



**AFTAC ALUMNI ASSOCIATION
WEST COAST CHAPTER
NEWSLETTER**



Depot Fallout

161 Southcreek Cr., Folsom, CA 95630-1510

JULY 2002

Email: TOD.Alumni@bigfoot.com

Summer Get-together – Clear Lake Cruise!

SUBMITTED BY GEORGE THOMPSON, Cruise Coordinator

Come join us on a cruise on the Clear Lake Queen, **Saturday, 10 August 2002**. The Queen is a three-deck paddlewheeler that carries 150 passengers with dining accommodations for 96 and a bar on the second deck. Clear Lake is the largest natural lake in California, with 127 miles of shoreline. Believed to be the oldest (4 million years) lake in North America, the lake and surrounding area abounds in Indian folklore. The three-hour cruise offers ample time to view the lake and surrounding mountains. Mt Konocti, although dormant, is still listed as an active volcano and is clearly visible from the boat. All dining tables have a window view. The on-board chef promises a delicious luncheon. Many will remember the good time we had on this cruise in April 2000.

The cruise, including lunch, tax and tip costs **\$30 per person**. Make reservations **by July 29th** by contacting George Thompson **707-994-4143**. Messages may be left on the answering machine. **Cruise time: 11 am to 2 pm**. Please be at the marina by 10:30 am. **Location: Lucerne Harbor Park, 6225 E. Hwy 20, Lucerne CA**. Mail check payable to **Clear Lake Queen** to George Thompson, PO Box 5025, Clearlake CA 95422 ---OR --- Call George with your reservations and pay cash, check, Visa or Mastercard at the boat.

If you'd like to spend the night, there are quite a few motels, resorts, RV park and the Twin Pine Indian gaming casino close by. Konocti Harbor Resort (800-660-LAKE) has a headliner show on Friday, Aug 9th. Clear Lake is about 100 miles (2-hour drive) from Sacramento. Interstate 5 to Williams, then State Route 20 is the easiest, most direct route. But, for a scenic drive along Cache Creek, take Interstate 5 to Woodland, then State Routes 16 & 20.

Spring Garden Party

Submitted by Al Pavik

We all had a good time on May 18th at the Garden Party. It was a really great get-together; over 60 members and guests attended. It was especially good to see **Herb and Jane Dettmer** there. All had a chance to participate in the "Closest to the Hole" golf tournament. John Kemna was the winner. We also had some "intense" horseshoe playing, especially the match between the team of **Ken Breitwieser & Bob Morrison** and the team of **Ken Denbleyker & George McAllister**.

We had a great meal, thanks to those who helped cook the hamburgers, hot dogs and bratwurst. A special thank you to those who brought the delicious hors d'oeuvres, salads and desserts.

EDITOR'S NOTE: WE ALL SINCERELY THANK AL & ANN PAVIK FOR THEIR GENEROUS HOSPITALITY IN HOSTING THE GARDEN PARTY.

"Second" Buster Jangle Reunion

Submitted by Joe Johnson

Participants in the 1951 Buster Jangle series of atomic tests in Nevada held their second reunion in Biloxi, Mississippi, 7 – 10 May 2002. The Biloxi location held special memories for the men as they had been stationed at Keesler AFB in Biloxi when they were assigned to the 1009th Special Weapons Squadron.

Almost everyone had problems recognizing Biloxi and Keesler AFB after 51 years. The old wooden barracks (how could one forget) on base are gone. An employee at the base exchange thought that one wooden building was still standing and used as a museum, how fitting. The only part of Biloxi that has remained the same is the wonderful white sand beach.

A great time was had by all and a one-day tour of New Orleans was an added attraction. Attendees were **Jerry & Kathy Collins, Lee & Dot Cotter, Bill & Shirley Sullivan, Charlie & Joan Soucia, Lou & Laura Orsatti, Ned Derkovits, Joe & Gayle Johnson, Henry & Sue Koons, Lee Barbour, Ed Carty, Bill Johnson, Tom Izlar & Laura Ross, Roger Grassl, Ted Hovick and Carl Raines.**

A special thanks to Jerry Collins and Leo Cotter for their hugely successful efforts in organizing the reunion.

WORDS FROM THE PREZ' BY AL PAVIK

- > Our Dinner Party was a great time for all, a chance for people to get together. Thanks to all for attending and again making this a very special gathering.
- > We want to express our deepest sympathy to the family of **Anne Deets Johnson** who unexpectedly passed away June 8, 2002.
- > We're looking for inputs from members on what they would like to do for future social events.
- > On June 4th, we had our quarterly Business Meeting. Thanks to all attendees.

Events Calendar for 2002

Completed

- > Garden party at Paviks' (May 18th)

Scheduled/Proposed

- >.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)

(Call ahead,797-1472, to confirm time & place)

- > September 3, 2002; December 3, 2002

Mail Call

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

Marge Iske Telecon: I'm sure a lot of you remember **Anne McElhaney** who worked in 1155th/TOD Logistics until her retirement. Anne, now confined to a wheelchair, is living in a skilled nursing facility in the Arden area of Sacramento. She is delighted to have visitors. She would be happy to have you stop by and visit her at 2200 Grammercy Drive. She lives in Hampton Court Cottage #5, Room 802. Anne spent many years in logistics as secretary to the Chief of Maintenance, then secretary to the Chief of Logistics. .

Joe Johnson Telecon: We still have some shot & wine glasses left from the reunion. Get in touch with me at 916-783-8676 if you'd like some. Shot glasses @ \$4.50 and wine glasses @ \$5.50.

John Johnson Jr E-mail: I have just received word from Jean Johnston that her husband **William D. "Bill" Johnston** , P.O. Box 1623, Grass Valley, CA 95945, died on the morning of 9 July 2002 after a long battle with prostate cancer aggravated by diabetes. One of the Alumni of AFTAC, Bill was a former member of MCL. He and I had many fun days flying together in the T-33 and Gooney Birds. He will be missed by his many friends and peers. Because of our similar names, Bill and I were known in the "flying group" as " The Band-Aid Twins" For those who have not heard yet, I lost my dear Anne to cardiac arrest on June 8, 2002. John R Johnson, Jr. JOANJAY@mindsync.com

Dick Black E-mail: Please be advised that I have a new e-mail address due to my "temporary" retirement this past April 5th. RCBlack01@ATTBI.com Our residential address remains unchanged. Best Regards, Richard C. Black, 279 Hartnell Place, Sacramento, CA 95825-6611

Sue Spencer Snailmail: Dear Gang, Just a note to let you know I'm doing fine and very busy starting my new career. I decided I wanted to be self-employed, so I got my real estate license last April and began building my business as a residential real estate consultant in Montgomery County, Maryland. If you know of anyone coming to the East coast, just let me know and I'll be happy to take care of them or refer them to someone who works the specific area they're interested in. The East coast – DC area is great! My new e-mail address is: sjspencer@mindspring.com. **EDITOR'S NOTE:** RECEIVED SUE'S LETTER BACK IN FEBRUARY, BUT JUST NOW GETTING IT INTO THE NEWSLETTER. SORRY!

Jim Lee E-mail: The reunion was a great success. Attended by the following: **Gene & Becky Landrum, Carmen & Sally Valenti, Jack & Molly Hanley, Bob & Sandi Teiken, Bill & Carol Jones, Rick & Sue Houchens, Mike Gilbert, Jim Hanson and Jim & Jane Lee.** We stayed at the Flamingo, where a group dinner was held on Friday night (7/5). Attached is one photo taken of some of us (Valenti, Lee, Gilbert, Hanson, Hanley). The shot glasses were a huge hit....thanks for the help. As I get more photos, I'll pass them on. I will also forward your address to the guys, and they can fill you in on more. Thanks again for the help. We are already talking about another reunion in Sarasota next July. Take care. Jim and Jane Lee **EDITOR'S NOTE:** JIM WAS ONE OF FOURTEEN ADMINISTRATIVE SPECIALISTS ASSIGNED TO 1155TH AS A GROUP IN THE EARLY 70'S. THEY HAVE KEPT IN TOUCH ALL THIS TIME AND HAD A RECENT REUNION. JIM ORDERED "MISSION COMPLETED" SHOT GLASSES FOR ALL ATTENDING.

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