



# Depot Fallout



AFTAC Alumni Association West Coast Chapter  
P.O. Box 3974, Citrus Heights, CA 95611-3974  
Email: [TOD.Alumni@bigfoot.com](mailto:TOD.Alumni@bigfoot.com)

## OCTOBER 2005 EDITION

### Chapter Officers

#### President:

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530-672-9421

[rodandbj@sbcglobal.net](mailto:rodandbj@sbcglobal.net)

#### Vice President:

**Joe Johnson**

916-783-8676

[ga9jo8ro7ca@hotmail.com](mailto:ga9jo8ro7ca@hotmail.com)

#### Chairman of the Board:

**Ken Denbleyker**

916-987-1754

(no email address)

#### Asst. Board Chairman:

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916-845-5405

[dtarquino@surewest.net](mailto:dtarquino@surewest.net)

#### Director at Large:

**Orv Pritchard**

916-332-8747

[caporv@aol.com](mailto:caporv@aol.com)

#### Treasurer:

**Bart Carter**

916-989-3804

(no email address)

#### Asst. Treasurer:

**Charlie Penn**

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[chaspenn@starstream.net](mailto:chaspenn@starstream.net)

#### Membership Chairman:

**Danny Beach**

916-725-3702

[danbeach@ev1.ent](mailto:danbeach@ev1.ent)

#### Secretary:

**Marge Iske**

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(no email address)

#### Asst. Secretary:

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#### Webmaster/Asst. Editor:

**Bob Fitzgerald**

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## ELECTION RESULTS

*by Joe Johnson, Vice President*

New officers for the West Coast Chapter of the AFTAC Alumni Association were elected/re-elected at the scheduled membership meeting on 06 Sep 2005. Rod Hinkle, our current President, will open our next meeting on 6 Dec 2005 then turn the meeting over to **Joe Johnson** and the new officers will take office. Elected for the next 2-year term were: **Bob Fitzgerald**, Chairman of the Board of Directors; **Orville Pritchard**, Asst. Chairman of the Board; **Ken Denbleyker**, Director At Large; **Joe Johnson**, President & Member of the Board of Directors; **Dennis Nolan**, Vice President; **Charlie Penn**, Treasurer; **John "Butch" Kemna**, Asst. Treasurer; **Ken Breitwieser**, Secretary; and **Bob Baker**, Asst. Secretary.

As the newly elected President, I look forward to working with all the new officers. We plan to continue conducting the Association business in a successful and orderly manner. I am certain the entire membership joins me in a big THANK YOU to the former officers: **Marge Iske**, Secretary; **Hobart Carter**, Treasurer; **Rod Hinkle**, President/Director; **Dave Tarquino**, Asst. Chairman of the Board, and the other officers of the last two years which includes: **Dale Klug**, Newsletter Editor, and **Bob Fitzgerald**, Webmaster/Asst. Editor, who are continuing in those positions; and many of those above who were elected to the same or new offices.

**David Price** was appointed as our new Membership Chairman. Our previous appointee, **Danny Beach**, also gets a big THANK YOU. Danny was the first person appointed to manage just the membership listings. Prior to Danny, the job was primarily part of some other job such as Treasurer, Webmaster, Vice President and others. The duties became so time consuming that it became necessary to assign it as the exclusive work for one individual. Danny worked many hours over the last two years in establishing the current database of the membership.

## VETERANS DAY 2005 FALL SOCIAL

*by Dave Tarquino, Asst. Chairman of the Board*

Where: **Buggy Whip, 2737 Fulton Avenue, Sacramento, CA**

When: **Veteran's Day, 11 November; 1800 – 2130 hours**

Why: **Eat, Drink, and Socialize**

Who: **You, of course! Deadline for reservations is Fri., October 28<sup>th</sup>.**

It's a perfect time to start the Festive Season and spread Holiday Cheer. Spend Veteran's Day evening with fellow Vets, Alumni & Friends. Activities will start with a no-host bar & socializing, 6-7PM, then dinner from 7-9:30PM. Dress is casual. Cost is **\$26.00/person** (includes room rent, tax and gratuity). Meal includes entrée, vegetable, green salad with homemade salad dressings, baked potato, roll & butter, coffee or tea. See you there! **Please fill out the form on page 5 or get it from the 'Forms' page on our web site at <[www.AFTACwest.org](http://www.AFTACwest.org)> & mail it to us by the deadline date.** Questions? E-mail Dave at [dtarquino@surewest.net](mailto:dtarquino@surewest.net).

## WORDS FROM THE PREZ

by Rod Hinkle, President

"Congratulations" to all the newly elected officers of the Alumni Association. I know all of you are dedicated to maintaining the Association and our ties to the AFTAC organization, as well as our dear friends from days past. Although we may be a "vanishing breed," I believe its important not to forget our proud service in carrying out our mission in support of our country. The best way to do so is to regularly socialize with each other and maintaining long established friendships. I look forward to future "get-togethers" with my AFTAC friends.

## THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

by Bob Fitzgerald, Chairman of the Board Elect

First of all I would like to thank those of you that had a hand in nominating and electing me to the important position of Chairman of the Board of Directors. Secondly, I would like to assure all of our Association members that I will do my utmost to fulfil this position with honesty and with the best interest of the members and our Association at heart. In fact, I feel confident that all of the newly elected Directors and Officers of our organization will serve this upcoming 2-year term with honor. All of the outgoing and newly elected Directors and Officers are to be commended for 'stepping up to the plate' to keep our Association viable and running smoothly. We give our collective **"Thank You" to all those that served the past term of office. Well done!**

The newly elected members of the Board of Directors will consist of myself, **Joe Johnson** (*President Elect of our Chapter*) and **Ken Denbleyker** (*Elected Director at Large*) - plus **Orville Pritchard** (*Elected Assistant Chairman of the Board*). The duties of the Directors include: "Directors shall exercise overview control of the Association and the Committees. They shall review routine operations performed by the Officers to insure that Association objectives are being properly served. The Board has the responsibility of reviewing and recommending changes to the Articles of Association." Also, "Directors shall have the power to remove officers, as necessary, for the good of the Association." Just as with all the outgoing officers of our chapter, you can count on all of us who were newly elected to do a good job for the next two years as we take on our new positions with respect to the great **West Coast Chapter of the AFTAC Alumni Association**. Thank you!

Asst. Editor's Note: Due to space constraints, our **"Way Back When"** and **"Membership News"** columns will not appear in this issue. We solicit your input for these columns. Send them to [FalloutEditor@AFTACwest.org](mailto:FalloutEditor@AFTACwest.org) or mail them to Dale Klug. *BF, Asst. Ed.*

## EVENTS CALENDAR

- **Fri., November 11<sup>th</sup>, Fall Social at the Buggy Whip Restaurant** (*See article on pg 1 & sign-up form on pg 5.*)
- Business/Member meetings are 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesdays quarterly at the Lion's Gate Restaurant at McClellan Park on:  
**6 Dec 2005, 7 Mar 2006, 6 Jun 2006, 5 Sep 2006, 5 Dec 2006.**  
(Call ahead to Joe Johnson, 916-783-8676, to confirm time & place. Or check <[www.AFTACwest.org](http://www.AFTACwest.org)> on the web.)

## MAIL CALL

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

**Ray Copeland**

via Email <[chiefmsgtret@yahoo.com](mailto:chiefmsgtret@yahoo.com)>

**2005.07.16**

Please change my email address to: [chiefmsgtret@yahoo.com](mailto:chiefmsgtret@yahoo.com). Thanks, Ray. **Note:** Chief (Ret) Ray Copeland was a longtime AFTAC'er who retired after being the superintendent at SPINSTRA tech school at Lowry. *DK, Editor.*

**Charlie "Ben" Gay**

via Email <[bengay@rcip.com](mailto:bengay@rcip.com)>

**2005.08.03**

Hey Bob, Here is the release on Tom Ciabrone that my son sent: (*The following is forwarded from Ben's son, Jeff*)  
"All personnel: For those long term AFTAC'ers who know Col Tom Ciabrone, former Vice Commander who retired in 1987, Tom was presented with some bad news today. Tests reveal that he has esophageal cancer. Tom has been under medication over the past year or so, and his health has been up and down during that time. Lately he has been in quite a bit of pain. Any treatment he must undergo is yet to be determined, but generally in cases like this the prognosis is not good. Tom has no objection to your passing along his conditions to others who know him. /s/ Dr O'Brien." "Might be a

good time to contact him if you have the notion. That message (*from Dr. O'Brien*) was distributed on 8 July at work. I don't think I ever met him, but there are pictures at the building so I sort of know who he is. I think he was at the 50th anniversary celebration. Most folks speak highly of him." **Note:** Ben sent the above note from his son after he & I had talked for quite some time on the telephone on 01 Aug. We both reminisced about our time together in the '60s at MCL. Ben has had quite a few health challenges himself and we wish him well. *BF, Asst. Ed.*

**Follow-up Note:** We are sad to report the passing on 8 Sep of Col Ciambrone. (See "In Memory Of" in this issue.) *BF, Asst. Ed.*

**Lee Jones** via Email <joneslw1@comcast.net> **2005.08.13**

Hello, My name is Lee Jones - I served in the 1155th TOS in the early 60's, at McClellan AFB. I just found your organization's home page, and am mailing my check for membership. I'd like to inquire about another alum, by the name of **Arnie Celick**. He was listed as a member in the 1982 newsletter. Do you know if he's still around, and if the address listed for him (5831 Arrowhead Dr., Foresthill, CA 95631) is correct? It was great to learn about the AFTAC Alum group - I've often wondered what became of the group, and several of my contemporaries in the organization. **Note:** Very glad you found our web site, Lee. Good to have you aboard the West Coast Chapter (WCC). Yes, Arnie is still around at the address you mentioned. Thank you for joining our great group of Alumni. *BF, Asst. Ed.*

**Julie Doll** via Email <thegrypps@acsalaska.net> **2005.09.03**

I've moved back to my cabin in the woods. Retirement is good. Going to school for a degree in Environmental Management. Yikes - we had a trace of snow on Sep 1st and have hit freezing weather again. Thanks to all for keeping the organization vital. Please change my newsletter address to: Julie Doll-Grypp, 5625 Old Valdez Trail, Salcha, AK 99714. **Note:** Very glad to hear from you, Julie. Thank you for keeping us up-to-date on your whereabouts. *BF, Asst. Ed.*

**John Peek** via Email <TEN8NR@aol.com> **2005.09.05**

Hello, My name is John Peek and I'm writing on behalf of my father, **William Peek**, who served with AFTAC and specifically the **1155th Technical Operations Squadron** through most of the 1960's. As he gets older, my dad seems to talk more and more about his Air force days and reminisces a lot. He would like to know if you have any reunions coming up that he could attend. We currently reside in Orlando (area) Florida. My address is 1400 Crawford Drive, Apopka, Florida, 32703. I would appreciate any information you could you send. Thank You. **Note:** Thank you for your inquiry. We just hosted the 2005 AFTAC Worldwide Reunion here in Sacramento, this May. There is a reunion every two years. The location rotates between Florida, Denver and Sacramento. I believe the next reunion is scheduled for 2007 in Denver CO. But your dad may want to attend one of the many functions of the Florida Alumni sooner. There is the "Long Range Detection Systems Alumni Association" on Patrick AFB, the location of AFTAC Headquarters. I'm attaching a copy of the West Coast Chapter's Alumni newsletter for you. I'm also "cc'ing" the Colorado & Florida chapter newsletter editors on this message, so they can get back to you with more information. I suggest your dad join the Florida or West Coast Alumni organizations (or both) to keep abreast of all the happenings. .... The 1155th was renamed the Technical Operations Division and was deactivated in 1999, just prior to the closing of McClellan AFB. In what part of the 1155<sup>th</sup> did your dad work?? Perhaps there is someone out here who worked with him & would like to correspond. I will publish your e-mail with your dad's address in our next newsletter. Perhaps he has a story for the "Way Back When" section of our newsletter the "Depot Fallout" or the Florida Chapter's "Post-Monitor". We welcome articles. *Sincerely, DK, Editor.*

**Lewis C. Horne, Col. USAF (Ret)** via Email <lnlhorne@surewest.net> **2005.09.11**  
(Please see notice sent to Joe Johnson about Col B.R. Kuntz that is in our "In Memory Of" column. Thanks, Lew.) *BF, Asst. Ed.*

## IN MEMORY OF

*From an article published in the "Sacramento Bee" on 6 Aug 2005:*

**Sepelyak, Michael R.** Born September 9, 1936. Died July 30, 2005. A resident of Valkaria, Florida, died July 30th, 2005 in Greenville, NC after undergoing heart surgery. Mike was born September 9th, 1936 in Dunmore, Pennsylvania to Helen and Michael Sepelyak. He is survived by two brothers, Robert Sepelyak and Jack Sepelyak of PA; a son, Mark B. Sepelyak and wife Tina of Elk Grove, CA; two daughters, Bettina Sepelyak of FL and Kimberly Allen and husband Steve of FL; and seven grandchildren, Rachelle Sepelyak, Andrea Sepelyak, Jamie, Ebert, Aaron Symonette, Tanner Sepelyak, Zak and Jake Allen. **Mike was a retired Master Sergeant from the 1155th squadron at McClellan AFB having served 20 years.** After his military career Mike received his Bachelors degree from Barry University in Florida where he worked and then retired from a second career with Harris Corporation as manager of ESS Field Operations. Mike was a devoted grandfather, father, avid fisherman "liar", and golfer. Mike spent his retirement years traveling between California and Florida to be with his grandchildren. Services will be held at Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church in Melbourne FL, at 9:00 a.m. on Saturday August 13th. Mike will be buried at Arlington National Cemetery on August 23rd.

*From an article published in "Florida Today" on 11 Sep 2005:*



**Colonel Thomas William Ciambrone** passed away Thursday, September 8th at Holmes Regional Medical Center. Colonel Ciambrone was born and raised in Niagara Falls, New York, August 17th 1934, and had resided in Brevard County since 1981. He is survived by his wife of 49 years, Theresa Elizabeth (Lemieux); two children, a daughter Mary Anne Lynne Olson, a son, Thomas William, Jr., two loving grandchildren, Amber Lea Olson and Nicholaus Sean Olson, and several cousins in New York. Colonel Ciambrone graduated from High School in Niagara Falls, N.Y., received his Bachelor of Science Degree in Chemical Engineering from the University of Rochester, and his Masters Degree from the University of Southern California.

He entered the United States Air Force in 1957 and retired in 1987. He then worked at Scientific Application International Corporation until his retirement. He was a member of Ascension Catholic Church. A lifetime member of Sigma Chi Fraternity, the Air Force Association, the Patrick Officers Club, the American Legion, and an honorary member of the Master Sergeant Association. He was an avid train collector, enjoyed his sports and truly enjoyed his many friends from all walks of life. Visitation will be Sunday, September 11, 5pm – 7pm, and Monday, September 12, 1pm – 3pm and 5pm – 7pm at Beach Funeral Home, Indian Harbour Beach. A Mass of Christian Burial will be held at 10:30 a.m. on Tuesday, September 13, at Ascension Catholic Church. Burial will follow at Florida Memorial Gardens, Rockledge. **Note:** Col Ciambrone will be remembered well by those he worked with at the 1155<sup>th</sup> TOS (MCL) and at HQ AFTAC. Among many other nice things about him, I for one will especially remember his good sense of humor. Col. Ciambrone will be greatly missed by all of AFTAC Alumni. *BF, Asst. Ed.*

*From an Email by Col. Lewis Horne, USAF (Ret.) dtd 11 Sep 2005:*

**Colonel B.R. Kuntz** former Director of Personnel of AFTAC and former Commander of the 1155th Technical Operations Squadron and the 1156th Technical Operations Squadron passed away on 8 September 2005. Colonel Kuntz commanded the 1156th Technical Operations Squadron during the build-up of the AFTAC force in the Pacific to accomplish the AFTAC mission through the period of 1961 through 1965. He retired in 1965 and resided with his wife Edith in La Mesa and San Diego, California. Colonel Kuntz funeral will be held at Roscrans National Cemetery, Point Loma, California at 1400 on Thursday, 15 Sep 2005.

## **SOME ADDITIONAL PHOTOS OF THE 2005 AFTAC REUNION**

The mailed version of this newsletter contained 13 additional Banquet Photos of the 2005 AFTAC Worldwide Reunion. There was 1 taken by Ken Breitweiser, 7 taken by Steve Fritts, 4 taken by Neal Senti, and 1 taken by Bob Tassan. To see those and all the rest of the 294 photos of the reunion, please go to our "Albums" web page for the links. *[Bob Fitzgerald, WCC Webmaster]*

.....(Cut off here, fill out and mail the following form **OR** go to the 'Forms' page on our web site at [www.AFTACwest.org](http://www.AFTACwest.org) to get it).....

## **VETERAN'S DAY FALL SOCIAL - RESERVATION SIGN-UP FORM**

TO BE HELD AT THE "BUGGY WHIP" RESTAURANT BANQUET FACILITY

2737 FULTON AVE., SACRAMENTO, CA 95821

FRIDAY, 11 NOVEMBER 2005, FROM 6PM TO ABOUT 9:30PM

NO-HOST BAR SOCIAL TIME AT 6PM, DINNER SERVED AT 7PM

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_  
(Please Print Clearly)

### **ENTREES:**

*[Please put the number of meals you are ordering of the particular type in each box as applicable]*

**12 oz. Sirloin Steak**       **Teriyaki Chicken**       **Salmon**

All meals include an entrée with vegetable, green salad with homemade salad dressings,  
baked potato, roll & butter, and coffee or tea.

Total # Meals: \_\_\_ x **\$26.00** each = \$ \_\_.\_\_. Make your check payable to "AFTAC-WCC" and mail it by

**28 Oct 2005** along with this form to: **AFTAC-WCC, P.O. Box 3974, Citrus Heights, CA 95611-3974**

[From Oct 2005 Depot Fallout NL]



# AFTAC ALUMNI ASSOCIATION WEST COAST CHAPTER

P.O. Box 3974, Citrus Heights, CA 95611-3974  
Email: [TOD.Alumni@bigfoot.com](mailto:TOD.Alumni@bigfoot.com)



## MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION / ROSTER UPDATE

Annual membership fee of \$5.<sup>00</sup> is due by 01 May 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 \$50.<sup>00</sup> 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*

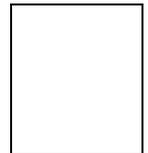
AFTAC Dates: \_\_\_\_\_  
*From: mm/yyyy - To: mm/yyyy From: mm/yyyy - To: mm/yyyy From: mm/yyyy - To: mm/yyyy*

**Support Your West Coast Chapter: Please pass a copy of this form to your AFTAC Alumni friends.**

*[From the Depot Fallout]*

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CHECK OUR WEBSITE AT [www.AFTACwest.org](http://www.AFTACwest.org) FOR THE LATEST WCC NEWS & PHOTOS  
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RETURN ADDRESS:  
AFTAC ALUMNI ASSOCIATION  
WEST COAST CHAPTER  
P.O. Box 3974  
Citrus Heights, CA 95611-3974



**= FIRST CLASS MAIL =**

To: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_