



# ECHOES

Volume 11 Issue 1

January 2001

## HAPPY NEW YEAR! 2001 REUNION IS ON!

Deadline for Registration is February 1st  
Registration Form and Information in this Newsletter



Dinner at the Buckley CAMANA Club (photos by Bill Harris)

**The AAACO General Membership Meeting** was held on October 28th at the Plainsman III. Twenty members showed up to enjoy the breakfast and camaraderie. Ben Vlassick asked the group if two general membership meetings per year is sufficient. The group agreed that the two general membership meetings per year, in April and October, the summer picnic/ 2001 Reunion and the winter social will provide sufficient activities for the group.

Ben discussed the Winter Social and the 2001 reunion. Members expressed a desire for a consolidated email list of other members online. We agreed to add space for email address on the Alumni membership registration form. To update your personal information such as address, phone, or email, you can email Ben Vlassick ([aftacco@aol.com](mailto:aftacco@aol.com)) or Bill Schmied ([billschmied@aol.com](mailto:billschmied@aol.com)). Bill Harris registered the name AFTACCO.org and started a web site. More information on the web site can be found in this newsletter.



**Another successful AAACO Winter Evening Social** was held at the Historic CAMANA club at Buckley ANGB on November 11th. Great dinner, great friends and great music by Bill Harris and Deb added up to a great evening.



Lonnie Gibbons and Ben Vlassick share a laugh at the November 2000 Dinner Dance



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## MAIL

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Dear Ben,

I have enclosed a photo of the 1009th SWS, BUSTER JANGLE reunion at Las Vegas, NV, May 2-5. We were some of the original group that served during the A-Tests at Frenchman Flats-Yucca Flats, NV, Oct-Nov, 1951. Presently we know the locations of 39 alive and 7 deceased members.

A few of the men went on to distinguished careers in civilian life, while others had great careers in the Air Force. I thought this would be of interest to some of the newly retired members of AFTAC. Keep in touch, because your AF friends are the best.

A "Four and Outer"  
Leo J. Cotter



1st Row: Left to Right

Don Vernon-Bob Boster-Bill Sullivan-Lou Orsatti-Charlie Soucia

2nd Row:

Norm Negrete-Leo Cotter-Bill Johnson-Norm Derkovits-Ed Carty-Jim Lyon

3rd Row:

Jerry-Collins-Bill Braukman-Lee Barbour-Henry Koons-Ray Hild-Bob Allender-Joe Johnson

Ed: Thanks for the letter and picture, Leo.

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From Bill Schmied:

We need to acknowledge a gift from Herb & Verny Pabst in Sun City, AZ.

In October he sent me a check for \$30 along with a note saying that they "would love to be there for the dinner dance.....since we can't make it, please accept this check."

Yes Herb, we graciously accept your check and also wish you and Verny could have joined us for the dinner social. Everyone had a great time while inside the Camana Club, but the single digit temperature outside along with the snow and ice did make travel a little

challenging. We hope you and Verny were enjoying yourselves in SUN CITY that evening and we definitely look forward to seeing you at the reunion in June."

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Here is an article that Bill Braukman submitted to the Florida Chapter Post Monitor in the "I Remember" Column on the Buster Jangle reunion:

Fond memories; Fifty years ago some six hundred young basics entered electronics training at Keesler AFB, MS. Nine months later the top 10% were selected to become part of a new organization known as the 1009th Special Weapons Squadron. We were sent to Washington DC. and then to the Naval Ordnance Laboratory, Silver Spring MD, for training in the construction of "soup can" seismometers and the operation of "wind-up" clocks (Ulysses Narden Chronometers \$600.00 ea.), Perkin-Elmer DC amplifiers and Esterline Angus Paper recorders.

After about three months of living in tents and eating Marine Corp. leftovers we were loaded on a couple of C46 transports and flown to San Bernadino, CA. There we were issued a W.W.II weapons carrier, a tent, radio, transmitter, and either one vertical or three "soup cans," vertical and two horizontal home made seismometers.

Generators, gas cans, water jugs etc. implied that we were not going to Hollywood. Since most of the Top Secret clearances had been approved on an interim basis we were briefed that we were on our way to the Nevada Test Site. Some 40 sites had been picked to locate our instruments on a north-south line from Kingman, AZ, to Reno, NV.

The test series was code named Buster Jangle. Only the news media, Life magazine and the rest of the world were privy to these "secret tests." We were told not to write home about our adventures. The series was seven atmospheric blasts, 5 airdrops and two tower shots.

Recently we decided to have a mini reunion and return to what is now known as Camp Mercury, Nevada Test Site. operated by the Department of Energy. Thanks to the efforts of several members, plans were completed and in spite of the "red tape" imposed by the government, an all day tour was ranged for attendees and wives. The Nevada Test Site consists of over 1,000 square miles. No firearms, cameras, binoculars or recording equipment were allowed on the tour. In 1951, during the actual tests, we could take all the pictures we wanted! Today the site is being maintained "just in case" we decide to resume testing (?) and probably more than a thousand people still work there and it obviously involves mega-bucks today. All in all an outstanding time was had by all.



## **REUNION 2001 REGISTRATION FORM**

(Please Print)

Name(s): Member: \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse: \_\_\_\_\_

Guests: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

(Please include a head count for each activity, even when there is no associated cost).

**\*\*Registration will start Thursday, June 14, at 10 AM in the hotel lobby. Packets with information will be available at that time.\*\***

1. Reunion Administrative Fee (Badges, etc.) .....@ \$ 5.00/person X \_\_\_\_ = \$ \_\_\_\_\_
2. Golf Tournament (Friday, June 15, 7:30 AM) (price includes green fees, carts and prizes). Shotgun start with a minimum of 40-people. An additional \$6.00 will be required for the shotgun start. Transportation will be provided to the golf course if required.  
Guests are welcome.....# MEN = \_\_\_\_ # WOMEN = .....\$ 40.00/person X \_\_\_\_ = \$ \_\_\_\_\_
3. Ice Breaker with Hors D'Oeuvres/Cash Bar (Friday evening, June 15, 2001) .....@ \$ 20.00/person X \_\_\_\_ = \$ \_\_\_\_\_
4. Banquet Dinner and Dance/Cash Bar (Saturday evening, June 16, 2001).....TOTAL NEXT TWO LINES = \$ \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. Roasted Prime Rib with Creamy Horseradish and Aus Jus.....\$ 32.50 X \_\_\_\_ = \$ \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. Chicken stuffed w/Rock Shrimp and Scallops w/Basil Cream Sauce...\$32.50 X \_\_\_\_ = \$ \_\_\_\_\_
5. Tour - Detachment 045, Buckley ANGB, (Saturday Day, June 16, 2001) .....(no charge).....# people \_\_\_\_  
Transportation will be required from the hotel: YES \_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_.....# people \_\_\_\_
6. Tour - Central City/Blackhawk (Sunday, June 17, 2001). Transportation will be provided from the hotel. A fee is collected on the bus in exchange for tokens to be used in the casinos.....# people \_\_\_\_
7. Brunch, Monday morning (June 18, 2001), hotel cafe (pay at the event).....# people \_\_\_\_
8. For the total of items 1, 2, 3, and 4 I have enclosed a check in the amount of .....TOTAL \$ \_\_\_\_\_

(Souvenir information will be announced in the next mailer)

This registration form must be received no later than **February 1, 2001**. Mail your form and check to  
Bob Tomlinson, P.O. Box 471344., Aurora, CO, 80047.  
Make checks payable to **Bill Schmied** and include your check with the registration form.

### **HOTEL REGISTRATION INFORMATION**

The reunion will be held at the **Doubletree Hotel**, 3203 Quebec Street, Denver, CO 80207. (The Doubletree was formerly the Red Lion where the 1996 reunion was held across street from Stapleton - old airport). A special room rate of \$ 78.35 (includes taxes) is available for the reunion. Toll free number: 1-800-222-TREE (8733) Local: 303-321-3333.

When you call the hotel for reservations, be prepared with a credit card and tell them you are participating in the AFTAC Reunion. Reservations must be made prior to May 25, 2001. Special rate may not be available after May 25. You will be given a confirmation number; record that number. Hotel reservations must be canceled 24-hours in advance if your reservation is to qualify for a refund. Contact the hotel directly if you need to cancel.

**SHUTTLE:** The hotel's shuttle service to and from DIA airport runs 7 days a week from 4:30 am to 12:30 am rotating every 30 minutes. At DIA, West Terminal pickup is Door 512; East Terminal pickup is at Door 505. The hotel also offers a shuttle service to Downtown Denver and the Cherry Creek Mall 7-days a week. Information is available at the Guest Service Desk. From DIA, you can call the hotel at local number 303-321-3333 (ten digits are required) for shuttle info if necessary.

Airline travelers that will be renting a car should compare fares to Colorado Springs airport. Often, a better fare is possible.

Enterprise Rent-a-Car has a booth in the hotel lobby. The only advantage in using the hotel booth at this mailing is a tax savings. A group rate cannot be negotiated at this time.

AFTAC ALUMNI ASSOCIATION OF CO  
c/o Ben Vlassick  
18207 E. Loyola Dr.  
Aurora, CO 80013-3314



MAIL FLORIDA DUES (\$10.00 PER YEAR)  
TO: AFTAC Alumni Association  
P.O. Box 254892  
Patrick AFB, Florida 32925-0892

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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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