPLISHED

The 55th Strat Recon Wing Association held its 19th reunion in Colorado Springs, CO, 20-23 May. The scenic splendor and area attractions added to the hospitality suite bull sessions, renewing friendships and camaraderie for the more than 320 55th veterans, spouses, family members and friends who made it to the fun-filled four days' festivities.

The reunion committee, headed by Keith Smith, performed an absolutely superb job of planning and executing the reunion registration and program. Numerous other volunteers helped at registration and in the hospitality suite during the reunion.

Despite the inexcusable fiasco by the Sheraton staff on Wednesday, which held up registration for more than 100 early arriving members, for three and a half hours and longer, earnest reuniting commenced in the lobby as well as in the hospitality suite.

Thursday's highlight was the outing to Cripple Creek, a historic mining town, now a tourism and gambling enterprise. It was an exciting afternoon and evening, tempered by whether one won or lost. Also, the Association Board of Directors convened on that day to recap accomplishments since the last reunion,

and to prepare an agenda for the general membership meeting.

Through the wonders of e-mail, the Board was able to have a meaningful exchange of views on matters of import and transact business on a near real-time basis prior to the reunion. Among those were ideas on how to encourage delinquent members to rejoin the Association, and encourage the recruitment of new members, particularly from the active duty Wing, 'younger' retirees and friends and associates of the 55th SRW.

The Friday obligatory golf outing at the [USAF Academy Eisenhower Blue Course](#) resulted in a tie score of 69 for two foursomes. **Bill Ernst, Jim Maloney, George Ross and Mike Melcher** won on a tie breaker from **Keith Smith, Ernie Brown, Wayne Vogt and Don Ryan. Charles Tiller** had the longest drive and **R.L. Smith** won the closest-to-pin award.

Non-golfing reunionees enjoyed a full day bus tour of sight-seeing and shopping, which included the [U.S. Air Force Academy](#) (with stops at the field house, chapel, the new Goldwater Visitors Center and lunch at the Officers Club), the Garden of the Gods (contrasting granite formations only millions of years old and red sandstone formations billions of years old, so our articulate and interesting bus driver said), and old Colorado City.

Friday evening was spent at the colorful Flying W Ranch, where the group wandered through the shops before taking in the chuck wagon style dinner in an intimate setting (1400 folks using cups and plates of tin and sitting cheek to cheek at rustic tables) and were entertained by an authentic cowboy band that performed real western songs. It was a great show!

Saturday's jam-packed schedule began with a morning program of historical briefings moderated by Robb Hoover. After lunch there was a lively and informative Association general membership meeting. President Bill Ernst reported to the membership on several significant accomplishments by the Board, most of which have been detailed in earlier issues of *Videmus Omnia*. Possibly the most important is the excellent rapport established between the Association and the 55th Wing at Offutt. This evolved largely due to the leadership of the current wing commander, **BGen Gary Ambrose**, who recognizes the value of support from the retired community, and that the Association and its members are valuable resources.

Also notable was the commissioning of the distinctive, dual-shield Association membership pin, now issued to all members in good standing, and the preparation of a briefing to explain the Association to

active duty personnel. Both help give the Association more identity.

Via the internet and over a period of weeks, the Board prepared amendments to refine and update both the Articles of Confederation and the Association Bylaws, originally framed at the Ft. Walton Beach reunion in September 1995. These were presented to and accepted by the membership.

Rules for verifying deaths of members and spouses were developed to insure that reports in the "Taps" section of the newsletter and the web page are, in deed, correct.

Sam Pizzo developed a beautiful and distinctive sympathy card which is being sent to the survivors of members who have taken that final high flight. It has the 55th SRW shield on the front with the words "A Comrade Remembered" with a sky blue background, and appropriate words of condolence from the Association inside.

Sam also headed the committee which prepared a slate of candidates for the Board of Directors. On presentation to the membership, all nominees were elected by acclamation.

Subsequently, the newly installed Board met and elected officers for the next term: **President: Bill Ernst, Vice President: Robb Hoover, Secretary & Newsletter Editor: Ben White and Treasurer & Membership Chairman: Errol Hoberman.**

Don Griffin was re-appointed Webmaster, and Max Moore was named Associate Newsletter Editor.

Don Gurney was appointed the 1999 Reunion Chairman and will also serve as a member of the Board. He recently notified the Board as to the location and inclusive dates of the next reunion. **Mark your calendar now for 28 September to 2 October 1999 and make plans to travel to Reno, "The Biggest Little City in the World!!"**

Immediately following the membership meeting, many attendees headed for Peterson AFB to tour an RC-135 *Rivet Joint* aircraft. A crew from the 55th Wing, led by Instructor Pilot Major Mike Reinert and Aircraft Commander Captain Leslie Skinner, presented briefings about the plane, its mission and equipment. It was a pleasure to have the crew members visit the hospitality suite and attend the banquet to mingle with the more 'veteran' aviators.

Tom Reed emceed Saturday Night's grand banquet with his usual wit and aplomb. A special presentation of the colors was made along with appropriate introductions and toasts. **Fred Glass** gave, as usual, an eloquently reverent invocation. President (re-elect) Bill Ernst recognized the previous Board members for their service and accomplishments, and he introduced the new Board. He

then introduced BGen Ambrose, the featured speaker. The general gave an overview of the 55th Wing's many and varied missions, told a few humorous 'war stories,' and was effusive in his praise of the Association, its membership and the Offutt area contingent.

All in all, it was another great reunion where fun was had, business was accomplished and the state of the Association is more robust than ever as we look forward to the next milestone. If you missed this one, please resolve to make the next one. *By Max Moore*

* * * * *

**JOHN & JULENE
WE MISSED YOU**

Absent from Reunion were two of the most stalwart of 55th SRW Association boosters, **John and Julene Marks**. We learned with sadness, that both are in poor health.

For both we wish you a speedy and complete return to robust health.

See you in Reno.

* * * * *

Most of us keep wishing for things we don't have....But what else are we going to wish for?

* * * * *

**SOME MEMORABLE
MILESTONES
IN AVIATION**

DID YOU KNOW:

1. That a former 55th SRW commander achieved a flying speed record which stands to this day?

On July 29-30 1947 Lt. Col. O. F. Lassiter set a recognized class record for speed over a 10,000-km closed circuit without payload (piston-engine aircraft) of 273.194 mph in a B-29A Superfortress at Dayton , Ohio.



2. What types of aircraft were used in the first air-to-air, jet-to-jet refueling?

The first jet-to-jet air refueling took place between a Boeing KB-47 and a "standard" B-47 on 1 September 1953.

Note: The first air-to-air refueling of any kind took place on 12 November 1921. Wesley May, with a five-gallon can of gasoline strapped to his back, climbed from the wing of one aircraft to the wing of another. Ed.

3. Who was the first American president to fly?

On 11 October 1910 former President Theodore Roosevelt became the first chief executive to fly. He went aloft as a passenger in a Wright biplane over St. Louis, MO.

4. In which service Henry H. "Hap" Arnold was a five-star general ?

Arnold was promoted to five-star rank in the U.S. Army (General of the Army) on 21 December 1944.

On 2 June 1949, by a special act of Congress, he was given the rank of General of the Air Force.

5. Other than the B-25 raid on Tokyo led by LtCol Jimmy Doolittle on 18 April 1942, what other uses of Navy aircraft carriers were made by Army Air Forces or Air Force crews and aircraft?

On 8-11 November 1942 Army P-40s took off from carriers to support the invasion of North Africa. The pilots landed at land bases.

Note: On 30 October 1963 Navy Lt. James H. Flatley landed a Lockheed C-130F on the Aircraft carrier Forrestal in a test to see if the Hercules could be used as a Super COD (carrier on-board delivery) aircraft. He eventually made 21 unarrested full-stop landings and a like number of unassisted takeoffs. Ed.

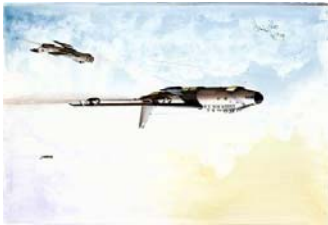
6. Which U.S. military aircraft was manufactured in the greatest number?



On 29 December 1939 at Lindbergh Field, San Diego the Consolidated XB-24 Liberator made its first flight. More than 18,100 would be built in the next five and a half years

7. Which two military aircraft, one U.S. and the other Russian, made their first flights in December 1947?

The XB-47 first flew on 17 December 1947 and the MIG-15 first flew on 30 December 1947.



8. Which U.S. fighter aircraft accounted for the most shoot-downs in WW-II?

Although its first operational use was not until 31 August 1943, more than 20 months after Pearl Harbor, the Grumman F6F Hellcat accounted for more kills than any other U.S. fighter

9. What is the world's largest aircraft today?

The Russian AN-225. As evidence of the thaw in US-

Russian relations, the Russian AN-225 and two MIG-29 fighters refueled at Elmendorf AFB on 6 August 1989.

10. When the last WW-II Army Air Forces combat flyer retired?

Col. (Dr.) Thomas C. Cook saw action as a B-24 navigator in Europe and transferred to reserve status in 1948. He returned to active duty in 1976 and retired on 9 November 1990.

Note: The information in this article was extracted from "Beyond The Wild Blue, a history of the Air Force 1947-1997" by Walter J. Boyne. The author cites The Air Force Magazine as his source. Ed.

* * * * *

A MEMORY OF COL. LASSITER

One day in October of 1957, at squadron roll call in the 343rd SRS, I was directed to report to Wing Headquarters. No explanation as to why.

This made me apprehensive.

A few months earlier I had been summoned to Headquarters because of something I had said as president of the Parent Teachers Association, at my daughter's elementary school in Topeka. Regarding some planned PTA event, I had stated that such - and- such a date was a poor one

as a number of fathers would be gone at that time.

A major, and squadron commander in the 90th Wing, who was present, considered my statement a gross security violation and reported the incident to Wing Headquarters. To make his case persuasive, he alleged that I had stated number of troops and aircraft, destination and departure, and return dates of an upcoming deployment. I was able to wriggle out of that situation by proving that I did not know, and could not have known, much of that information.

Nevertheless, I was apprehensive about being called up to Headquarters.

The building that housed Wing Headquarters was a World War II relic, as were most of the buildings on Forbes AFB in the fifties. It had about as much class as a prairie hogan. I was directed to a tiny room holding twenty or so other first lieutenants, most of whom I knew and all rather senior. We quickly came to the hopeful speculation that we had been summoned to get the good news that we were to be promoted.

After a longish wait, a beautiful young woman with a drop-dead shape opened the door and, in the manner of a basic training drill sergeant, told us to pipe down or we would be in deep trouble.

After another half hour, the door opened and the Wing Commander and the pretty lady

stood there. We all jumped to attention.

Colonel Lassiter was a handsome man of medium build, muscular, erect, perfectly groomed and with a fresh cigar in his mouth. (It was the LeMay era in SAC.)

With an expressionless stare, he gazed at us for some moments and without looking at his pretty aide, he reached for a sheet of paper she was holding.

Taking the cigar out of his mouth, he mumbled, "Looks like the Air Force has screwed up and is promoting you men."

Still mumbling, he proceeded to read our names and effective dates of our becoming captains. Many of the simplest names he mispronounced. He got mine right but gave the incorrect effective date.

When he had finished, he handed the list back to "the body", turned on his heel and left in a trail of cigar smoke. No congratulations. No "thank you for earning your pay." Nothing.

In addition to having established a B-29 speed record, O. L. Lassiter had distinguished himself in other ways. He had served as the Air Force technical advisor for a motion picture about SAC, starring Jimmy Stewart and June Allison. He apparently had hit it off congenially with the Hollywood crowd and had become friends with a number of celebrities.

During Lassiter's tenure as 55th Wing Commander, the

singer and actor Allan Jones periodically visited the Lassiter family, and a number of times appeared with them at the Officers Club. Inevitably when he did, he went to the microphone and sang "Donkey Serenade." This was a number he had sung in a film years earlier and, in the fifties, was about as familiar to the Forbes officers as Plato's "Republic."

When he left the 55th, Lassiter moved on to SAC Headquarters where he was promoted to Brigadier General. Not long afterward he left the Air Force and became chief executive of a jet aircraft charter service. Jimmy Stewart was one of his partners as was General LeMay.

By Ben White



Note: Members are requested to report the demise of members and former members of the 55th SRW and their spouses to the Association secretary. You also are requested to give the name and address of the next of kin so that a condolence card may be sent by the president. The Association secretary is Ben White, 628 Skimmer Court, Corolla, NC 27927, or e-mail benwhite@beachlink.com.

* * * * *

B-47 1000-HOUR PIN

The Association treasurer is investigating the purchase of B-47 1000-hour pins which will be made available to 55SRWA members. The price of a pin is \$25.00 post paid. They are being ordered through the B-47 Association, and our group must have a request for at least 75 pins.

If you would like to buy this pin, indicate your interest by writing the treasurer: Errol Hoberman, 6690 Avenida Codorniz, Navarre, FL 32566-8909, or e-mail him at RavenOne@cybertron.com.

* * * * *

* * * * *

T A P S

- Anthony Barry, Jr.
- Elliot L. Bloomberg
- Keith Cunningham
- Christine Cruz
(Wife of Richard L. Cruz)
- Kenneth A. Falk
- Russell D. Glover
- Robert O. Hurford
- Jack Kincaid
- Marge Romanick
(Wife of Dave Romanick)
- Audrae M. Shirk
(Widow of Floyd R Shirk)
- Joe H. Snow
- Margaret Warden
(Widow of Stacy B. "Stub" Warden)
- Stanley G. Willson
- Elwyn E. Wilson

CARDS AND LETTERS

Ben White must be the strongest man in the world: he has single-handedly moved Hunter AFB out of Savannah, GA, to South Carolina. And if we're in SC, this must be Charleston. It was also interesting to find that the two years' PCS my family and I did in Sidi Slimane was in Libya. Khaddafi must be thrilled to know he now has three air bases: Ben Guerir, Nouasseur and Sidi Slimane – all three being in Morocco. My wife helped write the phase-down plan for Sidi; so I don't think Khaddafi will get much use out of that one. (Sorry about that, Ben! Other than that, I enjoyed revisiting the "H.") *Tom Carr*

Ben White is currently in therapy for Alzheimer's. If he recovers, he will enroll in Geography 101. Ed.

Can you send me the address of Mike Patterson – the guy who gave the briefing on the C-130 shoot-down saga in Armenia. *John K. Powers.*

You can reach Mike Patterson on the internet at: AAMSPAT@aol.com. Ed.

* * * * *

WE ARE UP TO DATE

The membership should take pride in the fact that your Board of Directors, to a man, is reachable on the internet. A little more than three years ago, when the Board was first established, only one or two members had a computer and could receive and transmit e-mail.

Here are their internet addresses:

Adams: *sparkymyladams@webtv.net*
 Ernst: *BillErnst@aol.com*
 Griffin: *dgrif@ns.net*
 Gurney: *PIPP107@aol.com*
 Hoberman: *RavenOne@cybertron.com*
 Hoover: *RobbHoover@aol.com*
 Kibbe: *craig.kibbe@offutt.af.mil*
 Maloney *jimmaloney@ibm.net*
 Marlin: *BoMarlin@aol.com*
 Moore: *CMoore611@aol.com*
 Pizzo: *sampizzo@webtv.net*
 Waters: *CEWpap@aol.com*
 White: *Benwhite@beachlink.com*

* * * * *

YOUR 55th WEB SITE ADDRESS:
www.55SRW.org

Thanks to the dedication and wizardry of Don Griffin and Dave Johnson!!
 GO THERE and be dazzled!

* * * * *

The following story appeared in the Topeka Capital-Journal on 19 July 1998. Ed.

QUEST TO FIND LOST REMAINS OF FORBES FLIER STILL BAFFLING

By Roger Myers

It was the most promising lead Topekan Maria Goforth McAtee had gotten in years about where the remains of her late husband might be located.

An American with the US-Russian Joint Commission on POW-MIA had called and told her that a team planned to dig up two unmarked graves in a tiny cemetery in the far northern reaches of Russia.

"He told me there were eight graves and that two of the graves were unmarked," McAtee said in an interview.

The small cluster of graves, called the Severomorsk Military Cemetery, wasn't too far from where a Forbes Field-based (*sic*) RB-47 airplane was shot down by a fighter of the former Soviet Union over the Barents Sea on July 1, 1960.

McAtee's husband, Capt. Oscar Lee Goforth, was among six airmen on the plane, which had been modified into a reconnaissance aircraft. Goforth and two other officers were in the cramped modified bomb bay of the six-jet bomber (*sic*) working to pick up radio intercepts with their electronic eavesdropping gear when the

plane was attacked. The plane was assigned to the 55th Strategic Reconnaissance Wing at Forbes Air Force Base, which was a busy Strategic Air Command base during the 1960s and 1970s. (*sic*)

The RB-47 went into a flat spin to the left after being hit by cannon fire from a Soviet MIG fighter and reportedly blew up over the sea.

Two members of the crew, then Capt. John R. McKone, the navigator, and Freeman B. Olmstead, the co-pilot, survived the shutdown and were picked from the frigid Barents Sea by a Russian trawler. They spent six months in Moscow's infamous Lubyanka prison before being freed in January 1961 as a Russian gesture of good will toward the new presidential administration of John F. Kennedy.

One body from the RB-47, that of Maj. Willard G. Palm, the pilot, was recovered from the sea and turned over to American authorities on July 25, 1960.

The body of another of the crewman, Capt. Eugene Posa, supposedly was recovered by the Russians in October 1960 and taken to the Severomorsk area.

But no bodies, nor any remains, of Goforth and the sixth member of the RB-47 crew, Capt. Dean Phillips, have ever been found.

Despite its promise, the Severomorsk Cemetery lead was a false alarm.

"They told me they were Russians," McAtee said last week, of the two bodies that were exhumed from the cemetery, "One had been buried for 16 years and one had been there longer, and that one had on his uniform."

It was a big letdown for the Topeka woman who has waited 38 years to find out what happened to her first husband.

"I was disappointed," she said. "But I'm fine. There's nothing much I can do."

"But these people who are working for the American-Russian Commission, they're wonderful. The officer who called said there is another cemetery over there that they have people checking into. It's in the general vicinity, but on the other side of the bay

"They're buried in Russia somewhere and I said to this guy, 'You know somebody knows.' And he said, 'I know somebody knows where they're at.' There are a lot of people who have come forward."

The widow of Capt. Phillips, Pat Phillips, reached at her home in Sacramento, CA, said she also was disappointed at the news from the U.S.-Russian Commission representative who contacted her.

"Well, you know, your hopes get up and then they go down," Phillips said. "You try to tell yourself, 'well, don't get

your hopes up on the roof.' But I'm doing all right. My daughter lives with me and we fortify each other."

Larry Greer, a spokesman for the Pentagon POW/MIA office, said: "Even when it's not always the answer you want to hear, we want people to know what we're doing, where we're going, that we're not doing anything undercover here.

"We are always hopeful, that's why we do this. The reason we went to the cemetery was because we had a lead from a Russian autopsy report that said they buried an individual who wasn't Captain Goforth."

Greer declined to identify either of the bodies that were exhumed. But Maria Goforth said she thinks they were looking specifically for the body of Eugene Posa, whose remains were reportedly sent to the Severomorsk area after it was recovered, but which have never turned up.

Maria said she thinks the U.S.-Russian Commission team exhumed the graves looking for Posa, hoping it would lead them to the bodies of her husband and Dean Phillips.

Greer said there was other anthropological evidence recovered from the grave that solidified the conclusion that the remains were those of Russians and not Americans.

Greer said the other cemetery across the bay from the burial plot that was exhumed "is a tenuous lead."

“Our concern is that there’s not even a village left to point at. But we’re going to check it out,” he said. “Based on cursory observation of it, the cemetery that is allegedly there is no longer there.

“But we’re not going to turn anything down.”

McAtee and Phillips say that attitude gives them hope that their long wait to find out what happened to their husbands may finally be drawing to a close.

“I feel very positive about this,” Phillips said. “I feel maybe we got let down this time, but there are people who are working and plugging away.

“And Maria feels the same way I do. Maria told me, “I think something positive is going to happen.”

Copyright 1998 The Topeka Capital-Journal

* * * * *

THE 55th WING BIRTHDAY BALL

The 21st Annual **55th Wing Birthday Ball** will be held 23 January 1999 at Harvey’s Hotel/Casino in Council Bluffs, IA. The theme for the event is: “*Vigilant, Valiant, Victorious.*”

Eighteen members of the 55th will be honored as representatives of the Wing’s history from World War II to the present day. Those 55thers, or their surviving family members, will be saluted in a

ceremony of tribute. A special lithograph has been commissioned, which will depict each individual and illustrative service scenes.

Nearly 80 Association members, spouses and friends attended last year’s Ball, a record high. It is a great event held in the very best of military traditions.

More details will be forthcoming this fall. Those of you who are interested in attending the Ball, but do not regularly get an invitation, can contact Robb Hoover or Bill Ernst who are the Association representatives on the Ball committee.

* * * * *

MEMBERSHIP NEWS AND NUMBERS

As of 1 August the membership data looks like this:

Members in good standing: 753; members exempt from paying dues: 170. Total 923. Up from 700 in May 1998.

Association annual dues are **\$10.00**. You are reminded to check the address label for this newsletter – second line, upper right. A two-digit number (i.e. 97 or 98) indicates the **most recent** year for which you are paid. Dues are payable to the **55th SRW Association**, and are due in **January of each calendar year**. Checks should be mailed to Errol Hoberman, Treasurer, 6690 Avenida

Codorniz, Navarre, FL. 32566-8909.

Widows of former members and selected incumbent 55th senior staff are exempt from paying dues. Those are the Wing CC, VC, Ops Group CO and Deputy, Logistic Group CO and Deputy, and the commanders of the 38th, 343rd, and 45th Reconnaissance Squadrons and the 97th Intelligence Squadron.

The Board of Directors embarked on a concerted campaign to encourage delinquent and/or forgetful members to rejoin the flock and become members in good standing once again by catching up on their dues. In recent times the Association roster had more than 1400 names listed of which 800 were **not** paid up members. Yet those folks were getting newsletters the same as dues payers.

The most recent effort to reclaim members was after the May reunion with a postcard sent to those who had not paid **any** dues since at least 1994, or were only late a year or two. Of the 620 members invited to bring their dues up to date, 226 responded with \$3,985 added to the treasury! The Association gladly welcomes back those comrades.

The Board and the membership reaffirmed the policy of “**no dues, no newsletter, no roster.**” Members who were **not** in good standing as of 1 August are deleted from the mailing list

and from the latest published roster.

We have been asked why we have no life membership program. The Board considered and rejected the idea because of legal and accounting complications. The monies would have to be prorated over the life expectancy of **each** paid life member and would have to be budgeted and accounted for those years. However, the treasurer **does credit** for advanced years if/when members pay more than the required \$10.00 annual dues.

Errol Hoberman, Treasurer

Note: As this newsletter was being edited, the Board was considering allowing members in unfortunate financial circumstances to request exemption from the annual dues. Strict honor system at all times, mates. Ed.

* * * * *

REUNION MAY '98 ATTENDEES

They were there and you weren't!

Sparky & Connie Adams
Gil & Ellen Agronis
Gary, Marcia & Alicia Ambrose
Frank & Alene Andrijeski
Jim & Pam Arbuckle
Warren & Aleta Aylsworth
George & Gerri Back
Bill Barrett
Burt & Charleen Barrett
Bill & Marilyn Bateman
Curly & Liz Behrmann

Bill & Norene Blanchard
Harris Blount & Norma Kussman
Bill & Jean Bowker
Jim & Maggie Briscoe
Ray & Mary Britton
Jim & Marilyn Brookie
Kenneth & Gretchen Bryan
Tom Buono
Betty Callahan
Phil & Mickey Carbaugh
Bruce and Mary Ann Carr
Phil & Joyce Carr
Frank & Ann Carretto
Jack and Marie Carson
Shirley & Sue Caselton
Svend Christensen
Orville & Bette Clancy
Rick & Thelma Clark
Ralph & Joanie Cofield
Bob & Viv Cooper
Roby & Betty Craft
Roger & Gena Craig
Lew & Margie Critchfield
Earl & Leona Crowson
Rick and Mary Dant
Larry & Mickey Darby
Tom & Lorraine Dawes
Bob & Colleen Denny
Eugene Dragon
John & Jean Draper
Lanny & Mary Driver
Johnny & Reese Drost
Larry & Marilyn Drury
Buck & Mitzi Dube & beard
Hank & Sandra Dubuy
Glen & Ann Duer
Clyde Duncan
Doug Eddins & Ann McFate
Bill & Linda Ernst
Tom & Monica Everling
Alan & Sandy Feldcamp
Paul & Jane Fortin
Bob & Greta Frazier
Ann Frazier
Ken Fugett

Louis & Yu Suk Gillmour
Fred & Marne Glass
Sam & Pat Goeden
Don & Marsha Griffin
Don & Barbara Gurney
Joe & Dotty Gyulavics
(+daughter and son-in-law)
Doug & Lillian Hagie
Cargill Hall
Rita Hanson
Frank & Lewanda Hicks
Errol & Sue Hoberman
Bob & Lori Holbury
Bill & Mary Holden
Chuck & Pat Holte
Robb & Shirley Hoover
Arlen & Mary Howe
Fritz & Marty Hyde
George & Mary Jacobi
Fred & Heidi Jeffers
George & Martha Johnson
Bill & Ginny Kane
Larry & Deanna King
James & Annabelle Kitchens
Charlotte Kniffin
Larry E. La Flair
Floyd & Doris Lawrence
Dave & Jan Leeman
Bill & Lou Lewis
(+daughter and son-in-law)
Charlie & Sara Liller
Sue Lint
James & Mary Lolli
Bill & Ginger Lowman
Jim Maloney
Bo & Ann Marlin
Dan Martin
Jim Martini
Don Mather
Don & Becky Mathers
Al & Jane Mattei
Mike & Pearl McFarland
John McKechnie
Bob & Pat McMahan
C. Jeff & Cecelia McRaney
Wayne Medearis

Mike Melcher
 D. P.(Pat) & Marie Melone
 Charles Metcalf
 Betty Lou Miller
 Bob Miller
 Paul & Judy Miller
 Alice Moncure
 Max & Carol Moore
 (+son and daughter-in-law)
 Ray & Dora Morris
 Marvin (Bud) and Rose Morss
 Lloyd Navarro
 Jim L. & Sharon Nelson
 Jim R. & Ruth Nelson
 Ron & Martha Nickerson
 Jerry & Marcia Nolan
 Chuck & Gale O'Connor
 Margaret O'Kelly
 Roy & Charlene Owens
 Anthony Pacala
 Elvio Palmieri
 Norm & Joyce Paul
 George & Ginny Penfield
 Terry Phillips
 Sam & Mary Pizzo
 John & Pat Powers
 Mark Prody
 Joe & Mary Racine
 Tom & Celia Reed
 Jim Reinhardt
 Bill & Charlotte Reynolds
 Tom Richardson & Mary Hiatt
 Jim & Roberta Riley
 James & Mary Rodecap
 Dave & Marge Romanick
 George Ross
 Bill & Ellie Rosser
 Don & Barbara Ryan
 Norm & Bonnie Sandell
 Eldon & Ginny Sasser
 Robert Savage
 Walter Savage
 Frank & Hilde Schoonover
 John & Peg Schweitzer
 Duaine & Mary Schwieso
 Mil & Sylvia Seabaugh

E. J. Shaner
 Clifford Shiers
 Crane Smiley
 Keith & Judyth Smith
 R. L. & Hilda Smith
 Buck & Donna Staples
 Ted & Audrey Stern
 Jim and Cynthia Stitt
 Ken & Myrtle Stoop
 Jim and Marian Taylor
 Guido & Margaret Tesi
 Clyde & Dot Thomas
 Don & Barbara Thomas
 Steve & Anne Truhan
 Larry & Carole Van Sickle
 David & Molly Volz
 Lynn and Linda Wakefield
 Hoss Walker
 Bob & Maralene Waller
 Lloyd & Mary Ward
 Walt & Kay Ward
 Charlie & Jane Waters
 Bill & Nora Watkins
 Scotty Watson
 Rufus & Doris West
 Ben & Carroll White
 Herb & Barbara Williams
 Nick & Georgina Yanuzzi

* * * * *

MEMORY TEST

Can you remember the good times you had at 55th SRW Association reunions? At the ages some of us are, can we even remember the last reunion? The following may help jog your memory
 Bob Dibbell hit it right on the head when, long ago, he said the secret of making our Association flourish, which it has, was to have us gather at regular intervals and rekindle our friendships, enjoy

camaraderie and relive the golden memories.

To help you recall those cherished times, we have assembled a recap of those memorable events. A few individuals at each reunion worked very, very hard and most willingly to provide our members with first-class reunions. We have tried to give credit to all of those who assisted the various reunion chairmen. If we left anyone out, it was unintentional, and we apologize for any oversights. If anyone can provide the names of those we overlooked, or offer corrections to other mistakes, please hasten to do so and we'll update our records and print the corrections in subsequent newsletters.

REUNIONS PAST

- No. 1. El Paso, TX 1970
 Chairman: George Hanson
 Helpers: Rita Hanson, Jack and Mary Ellen Resen
 Attendance: 40 (Est.)
- No. 2. St. Petersburg, FL 1971
 Chairman: Bob Miller
 Helper: Rita Hanson
 Attendance: Unknown.
- No. 3. Lake of the Ozarks, MO 1975
 Chairman: Bob Nothnagel
 Helpers: Wilma Nothnagel, Rita Hanson, R. Miller
 Attendance: Unknown.

No. 4. Omaha, NE 1976
 Chairman: John Wagner
 Helpers: None
 Attendance: 150 (Est.)

No. 5. Tucson, AZ 1977
 Chairman: Bob Dibbell
 Helper: John Powers
 Attendance: 205

No. 6. Rio Rico Resort, Nogales, AZ 1979
 Chairman: Bob Dibbell
 Helper: J. T. Bennington
 Attendance: 215

No. 7. Rio Rico Resort, Nogales, AZ 1980
 Chairman: Bob Dibbell
 Helper: Bill Boughton
 Attendance: 225

No. 8. Rio Rico Resort, Nogales, AZ 1982
 Chairman: Bob Dibbell
 Helper: Bruce Bailey
 Attendance: 235

No. 9. San Diego, CA 1983
 Chairman: Tony Rais
 Helpers: Bill Bobo, Fred Glass, Walt Stoll, Johnny Drost
 Attendance: 280

No. 10. San Antonio, TX 1985
 Chairmen: John Marks, Reg Urschler
 Helper: Ralph Cofield
 Attendance: 327

No. 11. Clearwater, FL 1986
 Chairman: Don Morse
 Helpers: Bill Blanchard, Rita Hanson
 Attendance: 240

No. 12 Omaha, NE 1988
 Chairman: Bill Ernst
 Helpers: Robb Hoover, Bob Knightly, Max Moore, Reg Urschler, Dick Hedge
 Attendance: 489

No. 13. New Orleans, LA 1989
 Chairman: Sam Pizzo
 Helpers: Al Reid, Sparky Adams, Tony Maurin, Mickey Schussler
 Attendance: 385

No. 14. Las Vegas, NV 1991
 Chairman: Hoss Walker
 Helpers: Burt Barrett, Charles Shively, Lou Oliver, Betty Callahan
 Attendance: 339

No. 15 Seattle, WA 1992
 Chairman: Frank Manley
 Helpers: Phil and Mickey Carbaugh Dick and Marie Poppert.
 Attendance: 424

No. 16. Hampton, VA 1993
 Chairman: Ben White
 Helpers: Ralph & Anna Adams, Hank and Joy Barkalow, Ray Bottom, Charles & Lucy Fowler, Bob Frazier and Joe Ladd
 Attendance: 370 (Est.)

No. 17. Fort Walton Beach, FL 1995
 Chairman: Charlie Waters
 Helpers: Jane Waters, Errol & Sue Hoberman, Rufus West, Mickey & Elinor Schussler, Sam and Ray Kincaid, John & Julene Marks
 Attendance: 327

No. 18. Omaha, NE 1996
 Chairman: Bill Ernst
 Helpers: Max & Carol Moore, Robb & Shirley Hoover, Ginger Stewart, Harlon & Ginger Hain, Charlie Daubs, Linda Ernst, Jim Maloney, Fritz Hyde, Dick Hedge, Reg Urschler, Jim Thomas, Joe Church, Bob Krist, Lonnie Liss.
 Attendance: 400+ (Est. of the nearly 800 SAC recon cadre)

No. 19. Colorado Springs, CO 1998
 Chairman: Keith Smith
 Helpers: Tom Reed, Gerry Nolan, Phil Carr, Rick Smith, Chuck Holte
 Attendance: 320+

A special thanks, in remembrance, to Al Reid for his development of the Reunion Guideline Book, and to Bob Dibbell who set the standards we follow today.

Also, individual thank yous go to Rita Hanson, Sparky Adams, Bill Lowman, Hoss Walker, John Powers, Max Moore and Jack Resen for their help on this article.

And lastly, let's not forget to give credit to all those barkeeps, registration desk helpers, golf 'pros', etc., who also gave willingly of their time. And most importantly, a very special "hats off" to the spouses who had to put up with us as we struggled through this labor of love to bring you those reunions. *By Sam Pizzo*

REALLY LOST SHEEP

The following is a list of names of those once-upon-a-time members to whom mail has gone out , but returned with address unknown or no forwarding address. If you can help with addresses of any of these “lost sheep”, please let Errol Hoberman know. Ed..

DOCK H. ATKINS
JOE AZZATO
JAMES J. BARBER
LARRY R. BARR
WILLIAM M. BOWDEN
JAMES P. BOWLEY
JOHN J. CABAN
CHARLES C. CALDWELL
GIL V. CASTILLO
DON O. CLARK
JEFFREY S. COHEN
KELLY COLLINS
DONALD E. COX
VINCENT S. DILLY
MRS. HELEN EHLENBECK
RICHARD L. ENDER
CHARLES J. ENNEKING
STEPHEN R. FISCHER
STANLEY FISHBACK

MATT FOLEY
STANLEY C. FRAZIER
KAY FRUTCHEY
STANLEY A. GISCLAIR
JAMES R. GRANT
SCOTT HACKNEY
MRS. JYTTE HANSON
BILL HARRINGTON
JOHN A. HARRISON
JIM HARVEY
JOSEPH M. HARVEY
WILLIAM F. HENDERSON
GUY E. HUGHEY
LARRY HUNGERFORD
CHARIRS HURNADAY
JAY IMLER
ROBERT T. JACKSON
JAMES K. JOHNSON
ROBERT M. JONES
LLOYD KEAGLE
JOHN & CATHY KELLY
AL J. KULIK
RONALD F. LANGENFELD
DALLAS D. LEE
MARK LEWIS
WILLIAM P. LOHNER
BOB LOUKOTA
HUGH B. MacCAULEY
LAWRENCE H. MALLORY
RUSSELL C. MASS
ROBERT MAZURE
MRS. HELEN MCWILLIAMS

SAMUEL (WIDD) MEDFORD
RICHARD P. MILLER
PHILLIP E. MOLLE
JUAN MORENO
BENJAMIN W. MORTON
MRS. PHYLLIS MURPHY
JOHN ORSOLINO
BRIAN PECK
DR. PERCY P. PHARR
ROBERT S. PHILLIPS
ELWIN T. PIWETZ
JEFFREY(OSCAR)
ROBERTSON
ADAM E. SANTORA
BYRON S. SAWYER
DONALD SAX
MRS. MARIAN SEBASTIAN
MRS. JAMES C. SHELLEY
GEORGE M. SMITH
RICHARD A. SNOOK
JOSEPH T. SULLIVAN
WILLIAM J.D.TARN, JR
ROBERT L. TAYLOR
PHIPPS TODD
MAX D. TROUT
ALLEN N. VICKREY
JOSEPH C. WELCH
LYNDON WILLAMS
LEO E. WOTIKA
ERVIN WURSTEN

*Surely, there are a lot of familiar names on this list. So, please check your Christmas card rosters, other correspondence lists, or whatever. Let's find these people! Some of them may be in deep cover, but we **are** recon!*

55th Strat Recon Wing Association
Membership Meeting
Colorado Springs, CO
23 May 1998

Secretary's Minutes

1. The President called the meeting to order at 1245 hours. (Notice of meeting was in Feb 98 Newsletter, page 1, third column.)
2. The President called for the minutes of the previous meeting. The Secretary reported there were no minutes to read. (The previously serving Secretary did not forward minutes from September 1996.)
3. The President called upon the Treasurer for his report.
4. The President called upon the Vice President for his report. Robb Hoover announced that the National Reconnaissance Office (NRO) in Washington was preparing a history of reconnaissance and was interested in interviewing persons with significant accounts of strategic reconnaissance, and also in acquiring relevant photographs. Taped interviews were being conducted during the reunion.
5. The President expressed his appreciation for the work of the Board during his tenure, with specific reference to the work of Don Griffin on the Association web site, and to Sam Pizzo for his work on the nominated slate of Board members, and on the design of the Association sympathy card.

The President also outlined the procedure for reporting the deaths of members so as to insure accuracy of those reports for publication in the Association newsletters and on the web page.

6. The President called upon Sam Pizzo, chairman of the nominating committee, to present his list of nominees to the membership. Nominees were: Bill Ernst, Robb Hoover, Ben White, Charlie Waters, Errol Hoberman, Max Moore, Don Griffin, Sam Pizzo, Sparky Adams, Jim Maloney, LtCol Bo Marlin, TSgt Craig Kibbe. There being no nominations from the floor, a motion was made to close the nominations. It was seconded and carried. Another motion was made to elect the nominees by acclamation. Seconded and carried.
7. The President explained that the intended site of the next reunion, San Antonio, was rejected based on Lloyd Navarro's report that accommodations were too expensive. The Board recommended considering other locales. Charlie Waters volunteered Ft Walton Beach, FL, again, and Don Gurney proposed Reno/Tahoe area. The membership voted for the Reno/Tahoe area and Gurney was asked to explore the possibilities of both Lake Tahoe and Reno areas for the 1999 reunion and report back to the Board within a month.
8. The President explained the amendments to the Articles of Incorporation and the Bylaws which the Board had coordinated and completed, and the membership voted to accept those amendments.
9. Other discussions included Sam Pizzo relating that the current Board and Omaha area caucus were responsible for establishing the highest level of rapport with the active duty 55th Wing. Max Moore explained how the Association dual-shield pin evolved, giving full credit to Bill Ernst for the idea and commissioning.
10. Sam Pizzo and Sparky Adams reported that the audit of the Treasurer's books showed they were in good order.
11. The meeting was adjourned at 1345.

