



AMTA SEMI-ANNUAL NEWS

Volume 1 Issue 7

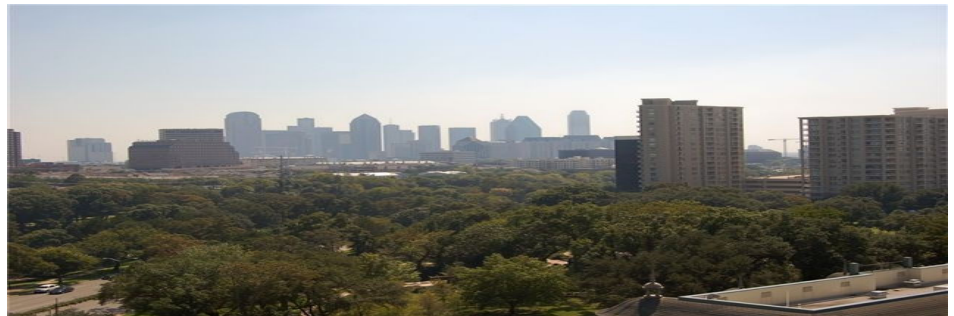
July thru December 2007

FROM THE AMTA PRESIDENT ...

The fourth AMTA Reunion was held October 3rd through the 5th in Dallas, Texas and, we must congratulate Mr. Bill Wilson and Mr. John Dockins for an excellent job under some adverse conditions. And yes, the adverse conditions continued right up until final bills were paid. We also extend a note of gratitude to Mike McLaughlin as he drove a hard bargain with the hotel staff while paying the final bills as they continued to attempt to throw in miscellaneous charges that Bill and John had negotiated as part of the total price in the very beginning. The hotel changed crews at least three times that the AMTA worked with because of the change over from Regency to Radisson. No one seemed to know what the previous group had said or agreed to concerning the contract. With all of that said this is the most well attended reunion to date. Our previous attendance of AMTs was 46 for each of the last three reunions. This year we had 56 AMTs attend and three new members joined the AMTA during the reunion with a promise of more to follow. We had a total 110 people attend the banquet and our guest speaker, Mr. Neal Cooper, gave an outstanding presentation on the status of some things in the world today. The Hospitality Room, just as last year, was

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DALLAS 2007 AMTA REUNION...



THE Site of the 2007 AMTA Reunion, Dallas, Texas

2007 AMTA REUNION ...

Well, the reunion is over for 2007 and by all indications it was another successful one. We had approximately 110 people with about 95 for the banquet. Borrowing on the success of our previous reunion chairman, John Shaffer, now deceased, and John Hurst, we were able to plan and obtain an adequate supply of snacks and drinks that seemed to satisfy everyone. You might have noticed that our decorations this year were of a patriotic nature. The hotel Banquet Manager was good enough to hang them for us. They are available for future banquets if desired. Distractions this year were a smaller than required hospitality room, proper space for our silent auction items and 1st floor construction activity which was scheduled for completion in July of this year. My thanks to Del Jolly and Frank Jordan for their work on the welcome desk, Johnnie Estes for his work on the golf outing, Jim Worrell and Tom Peterson for the splendid aircraft briefing and Greenville tour

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Remember those that have gone before us and those that are suffering today. Keep them in your prayers.

AMTA
Board of Directors

AMTA VICE-PRESIDENT CHALLENGE ...

Now that we have recovered from the reunion in Dallas, which I must add everyone seemed to enjoy immensely, I wish that those who did not attend could have been there. It was very enjoyable for Sharon and me. The good Lord willing, we will be in San Antonio in 2009. Now that the acronyms concerning Agent Orange are clear in our minds, (see last newsletter) we are ready to think about the reunion in 2009. The attendance was great as we had record numbers attending. However, we would like to see more as a lot of AMTs I haven't seen in many years have not attended, and it sure would be nice to see them once more before I leave to meet my Lord. I would like to bring up an interesting thought, to challenge you to a task that should create a competitive game. This will begin with each of you contacting Tom Joines, our membership chairman, and asking for at least five AMT names and their contact information. You may ask for specific names if you choose. Then contact them and encourage them to join the AMTA and/or attend the 2009 reunion in San Antonio. When you contact a prospective member you

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AIRBORNE MAINTENANCE TECHICIANS, 913 NAMES! WHERE ARE THEY???



"PRESIDENT" (Continued from page 1)

much too small and we could not display the Silent Auction items or the memorabilia properly, but that will be worked on before the next reunion. John Hurst gave an excellent account of veteran's benefits during the General Membership Meeting and it was worthwhile to all who attended. If you have questions concerning veteran's benefits, I recommend you contact the AMT VSO, John Hurst. We need to congratulate Bob White for being elected to the AMTA board of directors and was subsequently elected as the AMTA Treasurer. Congratulations Bob!

We will not have a reunion in 2008 but will have one in the fall of 2009 in San Antonio, Texas. The reunion committee, Mr. Noe C. Guerra, Chairman, and Mr. Bob White and Mr. Mike McLaughlin will advise us when the date and location are decided and negotiated. The AMTA board of directors really appreciates the sincere support and effort given by everyone to make the 2007 AMTA reunion and the Airborne Maintenance Technician Association a huge success. Make your plans to be in San Antonio, Texas in 2009.

*Johnnie Estes
President AMTA*

A woman is like a teabag.

You never know her strength until she's in hot water.

- Eleanor Roosevelt

Let's Locate
Others
To Help
Remember
THEM!

FROM THE AMTA SECRETARY...

Another year has passed and it has been a busy one. The 2007 AMTA reunion in Dallas was very good, likely the best one we have had. Several people from the Dallas area attended. For some it was their first AMTA reunion and they thoroughly enjoyed it. Many made the comment that they would not miss future reunions. A few hotel problems occurred, but they were worked through as they came up. The general membership meeting included a very informative briefing by the AMTA VSO representative John Hurst, voting on some minor bylaw changes, and election of a Board of Directors member. Robert "Bob" White was elected to the vacant position and will assume the duties of our organization Treasurer. My tenure as the Interim Treasurer has been a very worthwhile experience, hectic at times but I learned a lot.

The AMTA recently established a
(Continued on page 3)

AMTA Board of Directors:

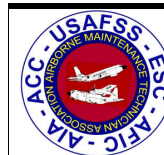
Johnnie Estes - President and Director
Del Jolly - Vice-Pres and Director
Mike McLaughlin - Secretary and Director
Robert White - Treasurer and Director
Bill Wilson - Director
Mervin Gross - Newsletter and Director
Jim Hargrove - Director

FROM THE AMTA VSO...

AMTA'ers, I am down to a little over two months until I retire as a County Veterans Service Officer here in Nebraska. I will still be available to assist you with questions or assistance in acquiring veterans benefits as your AMTA veteran's service officer. You will be able to contact me through my home email address of johnhurst@windstream.net, or by calling me at (402) 296-2805.

My message for you this newsletter concerns the importance of ensuring that you have filed a claim for your service-connected disabilities, if not for your sake, but for your spouse and/or any dependent children. You never know what service-connected injury or disease may cause us to meet our Maker. If a veteran dies directly from another problem caused by, or the result of, a service-connected disability his spouse will be entitled to receive compensation for the loss of her spouse due to the service-connected disability. The recent loss of another AMTA member due to his service-connected disability points out the importance of this benefit. Instead of suffering a complete loss of VA benefit income she will receive \$1067.00 a month for this year with a 2.3% COLA increase next year. She, and any eligible dependent children, could also be entitled to education and healthcare benefits. Many states have special benefits for disabled veterans and their spouse or widow, like homestead

(Continued on page 3)



**Airborne Maintenance
Technician Association**

11615 Old Hills Lane

SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS 78251

AMTA 2007 REUNION, REGENCY HOTEL, DALLAS, TEXAS !!



Another Fish Story??



A Gathering of the Bosses



Just A Great Day!

“REUNION” (Continued from page 1) and John Dockins for his general assistance which saved me considerable time and driving and for all his all around help. My thanks also to Mike McLaughlin for his donations and work with the silent auction, and those who filled in for him when he needed to take a break. Also, Taylor J. Greene and others for their donations to the silent auction . If I have missed anyone, my apology.

Bill Wilson



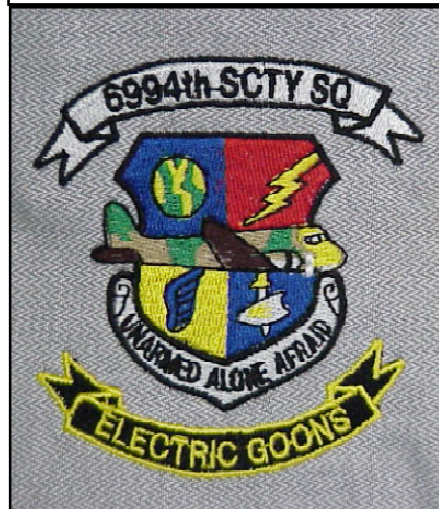
Getting ready for the tour at Greenville

“VSO” (continued from page 2) exemptions to reduce property taxes and other state benefits. For those retired from military service with combat related disabilities there could even be a tax free increase in your retired pay for those disabilities. Contact a Veterans Service Officer for your county or state and be sure you are not missing out on the benefits you’ve earned. Merry Christmas!

John Hurst

AMTA Veterans' Service Officer

A Patch From The Past



JUST FOR THE FUN OF IT

M B E P E T E R S E N H C B M O C
 O I T E Y E E T B A C U S I E P T
 B A S T L L A Y M A N L S G H T S
 L C P A W W A A L O B E O L I N S
 B K D O C K I N S M M S R H O E A
 U B F A L A A A I B B E G A C P R
 R E Y O V S A E E O I T T A E I B
 N I A N A I G A M W G S R E H T S
 I E V N S O S R R E W E R B L S A
 N R B M R H W A O H E E O U I T N
 G O I U C H I N G V U A R R E U G
 C H Y R L L H A I A E S O S N M N
 A O A E N A A A K N I S L E Y P T
 N F M R O N H U A I S G B L S U O
 T O S R G O E R G W V H O L T B N
 Y N U M L R J J D H N H A L L A I
 E I C F A L O L R I L I F O S O
 R C R K I I L V R T B I F F F I I
 Y D N N N V L H E E M E N B S E C
 G S R E C O Y L I R L I O O M R R
 X I S R E Y N W I L S O N M R A D
 D L F F Y L N E K W U R B I E W Z

“SECRETARY” (Continued from page 2) temporary 45-day grace period for expired memberships. This is to give delinquent members a chance to renew their CHARTER MEMBERSHIP or to maintain current status without starting over. In the future a delinquent membership will result in the person being dropped from the membership roll 30 days after membership has expired. Members will be notified at least one month in advance of their membership expiration. Our goal is to keep members and gain more members especially the younger AMTs so the AMTA does not wither and die. We encourage every member to work with us on this as it is your association and only YOU can keep it going.

Michael B. McLaughlin
 AMTA Secretary



RC-135D behind a KC-135
 Parked 38' behind the air refueling tanker
 over Mt. McKinley, Alaska (USA)

- 1. Aarhus
- 2. Ashcraft
- 3. Brewer
- 4. Bursell
- 5. Ching
- 6. Davis
- 7. Dockins
- 8. Estes
- 9. Fowler
- 10. Gebbia
- 11. Gross
- 12. Guerra
- 13. Hargrove
- 14. Holt
- 15. Jones
- 16. Jolly
- 17. Knisley
- 18. Layman
- 19. McLaughlin
- 20. Petersen
- 21. Polsgrove
- 22. Shaffer
- 23. Stump
- 24. White
- 25. Williams
- 26. Wilson

See Answers on Page 4.

Official AMTA Yahoo Group:
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/AMTAssociation/>

AMTA Website:
www.amtassociation.org

“VICE-PRESIDENT” (Continued from page 1) should inform them to make sure that when they send in their membership application or make a reservation, to credit their sponsor by informing the AMTA Treasurer or Secretary. The sponsor with the most recruits, either new memberships and/or reunion attendees will be the winner. First, Second and Third place will be rewarded. The rewards will be determined at a later date by the AMTA Board of Directors. Tom will keep track of each person’s assigned names. If fifty AMTA members recruit two people it would give an additional one hundred attendees or members for the AMTA. Add that to the number that attended the 2007 reunion and boy, would we have a great number for the 2009 reunion! Of course, the Board of Directors is not eligible for any rewards.

I am looking forward to awarding the prizes at the reunion and seeing many of the old but new faces.

Contact Tom Joines by email at tfbrjoines@earthlink.net or by telephone at (423) 263-9553.

*Del Jolly
 AMTA Vice-President*

Free Program Websites

- www.worldtimeserver.com Atomic Clock
- www.weatherbug.com Local Weather
- free.grisoft.com/freeweb.php/doc/2/ Virus Detection Program
- www.zonelabs.com/store/content/company/products/trial_zafamily/l_zafamily.jsp Firewall Program



AMTA Semi-Annual Newsletter Staff:

Editor: Whitey Gross

Publisher: Whitey Gross

“It’s your newsletter for use to communicate with other members.”

CHAPLIN’S CORNER...

This newsletter input from the AMTA Chaplin is actually coming from me, Whitey Gross, the new AMTA Semi-Annual News Editor. With that said, let me start with the fact that Jeff is not laying off or being lazy, he has had another event with his heart. Most of us know that two years ago Jeff had another problem where his heart gets out of rhythm and the doctors have to do some type of treatment to make things get back in sync. From what I understand this is not a lot of fun and can be quite dangerous. Jeff overcame the last episode and with our prayers he will overcome this one too. Jeff is always the one doing and helping others and now we must step up to take the slack for him. After Jeff gets a little rest I am sure he will be back to full speed very shortly. Please join me and the rest of the Board of Directors in wishing Jeff a speedy recovery and of course, keep him in your thoughts and prayers. God bless Jeff, and all of you.

*Mervin A. Gross for Jeff Knisley
 AMTA Semi-Annual News Editor*

**In Memory of...
 John Shaffer**



A true friend and a consummate professional

TREASURER REPORT ...

The 2007 AMTA reunion was a total success as it relates to AMTA finances. We made a small amount on the banquet, but memorabilia sales and the silent auction were great! Many thanks go out to all members and spouses that donated items for the auction. As a result, the Board of Directors decided to increase the AMTA annual donation to the Air Force Enlisted Widows Home for the year 2008. If future finances permit, it will also be increased for 2009. The tour to Greenville was well worth attending. Many of us had not been there for a couple decades and some hadn’t ever been there. Our heartfelt thanks go to the many people at Greenville that “MADE IT HAPPEN.” Future AMTA Treasurer, Robert “BOB” White, will take over the books in the near future. Bob is one of the good guys and will no doubt do an outstanding job.

*Michael B. McLaughlin
 Acting Treasurer*

FOR THOSE WHO FOUGHT FOR IT, FREEDOM HAS A FLAVOR THE PROTECTED WILL NEVER KNOW.

JUST FOR THE FUN OF IT

Answers to Puzzle

Puzzle Something About the AMTA
 M B E P E T E R S E N H C B M O C
 O I T E Y E E T B A C U S I E P T
 B A S T L L A Y M A N L S G H T S
 L C P A W W A A L O B E O L I N S
 B K D O C K I N S M M S R H O E A
 U B F A L A A A I B B E G A C P R
 R E Y O V S A E E O I T T A E I B
 N I A N A I G A M W G S R E H T S
 I E V N S O S R R E W E R B L S A
 N R B M R H W A O H E E O U I T N
 G O I U C H I N G V U A R R E U G
 C H Y R L L H A I A E S O S N M N
 A O A E N A A A K N I S L E Y P T
 N F M R O N H U A I S G B L S U O
 T O S R G O E R G W V H O L T B N
 Y N U M L R J J D H N H A L L A I
 E I C F A L O L R I L I I F O S O
 R C R K I I L V R T B I F F F I I
 Y D N N V L H E E M E N B S E C
 G S R E C O Y L I R L I O O M R R
 X I S R E Y N W I L S O N M R A D
 D L F F Y L N E K W U R B I E W Z