



## ECHO'S

VOLUME 5 NUMBER 2

NOVEMBER 1995

### GENERAL MEMBERSHIP NEWS

**SEPTEMBER 95 PICNIC:** Sixty people signed up for the Summer-95 picnic that was held September 9, 95, at Lake Williams on Buckley ANG Base. (The only fish that was caught was a 2" dead minnow that floated to shore - we do need some expert fisherman at the next picnic). Fifty-eight of the people that signed up did show up and the sudden down-pour of rain at about four o'clock couldn't put a damper on things. It was fun! Our special thanks go out to the people that put forth the time and effort to make it an enjoyable affair. We had Earl Pierce making location arrangements; Lonnie Gibbons and Bill Schmied handled the entertainment and games; Dick Platt and Lonnie Gibbons was responsible for the beverages (excellent choice of wines); and the chefs, Bryce Dunn and George Plunkard - excellent job in preparations and on the grill. And at the last minute, we had to call on Earnie Long to bring his portable tent and Bill Braukman to bring his roll of paper to cover the tables with. Next time you see one of these guys, please thank them for a job well done. If you were not there this year be sure to make the next one! As usual, we gave away "door prizes"- T-Shirts, hats, beer steins, label pins, the new bronze coin, etc. And finally, it was a concerted effort on the final clean-up. Thanks to the many that contributed. And without any doubt, the area was much cleaner after we left than it was when we arrived. **ED NOTE:** For those of you that received the AFTAC Newsletter in which I was quoted as saying "only half the people that signed up showed up". Well, I WAS WRONG WITH THAT QUOTE! I made that assessment based on the amount of food that was consumed. We had much too much food left over. The next day Bill Schmied gave me an actual count of 58; only two did not show up. A very excellent showing and getting better every year. By the way, who were those guys that were there until the wee small hours????? GREAT PICNIC!!!!

**MEMBERSHIP/TREASURY REPORT:** We received a good response to our request for dues. Dues continue to be \$5.00 for the year and our fiscal year starts February 1 of each year. We often are asked why we request that checks be made out to "Bill Schmied"? Basically, because we are not a business or a corporation. The checking account we maintain at the credit union is in a personal name, therefore, checks must be made out to either Bill Schmied or Ben Vlassick; preferably, Bill Schmied as he is the Treasurer. Therefore, send dues to Bill Schmied, 2078 Kenton St., Aurora, CO, 80010, and use Bill's name on the check. A

convenient application is included on the last page of this Newsletter for dues submission. You can tell if you owe dues by the date on the address label.

### COLORADO 1996 REUNION

AAAC had a general membership breakfast June 24, 95, to discuss and plan the Summer - 95 picnic. A topic of discussion was having a 1996 National Reunion in Colorado. One statement said it all - "If we don't have a Reunion in Colorado in 96, the next time we consider one will be in 1999 since Florida will host one in 1997". Therefore, having a reunion in Colorado in 1996 is about to happen! **PLANNING CONTINUES.** (By the way, we looked into holding the reunion at a mountain resort, like in Keystone. Turned out the prices are outrageous - even during summer months.) So, while your editor visited St. Thomas of the Virgin Islands with Marilyn, Florida sent out 660 mailers with an insert to sign up for the Colorado Reunion in June 1996. Colorado sent out 220 mailers to surrounding states. By the Oct 31 cut off date, we received 70 responses for a commitment of 130 people.

With this total in hand, the committee met again on Nov 04. This is what was decided:

★ A review of figures for Colorado Reunion 1989 showed that we had 232 pre-registrations; for California in 1994, there were 221 pre-registrations. The Colorado committee decided that 200 is a bottom line figure for us to work with. We have 130. So where do we go from here?

★ Three people, Earl Pierce, Chuck Toner and Tom Ware will do a telephone solicitation of local people who have not pre-registered.

★ Bill Braukman and Bill Schmied are working on an extended mailing list (of the 880 mailers already sent there is approximately 700 addition names that have not been contacted).

★ It was suggested that many people were unable to make a commitment with an October 31 suspense. **WE ARE EXTENDING THE CUT-OFF DATE TO JANUARY 15, 96.** So if you know of anyone that did not pre-register, a copy of the registration form is included - pass it on to a friend.

★ And, keep in mind that our maximum is 260 people. That equates to 130 couples. Once 260 people are pre-registered, we will stop accepting registrations; you could miss out.

\* And, the Red Lion Inn has agreed to lock in our room rates at \$69.00 which is \$20.00 less than their seasonal summer rate. Not to mention, we have considerable interest in doing the Central City/Blackhawk gambling tour. Now that will be a fun day.

\* So, spread the word. And, if you are wondering who may be coming, a list of names that have pre-registered so far are included as an attachment. REMEMBER, IF YOU HAVE NOT PRE-REGISTERED, USE THE HANDY FORM INCLUDED WITH THIS NEWSLETTER. IF YOU HAVE A FRIEND THAT SHOULD BE HERE IN '96, PASS A COPY OF THE PRE-REGISTRATION FORM ALONG. See you in Colorado June 1996!

## LETTERS

### BUT FIRST

AFTAC is on-line. If you have been trying to contact Clark Creery in Florida via AMERICAN ON-LINE, he had an address change. Clark is now available in Florida as AFTACFL1; Ben Vlassick is still available in Colorado as AFTACCO. We check our E-mail links several times a week and have established quite a dialogue using the AOL circuit.

### NOW...THE LETTERS

Sorry - at present I don't think we will be able to attend the June 96 Reunion. However, if things work out for us to be there, I will keep you informed. George F. Antonio, Warner Robins, GA. (ED NOTE: We're still taking registrations until Dec 95 George, so you still have time.)

Last fall, Esther and I spent a couple of days in our old stomping grounds in Wyoming. We were making our way to Salt Lake City to visit the library there for genealogy research. It was mid-September and I wanted to visit the (Encampment) museum.

When we went in the museum, I started to tell the volunteer who I was any why we were interested in the area. Well she said you will be greatly interested in the display in the other room. WOW! I almost lost my lower jaw. There for God and every one was our story and everything about the work all the sections did. All of those involved putting the exhibit together have done an outstanding job and I thank you all for your effort. Esther got a kick out of me pouring over everything. Later that evening I was able to introduce myself to (sorry have misplace his name) a present local person who was in the outfit when the Det was removed. Sure did make my day. Sincerely, Bob Strock, Dalton, OH. (ED NOTE: Bob, I edited your letter considerably for insertion in this Newsletter. Thanks for the kind words and correspondence. Bill Braukman spear headed the museum mission; he's still stealing equipment from anyone that isn't looking. Glad you enjoyed.)

Wow!! I envy those people who can resurrect the past and recall all the good times (and bad), e.g., Leo Cotter from NOL to Thule. I'll vote for a '96 Colorado Reunion. 'Scuse me for being late, please (with dues). Edgar Beabout, TX. (An added note with Ed's pre-registration: You forgot NOL and AFOAT-1 (in

our list of organizations on the registration page). Sorry I missed the picnic).

Just rec'd "ECHO's", Vol 5, No. 1. Count me (and wife) in for Colorado Reunion in 1996.

Mention was made of either April or May--from year's weather casts we have seen down here, April would seem to be a bit early unless you are catering to ski enthusiasts. I would vote for at least May. However, I recognize that there are many factors to be considered so the host should be the deciding group.

Keep up the good work of keeping your group together. I am a member of several military associations, but none are as close knit as those of AFTAC (FL, CO, CA). It is just great to read the Newsletters and attend reunions and reminisce about the good old times. Thanks for your efforts. Jim Hall.

(ED NOTE: In fact, Jim, we were thinking of ski enthusiasts. But the group decided on more favorable weather conditions, therefore, June is the selected date - as everyone now knows).

I recently visited my home country of New Zealand and met up with someone (Jim Crowley) who was stationed there with my husband. I don't know if he is included in the directory or not. Anne Rubincan, Aurora, CO. (ED NOTE: We have sent Jims address to Florida for inclusion in the directory - Thank you, Anne and Richard).

Whoops - I'm a little bit past my "re-up" time, so here goes for another year (dues). Tedd Martin, Oceanside, CA.

Enclosed is my \$5 check to cover dues for a year. leaving Colorado and returning to Florida and the HQs. Feel like a regular 99 -- A 1979-82 tour at 407, COT to 460, 82-85, Tech Ops Div, 85-89, overseas (non-AFTAC), the HQs, 91-93, here in Colorado, and now back to HQs. At least the tour here in CO kept in with the AFTAC crowd. The 544 Intelligence Group provides administrative support to the Det 45 and OL-CO people at Buckley and Falcon respectively.

Look forward to the return to FL, especially the big reunion. The 1991 version was great, we had just returned from Egypt and it was a good way to catch up on all the news. See you in FL (in 97). Eric Larson (written while in Aurora, CO).

Is Jo Dulick listed in your membership? Don Peterson? (from) Lanny Fahlenkamp (AOL: Fahlenkamp). (ED NOTE: Sorry, Lanny. Jo Dulick is not listed. The only Petersen with a D. for first name is D.J.Petersen, Major, but no address. Anyone out there know the whereabouts of Jo Dulick or Don Peterson?)

Dear Bill (Schmied): Enclosed is yet another years dues. As always, I look forward to the newsletter. Unfortunately, like Marian Chambers-Jorden of Kings Beach, CA, I too only received the cover of that particular issue. It's good to see that you have corrected the problem with an additional staple.

Anyway, although I enjoy reading all the letters and such, I just wish I would occasionally see a name of someone I knew. True, there were just a few of us "I" troops at Det 436

in Australia, but surely some of them must still be around. I often wonder what happened to Bob Chadwick, one of our head analysts at 436. I know he spent many years at the headquarters after we closed the place down in 1974. Our plans after retirement were to find positions as keepers at a dump - shooting rats and picking up bottles. I guess now you'd call them Land Fill Managers and Recyclers. I was always curious to know if he ever made it. John Weigelt. (ED NOTE: I know the name, Bob Chadwick, but the directory does not include Bob's name, John. Anyone out there that knows the whereabouts of Bob Chadwick, drop us a note and we'll advertise it in the next Newsletter. Also, how about a few names for Det 436 people. I for one never heard of Det 436. I guess "I" Technique was a bit obscure.)

Bill - Received the March Newsletter that was transferred from our previous address.

We decided to leave Aurora and move to "Sun" City. Like it fine so far. Will probably spend time in CO when it gets hot here.

The '96 Reunion sounds great but might be affected by the '97 one. I could make the '96 one but not the '97.

Keep me on the mailing list and if I'm delinquent on my dues, let me know. Herb Pabst, AZ. (ED NOTE: We're sending your new address to FL for the directory. Enjoyed your company at the Picnic and looking forward to seeing you in June 96).

Dear Bill: Better late than never! I finally got my APTAC '60 Newsletter! The letter looked as tho it had a tough fight thru the mail system! Looked as tho a sorter somewhere along the line tried to eat it. Some of the pages were torn, sort of wadded up. You know! Anyway, it was like a good APTACER - persistent!

Yes, I would definitely try to make a CO '96 Reunion! That should work better for me than trying to make a Reunion in FL in '97. Plus, that would give me another "excuse" to come back to CO.

Enclosed are my renewal dues for 1995. Things in Wichita Falls, TX and on Sheppard AFB are as crazy as ever! With the continual drawdown, etc., etc., you never know from one day to the next if your gonna have a job w/civil service or not. Many, many things happening.

Well, I know this is short, but wanted to get my bucks and response in the mail. Will write more later! Paul Chestnut.

Bill - Have some great material to send you for the next Newsletter - but have patience. I'll have to dig in the depths of the closet to retrieve it!

The last Newsletter was so good - I enjoy reading the names of all our old friends & hope more will contact me. I'm still writing a history. Would like to hear from those troops who were in the 1155th TOS Band (we did over 200 shows in one year)! That's not a bad record! The "McClellan Entertainers" consisted of some of the greatest, talented musicians in the entire USAF. APTAC can be very proud of what they did. More, Marian Chambers-Jorden, Kings Beach, CA. (ED NOTE: Anyone out there got any info on the McClellan Entertainers?)

Hi Bill - Enclosed are my dues for 95. Sorry for the delay but thought I'd sent it in, but my memory is full of blanks these days.

If there is a CO reunion I will be there, but unfortunately I can't be of much help in planning or putting it on from this distance. Gerald Lachner, Palisade, CO.

Ben - the Newsletter is really great. I come to Colorado once a year - usually in the fall. I'd like to attend a reunion in '96. Best regards, Don Knight, PA. (ED NOTE: Next time you are in CO, please call - 303-690-1239).

#### SHORT QUIPS

Yes - we will attend your reunion in '96. Frank & Irene Goodreau, CA.

Yes, we are interested in having the CO '96 Reunion. May would be a good month. Can't comment on FL '97 at this time - too far in the future. Charles Johnson, Evergreen, CO.

Bill - Yes, we will attend the CO Reunion in '96 if possible. Milo Colton, Grand Junction, CO.

Bill - hope to see you in June '96. Keep up the good work. Carl Gailley, FL.

I see my dues are due again. I plan on coming to the reunion next year if you have one. Enjoy CO over FL. Charles Siegmund, Jacksonville, AR.

#### AND A FEW PHONE CALLS

Sumner (Skip) Collins, Keene, NH. Good hearing from you.

Warren and Beth Stern, Red Hook, NY. Hi again.

Jim Charters, Glendale, AZ. It's been awhile.

#### WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

We received a few FOE's, undeliverable or otherwise not available from the following. Does anyone know where they are these days?????

BECK, Jim; BEZINS, Marty; LUTHER, Lee, SCHULTZ, Stan; ADAMS, John/Lois; EDDY, Dave; LAURIE, Richard; PARHAM, Clayton.

#### DEAR GINGER COLUMN.

"Dear Ginger" was not included in the last Newsletter due to space limitations. Consequently, no one has written. But, (and yes Sue) the column is still alive and well, space permitting. So do send your troubles, problems, grievances, happy-moments, recipes, quilt patterns, what-ever, to: Dear Ginger, 18207 East Loyola Dr., Aurora, CO, 80013-3314. Your input will be published, space permitting. And believe me, Ginger is a real person with real answers to real problems, suggestions, failed recipes, stitching and sewing, etc., ..... space permitting.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ COLORADO REUNION - 1996 ★ ★ ★ ★ ★  
(DISREGARD THIS PAGE IF YOU ARE ALREADY PRE-REGISTERED)

The AFTAC Alumni Association of Colorado (AAAC) will host a national reunion in 1996. Participation is open and encouraged to ANY AND ALL PERSONNEL THAT HAVE EVER SERVED A TOUR with any AFTAC entity, i.e., EFO, WFO, 1009th, TOD, 1155th, Special Weapons Squadron, 3454th, SPINSTRAS, 1035th Field Activity Group, Detachments (stateside or overseas), etc., etc.

Planning is underway:

- a. DATES SELECTED ARE JUNE 14, 15 AND 16, 1996.
- b. Location for lodging and activities: Red Lion Inn at the old airport (Stapleton).
- c. The "Ice-Breaker" will be Friday, June 14, 1996.
- d. The formal dinner will be Saturday, June 15, 1996.

The AAAC Committee now needs a commitment from YOU. Complete the pre-registration form below and return to Bill Schmied, 2078 Kenton St., Aurora, Colorado 80010, NO LATER THAN JANUARY 15, 1996. A \$20.00 registration fee per address will ensure that you will receive all future correspondence about the reunion. THIS \$20.00 WILL BE CREDITED TO YOUR FINAL REGISTRATION AND PARTICIPATION FEE! (NOTE: Unused monies will be returned if pre-registration does not meet the minimum number required).

Questions: Call Ben Vlassick, (303) 690-1239.

☐ A \$20.00 CHECK MADE OUT TO "BILL SCHMIED" IS ENCLOSED; COUNT US IN.  
(Mail to Bill Schmied, 2078 Kenton St., Aurora, CO 80010 NLT JAN 15, 96).

- |   |                     |
|---|---------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> WE/I PLAN TO LODGE AT THE RED LION INN.                      | NO. OF PEOPLE ____. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> WE/I PLAN TO ATTEND THE FRIDAY ICE-BREAKER.                  | NO. OF PEOPLE ____. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> WE/I PLAN TO ATTEND THE SATURDAY DINNER.                     | NO. OF PEOPLE ____. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> WE/I PLAN TO DO THE GOLF TOURNAMENT.                         | NO. OF PEOPLE ____. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> WE/I PLAN TO DO THE CENTRAL CITY or BLACKHAWK GAMBLING TOUR. | NO. OF PEOPLE ____. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> WE/I PLAN TO DO THE U.S. MINT TOUR.                          | NO. OF PEOPLE ____. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> WE/I PLAN TO DO THE COOR'S BREWERY TOUR.                     | NO. OF PEOPLE ____. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> WE/I PLAN TO DO THE LOWRY AFB MUSEUM TOUR.                   | NO. OF PEOPLE ____. |

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY, STATE, ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE: (Area Code - No.) \_\_\_\_\_

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