



AMTA SEMI-ANNUAL NEWS

Volume 1 Issue 3

July Thru December 2005

From the AMTA President.....

I find it extremely rewarding to be elected to the AMTA Board of Directors by the members of the AMTA. I further appreciate the confidence of the board members in electing me as the AMTA President. Thank you all for your trust and confidence and I will do my best not to let you down.

We have a very confident and competent group who make up the board of directors and I know they are going to make my job as president very easy. We plan to make a few changes in the way we do business, and this comes from receiving inputs from some of the members. These changes will hopefully reach the members and potential members better and permit more input and contributions from everyone in the everyday operation of the AMTA.

The AMTA Articles and Bylaws were voted on during the General Membership Meeting (GMM) and some very good and necessary changes were implemented. One change was the membership eligibility has been expanded to include all airborne maintenance technicians in the United States Air Force who have flown and performed maintenance on reconnaissance missions. This increases the eligibility pool and hopefully will increase our membership. Another important change is we have the flexibility to have our reunions every other year versus every year. We plan to have the reunion again in 2006 due to previous planning and it will be in Omaha as originally planned. The members present at the GMM voted on this and more than two-thirds voted to have the 2006 reunion and to have it in Omaha. John Hurst has volunteered his services to be the 2006 AMTA reunion chairman. Another change to the bylaws

(Continued on page 2)

Inside This Issue

Reunion Photographs	Pg 2
Continued From the President	Pg 2
From the AMTA VSO	Pg 3
Just for the Fun of It	Pg 3
From AMTA Secretary	Pg 4
2006 AMTA Reunion	Pg 4

San Antonio 2005 AMTA Reunion...

The Second Annual Airborne Maintenance Technician Reunion is now in the history books. It is rather ironic, but we had exactly the same number of AMTs to attend the 2005 Reunion as we had to attend the 2004 Reunion. Forty Six AMTs attended both. We had approximately ten more people to attend the banquet this year as we had Associate Members and numerous guests to attend. It was another wonderful time for everyone who attended. We had at least half a dozen AMTs who had planned to attend but were unable to due to health issues. We had another ten or so who could not attend due to Hurricanes Katrina and Rita hitting the Gulf Coast. Some were unable to attend simply because the price of fuel reached well over \$3.00 per gallon during that time frame. Hopefully we will not have so many encumbrances for the 2006 reunion in Omaha. The reunion was scheduled for a four day event, but most everyone was gone following the banquet on Friday Night.

We started Wednesday October 19th with everyone showing up at the welcome desk. The fellowship was great, seeing old friends again and meeting more new ones. The AMTA memorabilia was selling like hotcakes and everyone was wanting t-shirts, magnets and coffee mugs plus other items. The AMTA Historian, Mike McLaughlin had an excellent display of photographs from the past and many other photographs were available thanks to Jim Worrell from the Greenville plant. The board meetings and membership meetings took place in and around the other activities. The FTVA golf tournament was well represented by the AMTA. No one from the maintenance side won anything, but that is understandable when a 56 took first place. The Silent Auction was not only a lot of fun it made the AMTA a nice sum of money. The Silent Auction items were excellent, three AMTA windbreakers, numerous flag boxes, coin cases, hats and many more items. Something for everyone.

The banquet on Friday Night was the ultimate climax for a wonderful time. General and Mrs. Larson had us on pins and needles for a short period of time as they had



The Silent Auction was a huge success,

been caught up in the San Antonio traffic. They made it with plenty of time to spare and we all enjoyed an absolutely fantastic meal. The Southern Style Texas Bar-B-Que Buffet was outstanding and everyone commented on the great food. It was all you could eat so no one should have left hungry.

General Larson gave a very rewarding speech, and everyone in the room knew how much the AMTs had meant to him through the years as a squadron commander and later as the first commander of ESC. He

is proud of our organization and we are proud to have him as part of it.

Vice-President Delano Jolly presented CMSgt Patrick J. Williams with a citation naming him as an AMTA Lifetime Honorary Board Member. Those of us who know Pat understand why he was bestowed this honor, as he is one of those who is always giving to others.

Elections for directors and reunion locations will be voted on using a proxy ballot in the future. This will give more members the opportunity to have a voice in decisions of the organization. Other simple things not requiring a strict vote count or a written record may be done by email voting.

Have a wonderful year and we will see you in Omaha in September 2006.

*Johnnie Estes
AMTA Board of Directors*

"Each friend represents a world in us, a world possibly not born until they arrive, and it is only by this meeting that a new world is born." -Anais Nin

Airborne Maintenance Technicians, 874 Names! Where Are They???

70 DECEASED

Let's Locate
Others
To Help
Remember
THEM!

2005 AMTA Reunion Pictures



We enjoyed a Texas style banquet, good food and good friends



Del making a presentation to Pat Williams



Gen. Larson our Guest Speaker



The ladies enjoying the chance to swap stories about their husbands

From the President

(Continued from page 1)

elects members for a four year term versus one year. Elections will be held every odd year. The next election for the board of directors will be held in 2007. The board members who will be up for re-election in 2007 are Johnnie Estes, Mervin (Whitey) Gross and Jim Hargrove. These three are up for re-election due to alphabetical order. This will prevent all seven board members being due for re-election at the same time.

The members voted and chose The Air Force Enlisted Widows Home in Shalimar, Florida as our choice for the charity to receive AMTA donations. This will be beneficial to our USAF family.

We look forward to a great year of finding more AMTs and increasing the membership. John Polsgrove and John Dockins are heading up the membership committee and they will need help from everyone finding members. Thank you.

*Johnnie Estes
AMTA President*



Our New President Johnnie Estes and his lovely wife Betty Jo.



Some of the guys setting around swapping stories and getting re-acquainted after many years.

You can sit around and complain about what's wrong with something, but if you don't get involved it'll never get changed.

Jim Hargrove



Airborne Maintenance Technician Association

3818 Sage Ridge
SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS 78247

AMTA Board of Directors:

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

From the AMTA National VSO...

As your AMTA Veterans' Service Officer I am available to assist members of the AMTA, or members of their family with applications for VA benefits. I will answer questions about federal veteran's benefits; however, I am not usually able to provide much information or help with state veterans as the AMTA Veterans' Service Officer. Each state has unique benefits reserved only for veterans who either currently live in that state, or in some cases, entered active military service from that state. I encourage each of you to contact your state veteran's agency to find out what benefits are available to you and your family members. For example, here in Nebraska tuition to state colleges or universities is waived for the dependents of veterans 100% disabled due to service connected disabilities, or that died of service connected disabilities. An exemption for part of their property taxes is available under certain conditions. To learn about a specific state's benefits contact your State Department of Veterans Affairs, or similar State agency, such as a County Veterans' Service Officer. I have contact numbers for every state agency and many county VSOs. Just email me at veterans@cassne.org, or call me at 402-296-9368 for contact information.

I have included two news items I feel are of current importance:

Medicare Part D for TRICARE Participants?

Beginning Jan. 1, 2006, Medicare prescription drug coverage will be available to beneficiaries with Medicare Part A and/or Part B. Medicare-eligible beneficiaries who do not enroll by May 16, 2006, will be able to enroll annually between November 15 and December 31.

TRICARE-Medicare beneficiaries should compare a number of factors before enrolling in a Medicare prescription drug plan, including monthly premiums, deductibles, co pays and drug coverage of several prescription drug plans to include the TRICARE pharmacy program. Medicare prescription drug coverage plan options will vary by location.

For nearly all TRICARE-Medicare beneficiaries, under most

circumstances, there is no added value in purchasing Medicare prescription drug coverage. The exception is for beneficiaries with limited incomes and assets who qualify for Medicare's low-income subsidy. These beneficiaries may benefit by enrolling in a Medicare prescription drug plan.

TRICARE is considered creditable coverage, meaning it pays on average as much or more than a standard Medicare prescription drug plan. If TRICARE-Medicare beneficiaries decide not to enroll in a Medicare drug plan during the open enrollment periods, but change their minds later, they may do so without paying the late enrollment penalty.

VA Prescription Co-Pays to Increase by \$1

Co-payments for outpatient medicines prescribed through the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) medical facilities will raise by \$1, according to an announcement today by the VA. The \$1 increase for a 30-day supply of prescription drugs will take effect on January 1, 2006, the first change in VA prescription drug co-payments in four years.

The increase to \$8 from \$7 for a 30-day supply of prescription drugs is required by federal law, which bases VA's co-payments for outpatient prescriptions on increases in the Medical Consumer Price Index.

The \$1 increase will not affect veterans who have an injury or illness connected with their military service resulting in a 50 percent or greater disability. Also known as "Priority Group 1" veterans, these patients will see no change in their current prescription drug benefit.

Other veterans with less pronounced service-connected ailments – those classified as Priority Groups 2 through 6 – will see their prescription drug co-pays rise by \$1, but their annual out-of-pocket expenses for VA medicine will remain capped. The new cap will rise to \$960 per year, up \$120 from the previous level. This means veterans in Priority Groups 2 through 6 will pay no more than \$960 annually for VA outpatient medicine.

Veterans who have no injury or illness related in any way to their prior military service – referred to as

Priority Groups 7 and 8 – will also see their co-payments increase, but there is no cap on annual payments for outpatient medicine.

Not all prescription drugs will be subject to the \$1 increase. Outpatient medications not subject to co-payments include:

- Medication for treatment of a service-connected disability;
- Medication for a veteran who has a service-connected disability of 50 percent or more;
- Medication for a veteran disabled by 50 percent or more for unemployment;
- Medication for a veteran whose annual income does not exceed the amount of VA pensions;
- Medications for health problems that may be linked to Agent Orange for Vietnam veterans, to radiation exposure, to undiagnosed illnesses of Persian War veterans, or for new veterans within two years of discharge after serving in a combat theater.

*John Hurst
AMTA National VSO*

Just for the fun of it ...

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

- | | |
|-------------------|------------------|
| 1. Burning Candy | 14. Rivet Victor |
| 2. Cobra Ball | 15. Sun Valley |
| 3. Rivet Joint | 16. Combat Sent |
| 4. Comfy Gator | 17. Rivet Card |
| 5. Rivet Amber | 18. Rivet Ball |
| 6. Black Bird | 19. Cobra Eye |
| 7. College Eye | 20. Office Boy |
| 8. Dragon Lady | 21. Rivet Rider |
| 9. Electric Goons | 22. Speed Light |
| 10. Comfy Levi | 23. Burning Pipe |
| 11. Combat Apple | 24. Rivet Dandy |
| 12. Big Safari | 25. Compass Call |
| 13. Rivet Brass | 26. Sr Scout |
- See Answers on Page 4.

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

AMTA Website:
www.amtassociation.org

From the AMTA Secretary...

The 2005 AMTA reunion was a great success. Saw many people I hadn't seen for 20-25 years. Although we all showed the signs of getting older, it was pretty easy to recognize old friends and flying buddies. Thanks are in order for John Shaffer again this year for the reunion's success. He started planning and coordinating the 2005 reunion just a few months after the 2004 reunion. Johnnie Estes also played a major role as he put together all the printed material used at the reunion, including name tags, welcome pamphlets, and bid sheets for the silent auction. The silent auction brought a lot of attention and many people got some nice items at a good price. Items were donated by several individuals and two trophy shops in San Antonio. Of course we will have a silent auction at the 2006 reunion. I have many pictures members have furnished and will retain them in the AMTA history. Many of these pictures are being included in albums covering the 2004 and 2005 reunions. They will be on hand at the 2006 reunion in Omaha. I sincerely urge everyone to try to make the 2006 reunion. Hopefully the price of gas will continue to drop and make it easier for members to make the trip. I look forward to seeing many of you in 2006. A reminder, the AMTA Board of Directors is always open to constructive input. If you have an issue, don't be bashful.

Michael B. McLaughlin
AMTA Secretary

God doesn't always smooth the path, but sometimes he puts springs in the wagon.

-Marshall Lucas

From Our Past President...

Fellow AMTs and families I take this opportunity to say farewell and thank you for your encouragement and support during my term as the AMTA President. It is my opinion that the President's job is, or should be the easiest of positions in any well organized group. In my case it certainly was. That is because the other members of the Board of Director's did such a great job of making it happen. Our second annual AMTA Reunion was a great success in my opinion. Our banquet speaker, General Larson, said many true words about the important roll AMTs have played in the successful accomplishment of many important missions. This is through the application of our talents and dedication during his many years of leadership in the reconnaissance business. He recalled several instances in which AMTs such as Del Jolly stepped up and "made it happen" under trying circumstances. I wish everyone a happy and peaceful holiday season and remind you that the 3rd annual AMTA Reunion will be in Omaha, Nebraska. Your newly elected board of directors wants and needs your support. I and a small committee are beginning the process of site selection and will work with the new board of directors to get the information out to members in time to allow you to plan your involvement. Anyone with suggestions or wishing to assist in making the Omaha reunion a great success please contact me.

Warmest Regards,

John Hurst
Immediate Past President, AMTA



John Hurst and his lovely wife Bonnie

2006 AMTA Reunion in Omaha...

The 2006 Reunion will be held in Omaha, with September 20th through the 22nd as tentative dates. John Hurst is the 2006 reunion chairman. I am sure John could use and would appreciate support and assistance from the AMTs who live in the Omaha area. Many of the AMTs wanted the reunion in Omaha so now is the time for everyone to step forward and help make this the best reunion so far. Some of the things we are trying to do is get a tour of one of the RC135s and a golf tournament set up. Jerry Ching will be the contact for the golf tournament. A tour of the SAC Museum is also a possibility. The SAC Museum is a worthwhile trip. We will be taking an early count the first part of 2006 for planning purposes to see how many attendees to expect. Come out and let's get together and relive some old times and see friends again.

Jim Hargrove
AMTA Semi-Annual News Editor

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

Just for the fun of it

Answers to Puzzle

Puzzle Something About the AMTA

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



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"It's your newsletter for use to communicate with other members."