



# AFTAC ALUMNI ASSOCIATION WEST COAST CHAPTER NEWSLETTER



161 Southcreek Cr., Folsom, CA 95630-1510

APRIL 2001

Email: [TOD.Alumni@bigfoot.com](mailto:TOD.Alumni@bigfoot.com)

## AFTAC ALUMNI REUNION 2001 New Deadline

FROM BEN VLASSICK, COLORADO CHAPTER

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 thru 17 June 2001. The agenda includes a golf tournament, Blackhawk/Central City gambling tour and a tour of Detachment 045 at Buckley ANG Station. As always, guests are welcome. The Reunion Committee has advised they can continue accepting reservations. The response has been excellent. About 150 people have already confirmed reservations and they expect another 6 to 10 couples from the Denver area alone. **There is still room for more. There is still time to join us in Denver.** If you plan to attend, Copies of the reservation form are available in the "Post Monitor" and the AFTAC home page and also on the Colorado AAAC website at <http://www.aftacco.org> (from the "shuttle" paragraph, open "Download Reunion Registration Form"). You can also call Ben Vlassick at 303-690-1239 or email him at [aftacco@aol.com](mailto:aftacco@aol.com). Hope to see you there.

## "Name Our Newsletter" Contest Still Open

SUBMITTED BY DALE KLUG

It's been suggested that we come up with a name for our newsletter. Entries are arriving every so often. The Florida chapter newsletter is the "Post Monitor" and the Colorado chapter named theirs "Echoes". I'm sure some former WFO, 1155<sup>th</sup> or Tech Ops Div member can come up with a creative suggestion for a newsletter name. We'll even consider entries from people who've never been stationed here. The chapter officers will decide on the name and appropriate prize for the person submitting the winning entry, so put your creative talents to work. Entries so far include "The Insider", "Alpha, Beta, Gamma Insights", "California Salute" and "California Memories". Send your entry to Joe Johnson at our address or e-mail it to: [TOD.alumni@bigfoot.com](mailto:TOD.alumni@bigfoot.com). We'll announce the winner in one of our upcoming issues.

## Summer Social Outing

SUBMITTED BY JOE JOHNSON

There is considerable interest in the Amtrak trip to Oakland and cruise aboard FDR's "Floating White House" Assuming 25 or more people participate, the trip will be on 9 June 2001.

### Included in the Trip are:

1. Round-trip Amtrak tickets, Sacramento/Oakland
2. Professional host for duration of trip.
3. A bottle of water to each passenger upon departure. (Amtrak restrictions prohibit our distribution of refreshments on board.)
4. Two-hour harbor cruise and boat tour aboard the "Potomac", FDR's beloved "Floating White House"
5. Informational historical film before sailing.
6. About a ten-hour day, station to station.

Cost will be \$84 per adult, \$77 per senior (65+). The price difference is due to Amtrak pricing. The trip will depart the Sacramento train station (4<sup>th</sup> & "I" street) at 7:55 AM. Plan to arrive 30 minutes prior to departure time. Paid parking is available and cost \$10 for all day. Scheduled return time is about 6:00 PM.

Amtrak requires ticket booking 50 days in advance. This requires that we have a firm number commitment (**money in hand**) prior to 23 April 2001. If you want to go, make your check payable to **AFTAC ALUMNI ASSOCIATION** and mail it to: AFTAC Alumni Assoc, West Coast Chapter, 161 Southcreek Circle, Folsom CA 95630-1510. **WE MUST HAVE YOUR CHECK BY 23 APRIL.** If less than 25 people commit, the trip will be cancelled and your check returned by mail.

This should be an interesting & enjoyable outing. Hope to see at least 25 of you join me on this trip.

## **WORDS FROM THE PREZ'** BY JOE JOHNSON

The next membership outing is scheduled, as indicated in the article above. Any suggestions anyone has for future outings or get-togethers are cheerfully welcome. Just write, call or E-mail us. **Alumni Meet to Eat.** We have arranged an evening meal for AFTAC/TOD Alumni and friends at the "Luau Gardens" on April 7<sup>th</sup> at 5 PM. The Luau Gardens is a Chinese buffet located at 1890 Arden Way, Sacramento, next to Mervyn's and just across from Arden Fair Mall. Cost of the meal, including tax and gratuity is \$11.75. We had to ensure that enough people would attend to make the event practical. Alumni living within about 60 miles of Sacramento were contacted and asked to send us \$11.75 for each person that would attend. At this time 44 people have committed and the event is a go. We can accommodate more people. If we missed telephoning you (no answer, wrong number or outside the 60 mile circle) and you want to attend, you are welcome. However, you must call me at 916-783-8676 prior to April 7<sup>th</sup> so we can make the necessary arrangements. The restaurant has agreed to bill on an individual basis for anyone ordering beer or wine, but the meals will all be put on one bill which will be paid by the association. Hope to see you at the dinner.

Since it is too expensive to notify each of you of every meeting, we have set up our general membership meetings for the rest of the year. The quarterly meetings for 2001 are scheduled for Tuesday evenings, 7pm, on Jun 5<sup>th</sup>, Sep 11<sup>th</sup>, and Dec 4<sup>th</sup> at the McClellan Air Museum. Others will be held as needed. If you have any questions or topics you wish to bring up, call me at 916-783-8676 prior to a scheduled meeting and I'll include it on the agenda. Hope for a great turnout at the AFTAC 2001 reunion. Will you be there?

**Editor's Note:** Any ideas for get-togethers, or newsletter articles are always welcome.

## **CMSgt Richard . "Oz" Osburn**

By Bob Fitzgerald

It is with profound sorrow that we notify you of the passing of Chief Osburn. Oz passed away suddenly on Saturday, 17 Mar 2001 at the age of 70. He is survived by his children (Anthony, Sean and Melissa) and his grandchildren. Oz, as most of us in the outfit knew him, retired from the Air Force in Sept. 1980 after 30 years of service. Oz was NCOIC of the Lab for a number of years and was highly respected by both the enlisted and officers of the 1155<sup>th</sup> TOS for his knowledge of physics and the lab, his passion for teaching and sharing his knowledge, and his leadership.

A number of us were "mentored" in the lab by Oz. He was an honest and generous person whom we could all count on and who would always give of himself and his time for whatever we would ask of him. I will always remember Oz for being there when I asked for help or council as a young junior NCO when I first

arrived at MCL in 1964 to my retirement in 1977. I also remember when his children were born and when he and his wife, Stella, and my wife, Darlene, and I used to bowl in the squadron mixed doubles league together.

I'm sure Oz will be missed by all of us who knew him. If you have any memories you'd like to share about your association with Oz, I'm sure his family would appreciate hearing them. You can email his son, Anthony, at [aosburn@firstam.com](mailto:aosburn@firstam.com).

## New Membership Cards

By Bob Fitzgerald, Director at Large & Membership Chairman

Newly designed cards for present members are included with this newsletter. Life members are receiving laminated cards for lasting durability. Every member is a potential recruiter. Get someone to join. Use the application on the last page.

## Mail Call

**Don't forget our E-Mail address: [TOD.Alumni@bigfoot.com](mailto:TOD.Alumni@bigfoot.com)**

**Frank Kunz** says: Thanks Bob Fitzgerald for your nice email regarding Chief Oz. Like you, I am retired also. I retired 3 years ago from the Ford Motor Company research lab. When I was assigned to the 1155<sup>th</sup> I took over the electron microprobe which had been flown in from France. The old Cameca system. Well, I carried that work into civilian life and spent 27 years at Ford working with electron microprobes, x-ray diffractometers, and x-ray fluorescent spectrometers. I also had the privilege of auto-mating one of the first probes. I had a very satisfying and productive civilian life all because of the 1155<sup>th</sup> and of course, the OZ.

I was never as smart as the OZ and he helped me and several other "dummies" through many math and physics courses while at the University of Southern Mississippi. I really needed his help, because I only completed the 9<sup>th</sup> grade in high school and subsequently completed the GED for my high school diploma. I was only 15 when I joined the US Army Air Force, so I really did not have the background in math and physics. So, with the help of OZ and many other fine people, I have had a very good life and t this day, I scratch my head and wonder how the heck I made it through college and work in Research.

With my regards, Frank Kunz E-Mail: [Fkunz2001@aol.com](mailto:Fkunz2001@aol.com)

Jeanne & Bob Haslett say: Ralph Grogg died last night (March 6) from pancreatic cancer. His wife, Pat, said he was diagnosed in Dec and that aside from the discomforts of surgery he suffered very little and was able to be home most of the time. He will be taken back to Ohio, his home state, for burial. For anyone wishing to send remembrances, Pat's address is: 1537 4<sup>th</sup> Ave. East, Bradenton, Florida 34208-1319, (914) 748-8163. Ralph spent almost all (minus a short stay in Vietnam) of his AF career in AFTAC and at TOD. He was a great friend to us. Please pass this along to anyone who may know him.

Thanks, Jeanne & Bob Haslett E-mail: [jhaslett@extreme.net](mailto:jhaslett@extreme.net)

### CHAPTER OFFICERS

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[Note from the [www.AFTACwest.org](http://www.AFTACwest.org) Webmaster: Not included here, but included in the mailings of this issue were a flyer about the USS Potomac and also a registration form for the 2001 Reunion in Colorado.]