

A newsletter for members of the 129th Alumni/Heritage Association

ALBATROSS SERVED HONORABLY

Initially developed for the Navy in 1947, the "Albatross" was adopted by the USAF and designated the SA-16. One of the first USAF pilots to be trained to fly this aircraft was * Mel Woolcock; one of our own 129th AHA members. (Mel has a great story about how he joined the 129th as an "IP".)

Although best known for its search and rescue mission, the aircraft was also used for liaison, general transport, medivac, and even anti-submarine missions by many air forces around the world. (The 129th flew the SA-16 from 1957-1964 approximately.) The aircraft was configured to carry a crew of 4 - 6. It was powered by two (2) R-1820-76 or -82 radial engines, it could gross out at up to 35,700 pounds, max speed was 265 mph with normal cruise at 150-160 mph. Many SA/HU-16s are flying today as "private" aircraft. One was used recently as a "chase plane" for the re-creation of Amelia Earhart's "Flight Around the World".

CHATTER BOX

- “Heart to Heart” — “Joe Preciado and Tommy Brooks had “main power overhaul” (bypass surgery) during January ‘98. Both are recovering well; soon “Joe” will be back coaching baseball (how about an Oldtimer’s team?), and Tommy will have his computer hat on and will be making “big” systems out of little parts.
- Talked to “Al Boone”. He’s back working for the “Guard” in Fresno, Ca in a Senior Auditor position. He sounded great and said his new position was keeping him very busy. (Home address: 8356 North Academy, Clovis, Ca 94611)
- The “traveling Boddington’s” are gone again- - - Disneyworld and cruise. They recently spent 10 days in Hawaii in military hotel and lodges. Not much luck with “Space A” air travel.
P. S. You’ve got to hear Rose’s “Chicken Ranch” story.

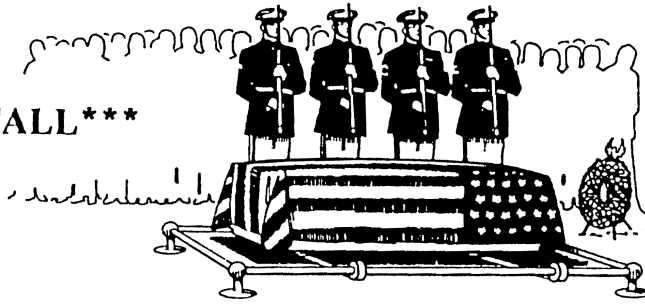
“LET US HEAR FROM YOU”

Address: Editor, “OLD TIMER”’S NOOZZE”, P O Box 103,
Mail Stop 1-8, Moffett FAF CA 94035-103

BOARD OF DIRECTOR’S EXPANSION

The 129th AHA Board of Director’s was recently expanded by one member. SMS “Heidi” Black, the 129th RQW representative, presented the “nomination” (which was happily approved) of “Elizabeth Pia Black”, 8 plus lbs., to serve when not performing “R & R”.
Congratulations!!

*** LAST CALL ***



A moment to remember and honor our Comrades of the past.

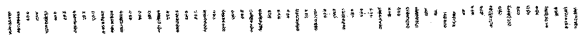
Dec 1997 Fred "Buck" Burkett (Medics) Castro Valley, CA

Dec 1997 Paul Mederios (Flt Mech) Union City, CA

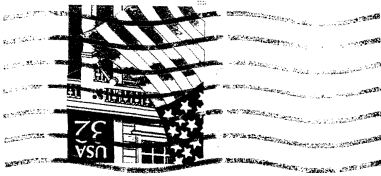
OLD TIMER'S LUNCHEON — "Great Fun"

On March 5th "ninety" (90) of us, including wives, met for our annual luncheon get-together at the Elks Club in Alameda. (Thanks to the splendid efforts of "Jay" Craddock and Ed Boddington.) Food was great and guest speaker, LTC Rick Perkins, USAF, Chief Liaison to NASA and former U2 Pilot, was very entertaining and informative. Col. Perkin's comments on flying the U2, the challenge and experience, kept all of us focused on his presentation. Those of us who were never around the aircraft were fascinated by Col. Perkins comments about trying to land it, the magnificent views he experienced, and the worldwide capability it possessed.

THANKS, also, to each of you who were so generous in participating in the "Children's Fund" raffle; you contributed approximately \$400.00 to support this important college fund.



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129th Alumni/Heritage Association
P O Box 103 Mail Stop 1-8
Moffett FAF, CA 94053-103

EVENT CALENDAR

| Event | 1998 | | | | | |
|---|------|-----|------|------|-----|------|
| | APR | MAY | JUNE | JULY | AUG | SEPT |
| Ol' Timer's Luncheon March 5, 1998 | | | | | | |
| 129 th Picnic (Open House) | | | | X | | |
| AHA Golf Tourney | | | | | X | |
| 129 th Christmas Party December '98 | | | | | | |

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RETIREMENT DINNER FOR JERRY HITESMAN

Come help Jerry and family celebrate the completion of 41 years of proud service to country and community, beginning in 1955 with U.S. Marine Corp Reserve, U.S. Air Force 1956-60, and finishing with the CaANG, 129th RQW 1963-98.

WHEN: SATURDAY 11 APR 98 6PM TO 11 PM

WHERE: Villa Tassajara 6363 TASSAJARA RD PLEASANTON CA

No Host Bar Buffet Style Dinner

MENU: GREEN SALAD FRUIT SALAD CHINESE CHICKEN SALAD

ROLLS & BUTTER GARLIC BREAD HOT VEGGIES RICE PILAF

ROASTED RED POTATOES PRIME RIB CHICKEN MARSALA

CHOCOLATE MOUSSE

DRESS: CASUAL (NO TIES!)

COST: \$25.00 (LIMITED TO 200 ATTENDEES)

FOR TICKETS CONTACT: BOBBY WALKER DAVE CANTRELL

DARREL GRAVES PETE PETERSON OR KEN HUNTLEY

CLIP AND MAIL

PLEASE RSVP NO LATER THAN 4 APR 98

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: MICHAEL P. SCHMOLL 5926 CHARTER OAKS DR.

CASTRO VALLEY CA. 94225 - 1663