

AFTAC Alumni Association

West Coast Chapter

161 Southcreek Circle. Folsom CA 95630-1510

NEWSLETTER SEPTEMBER 2000

AFTAC ALUMNI REUNION 2001

FROM THE COLORADO CHAPTER NEWSLETTER (ECHOES)

The Colorado Chapter of the AFTAC Alumni Association is hosting the 2001 reunion at the Doubletree Hotel (formerly the Red Lion Inn) at Denver's old Stapleton Airport. This is the same facility where they hosted the 1996 reunion. The dates are 14 through 17 June 2001. The agenda includes a golf tournament, Blackhawk/Central City gambling tour and a tour of Detachment 045 at Buckley ANG Station. A reunion reservation form is included in this newsletter. As always, guests are welcome. If you plan to attend, please get it in as soon as possible for a head count. Copies of the form are also available in the "Post Monitor" and the AFTAC home page. You can also call Ben Vlassick at 303-690-1239 or email him at aftacco@aol.com. Hope to see you there.

First Annual West Coast Picnic

SUBMITTED BY DALE KLUG

Our June 25th picnic In Orangevale Community Park was our first try at a picnic. We were forced to change the park picnic site at the last minute because of construction delays encountered by the recreation district and endured some hot weather, but everyone attending had a great time.

Attendees were Jack & Rosalie Allison, Bob & Darlene Fitzgerald, Frank & Irene Goodreau (who brought along their daughter & son-in-law, Jan & Chris Martell and grandchildren), Joe & Gayle Johnson, Dale Klug, Bob & Carol Morrison, Dave & Nancy Price, and George Thompson.

SEO Reunion

SUBMITTED BY CAROL PRITCHARD caporv@aol.com

On July 18th a Special Equipment Operators reunion was held at high noon in the El Dorado Hotel, Reno Nevada. The reunion was based on a "pact" signed by 18 active duty SEOs stationed at McClellan AFB in 1992 following discussion as to whether or not their mission would be soon terminated. The "pact" was worded as follows, "On the 200th day of the year 2000 the SEOs below will meet in Lake Tahoe and eat, drink and be merry. If there are any SEOs currently on active flying status performing duties similar to those performed in 1992, the people in the left column will buy dinner for those on the right. If the SEOs are no longer on active flying status, then the people signing on the right will buy for those on the left." Of the 18 signers of the "pact" six attended the reunion. They were Tim Casperson, Mike Marler, Van Roberts, Joe Ford, Darin Pfaff and Ken Musgrove.

Word of a SEO Reunion on the 200th day of the year 2000 went out over the Internet and by phone. This included SEOs from Day One (1955) to date. All were represented at the reunion including Bobby Jones and Bo Ferris, two of the original SEOs recruited by Col Deets. Bobby & Bo were dropsonde operators in the 55th Weather Squadron.

Two members of the press also attended. Bob McAfferty writes for "Air & Space" which did an extensive article on SEOs in July. Bob was interested in a follow-up article. Bill Scott, a former SEO writes for "Aviation Week". Bill and his tape recorder stayed very busy. So, keep an eye out for stories in both those periodicals.

After a delicious buffet prepared by the El Dorado, the war stories began. They ranged from hairy flying experiences to warm remembrances of what it was like to be a member of the "SEO Family". We even had an impromptu "wedding". Joe and Galen Ford were married earlier this year, but it was Galen's desire to be married on the "200th day year 2000" as Joe was a signer of the pact. Their friends supplied flight suits, recruited Tony Balentine as minister and staged a SEO wedding ceremony. Mike Marler loaned Tony his SEO checklist for the proper pronouncements. Mike later remarked that "All went well, but the matron of honor (Jim Rickner) was the ugliest I've ever seen". Just kidding, Jim.

Mike Marler brought a Midway deployment case with a strobe, LPU, EEED, sea dye, solar still and a survey meter. He also brought his laptop with lots of photos from his SEO days. That brought back a lot of memories for many.

Of the 50 or so attendees, about one third were wives. Throughout the years they have been a close group. With husbands gone on long TDYs, they supported each other and made sure all was well on the homefront.

John Roberts had commemorative T-shirts with a SEO patch on the back and an AFT AC patch on the front stating "SEO Reunion, Day 200, Year 2000, Reno Nevada" They were pre-ordered and some worn that afternoon. He also had a banner made, anticipating a SEO Reunion II.

The reunion concluded at 7 p.m. with attendees drifting off to various watering holes to reminisce about days and friends past. Even though this was the first SEO reunion, I hope it will not be the last. Who is going to pick up the gauntlet for a "mini SEO reunion" within the next AFTAC reunion scheduled for June 2001 in Denver?

EDITOR'S NOTE: FOR MORE INFO ON THE SEO REUNION PLEASE CONTACT TONY OR CAROL .

Tony Balentine, (SEO 20) SEO20@worldnet.att.com
Carol & Orv Pritchard, ("Pritch", SEO XXVI, '56 - ' 70) carporv@aol.com

Spring 2001 Get-Together Options

SUBMITTED BY DALE KLUG

Already underway are plans for another outing to rival our Clear Lake cruise this past April. Bob Fitzgerald did some research and here are a couple options. Let us know what you think and if you're interested in participating. The dates are still open, but its never too early to plan ahead.

Option One: "Basic San Francisco Day-Tour.

- * 9 hours motorcoach transportation from Sacramento. (from one pick-up point)
- * Professional host for duration of trip.
- * On-board refreshments. (Morning coffee, juices, doughnuts; Evening soft drinks, snacks)
- * \$28/person

Add-ons: @ 1-hour harbor cruise on Red & White Line, \$12/person

@ 2-3 hour Alcatraz visit on Blue & Gold line, \$15/person

@ Amtrak one-way Sacramento to Oakland, \$16/person

Option Two: Amtrak, Oakland & the Good Ship "Potomac"

- * Round-trip Amtrak tickets, Sacramento/Oakland.
- * Professional host for duration of trip.
- * Two-hour harbor cruise & boat tour aboard the "Potomac", FDR's beloved "Floating White House".
- * Informational historical film before sailing.
- * About a ten-hour day, station to station.
- * \$84/adult, \$77/senior.

Amendments to Articles of Association

SUBMITTED BY BART CARTER (Chap Treasurer)

The West Coast Chapter Articles of Association state that amendments may be proposed by any member and they must be approved by a majority vote of the active membership. The Officers and Directors propose two amendments as follows: (Proposed additions are shown in italics. Proposed deletions are underlined)

Article III, Membership, Sec 2, Dues.

(a) Dues shall be \$5.00 per calendar year. A life membership shall be \$50.00. Husbands and wives of members are included in the dues of their spouse. *Widows and widowers of former members of AFTAC or its subordinate units are automatically granted membership and are exempted from the payment of dues.* The Association is presently unincorporated but may incorporate and seek non profit status.

Article III, membership Sec. 3, Membership Database.

(b) Active members may request a list of the names of chapter members. Active members may request the address and phone number of members on the list. Members who do not want their addresses or phone numbers released shall not be included in this locator service. Requests for the member list and for addresses and phone numbers of individual members should be sent to the Chapter address. Unauthorized use of the information contained in the database for commercial purposes shall be grounds for permanent dismissal from the Association.

The addition concerning widows and widowers was discussed during the original preparation of the Articles of Association but was inadvertently left out of the current version of the Articles. The last sentence in this paragraph is no longer needed because we do not have to incorporate in order to get non profit status and we are currently preparing our application to the IRS for non profit status.

In addition to these amendments the officers and directors of the Association will ask the IRS to allow our members to deduct contributions to the Association from their income taxes. (For members who itemize their deductions). To get this authority we must show the IRS that 75% of our members were in military service at some time during a period of war. We are sure that we can meet this provision but we need to have each member's beginning and ending dates of service in our database in case the IRS asks us to justify our figures. The beginning and ending dates of service does not mean just service in AFTAC, it means all service, in any component of the U.S. Armed Forces.

Enclosed with this newsletter is a preprinted, pre-addressed post card to vote on the two amendments. It also includes spaces to make a choice concerning the locator service and spaces to list your service dates. Please show the month, day, and year for these dates. If you are not sure of the day, the month and year will be sufficient. Please mail the post card as soon as possible.

WORDS FROM THE PREZ' BY JOE JOHNSON

MEMBERSHIP PICNIC, 25 JUNE 200 AT ORANGEVALE PARK. WEATHER PREDICTED WAS 100 DEGREES PLUS. ACTUAL TEMPERATURE WAS ABOUT 95 DEGREES. PICNIC LOCATION MOVED 2 DAYS BEFORE PICNIC. RESULT..... VERY POOR TURNOUT, ONLY ABOUT A DOZEN OUT OF A LOCAL MEMBERSHIP OF OVER 100. WE ALL CAN DO BETTER. I'LL DO MY BEST TO ENSURE WE NEVER SCHEDULE THIS TYPE OF EVENT WHEN THE WEATHER IS EXPECTED TO BE SO UNFAVORABLE. HOWEVER, THE MEMBERSHIP HAS TO SUPPORT THE ORGANIZATION IF WE EXPECT IT TO ENDURE. LAST, BUT NOT LEAST, THOSE ATTENDING HAD A GOOD TIME NOTWITHSTANDING THE WEATHER. ANY SUGGESTIONS ANYONE HAS FOR FUTURE OUTINGS OR GET-TOGETHERS ARE CHEERFULLY WELCOME. JUST WRITE, CALL OR E-MAIL US.

THE 18 JULY SEO (SPECIAL EQUIPMENT OPERATOR) REUNION WAS A SMASHING SUCCESS. EVEN THOUGH I HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH THE FLYING END OF THE AFTAC MISSION, MY WIFE AND I MADE A SHORT VISIT TO THE SEO AFFAIR. THEY HAD PEOPLE COME FROM AS FAR AWAY AS FLORIDA AND REALLY HAD A PARTY GOING WHEN WE LEFT. THEY OWE CAROL PRITCHARD A BIG THANK YOU FOR HER EFFORTS IN ORGANIZING THE EVENT. I THANK THE SEO PEOPLE FOR THEIR HOSPITALITY.

YOUR CHAPTER OFFICERS WANT TO MAKE IT POSSIBLE FOR ALL THE MEMBERSHIP TO ATTEND OUR MEETINGS. SINCE IT IS TOO EXPENSIVE TO NOTIFY EACH OF YOU OF EVERY MEETING, WE HAVE SET UP OUR MEETINGS FOR THE REST OF THE YEAR. THE REMAINING QUARTERLY MEETING FOR 2000 IS SCHEDULED FOR NOV 27TH. OTHERS WILL BE HELD AS NEEDED. MEETING LOCATIONS AND TIMES ARE NOT FIXED; SO IF YOU WISH TO ATTEND, CALL ME AT 916-783-8676 JUST PRIOR TO A SCHEDULED MEETING AND I'LL GIVE YOU THE TIME & PLACE INFORMATION.

"EXTREMELY IMPORTANT" PLEASE NOTE OUR CHANGE OF ADDRESS. MAIL TO THE OLD ADDRESS WILL BE FORWARDED FOR A LIMITED TIME ONLY, SO SEND FUTURE MAIL TO:

AFTAC ALUMNI ASSOCIATION, WEST COAST CHAPTER ,161 SOUTHCREEK CIRCLE Folsom CA 95630

THE ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP FEE (\$5.00) IS DUE IN APRIL EACH YEAR. **YOUR MEMBERSHIP EXPIRATION DATE IS PRINTED ON YOUR ADDRESS LABEL.** LIFETIME MEMBERS (**\$50 LIFE MEMBERSHIP**) EXCLUDED OF COURSE. NEW MEMBERSHIP CARDS ARE PRINTED AND MAILED AFTER DUES ARE RECEIVED. PLEASE NOTE THAT WE ARE STILL ON A LEARNING CURVE HERE AND THE US MAIL IS NOT INFALLIBLE, SO IF YOU DON'T GET OR HAVEN'T RECEIVED A MEMBERSHIP CARD, LET US KNOW.

WE HOPE FOR A GREAT TURNOUT AT THE AFTAC 2001 REUNION.

EDITOR'S NOTE: ANY IDEAS FOR FUTURE GATHERINGS OR NEWSLETTER ARTICLES ARE ALWAYS WELCOME.

Mail Call

Don't forget our E-Mail address: TOD.Alumni@bigfoot.com

JULIE DOLL SAYS: I'M ENJOYING THE NEWSLETTER AND SHARING IT WITH DETACHMENT 460 MEMBERS. THANK YOU FOR KEEPING IT GOING. I WAS FORTUNATE TO BE PROMOTED TO E8 THIS YEAR THANKS TO THE WONDERFUL MENTORSHIP I'VE RECEIVED THROUGHOUT MY CAREER. I WANT TO ESPECIALLY THANK CHIEFS ANING AND SPENCER FOR ALL THE TIME AND ENERGY THEY DEVOTED TO ME THESE LAST FEW YEARS – THEY SET A GOOD EXAMPLE OF WHAT I COULD BE WHEN I GROW UP! KEEP UP THE SPIRIT DOWN THERE. I'M BACK IN THE NORTH WHERE I BELONG! SMSGT JULIE DOLL, 4860A LAST FRONTIER, EIELSON AFB, AK 99702 E-MAIL ADDRESS: julie.doll@eielson.af.mil

Ed Carfora says: Greetings to my AFTAC associates from 1961 – 1974. It's always nice to run into some of you from time to time. Recently learned that three more of my close associates passed away. Looks like the older I get I lose more and more old friends. That of course is to be expected. Best wishes to all of you and looking forward to attending a reunion someday see some of you again. Take care old friends. Ed Carfora, 7104 9th Avenue, Rio Linda, CA 95673 E-mail address: CARFORAED@AOL.COM

Nick Pketz says: Enclosed is a check for dues. Looking forward to future events. When I was in the service, my last name was spelled Puketza. We've recently had the spelling legally

changed to Pketz. Nick Pketz, 5136 North Ave, Carmichael CA 95608, E-mail: PKETZA@JUNO.COM

EDITOR'S NOTE: SORRY FOR MISSPELLING YOUR NAME IN LAST NEWSLETTER.

Roster Information Updates

Please send us any updates, when they occur, by letter or E-mail, for our membership roster. Here's the format we use. Thanks

Name _____
(last) (first) (M.I.) (rank) (serial no) (nickname)

Address _____
(street) (city) (state) (zipcode)

Spouse _____
(name) (home phone) (work phone) (e-mail or fax no)

RETURN ADDRESS

**AFTAC ALUMNI ASSOCIATION
WEST COAST CHAPTER
161 SOUTHCREEK CIRCLE
FOLSOM CA 95630-1510**

FIRST CLASS MAIL

TO:
