



Depot Fallout



AFTAC Alumni Association West Coast Chapter
P.O. Box 3974, Citrus Heights, CA 95611-3974
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OCTOBER 2009 EDITION

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President

Position Vacant

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(No Email. Call or send to VP)

Vice President

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VicePres@AFTACWCC.org

Chairman of the Board

Ken Denbleyker

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LOOK US UP AT:

www.AFTACWCC.org

FALL SOCIAL SUNDAY 15 Nov 09 12 NOON – 2:30 PM

By Dave Tarquino

We are trying something different for our Fall Social event this year. Suggestions from attendee's at previous gatherings leaned toward a Sunday lunch event because of cost and travel for some of our out of town guests was difficult. So start the Holiday season with fellow vets, alumni, & friends by joining us for lunch on November 15th. Seating is limited, so get your reservations in early! Dress is casual. This is a Chinese buffet restaurant with an extensive menu including American favorites such as Roast Beef, Ham, Rotisserie Chicken, and Salad Bar. Please fill out the form **included in this newsletter and on our website** and your reminder portion, then mail the form and your check to us before **Tues, Nov. 10th**. Questions? Email Dave Tarquino, Event Chairman, dtarquino@surewest.net

A MESSAGE FROM THE VP -- "ELECTIONS – 2009"

by Dennis Nolan, WCC Vice President

Our current Board of Director's & Officer's term of service is up in December. The association is now accepting nominees for all elected positions to serve the 2010/2011 term. Nominations can be submitted to any of the current elected officials until the mid November social. **A nomination form is included on page 4 of this newsletter and on our website.** Snail mail or email your nominations to us as soon as possible. You can email your nominations to: Nominations@AFTACWCC.org. To increase participation, we will conduct the elections at the mid November social and the new slate of directors/officers will be installed at the December 1st business meeting. Please consider self nomination to keep your Association going strong.

Editor's Note: Bob Fitzgerald has set up an Email address for any Nominations that are to be submitted on-line. So send nominations via email to: Nominations@AFTACWCC.org.

DEPOT FALLOUT NEWSLETTER DISTRIBUTION

by Bob Fitzgerald, Webmaster@AFTACWCC.org

Our Depot eFallout newsletters are no longer be sent as E-mail attachments. Instead they will be posted in full on our www.AFTACWCC.org web site where you will find links to them on our "Fallout" page. There you can read, print or download any of our newsletters in full color. We will send you an E-mail alert each time a new edition is posted. So, **please** notify us at TOD.Alumni@AFTACWCC.org when your E-mail address changes.

Each complete edition will be available on-line shortly after it is issued. You can get to all our newsletters anywhere there is Internet access. We know you will appreciate this easy access, as well as the time and money we will save distributing the newsletters. We will continue mailing the Depot Fallout to those who do not have access to the Internet. Thank you for your support.

AFTAC SUPPORT TEAM TDY IN ANTARCTICA

by Dale Klug

The HQ AFTAC public affairs NCO, MSgt Patrick Murphy, provided me with the link to a story he wrote about the seismic support TDY to Antarctica. I'm providing the internet link for your information. The entire article, along with eight photos can be found online at: <http://www.afisr.af.mil/news/story.asp?id=123141548> Verrrry Interesting. Also, an interesting article on the WC-135 Constant Phoenix can be found at the following: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/WC-135>

AFTAC–WEST COAST CHAPTER – IT'S TIME!

by Steve Fritts, AMC Board Member and AFTAC Alumni Life Member

Fellow AFTAC'ers, it is all about time. Time has passed and our organization has changed in its mission scope, its size in personnel, and even in some people's memories. Over the next years and decades, things will change again. What we must not allow to happen is for the history of AFTAC to change. How do we do this?

Sitting right on McClellan Park, formerly McClellan Air Force Base, is a facility that will help us preserve our history and heritage—the Aerospace Museum of California. AMC's mission statement includes providing a history of the military in the Sacramento area. Technical Operations Division, the largest subdivision of AFTAC, resided at McClellan AFB for almost 50 years, and had a dramatic impact on the local area, plus provided significant contributions to the Air Force mission. AFTAC/TOD should have an exhibit at the AMC, depicting our mission and accomplishments.

I propose that we start designing and planning how we can best exhibit the WFO/1155th/TOD mission at the Aerospace Museum of California. These plans would include preliminary displays, cost, support, and who will participate in the planning and building. We can discuss this, in part, at the upcoming November dinner and meeting in December. Please put on your thinking caps and bring your ideas. Many of us have artifacts that could be put on display at the museum, on loan, and perhaps on a rotational basis.

Anyone Looking To Set Up A Small Business??



WAY BACK WHEN

by Dale Klug, Editor

We're running a series of articles called "WAY BACK WHEN". They are patterned after the Florida Chapter's series in the Post Monitor called "B.S. (Barely Substantiated) TALES". We're inviting everyone to submit articles or pictures with stories from days-gone-by at Detachments, OLS, Depot, Squadrons, Headquarters or TDYs. **Crank up your "WAYBACK machines" and send us an article.** Remember to keep all the inputs unclassified. E-mail all proposed articles to me at: **FalloutEditor@AFTACWWC.org** or snail-mail to: AFTAC Alumni Newsletter Editor, P.O. Box 3974, Citrus Heights, CA 95611-3974. Please note on envelope it's for **Newsletter Editor**.

I GO WAY BACK WHEN

by John Lanigan,

Since I do go 'Way Back When', July 1948, I've long intended to write. Your 'Tolling the Bell for MCL' tweaked my memory because I worked and played with many of the MCL people in your list. I remember Jerry Williams because when the CG, I think General Rhodenhouser, made his initial visit, he asked, then Captain Williams, if there was any thing he could do

for him. Williams' response was, "Could you please get my men promoted? They work hard and are very critical to our success and they just do not get promoted."

We all got promoted; even me. I made SSgt & had already left the detachment & returned stateside. Bless Jerry Williams.

Now to my story. In October 1951, I returned to McClellan, from my second isolated tour, where I had worked first for Claude A. DeLorenzo and then Charles Hewitt. I need to say, both fine officers.

When I reported to 1155th TOS, Major Jack Deets invited me, more or less, to join this new organization, of which he was the commander. I thought, "Hey this would be great. Being in the Air Force and actually being able to fly." Also being a brand new TSgt. and in on the ground floor. Sounded real good. There was another officer Capt. Lyle McMichael.

Of the enlisted people already there, was Dick McKulsky and one other airman whose name escapes me. He was there for a short time before he separated from the service. We also had Walter B. (Steve) Stephenson and Airman VanWinkler. I cannot remember his first name, but of course, we called him Rip. I had been there about a week when Richard K. (Brownie) Brown showed up and a week or so later Charlie Heckman joined us.

Yes, that was way back when we were still using the C-1 Foil. One of our first learning tasks was building a radiation sensor out of a Cannon plug, a short piece of conduit and a small GM tube. The airplanes were WB-29s and we drew Hazardous Duty pay of \$55.00 a month.

One or two prototype E-1 foils had been built and Charlie Heckman and I worked on *refinements*. Flap actuator motors from the B-29, were used to drive the doors up and down most of the time. Charlie and I worked on those problems a lot. The main concern was icing on the foil. Rubber de-icing boots and heaters on the leading edge of the foil were tried. That was quite a deal. Maintenance at 55th Weather Recon would install the *de-icing* equipment and then we would fly up and down the California coast to find some clouds to get some ice. Not real scientific but the upshot was that maybe we could live with the icing even if we couldn't get the doors to go up and down.

Someone designed tempered steel door tracks with internal heaters. That worked. Charlie and I would install & test the tracks & doors. Then the 55th Maintenance people would install the E-1 foil on the airplane. Charlie & I would finish up.

We were a very small group of individuals. Major Jack Deets was understandably very serious about his job. He had an idea what we were getting into and felt very responsible for our success. He was always concerned and considerate of his people. Us! He was the major force in finally getting us on flying pay. Once when I was already TDY to Hickam for the Castle Series, someone decided they needed me at Enewetak Atoll. Major Deets brought me all the way back home before sending me on the next trip. Later, in Japan, Jack Deets was the one that got the dining facility straightened out so the airmen had decent meals and were treated with respect. Major Deets was the one who decided when we should have a detachment picnic and he always insisted on fixing the baked beans. Those beans were legendary.

Captain Lyle McMichael was more relaxed in his demeanor and he was a pilot. He loved to fly. Once, while deer hunting with his son, another hunter mistook him for a deer and shot him in the hip. His son went to the nearest road and flagged down, of all people, the local sheriff who took him to the hospital. After the hospital stay, the prognosis was that he would never fly again. McMichael did fly again. A lot.

Dick McKulsky, a married airman with kids, was a cool quiet guy and he was committed to getting a college degree.

Steve Stephenson's Dad owned a big portion, if not all, of the Bank of Enid in Oklahoma. Steve's plan was to leave the Air Force, return to Enid and join his Dad in the business. He almost didn't make it.

His last mission began on one of those dark, cold, foggy McClellan mornings. The old B-29 just didn't get quite enough altitude on takeoff (about 50 feet) and it flew right between two high power electric transmission towers. The power cables ripped off the radar antenna on the bottom and the C-1 foil and the vertical stabilizer on top. The tail-less B29 with several hundred feet of cable dragging behind, flew over the town of Rio Linda, jerked out most of the town's telephone lines and several poles. Steve said he thought they had been struck by lightning. Having flown through the power lines, the airplane was lined up with Travis AFB. The pilot banked a bit, transmitted Mayday, and landed safely.

Airman VanWinkler was a bright young lad with a heart of gold and was up for anything. Sometimes we thought he might be putting us on with some of the things he said and did. Major Deets usually did his flying with another operator and one time it was with young Rip and they were over Alaska when one of the engines caught fire. The engine was still burning when Rip turned to Major Deets and asked, "Is this going to shorten our mission?" That's the story I heard and I don't know if Rip had his *tongue in cheek* or not.

While working with Charlie Heckman, he told me that after high school, he owned a dump truck & hauled gravel. He said he would park his truck in a creek bed and shovel gravel by hand. That, he said, was his big reason for joining the Air Force. When working together at McClellan, he talked about a girl back home named Patty and wondered if he should ask her to marry him. Later, when he reported to his overseas assignment, he had married Patty. It was the right thing to do.

Believe it or not, Charlie and I discussed what we should call ourselves and the work we were doing. We did consider Special Equipment Operator. Nah! Not distinctive enough.

Brownie and I were both single at the time and we partied together. I was with him at the McClellan civilian club the night he met Mary. Mesmerized would be a good word for his condition from that point on. Of course, they married and later, I thought they had divorced. I visited Brownie's grave at the Fort Logan National Cemetery during the '07 Denver Reunion and Mary Mae is buried there with him. On an occasion when we had several beers, Richard K. Brown told me his middle name and swore me to secrecy. I told him not to worry since we both had clearances. I kept his secret but that name he so detested is etched on his headstone. He never would have agreed to that.

Bobby Jones reported in and was there for awhile before I left in October 1954 for my third overseas tour. Also, there was a Captain Copeland and Edwin F. Sweeney. They were a fascinating group. I could tell you a "Way Back When" about each of them.

After I left McClellan, a bunch of good guys showed up. There was Bo Ferris, Jerry LaBarre, Jim Davis and Airmen Cook, Turk and Chandler. There were of course, others who I came to know years later. That was the beginning as I remember, from the time when I served as an SEO. I apologize for any errors or omissions when I may have misremembered. The Special Equipment Operator moniker stuck and you SEOs have done an incredible job of making it quit distinctive. Congratulations. John Lanigan

**AFTAC ALUMNI ASSOCIATION – WEST COAST CHAPTER --- NOMINATIONS FOR OFFICE
For the term: 12/01/2009 – 11/30/2011**

<u>OFFICE</u>	<u>NOMINEE/VOLUNTEER</u>
Chairman of the Board	
Asst. Chairman of the Board	
Director At Large	
President	
Vice President	
Treasurer	
Asst. Treasurer	
Secretary	
Asst. Secretary	

Your Name: _____ Date: _____

Would you also be willing to volunteer for any of the following appointed positions? *(check all that apply)*

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Membership Chairman | <input type="checkbox"/> Asst. Membership Chairman |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Newsletter Editor | <input type="checkbox"/> Asst. Newsletter Editor |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Publications/Distribution Chairman | <input type="checkbox"/> Asst. Webmaster |

Copy & Email the info to: Nominations@AFTACWCC.org or print it, fill it out and mail it via U.S. Postal Service to: AFTAC-WCC, P.O. Box 3974, Citrus Heights, CA 95611-3974

AFTAC ALUMNI ASSOC. – WEST COAST CHAPTER

Fall Social

Sunday, 15 November 2009 – 12:00Noon - ~ 2:30PM

At the Luau Garden Restaurant – **Banquet Room**

1890 Arden Way, Sacramento, CA 95815 (916) 929-3690

COST: \$16.50/person

We are trying something different for our Fall Social event this year. Suggestions from attendee's at previous gatherings leaned toward a Sunday lunch event because of cost and travel for some of our out of town guests was difficult. So start the Holiday season with fellow Vets, Alumni, & Friends by joining us for lunch on November 15th. Seating is limited, so get your reservations in early! Dress is casual. This is a Chinese buffet restaurant with an extensive menu including American favorites such as Roast Beef, Ham, Rotisserie Chicken, and Salad Bar. Please fill out the form below and your reminder portion, then mail the form and your check to us before Tuesday, **Nov. 10th**.

Questions? E-mail Dave Tarquino, Event Chairman, at dtarquino@surewest.net.

Keep this part as your reminder of what was on your reservation form:

Names: _____

My Check # _____ for \$ _____. was made out to **AFTAC-WCC**
and was mailed on ____/____/2009 to:

AFTAC Alumni Assoc.-WCC, P.O. Box 3974, Citrus Heights, CA 95611-3974

[Save the above] (Cut off here, fill out and mail the following form with your check before 10 November 2009)

AFTAC Alumni Assoc. - West Coast Chapter

Reservation Sign-up Form

for the

Fall Social – Sunday, 15 Nov 2009

12Noon - ~ 2:30pm

Luau Garden Restaurant Banquet Room

1890 Arden Way, Sacramento, CA 95815

Name(s): _____

(Please Print Clearly)

Total # Meals: ____ x **\$16.50** each = \$ ____.

Make your check payable to "AFTAC-WCC" and mail it before **10 Nov 2009** along with this form to:
AFTAC-WCC, P.O. Box 3974, Citrus Heights, CA 95611-3974

E-MAIL ADDRESS UPDATES NEEDED

by Dale Klug

Sometimes we need to send information to as many alumni as possible in the shortest time possible. So we would like you to keep us updated on your e-mail addresses. **if yours should change, please send your current e-mail address to: TOD.Alumni@AFTACWCC.org** We will acknowledge your message and ensure our roster is corrected. **Thank You Very Much!**

IN MEMORY OF

JOHNSON, Lois O. Granite Bay, CA, born in Frankfort, Ky., on August 21, 1926, passed away at home on July 3, 2009. A Kentucky native most of her life she came to California in 2004. She is survived by her husband John R. Johnson, her sister Dorothy Taylor of Mt. Washington, Ky., daughters Vicki J. Wingate (Mike) of Sanford, N.C., and Patricia "PATTI" Maynard (Mike) of Hickory, N.C., grandchildren Robert Warren Wingate of Dallas, Ore., and Kelli M. Wingate of Greensboro, N.C., plus several nieces and nephews. A retired former employee (statistician) of the Kentucky Dept. of Education and longtime Methodist, Lois was an Associate Member of the Cornerstone Community U.M.C. of Rocklin, Calif., while maintaining permanent membership in her church in Kentucky. She was active in many Frankfort and Rocklin church and community functions and activities and was a member of the United Methodist Women for over 50 years. She enjoyed traveling as a hobby. Her memorial service will be held at the First U.M.C. of Frankfort, Ky., on July 18. Donations may be made to her Rocklin church, in lieu of flowers. *Published in the The Sacramento Bee on July 12, 2009*

JONES, Bobby Gene, MSGT, USAF, Retired Passed away in Sacramento on August 2, 2009, at age 77. Survived by his loving wife of 33 years, Helen, sons Bobby Jr. and his wife Janice, Ted, Ralph and wife Ramona, and Rex Sanders, seven grandchildren and ten great-grandchildren. He retired from the U.S. Air Force after 22 years of service and also retired from the State of Calif. Bobby was a lifelong dog lover - A.J. and Mic were his favorites. Private cremation has been arranged, and his ashes will be placed at the Pleasant Grove Cemetery in Clinton, Ark. Friends are welcome to attend a memorial service on Saturday, August 15, at 1:00 p.m. at SHARER - NIGHTINGALE FUNERAL CHAPEL, 2329 Lexington St., Sacramento, CA 95815. *Published in the The Sacramento Bee on August 11, 2009*

Who Said That??

by Dale Klug, Editor

- >> When the enemy is in range, so are you.
- >> It is generally inadvisable to eject over the area you just bombed.
- >> If you see a bomb technician running, follow him.
- >> You've never been lost until you've been lost at Mach 3.
- >> There are more planes in the ocean than submarines in the sky.
- >> When one engine fails on a twin-engine airplane, you always have enough power to get to the scene of the crash.
- >> If the wings are traveling faster than the fuselage, it's probably a helicopter; and therefore, unsafe.
- >> The only time you have too much fuel is when you're on fire.
- >> Bravery is being the only one who knows you're afraid.
- >> Though I fly through the Valley of Death, I shall fear no evil, for I am at 80,000 feet and climbing. (Sign at entrance to old SR-71 operating base at Kadena, Japan).

The above quotes came from a "Good Advice, Military Style" email sent to me by John Miner.

July's quotes were from Yogi Berra, PJ O'Rourke, Albert Einstein and Bill Gates (in 1981). Bob Baker, as usual, sent in his guesses and was correct for all four quotes.

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

by Dave Price, Membership Chairman

As of 1 September 2009: Active Members = 158 Life Members = 133

No new members this quarter.

Annual membership fee of \$10.⁰⁰ is due by 01 Jan each year. **Check your mailing label for an expiration date.** *Your last newsletter will be the one following your expiration date.* Life memberships are available for \$75.⁰⁰ and include a laminated membership card. You can use the Membership application/roster update on the last page of this newsletter or the one on our web site to send with your dues. Don't let your membership lapse. **Those alumni who have not paid their 2009 membership dues have been dropped from the "active" roster and newsletter distribution list.**

EVENTS CALENDAR

- Business/Member meetings are 1st Tuesdays quarterly at the LionsGate Restaurant at McClellan Park:
1 December 2009
(Call ahead to our Vice President, to confirm time & place. Or check our 'Events' page at <www.AFTACWCC.org>.)
- 10 Nov 2009 Deadline for reservations to attend Annual Fall Social at Luau Gardens
- 15 Nov 2009 6th Annual Fall Social at Luau Gardens Restaurant in Sacramento

MAIL CALL

Don't forget our Mail Call E-mail address: fallouteditor@AFTACWCC.org

Kenneth Smith Email: 18 Sep 2009. In memory of Lt. Col. Jack Allison. Major Allison interviewed me for Special Weapons in March of 1965. He told me that there were more qualified people for the four slots available. I told him I could get through any Air Force school with flying colors. He believed me. I spent 9 months at Lowry, 14 months at Det 207, and 4 years at AFTAC headquarters where I met my wife of 39 years. The officers I worked for at AFTAC encouraged me to get out and go to school and helped me find a job in Santa Barbara. I got a degree in physics from UCSB and have been a research scientist for the last 32 years. Thank you Major Allison for setting the direction of my life. I am sure you did the same for many others. SSGT Kenneth S. Smith, 99125 (E) Feb 1965 - Mar 1971, Senior Scientist Metatech Corporation, Goleta, California solol@gte.net

Deannie Ferris Email: 21 Sep 2009. Thank you for the hard copy of Bo's obituary in the Depot Fallout. Thank Orv for requesting it. Bo had full military honors at his service at the Veterans' Cemetery at Igo, CA, with a live bagpiper and bugler He would have enjoyed it. Our family and friends were accompanied by the Freedom Riders motorcycle club. Bo was a man of honor and my best friend. I miss him so deeply. If any of his friends desire, they can email me at deannie@deanniemeyer.com.

Jim Davis Email: 9 Aug 2009. I would like to correct some erroneous information. Bo Ferris, Bobby Jones and I WERE NOT the ORIGINAL SEO'S...we may have been among the first however I remember names like M/Sgt Thomas Hollingsworth, Ted Simms, Richard Brown, Dick MacCulsky, John Lanigan, Charlie Heckman, Van Winkler, Cook, Chandler, Moles, Moran and a few others that I simply can't remember their names were there before we got there in 1953. Thank you for making a correction to this information before it gets published !!!!! Jim, firehead@cogeco.ca

Jim "JR" Johnson Email: 18 Aug 2009. Dear Ones, Just a quick and belated note. My wife, Lois O. Johnson, died peacefully here in Granite Bay, CA on July 3rd after a lingering illness and over six months in Hospice Care. Please advise any others whom we both know and for whom I have no e-mail address--- in case they do not already know. I wish to keep in touch with all of you and see you again sometime when I more able, and inclined, to travel. John R. (JR) Johnson. jjloj2@gmail.com

John Shampo Email: 25 Aug 2009. <http://www.awra.us/gallery-feb09.html> I am not sure you have seen the above link, but take a look. John Shampo, AFTAC, 1962-1966, jshamp@tylerridge.com

Ralph Simonton Email: 24 Aug 2009. I just read the entire online article. **(on the Antarctic TDY)** Thanks for the heads up. It is obvious that the quality of AFTAC personnel has not diminished in the last 37 years! Fascinating reading. Ralph Simonton ralphsi@verison.net



Wayne says "We haven't aged a bit.... Ha!" Editor's Note: I guess this should be in the 'Way Back Wayne' section.



AFTAC ALUMNI ASSOCIATION WEST COAST CHAPTER

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Email: TOD.Alumni@AFTACWCC.org



MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION / ROSTER UPDATE

Annual membership fee of \$10.⁰⁰ is due by 01 January each year. Check your mailing label for expiration date. Your last newsletter will be the one following your expiration date. Life memberships are available for \$75.⁰⁰ and include a laminated membership card.

PLEASE PRINT

Name: _____
Last, First MI Last Rank Held Nickname Name of Spouse

Addr: _____
Street, Apt #, etc. City State Zip Code

() - _____
Home Phone Work Phone Email Addr

Active Duty: _____
Branch of Service From: mm/yyyy - To: mm/yyyy Branch of Service From: mm/yyyy - To: mm/yyyy

AFTAC Dates: _____
From: mm/yyyy - To: mm/yyyy From: mm/yyyy - To: mm/yyyy From: mm/yyyy - To: mm/yyyy

Support Your West Coast Chapter: Please pass a copy of this form to your AFTAC Alumni friends. *[From the Depot Fallout]*

CHECK OUR WEBSITE AT www.AFTACWCC.org FOR THE LATEST WCC NEWS & PHOTOS

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WEST COAST CHAPTER
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