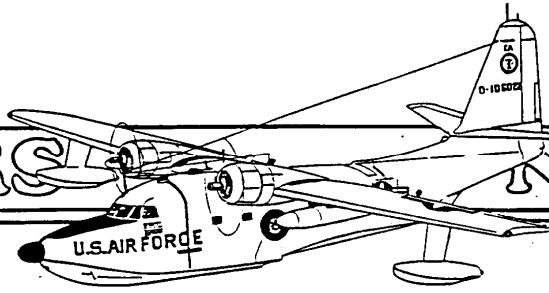


OL TIMERS' NOOZZE



Volume 7, Issue 1

February 2003

Ol' Timers Nooze Goes Electronic

E-Mail Version Available Beginning June 2003

Beginning with the June 2003 issue of the Ol' Timers Nooze, the newsletter will be available electronically as well as by traditional snail-mail. The newsletter will be prepared and formatted into a .PDF file which is readable by Adobe's Acrobat Reader. Most systems already have Reader, but the newsletter will be sent with a link to download the free version of this software. You will be able to view the newsletter online and print it out if you desire. You can forward it to friends, too.

There will be a sign-up sheet at the Old Timers' Luncheon for the e-mail. If you are not going to be at the luncheon and would like to receive your issues of the newsletter electronically, please send an e-mail to Lynda Fawcett at LTFAWCETT@hotmail.com. She will be compiling the e-mail listing.

Help save on the printing and mailing costs of the newsletter AND get your newsletter sooner! Sign up for electronic delivery today!

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Board Election

March 2003

An election for the three at-large Directors is scheduled for 2003. The AHA Corporation Bylaws proscribe that Directors are elected in odd number years (2003) and Officers are elected in even number years (2004).

The AHA President, Jay Craddock, appointed an Election Committee composed of the Vice President, Ken Moore, the Secretary-Treasurer, John Ruppel, and association member at large, LTC Jim Rommelfanger. The committee is responsible for gathering nominations, distributing, collecting, and counting the ballots. The newly elected Directors will be announced at the Association's annual meeting, the Annual Old Timers' Lunch, scheduled for March 12, 2003.

All AHA members in good standing may vote for Director. Ballots have been included in your newsletter if you paid your 2002 membership dues. If your last year's dues were not paid, you are not considered to be in good standing and are not eligible to vote. There are four names on the ballot: CMS Ed Boddington, SMS Don Delucchi, Lt Col Cindy Kepple, and Capt John Oliver. There is no write-in provision. Please vote for three of the four nominees. The three nominees with the highest number of votes will be declared Directors, and will be announced and begin their two-year term at the Old Timers' Luncheon

The self-addressed stamped ballot should be postmarked by March 3, 2002, and mailed to:

Col John Ruppel
6718 Zerillo Drive
Riverbank, CA 95367-2122

Mark and mail your ballots today!

The Prez Sez

The President's Column

LTC Jesse Craddock (Ret.)

As we ease into our fourth year as a non-profit organization, we can look back with pride at our accomplishments and participation in projects that have benefited the 129th RQW, our old *Alma Mater*. What started out over 20 years ago as an Old Timers' Luncheon has now evolved into a legal Non-Profit Corporation consisting of both past and present members from the 129th Resupply Squadron to today's Air Rescue Wing.

Our Membership is approaching 300, a goal we hope to attain this year. We have an active Scholarship Program and are awarding a record six scholarships this year. We have contributed generously to the 129th RQW Family Support program. With the possible escalation of the war on terrorism, we as individuals will be solicited by many Veterans organizations to support our troops. As alumni and members of the 129th RQW, we are in a unique position in that we not only can support the troops, but also can help a specific organization, namely the 129th RQW. I feel that our donations are better controlled and used than donations given to large organizations which have much higher overhead expenses. Our only income is from membership fees and contributions. Please encourage your "Old Buddies" to join and become a member of a team that is much more than a "Patriotic Gesture".

The Association annual Old Timers' Lunch will be held at the Alameda Elks Club March 12, 2003. This year's speaker will be Major Dennis Davoren, a Beale AFB U-2 pilot. The lunch price will be \$13. A portion of the lunch fee will be donated to the Wing Family Support Program. The Board has recently purchased a supply of Association Logo Patches. Members attending the Old Timers' Lunch will receive a patch. Additional patches will be available for \$4 per patch.

Also available at the Old Timers' Luncheon will be a sign-up sheet for the electronic edition of the Old Timers' Nooze. Be sure to bring your e-mail address with you and get on the list for electronic rather than snail-mail delivery of the newsletter!

The Prez Sez (continued)

The Bylaws call for Director elections in odd number years. The Association will only prosper and be guaranteed a strong future with the membership willingness to serve. The election details and director ballots can be found in the Newsletter.

See you at the luncheon!

Jay

Scholarship Winners

Lt Col Cynthia Kepple, Scholarship Chair

Each year, the 129th AHA awards scholarships to deserving members of the Unit. For the year 2003, we will be providing six scholarships - four to members of the Wing and two to dependents. Additionally, the Bay Area Chapter of The Retired Officers' Association, now headed by Jay Craddock, will be supplementing the \$300 129th AHA scholarships with an additional \$200 scholarship from TROA.

Scholarship recipients for 2003 are:

- TSgt Maria Myakovsky
- SrA Raeann Cordova
- SrA Luke Fitzgerald
- SrA Jessica Vasconcellos
- Gonzalo Solis
- Steven L. Kepple, Jr.

The scholarship awardees will be our guests at the Old Timers' Luncheon and be presented with checks for educational expenses. Plan on being there to congratulate these young people for their accomplishments.

Cindy

Membership News and Notes

Reminders and Updates

Dues billings for 2003 have been mailed, and dues should be paid by March 12, 2003. You may send your dues check with your Old Timers' Luncheon reservations, or you may pay at the luncheon. After that date, dues are considered delinquent.

Beginning with the June 2003 edition of the newsletter, the Board has directed that a reminder will be published listing the names of those who have not yet paid their dues.

Consider this your notice!

Effective December 31, 2003, any member who has not paid their dues will be suspended from the mailing list (both snail-mail and e-mail) of the Old Timers' Noozze until all arrears are paid. This policy will be finalized at the July 2003 Board meeting.

If you for some reason choose to discontinue your affiliation with the 129th AHA, please do not just quit paying your dues. The by-laws require that you give notice at the end of the year that you wish to resign from the Association. Attach a note to your billing notice requesting your name be removed from the membership. You cannot resign unless you are a member in good standing (translation: current with your dues). If you are sufficiently delinquent in dues payment, the Board can vote to expel you from the Association. If in the future you wish to re-establish your affiliation with the 129th AHA, you must petition the Board for membership and pay any arrears plus current dues.

Don't want to hassle with remembering to pay your dues? The Board has decided you may prepay up to 5 years of dues at the current rate (that would be \$50 currently). That will be drawn upon until exhausted, and in the final year you will be responsible for any shortfall. In other words, you will not be protected from any dues increases.

Remember – your dues and donations are the primary support of the 129th AHA. Your membership is both needed and valued.

A Soldier Died Today

He was getting old and paunchy
And his hair was falling fast,
And he sat around the Legion,
Telling stories of the past.

Of a war that he once fought in
And the deeds that he had done,
In his exploits with his buddies;
They were heroes, every one.

And 'tho sometimes to his neighbors
His tales became a joke,
All his buddies listened quietly
For they knew where of he spoke.

But we'll hear his tales no longer,
For ol' Bob has passed away,
And the world's a little poorer
For a Soldier died today.

He won't be mourned by many,
Just his children and his wife.
For he lived an ordinary,
Very quiet sort of life.

He held a job and raised a family,
Going quietly on his way;
And the world won't note his passing,
'Tho a Soldier died today.

When politicians leave this earth,
Their bodies lie in state,
While thousands note their passing,
And proclaim that they were great.

Papers tell of their life stories
From the time that they were young
But the passing of a Soldier
Goes unnoticed, and unsung.

Is the greatest contribution
To the welfare of our land,
Some jerk who breaks his promise
And cons his fellow man?

Or the ordinary fellow
Who in times of war and strife,
Goes off to serve his country
And offers up his life?

The politician's stipend
And the style in which he lives,
Are often disproportionate,
To the service that he gives.

While the ordinary Soldier,
Who offered up his all,
Is paid off with a medal
And perhaps a pension, small.

It's so easy to forget them,
For it is so many times
That our Bobs and Jims and Johnnys,
Went to battle, but we know,

It is not the politicians
With their compromise and ploys,
Who won for us the freedom
That our country now enjoys.

Should you find yourself in danger,
With your enemies at hand,
Would you really want some cop-out,
With his ever waffling stand?

Or would you want a Soldier--
His home, his country, his kin,
Just a common Soldier,
Who would fight until the end.

He was just a common Soldier,
And his ranks are growing thin,
But his presence should remind us
We may need his like again.

For when countries are in conflict,
We find the Soldier's part
Is to clean up all the troubles
That the politicians start.

If we cannot do him honor
While he's here to hear the praise,
Then at least let's give him homage
At the ending of his days.

Perhaps just a simply headline
In the paper that might say:

**"OUR COUNTRY IS IN
MOURNING,
A SOLDIER DIED
TODAY."**

Elks Lodge Alameda - 2255 Santa Clara Drive



Driving Directions to the Alameda Elks Lodge - 2255 Santa Clara Ave.

- Take the High Street exit off the 880 freeway whether you are coming from the North or the South.
- Go West on High Street to Santa Clara Street.
- Turn right (North) onto Santa Clara Street.
- The lodge is located one (1) block past (North) Park Street.
- Parking is in the rear.

The Annual
129th AHA Old Timers Luncheon
March 12, 2003



Alameda Elks Lodge
2255 Santa Clara Avenue
(510) 522-1015

- 1130 Hrs At the Bar**
Trim Adjustment, Hangar Flying, Ramp Rumors,
Old Buddies Checklist
- 1215 Hrs Gear Down & Locked Lunch**
Roast Beef Buffet with all the trimmings
\$13.00 per person (includes \$2.00 donation to Family Support)
- 1330 Hrs 129th AHA Annual Meeting**
Call to Order, Announcement of New Board Directors
Presentation of Scholarship Awards
- 1400 Hrs Guest Speaker**
Maj Dennis Davoren, Beale AFB
- 1430 Hrs Raffle and Social Hour**

Spouses and guests are welcome!

P.O.C. Jesse Craddock (650) 968-0446
Ed Boddington (209) 536-1777

Reservation Form - Must Be Received (with payment) by March 8, 2003

Please Reserve Ramp Service For:

Name: _____

Guest's Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ **Number of Souls Attending:** _____

Total Amount Enclosed (\$13.00 per person): _____

Make Check Payable To: 129th AHA
Mail Check and Reservation Form To:
Col. John L. Ruppel, Jr. (ret)
6718 Zerillo Drive
Riverbank, CA 95367-2122

Money Talk

The Secretary - Treasurer's Report

Col John L. Ruppel, Jr. (Ret.)

The annual financial statement is presented below. The Association is in sound financial condition, and can continue supporting the various programs. We have received excellent scholarship support for 2003 from the membership, our Air Show participation, and a grant from California Federal Bank (now CitiBank). The Association membership has continued to grow with a net increase of 17 members. The dues delinquency rate is approximately 4% - a number we would like to see decrease in 2003. Due to Wing commitments we were unable to host a golf tournament in 2002. However, we have budgeted for a tournament in 2003. Details will be in a future newsletter. Questions or comments? Contact me by e-mail or at the Old Timers' Luncheon. Thanks for your continued support.

129th Alumni and Heritage Association Financial Statement 2002

EXPENSES

| | |
|-------------------------------|----------|
| Newsletter | 1,380.15 |
| Old Timers' Luncheon | 1,536.58 |
| Family Day | 73.95 |
| Alumni Day Golf Tournament | 0.00 |
| Jackets & Patches | 656.88 |
| Scholarships | 1,574.64 |
| Board Expense | 1,079.14 |
| Secretary – Treasurer Expense | 397.79 |
| Membership | 302.73 |
| Air Show 129 RQW Foundation | 1,896.45 |

| | |
|----------------------------|-----------------|
| Total 2002 Expenses | <u>8,892.31</u> |
|----------------------------|-----------------|

| | |
|--------------------------|----------|
| Total 2002 Income | 9,865.15 |
|--------------------------|----------|

| | |
|----------------------------|------------|
| Total 2002 Expenses | (8,892.31) |
|----------------------------|------------|

| | |
|------------------------|---------------|
| Net 2002 Income | <u>972.84</u> |
|------------------------|---------------|

INCOME

| | |
|----------------------|----------|
| Memberships | 2,449.00 |
| Dues Trust | 150.00 |
| Scholarship | 2,235.00 |
| Logo Lapel Pins | 26.00 |
| Family Day | 0.00 |
| Golf Tournament | 0.00 |
| Old Timers' Luncheon | 1,562.00 |
| Air Show | 3,203.15 |
| Apparel | 240.00 |
| Photos | 0.00 |

| | |
|--------------------------|-----------------|
| Total 2002 Income | <u>9,865.15</u> |
|--------------------------|-----------------|

| | |
|------------------------------|----------|
| Bank Balance 12/31/01 | 6,669.92 |
|------------------------------|----------|

| | |
|----------------------|--------|
| 2002 Dues @ 12/31/01 | 120.00 |
|----------------------|--------|

| | |
|-------------|----------|
| 2002 Income | 9,865.15 |
|-------------|----------|

| | |
|---------------|------------|
| 2002 Expenses | (8,892.31) |
|---------------|------------|

| | |
|------------------------------|-----------------|
| Bank Balance 12/31/02 | <u>7,522.76</u> |
|------------------------------|-----------------|

Encumbrances

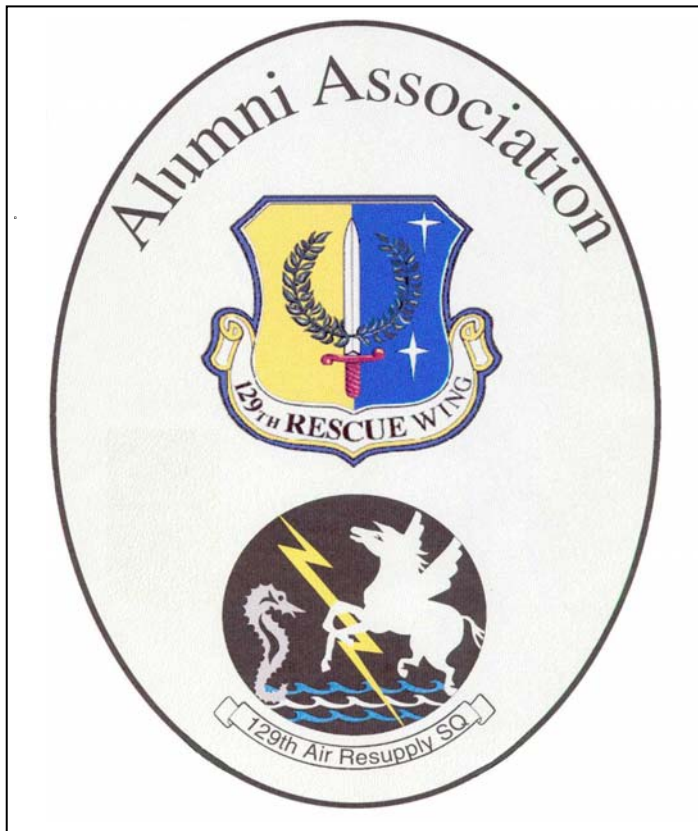
| | |
|---------------------|----------|
| Scholarship Program | 1,955.76 |
|---------------------|----------|

| | |
|-------------------------|----------|
| Scholarship Awards 2003 | 1,800.00 |
|-------------------------|----------|

| | |
|--------------|--------|
| Prepaid Dues | 255.00 |
|--------------|--------|

| | |
|--------------|-----------------|
| Total | <u>4,010.76</u> |
|--------------|-----------------|

| | |
|-----------------------------|-----------------|
| Unencumbered Balance | <u>3,512.00</u> |
|-----------------------------|-----------------|



129th AHA Jackets Available

Customized with your name and rank!

After much searching we have found a new source of MembersOnly jackets - so we are once again taking orders for 129th AHA jackets. Order forms will be available at the Old Timers Luncheon.

Want to own a really distinctive jacket to show your affiliation with the 129th AHA? Order your navy blue, MembersOnly, summer-weight poplin jacket today. The left breast has the current wing patch and the original troop carrier group patch (now worn by the Rescue Squadron), with 129 AHA embroidered below. The right breast sports the Air Force Patch with your name embroidered below. Jackets are available for \$70 (\$35 deposit per jacket required).

Order your jacket from Don Delucchi at:

(925) 689-2683

or online at Nonononi@aol.com

Have you moved? Know a former member of the 129th who isn't a member yet?

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION / CHANGE OF INFORMATION FORM 2003 Dues \$10.00

NAME: _____ SPOUSE: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ ST: _____ ZIP+4: _____ + _____

TELEPHONE: _____ E-MAIL ADDRESS: _____

RANK: _____ 129TH SERVICE DATES FROM: _____ TO _____

Please complete the above information and mail to:

129th Alumni & Heritage Association

c/o Col John L. Ruppel, Jr. (ret)

6718 Zerillo Dr.

Riverbank, CA 95367-2122

**If your personal information has changed,
PLEASE USE THIS FORM AND NOTIFY US IMMEDIATELY!!**

OFFICERS OF THE ASSOCIATION
AND
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

PRESIDENT

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B25jay@macdialup.com

VICE PRESIDENT

CCMS Ken Moore – (510) 656-1529
sirsgtst@pacbell.net

SECRETARY - TREASURER

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129th Alumni & Heritage Assn.
C/O Col John L. Ruppel, Jr. (Ret)
6718 Zerillo Drive
Riverbank, CA 95367-2122

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

Are You Missing in Action?

Dead Letter Department

Have you moved recently - or not so recently? Do we have your correct mail and e-mail addresses & phone number? Please let us know when you move.

The newsletter is mailed out with a request for address correction. The post office does not forward the newsletter to you. They return it to us - and charge us 37¢. Then we update your file, put your newsletter in an envelope, put a 37¢ stamp on the packet, and mail it out to you. Total additional cost to the association is nearly \$1.00 per returned newsletter.

Please take a moment to remember the 129th AHA when you notify your correspondents of your new address. A member information form is included in every issue.

Col. John L. Ruppel, Jr. (Ret.)
6718 Zerillo Drive
Riverbank, CA 95367-2122

E-mail: J-L.RUPPEL@WORLDNET.ATT.NET

NON-PROFIT ORG.
US POSTAGE
PAID
RIVERBANK, CA
PERMIT #20

Vote & Return Your Ballot Today!