



# 579<sup>th</sup> SMS NEWSLETTER

## Volume V

Created by Fred Mortimer – Reunion Committee Board Chairman

Well, the 2010 579<sup>th</sup> SMS Reunion is history. As most of you were aware, we joined forces with the Association of Air Force Missileers for their Bi-Annual meeting in Tucson, Arizona. Our thanks to Col. Charlie Simpson for his efforts in making our group feel welcome.

The AAFM National Meeting/579<sup>th</sup> SMS Reunion was held at the Radisson Hotel at Tucson Airport from October 6<sup>th</sup> thru October 10<sup>th</sup>. The accommodations were excellent (except for the constant jet traffic). All rooms were two-room suites at a very reasonable rate that included the hot breakfast buffet. About 160 members of the AAFM were in attendance plus spouses, family members, significant others totaling about 300. The 579<sup>th</sup> Strategic Missile Squadron was well represented with about 20 former 579<sup>th</sup> SMS members plus guests.

The events were as follows:

Wednesday evening -	Welcoming Reception/Buffer
Thursday:	Davis-Monthan Tour and luncheon ---- Titan Museum Tour Mexican Buffet
Friday:	Golf Tourney at Tubac Tour of Sonora Desert Museum and San Xavier Mission Tour of Davis-Monthan Bone Yard (aka - The 309th Aerospace Maintenance and Regeneration Group (309 AMARG) and Pima Air and Space Museum with Dinner at the Museum
Saturday	General Membership Meeting Board of Directors Meeting Tour to Tubac AAFM Banquet
Sunday	Departure Breakfast

For those of you who have not seen the Tucson area or Davis Monthan AFB, the area is just beautiful, even in October. I have included several pictures of some of the areas we visited and pictures of our attendees (579<sup>th</sup> members).

Of particular interest was the Titan Museum Tour in Sahuarita, AZ. (about 20 miles south of Tucson). This facility is a restored Titan silo and launch control module and is often manned by former Titan personnel volunteers. Not the same as the Atlas-F facilities but definitely brings back some memories !! Our thanks to the tour guides who were as interested in our experiences as we were in theirs. This facility is open to the public every day but Thanksgiving and Christmas and the basic tour is about one (1) hour and costs around \$10.00/person. A full silo tour (about four (4) hours) is available by appointment on specific days for a cost of \$70.00. (for more details on this and other tour options check their website at [www.titanmissilemuseum.org](http://www.titanmissilemuseum.org) ).



Titan Site Aerial from BING Maps



Titan Launch Control Console

Another great tour(s) was the Pima Air and Space Museum in Tucson. This is a combination of indoor and outdoor exhibits as well as the opportunity to tour the infamous 'Bone-Yard', also known as the 309th Aerospace Maintenance and Regeneration Group (AMARG).



Aerial Pictures of the Museum and Bone Yard from the museum website

We were fortunate to have our Friday dinner in the Museum main building with the aircraft displays all around. This is an impressive display of historic planes up to and including the SR-71 Blackbird (capable of speeds in excess of 2200 MPH !! ) If you are ever in Tucson, make some time to visit this exhibit...

Our tour of Davis-Monthan Air Force Base included a luncheon on base, a flight line tour and an in-depth briefing on the mission of the CAOC (Combined Air and Space Operations Center from the CAOC Commander. The hospitality shown by the base personnel from the Commander to the airmen we encountered was EXCELLENT!

Other great locations we visited in and around Tucson included the San Xavier Mission, the Sonora Desert Museum and the Kitt Peak National Observatory (The Kitt Peak National Observatory is home to twenty-four optical and two radio telescopes representing eight astronomical research institutions).



San Xavier Mission



Kitt Peak National Observatory

The climax of the AAFM meeting was the Saturday evening banquet. Col. Simpson had arranged for a color guard and several guests from Davis-Monthan to join us for the meal. The meal was excellent and the main speaker was Lt. General Klotz, who gave us an update on his assignment as the head of the new Air Force Global Strike Command and the future of the ICBM programs.

Again our thanks to Col. Simpson for an excellent week. Also a heartfelt **THANK YOU** to the AAFM for the Missile Heritage Grant of \$2,350 to be used for the 'Peace Through Strength' display of the 579<sup>th</sup> SMS at the Walker AFB Museum. More to follow on this !!

**NEW BOOK !!** Our very own author, Phil Moore (Lt. Col., Ret) has finished his book !! This is a great read and the story line is near and dear to our hearts; (**Missiles !!**) and the men that were charged with manning them thru some of the toughest times in modern history. The title of the book is '**Death from Below**' and is published by Infinity Publishing. The ISBN # 0-7414-6065-3 and lists for \$18.95. Great job Phil !! Phil started out in the 579<sup>th</sup> as a 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. and the DMCCC on Crew 27 and went on to serve for 28 years, most of it in the 'underground Air Force'.



## 579<sup>th</sup> NEWS !!

The 579<sup>th</sup> SMS members attending the AAFM Conference met to discuss plans for our next (8<sup>th</sup>) reunion. Everyone seemed to agree on returning to Roswell. This will be the **50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary** of the first 579<sup>th</sup> Atlas sites to go operational. In addition, the Walker AFB Museum has asked us to prepare a permanent Squadron display with a dedicated location within the Museum. As I noted before, the AAFM is providing us with a \$2350 grant to help with the costs.

While we were at the AAFM meeting, we met with Marie Talnack. Ms. Talnack is a board member of the Walker AFB Museum. Ms. Talnack approached us regarding the allocation of permanent museum display space for the 579<sup>th</sup> Squadron. In addition, she videotaped interviews with several of the Tucson attendees from the 579<sup>th</sup> for research and historical purposes. She has volunteered to help us with our return to Roswell in 2012 and will work with us on preparing the display space in the Museum. Marie will also help us with accommodations, planning, transportation and publicity for our reunion.

We are currently in the preliminary planning stages for the reunion, so any **suggestions** you may have, any **ideas** you would like to share, **complaints** about our last visit to Roswell, ANYTHING!!! Please let me know or contact Terry Doyle (our Reunion Chairman) at [terry.doyle@juno.com](mailto:terry.doyle@juno.com). We are going to try to locate another hotel large enough to handle our group so we don't have to use the Sally Port Best Western again !! Any Ideas for field trips will be welcome, such as the town of Lincoln, UFO Museum ???, Golf outing? Let me know... I know you are saying that it is over a year away, but I can tell you from our last reunion in Roswell, that is not a long time.

So **Please Please Please**; Start looking for those old TO's, Hard Hats, Photos, ANY memorabilia from the Roswell days that we can incorporate within the permanent museum display. We will be using the Plaque that we created for the Air Terminal in 2008 in the new display and a launch photo from Vandenburg that shows a Roswell bird being launched with a member of the 579<sup>th</sup> SMS on the launch crew.

### 579<sup>th</sup> ATTENDEES AT THE TUSCON BANQUET

(If I missed anyone blame John Green & Phil Moore !!! Ha! A BIG Thanks to John & Terri, Phil & Donna)



Marie & Alex Ivey



Pat & Allen Mauldin



Bobby & Mary Williamson



Hallie & Claude Kitchens



Dick & Carol Engstrom



Glenn & Jo Beall w/Audrey



MORE 579<sup>th</sup> ATTENDEES AT THE TUSCON BANQUET



Bergamagoni, Dick



Nancy & Dick Ciampi



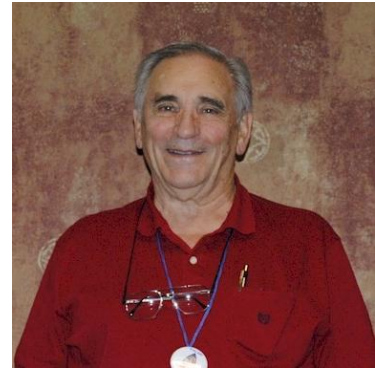
Doug Deloach



Judy & Fred Mortimer



Ed Smith & Gary Carlson



Maurice Garifo



John & Terri Greene



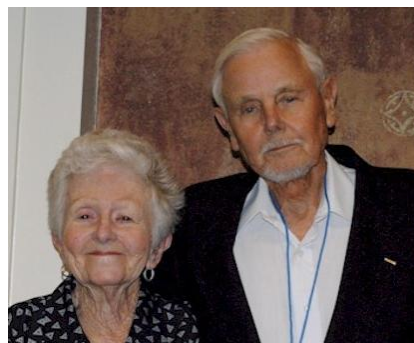
Ken & Sherry Neubauer



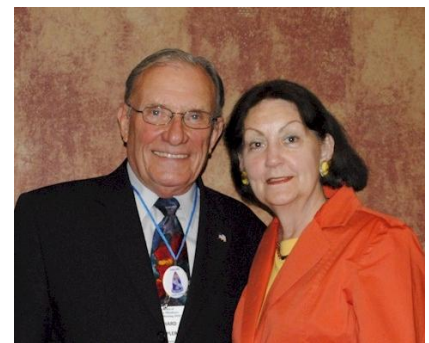
Donna & Phil Moore



Sandy & Terry Doyle



Dolores & Jack Nevins



Richard & Judy Keppler

**REMEMBER TO CONTACT ME WITH ANY SUGGESTIONS, IDEAS, DONATIONS, MEMORABILIA FOR THE MUSEUM. IT IS IMPORTANT THAT WE PREPARE EVERYTHING THAT WE CAN FOR THIS PERMANENT DISPLAY. (fmortimer@tampabay.rr.com)**