



# ECHOES

Volume 11 Issue 3

August 2001

## AFTAC ALUMNI 2001 REUNION RECAP

For the third time, Colorado was the location for the annual AFTAC Alumni Association National Reunion. The dates selected were June 14 - 17, 2001. The Doubletree Hotel (formerly the Red Lion) once again provided an outstanding location for space, staff hospitality, food and overall ambience.



Check-in started early Thursday; the 14th. Good times and stories were renewed and revisited almost immediately. Renewing old acquaintances during the Friday Night Ice Breaker was quite a success and the carved ham and hors-d'oeuvres were delicious and plentiful. More than 150 people were at the Ice Breaker vowing they would return for the next reunion.

Saturday night provided an evening of good food, entertainment and nostalgic memories by the guest speaker, AFTAC Commander Col. Roy Horton III.

Col Horton started his speech with AFTAC's past and updated the more than 170 attendees.

A highlight of the evening was when Col Horton presented Ben Vlassick the AFTAC Alumnus of the Year 2000 Award. This is the first time the award was presented outside of the Florida Chapter and resulted in a standing ovation. Ben has served the Colorado Chapter for more than 14 years as the Chapter



Photos by Bill Harris

President. The award came as quite a surprise to Ben; his quote, "one that will be cherished for ever".

The evening concluded with dancing and music provided by Tempo Techniques. Those that did not have a wake up call closed the Hospitality Room at some ridiculous hour. In a word, "it was a good reunion!!"

BV

*(more reunion inside)*

Time for Breakfast



## General Membership Meeting

There will be a general membership meeting on Saturday September 15, 2001, 0800, at the Plainsman III, which is located on Smith road, just east of Chambers. The Main Item on the agenda will be the election of chapter officers. To give us better service, we need a good headcount, so please contact Earl Pierce ([emxanadu@msn.com](mailto:emxanadu@msn.com) or 303-343-4665) no later than 11 September if you plan on attending. Reunion souvenirs will be available for purchase.

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## MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Several people are aware of this but I thought I best pass it on to all CO Chapter committee members.

Effective July 1, 2001, it was necessary for me to step down as the President/ Chairman of the Colorado Chapter. I feel that I am unable to provide the leadership that is necessary. I have been with the chapter since the August '89 National Reunion when it was decided to form a chapter and it will be difficult to break away. It took the efforts of a group of people and I want to thank all those people that made it possible for me to get the job done.

*Ed: Thanks Ben, I am sure I speak for all of the alumni by wishing you the best and thanking you for bringing us all together to share good times.*

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## Alumni Winter Social

The AAACO winter social will be held on Saturday, 17 November 2001, at the Buckley CAMANA Club. Social hour will commence at 1800, and dinner at 1900. This year's fee will be \$20 per person, which will include a chicken or steak dinner and music. Send your fee and dinner selection to Bill Schmied, so that he may receive it **no later than 7 November**, at 2078 Kenton St., Aurora, CO 80010. Make checks payable to Bill Schmied.

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## AAAC Web Site

Fire up your Web browser to <http://www.aftacco.org>

That's the address of the AFTAC Colorado Alumni chapter Web site. You'll find links to interesting sites, such as Buckley Air Force Base, the Florida AFTAC site and the official AFTAC site. There's information about our chapter and how to join, and a page full of pictures of our chapter activities as well as great memory joggers. Always something new to see, so check in often.

Pictures of the 2001 Alumni reunion are now posted on the website.

Webmaster Bill Harris can be reached at  
[bharris4@ix.netcom.com](mailto:bharris4@ix.netcom.com)

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## MAIL

"Thank you so much for sending the reunion souvenirs - we appreciate your kindness and the effort you expended. The enclosed check will, I hope, cover the postage and handling. We've already told Ben and Ginger how much we enjoyed the Denver 2001 AFTAC Reunion, but we'll say it again to you - Thanks!! We

appreciate all the work the committee did to afford us the opportunity to reconnect with old comrades and friends. It was great!

Sincerely, Mary & El Lyslo

*(Thanks for the kind words, glad that you enjoyed the reunion, the check was more than enough)*

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## 2001 Reunion Tour at Buckley



We learned a lot at the reunion. Not only did CC's outstanding speech on Saturday night bring us up-to-date, we got to see, in person, a little bit of what he was talking so highly of when we took advantage of the offer to 'tour Det 045.' This was during the day on Saturday and was a perfect way to reincorporate ourselves back into the world of 'active-duty' - and what a world it is. We were welcomed by a group of outstanding NCO's and Airmen who made sure we were aware they respected AFTAC's past (us) and had a high regard for, and understanding of, it's future. It was obvious the briefer, SrA Chris Boustead knew exactly what he was talking about and exactly how to do the myriad of tasks he identified as a part of their day-to-day routine. We were very impressed by the personnel and the important tasks and responsibilities they fulfill. Thank you so much, Det 045, for taking the time to 'fill us in' and we have never been more comfortable that AFTAC, and the country that counts on you, are in extremely capable hands.

John & Chris Horsch

*Ed: We received numerous verbal kudos on the Det 045 tour, including retired SMSgt Rick Phillips, a previous Det 45 superintendent. Thanks to all of the Det 045 members that helped make this a great reunion. Also a Special thanks to MSgt John Nederhoed and TSgt Tony Ferrise who helped make the entire reunion a success.*

## 2001 AFTAC reunion Golf Tournament



First place Ernie Freeman\*, Lonnie Gibbons\*, Tom Miller\*, Gordon Reese

Second Denny McDaniel\*, Jack Smith, Lou Veltrie\*, Ted Veltrie\*

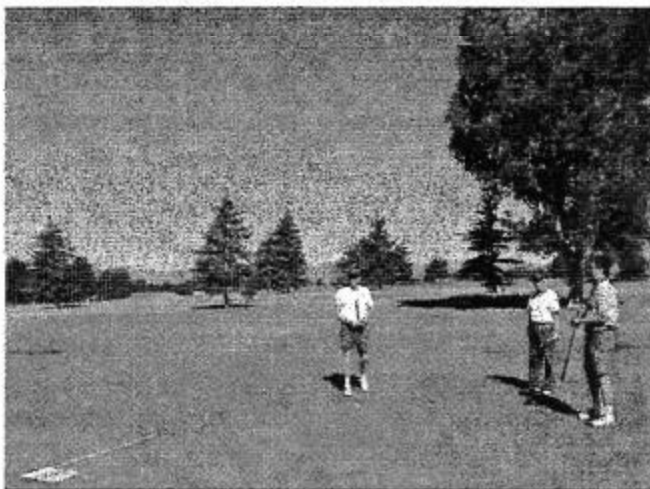
Third Bryce Dunn, David Pierce, Earl Pierce, George Waters

Fourth Patrick Burke, Lee Cline, Cliff Ferris, Earl Ferris  
Longest drives & closest to the pin won by individuals with \* by name.

The tournament was at Park Hill Golf Course, two miles from the reunion hotel, on Friday Morning of the Reunion. Shotgun start 0730, scramble format with each players drive used at least four times. Upon Completion of golf, a lunch buffet at the hotel Cafe'. Door prizes and awards were awarded in the hospitality room. A special thanks to Bill Schmied for many of the door prizes that he provided.

Jack Smith

*Ed: And kudos to you Jack, for putting the tournament together.*



## Buckley News

From the Buckley RAO Newsletter: "The long awaited commissary and exchange complex at Buckley AFB is set to open ahead of schedule in January 2002."

The RAO address is:

**Retiree Activities Office**  
**821SPTS/CRB**  
**18401 E. A-Basin**  
**Buckley AFB, CO 80011-9524**

**Phone: 303-677-6693**  
**email: [retact@buckley.af.mil](mailto:retact@buckley.af.mil)**

The RAO is looking for volunteers that typically work a three-hour shift two to three times a month. Their primary mission is to maintain a reliable resource for retirees, spouses, and annuitants, who call or visit with a variety of questions and concerns.

### Limited Souvenirs are still available

AFTAC Alumni 2001 Reunion Souvenirs are still available. We still have some hats (light blue and royal blue at \$8 each), coffee mugs (\$5), and golf balls (\$2 each or \$5 per sleeve). Contact Bill Schmied (303-367-0625) or Bryce Dunn (303-693-4150)

### Florida Chapter Information

For information call Jim Payne, 321-777-4731 or email [paynejb@juno.com](mailto:paynejb@juno.com)

Mail Dues (\$10.00 per year or \$75 for Life)  
To:

AFTAC Alumni Association  
P.O. Box 254892  
Patrick AFB, Florida 32925-0892

web page is <http://csihq.com/aftacalumni>

### West Coast Chapter Information

For information call Joe Johnson, 916-783-8676 or email [TOD.Alumni@bigfoot.com](mailto:TOD.Alumni@bigfoot.com)

Mail Dues (\$5 per year or \$50 for life) to:

AFTAC Alumni Association  
West Coast Chapter  
161 Southcreek Circle  
Folsom, CA 95630-1510

**AFTAC ALUMNI ASSOCIATION OF CO**  
**c/o Bryce Dunn**



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**FOR COLORADO DUES SUBMISSION  
OR ADDRESS CHANGE**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

State, ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone No: \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Unless advised to the contrary, personal information listed above is  
releasable to other AFTAC members.

**DUES ARE \$5.00 PER 12-MONTH PERIOD PAYABLE DURING  
EXPIRATION MONTH. (SEE ADDRESS LABEL FOR INDIVIDUAL  
EXPIRATION MONTH).**

**MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO BILL SCHMIED.**

**MAIL TO: BILL SCHMIED, 2078 Kenton St., Aurora, CO 80010.  
Membership questions may be directed to Bill Schmied at (303)  
367-0625**

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