

**55thElint/StratRecon / Wing Association
Reunion History**
(Originally published August 1998)

No. 1 El Paso, TX 1970

Chairman: George Hanson
Helpers: Rita Hanson, Jack and Mary Ellen Resen
Attendance: Estimated: 80

No. 2 St. Petersburg, FL 1971

Chairman: Bob Miller
Helper: Rita Hanson
Attendance: Est: 100

No. 3 Lake of the Ozarks, MO 1975

Chairman: Bob Nothnagel
Helpers: Wilma Nothnagel, Rita Hanson, R. Miller
Attendance: Est 120

No. 4 Omaha, NE 1976

Chairman: John Wagner
Helpers: None
Attendance: Est: 150

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 October 6-9 1983

Chairman: Tony Rais
Helpers: Bill Bobo, Fred Glass, Walt Stoll, Johnny Drost
Attendance: 280

No. 10 San Antonio, TX April 4-6, 1985

Chairmen: John Marks, Reg Urschler
Helper: Ralph Cofield
Attendance: 327

No. 11 Clearwater, FL September 1986

Chairman: Don Morse
Helpers: Bill Blanchard, Rita Hanson
Attendance: 240

No. 12 Omaha, NE June 3-5 1988

Chairman: Bill Ernst
Helpers: Robb Hoover, Bob Knightly, Max Moore, Reg Urschler, Dick Hedge
Attendance: 489 Most to date.

No. 13. New Orleans, LA September 28-30, 1989

Chairman: Sam Pizzo
Helpers: Al Reid, Sparky Adams, Tony Maurin, Mickey Schussler
Attendance: 385

No. 14 Las Vegas, NV April 22-25, 1991

Chairman: Hoss Walker
Helpers: Burt Barrett, Charles Shively, Lou Oliver, Betty Callahan
Attendance: 339

No. 15 Seattle, WA August 12-15, 1992

Chairman: Frank Manley
Helpers: Phil and Mickey Carbaugh, Dick and Marie Poppert.
Attendance: 424

No. 16 Hampton, VA April 21-24, 1994

Chairman: Ben White
Helpers: Ralph and Anna Adams, Hank and Joy Barkalow, Ray Bottom, Charles and Lucy Fowler, Bob Frazier and Joe Ladd.
Attendance: 350 (Est.)

No. 17 Fort Walton Beach, FL Sept 27-30, 1995
Chairman: Charlie Waters
Helpers: Jane Waters, Errol and Sue Hoberman,
Rufus West, Mickey and Elinor Schussler, 'Sam'
and Ray Kincaid, John and Julene Marks
Attendance: 327

No. 18 Omaha, NE September 4-8, 1996
Chairman: Bill Ernst, SAC 50th Recon Anniversary
Helpers: Linda Ernst, Max and Carol Moore, Robb
and Shirley Hoover, Jim Maloney, Fritz Hyde, Dick
and Jo Hedge, Ginger Stewart, Charlie Daubs,
Harlon and Ginger Hain, Jim Thomas, Joe Church,
Lonnie Liss.
Attendance: Nearly 800 from all SAC recon units
(Included more than 400 55th SRW Assn members)

No. 19 Colo Springs, CO May 20-23, 1998
Chairman: Keith Smith
Helpers: Tom Reed, Jerry Nolan, Phil Carr, Rick
Smith, Chuck Holte
Attendance: 320

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

Also, special thanks go to **Rita Hanson, Sparky Adams, Bill Lowman, Hoss Walker, John Powers, Jack Resen,** and **Max Moore** for their help on this research.

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 these reunions.
Sam Pizzo

No. 20 Reno, NV Sept 29-Oct 2, 1999
Chairman: Don Gurney
Helpers: Barb Gurney; Reno Convention Bureau
Attendance: 325

No. 21 Melbourne, FL May 17-20, 2001
Chairmen: Barney Clary and John Caban.
Helpers: Renee Clary and Karla Caban.
Attendance: 265

No. 22 Savannah, GA May 15-18, 2002
Chairman: Tommy Harrison, SAC 2002 reunion
55SRW Assn Coordinators: Bill Ernst, Errol Hoberman, Max Moore
SAC Attendance: 360
(Included 131 55th SRWA members.)

No. 23 Dayton, OH September 3-6, 2003
Chairman: John Kovacs
Association Coordinators: Bill Ernst, Robb Hoover, Max Moore
Helpers: USAF Museum Events Staff; Judy Kovacs and family; Larry LaFlair
Golf - Sparky Adams and Sam Pizzo.
Attendance: 735 total, 690 meals at banquet
(548 55th SRW members)

No. 24 San Diego, CA March 9-13, 2005
Chairs: Bill and Carol Lewis
Assn Coordinators: Max Moore, Robb Hoover, Bill Ernst
Helpers: Max and Carol Moore-registration;
George Back – golf
Attendance: 272

No. 25 Omaha/Offutt, NE September 20-24, 2006
Chairman: Jim Thomas
Helpers: Michael Cook, Max Moore, Robb Hoover, Dennis Haun, Pete Glenboski, Steve Stevens, Bill Ernst, Col Don Kelly, LtCol Ken Bauer, Kevin Todd, Larry Utley.
Attendance: 305 *(+ est 100 active duty at BBQ)*

No. 26 Washington, DC May 14-18 2008
Chairman: Ricky McMahan
Assn Coordinators: Jim Thomas, Max Moore
Helpers: Cary McMahan, Caitlin Keyser, Bo and Ann Marlin, Ed and Monica Topps, Mike Cook, Jenny Hampton, Marcy Atwood, Laura Dugie, Don Olds, Rick Rankin, Ken Cobleigh, Bill McKechnie.
Attendance: 228

No. 27 Reno, NV Sept 15-18 2009
Chairman: Don Gurney
Helpers: Barb Gurney, Charles and Jane Waters;
Reno Convention Bureau
Association Coordinators: Jim Thomas, Max Moore
Attendance: **153 (lowest in 23 years)**

No. 28 Allen (Dallas), TX May 19-22 2011
Chairman: Greg Smith
Helpers: Melissa Bailey, Mike Cook, Ricky
McMahon – registration; Bill Ernst
Association Coordinator: Jim Thomas
Attendance: 164

No. 29 Colorado Springs, CO Sept 5-9 2012
Chairperson: Sandy Feldkamp
Helpers: Al Feldcamp, Kathleen Welo, Val and
Laura Dugie, Bob Reehorn, Margi Hungerford,
Cindy Lloyd, Hank Dubuy (golf), Jerry Nolan.
Association coordinators: Jim Thomas, Max Moore
Attendance: 160

No. 30 Omaha/Offutt 9-13 April 2014
Chairman: Don Kelly
Helpers: Melinda Kelly, Bill Ernst, Jim Maloney,
Paul Jeanes, Denny Haun, Ham Kennedy, Chris
Canada, Max Moore, Mary Howe, MSgt Jeannette
Johnson.
Association coordinators: Jim Thomas, Mike Cook
Attendance: 187, plus 75 at Ball = 262

No. 31 San Antonio, TX 21-24 October 2015
Chairman: Jeff Herd
Helpers: Ned and Ruby Gates, Charlie McBride,
Jim Thomas, Bill O'Hara, Howard Ham, Ham
Kennedy, Sylvia Navarro.
Association coordinators: Jim Thomas, Mike
Cook, Max Moore
Attendance: 123 (**Lowest since 1975**)

No. 32 Tampa, FL 19-23 April 2017
Chairman: Richard Ray
Helpers: Larry Mitchell, Sue McKechnie, Bud
Aston, Coleen Beshara
Association coordinators: Jim Thomas, Max Moore
Attendance: **70**

No. 33 Omaha, NE April 4-6 2019
Chairman: Joe Spivey
Helpers: Ricky McMahon, Ham and Pat Kennedy,
Audrey Spivey, Mo Krishna, John Cooper, Denny
and Cheryl Haun, Michael Cook, Jim Thomas, Vito
Spadaro, Mike Hoskins, Jim Maloney, Jon Adams,
Mark Schenck, Kate Ostidick, Don Kelly, John
Johnson, Max Moore.
Attendance: 160

No. 34 Tucson, AZ 13-17 October 2022
Chairman: Val Dugie
(*Joint with 55th ECG alumni*)
Association Advisor/Coordinator: Joe Spivey
Helpers: Run by BRAT
Attendance: 144 **55th Assn**, 46 ECG;

No. 35 Colorado Springs, CO 17-20 Oct 2023
Chairs: Alan and Sandy Feldkamp
Association Advisor/Coordinator: Joe Spivey
Helpers: Arlene Spivey, others
Attendance: About 50 (*Lowest in history dating to
1970*)

No. 35 Omaha/Offutt 26-29 March 2025
Chairman: Joe Spivey
Helpers: Multiple committee members.
Attendance: About 50 (*Ditto above*)

Highest attendance ever of 55th Association
members **548** out of 735 attendees;
Dayton, September **2003**

Average for last nine reunions:
(Allen, TX 2011 – Omaha, NE, 2025) = **@ 120**
(*Without Ball in 2014, 155 with Ball numbers in
2014*)

*Originally researched and compiled by **Sam Pizzo**,
the list was published in the August 1998 issue of
the **Association** newsletter. It has been maintained
and updated by **Max Moore** and is published for the
archives only since.*

Updated April 2025