



579th SMS NEWSLETTER

Volume VI

Created by Fred Mortimer – Reunion Committee Board Chairman

Well, the 2012 579th SMS Reunion is history. This was our eighth reunion and our third in Roswell, 2000, 2008 & 2012. Can't seem to stay away from the place! We also wound up at the same hotel, the Sally Port/Best Western next to the New Mexico Military Institute. My heart-felt thanks to Terry Doyle and his daughter Kim, their efforts were above and beyond !! Many attendees were not aware of the three (3) trips they made to Roswell to arrange the accommodations, menus, VIP scheduling, etc. I know firsthand how much work goes into the coordination of these get-togethers. Again, **THANK YOU**, Terry and Kim. Also, thanks to Terry's efforts, the banquet room/hospitality suite/meeting room was 'comped' by the hotel at no charge.

The events were as follows:

Thursday evening -	Welcoming Reception/Buffer
Friday	Site 10 tour - Thanks to Keary Olson – owner Site 4 tour – Thanks to Gary Baker - owner Free evening
Saturday	Board of Directors Meeting General Membership Meeting Tour of 579 th SMS Exhibit Rooms at Walker Aviation Museum 579 th SMS 50th Anniversary Banquet
Sunday	Departure Breakfast

Our 8th reunion began with the traditional welcome buffet with an excellent spread put on by the Sally Port/Best Western. Our accommodations were well done, in view of the fact that the rooms at the Sally Port had been recently renovated, The meeting/dining/hospitality room was the renovated space from the golf pro shop, that was more than adequate. As I mentioned before, the hotel 'comped' the room at no charge. Although we were a small group of the 579th members this year, we had a great time all weekend. The actual number of former 579th missileers was around 22. Many could not make it due to health issues, prior commitments and the economy. My sincere thanks to all who made the trip and my regrets to those who wanted to be there but couldn't. The buffet served as a way to greet first timers and old friends, go over the schedule, arrange for 'field trip' transportation for those who didn't drive to Roswell.

Friday morning found us gathering to do some site visiting, planned trips were Site 10 (owned by Keary Olson) in the morning and Site 4 owned by Gary Baker. Keary's site is less restored than Gary's Site 4, but the more venturesome had the opportunity to explore several levels of the silo as 'most' of the flooring is still in place. I say 'most' because some of the areas have large cutaways in the grating that require some negotiating as well as the spiral staircase that is a little shaky. It was a great adventure for those of us looking to refresh some memories of the past. Friday afternoon took us to Site 4, where Gary Baker showed us the latest steps of his remodeling of the LCC and the access tunnel. Gary has a safety rail installed at the silo end of the tunnel allowing visitors to view the remains of the silo with most of the superstructure removed. The LCC has been cleaned and painted and both levels are fully accessible. Many thanks to both Keary and Gary for their site invitations and tours.



Gary Baker at Site 4



Silo at Site 10

Friday evening was open for dinner with old friends and to look around at the changes in Roswell or sit around in the hospitality room.

Saturday morning started with the Board Meeting where we discussed the finances of the group, the make-up of the Board, expenses incurred for the Reunion, etc. The General Meeting was held at 9:00 with most members in attendance. We discussed the financial status of the reunion committee (we were in the 'black' with some money left over), and most important, the location of the next reunion in 2014. The two locations that were the most popular were the Air Force Museum at Wright-Patterson AFB, in Dayton, OH and the Redstone Arsenal in Huntsville, AL.

After the General Meeting, we caravanned to the Walker Aviation Museum at the Roswell Air Terminal building to tour the new 579th SMS display. This display was assembled from the various donations from former 579th SMS members, Dr. Marie Talnack (member of the Museum Board), Marie's husband, Bob Moffet (technical guru for the museum) and a generous cash donation from the Association of Air Force Missileers (AAFAM).



579th Members gather at the Walker AFB Monument at the Walker Aviation Museum (and Air Terminal)

The reunion banquet was started around 7:00 pm with a great dinner prepared by the hotel. While service was a little slow, everyone seemed to enjoy their meal. Our guest speakers for the evening were Roswell Mayor Del Jurden and U.S. Congressman Steve Pearce. Mayor Jurden presented the squadron with a proclamation, declaring the celebration of the 579th SMS 50th Anniversary and thanked the squadron for its participation in the defense of the United States during the Cold War. Congressman Pearce, a veteran combat pilot spoke to the group regarding the state of the military, the efforts to provide veterans with improved services, and fighting the proposed budget cuts for veterans and the military.

It was my privilege to welcome Maj. Quint Hinkley (ret) and his family to our reunion. As a Captain, Quint was the MCCC of R-03 Standboard Crew in the 579th. He went on to Vandenberg after the 579th closed as well as several other assignments. Quint is 92 years young and really enjoyed visiting with the group. He now resides in Roswell with his family.

A huge 'Thank You' to Judy, my bride of 45 years, who had her 4th back surgery two weeks before the reunion and told her surgeon that he had to fix it so she could travel with me to New Mexico, he did and she was by my side as always.

Important 2014 Reunion Information

As I mentioned earlier, the choices for the next reunion (as selected by the attendees) are the USAF Museum and Redstone Arsenal. Both of these locations have some great features and a few drawbacks. The Air Force Museum, for those who have not been there, or like me, have not been there in some time, is a fantastic museum to tour. It is large and has one of the most complete displays of aircraft outside of the Smithsonian. Two not so great issues is the size of the museum requires a lot of walking, although they make accommodations for wheelchairs, walkers, etc. The second issue is that at this time there is no Atlas-F on display. Both Les Hayles and I have contacted the museum regarding the lack of an Atlas display in their missile wing. We will also look into a possible tour of Wright-Patterson AFB as a field trip as well. We will keep you updated on this as we find out more.

The other choice is Redstone Arsenal, Huntsville, Alabama. This is the location for the U.S. Space & Rocket Center, the Davidson Center for Space Exploration and other NASA exhibits. Again, size of the museum requires a lot of walking, although they also make accommodations for wheelchairs, walkers, etc. Secondly, this is a display for space exploration, not for defense.

I would like to hear from you all regarding these choices and if there is anything you would like to be included that we may have overlooked. Also, I have a lot of 50th Anniversary pins left, contact me if interested. I have included photographs of the attendees for your enjoyment. My thanks to Les Hayles for another outstanding photography display..... again!!



CHAMBERLAIN
Carol & Dennis



BERGAMASCHI
Elvira & Rick



JOHNSON, David
579th Webmaster

OLSON, Keary
Owner Site 10

BAKER, Gary
Owner Site 4



HILL
Don



HAYLES
Les



WORTH
Patricia & Larry



TALNACK
Dr Marie

MOFFET
Robert



GODLESKI
Patti

WEST
Jim & Lana



MORTIMER
Judy & Fred



WILLIAMSON
Mary & Bobby



JURDEN
Kristie & Del



Congressman
STEVE PEARCE



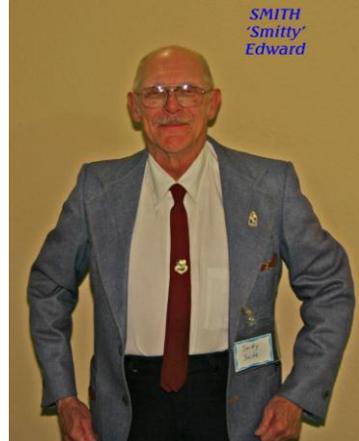
KITCHENS
Hallie & Claude



SCHWEBKE
Eloisa & Daniel



SPAULDING
William



SMITH
'Smitty'
Edward



GELLESPIE
Bonnie
Sister-in-law

HINKLEY
Quintis

GLASS
Carolyn
Daughter

HINKLEY II
Quintis
Son



COYNE
Tom

MAULDIN
Allen



IVEY
Marie & Alex



DOYLE
Sandy, Terry, Kim



JAKLIC
Marie & Al



BEALL
Glenn & Jo



CHAMBERLAIN
Carol & Dennis



MORTIMER
Fred

MAYOR
DEL JURDEN

CONGRESSMAN
STEVE PEARCE



OLMSTEAD
Bob &

Bob, Jr

PLUTE
Frank

KALEK
Stephen

LAKLIC
Al