



**AFTAC ALUMNI ASSOCIATION  
WEST COAST CHAPTER  
NEWSLETTER**



# Depot Fallout

161 Southcreek Cr., Folsom, CA 95630-1510

**JANUARY 2002**

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

## Fall Social – A Big Success

SUBMITTED BY AL PAVIK

What a great evening we had at the Café Vienna on November 3<sup>rd</sup> for our Fall Social Get-Together. For dining there was a wide selection of German/Austrian entrees and desserts and during the evening, we had the privilege to listen to German music with dancing during the entire evening. It was truly great to get together, see, and visit with people from the active duty days. Thirty-six of us were there. I want to specifically acknowledge and thank the Niquettes' for traveling in from the Coast and the Ferris' coming from Redding to join us for this special evening. A special thanks to Joe Johnson for planning and setting this up.

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** PICTURES OF THIS EVENT WERE VERY GRAINY BECAUSE OF THE SUBDUED LIGHTING.

## Winter Social Get-Together

SUBMITTED BY AL PAVIK

Mark February 9<sup>th</sup> on your calendars for our next event. We will have dinner at the “**Luau Gardens**” at 5 PM (per recommendations received). The Luau Gardens is a Chinese buffet located at 1890 Arden Way, Sacramento, next to Mervyn's, across from Arden Fair Mall. We have a room reserved and need to tell Luau Gardens by February 5<sup>th</sup> the number of people that will attend. Cost will be \$12.50/person. (this includes meal, tax and tip) **Please send your checks so as to arrive no later than February 4<sup>th</sup> to:**

**AFTAC Alumni Association  
161 Southcreek Circle  
Folsom CA, 95630-1530**

Everyone is invited, members and nonmembers. Let's make this an occasion to remember.

## **WORDS FROM THE PREZ'** BY AL PAVIK

On December 4<sup>th</sup>, we had our quarterly Business Meeting and combined business with a follow-on social with spouses. Again thanks to all the people who joined us for this evening.

For your calendar, mark February 9<sup>th</sup> for our next event. We will have dinner at the “Luau Gardens”.

I've received telecons from different members and talked to and sent a welcome to Stan Brown who now lives in Davenport, Iowa His address is: 183 Westminster Circle, Davenport, Iowa 52807-1125; Phone (653) 359-8701). If you know of prior AFTAC members who want to join please let us know.

We also want to wish Herb Dettmer the best in getting back to his active self.

## Events Calendar for 2001/2002

### Completed

>Dinner at Café Vienna (November 3, 2001)

### Scheduled/Proposed

>Dinner at Luau Gardens (February 9, 2002, make reservations by February 4th)

>Garden Party (at Paviks, April/May 2002). Details will be provided in the next newsletter.

>Golf Outing (tbd)

>Dinner at Rudy's, Shepherder's, Cattleman's, etc etc (tbd)

### Quarterly Business Meetings (at McClellan Air Museum at 7:00 PM)

>Dec 4, 2001 (completed)

>March 5, 2002; June 4, 2002; September 3, 2002; December 3, 2002

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** Any ideas for get-togethers, or newsletter articles are always welcome.

## Mail Call

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

**Bryce Dunn's** E-mail: Ben Vlassick passed away yesterday, Christmas Day at 5:50 AM. Services will be held at 1300 on Friday, 28 December, at Horan & McConaty Funeral Home, 3201 S.Parker Rd., Aurora, Colorado, 80014. Viewing will be Thursday, 27 December, from 1730 – 200 at the same place. Interment will be at 1430 at Ft. Logan Cemetery. We will miss him deeply. Contact Jack Smith, AFTAC Alumni Association Of Colorado President for further info. He can be reached at 303-428-1812, or e-mail [coaftrmkt@aol.com](mailto:coaftrmkt@aol.com).

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** BEN HAS BEEN A LONGTIME FRIEND OF A LOT OF US. THE WEST COAST CHAPTER EXPRESSES OUR DEEPEST CONDOLENCES. OUR VICE PRESIDENT, JOE JOHNSON, LEFT ON VACATION EARLY TO ATTEND THE SERVICES.

**Herb Dettmer's** Telecon: Dewey N Weiford Jr, Col (retired) passed away. Col Weiford was well respected as Laboratory Director and then 1155<sup>th</sup> commander from Aug 70 – Jul 72. Our heartfelt condolences go out to his family.

**Frank Goodreau's** E-mail: Hi all, Here is a book about AFTAC and related groups, if you are interested. It's been around since 1995, so you may have a copy. **Spying without Spies: Origins of America's Secret Nuclear Surveillance System** by Charles A. Ziegler and David Jacobson. Praeger Publishers, 88 Post Road, Westport, Connecticut 06881, 1995, 242 pages. *Spying without Spies* deals with how the United States detected the first atomic explosion deep inside the Soviet Union in 1949—a subject that up until now has remained hidden from the American people. The *Manhattan Engineer District* ran the first rudimentary detection system on Germany in 1944 using A-26s with xenon-detection equipment. Manhattan Engineer District was the cover name assigned to the Army organization that designed, built, and tested the first atomic bombs. At the end of the war, no one was sure how or if the US could even detect atomic events deep inside the Soviet Union. This book tells how scientists, intelligence officials, Air Force officers, and commissioners of the Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) grappled with the problem. The book also provides an understanding of how national security decisions were made in the early postwar years.

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