



AMTA SEMI-ANNUAL NEWS

Volume 1 Issue 1

July through December 2004

From the AMTA President.....

The following is Mr. Bob's Miller's greeting as our First AMTA President. Bob has made a painful and regretful, but necessary decision to the AMTA Board of Directors (BOD). It is necessary for him to resign as President and the BOD due to demands of his job. We have known for sometime Bob was sacrificing a tremendous amount of his personal and professional time on behalf of the AMTA. Bob is a key player on a project directly involved in our military's efforts today. I, as Vice-President have assumed the duties and position of AMTA President until election of officers at the 2005 reunion. Bob has assured us he will contribute his talents and time when possible. On behalf of the BOD and AMTA members, we thank Bob for what he has, and will give in the future to the AMTA, which he has been so instrumental in forming. See you in San Antonio next year Bob, and again thank you so much!

John Hurst, AMTA President and Director

Greetings AMTs! Coming on the heels of our hugely successful inaugural reunion in San Antonio, we're kicking off the inaugural issue of the *AMTA Semi-Annual News*.

Twice each year I will address items of interest to Association members and bring you up to speed on current or upcoming items of interest.

I will start by giving a huge THANKS to the members who contributed so much in time and money to get the Association organized and the reunion accomplished. Every one has gone that extra mile in the last several months and deserves a round of applause. Special thanks to Bonnie Hurst and Sharon Jolly for pitching in when they saw the need at the reunion welcome desk at a critical time. Bill Whitehead's photography during the reunion is greatly appreciated. Hard work and dedication are what this Association is all about. Actions so far have set the bar pretty high. Many folks traveled far to attend the reunion and had a great time.

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The Inaugural Airborne Maintenance Technician Reunion, San Antonio!



Not a large crowd but approximately 80 including AMTs with guests were present at the Inaugural Reunion. This photo taken during one of the presentations.

September 22, 2004 a large group of airborne maintenance technicians (AMTs) converged on the city of San Antonio, Texas for their very first ever reunion. Yes, this was to be the INAUGURAL AIRBORNE MAINTENANCE TECHNICIAN REUNION. AMTs started arriving in San Antonio at the Oak Hills Medical Center Hotel as early as Monday, September 20th.

Before the banquet Thursday night we had 78 AMTs and guests to arrive for the festivities. Ken Woodall was in Canada

Thursday Morning, September 23rd, but he was standing tall at the AMTA Banquet. He felt the same as the rest of us, "Would not have missed it for the world." We had people who traveled far to be at the first AMTA reunion. Marv and Julie Lokken traveled from Minnesota. Mike Eodice, Chuck Layman, and Tom & Pat Wallace

This reunion was only a dream a few months ago, and now it is a thing of the past.

came from California. Bob Hickey came all the way from New York. Roy and Annena Shaffer came from Colorado. Sam and Phyllis Nunn came from Alabama. We had four AMTs and spouses to travel from Florida, Bob and Elaine Miller, Bob Kaelin, Les and Karla Robison and Bob Wakefield. Charlie Vigdor came from Maryland. Dennis Sullivan came from North Carolina. John and Bonnie Hurst and Jerry Ching traveled from Nebraska. Jim and Candace Kant came from Nevada. Bob Dobbins

and Harry Ashcraft both came from Ohio. Frank Jordan came from Oregon. Jeff and Mary Knisley, and Tom and Cissie Joines all came from Tennessee. As you may have expected we had 23 AMTs with spouses to show up who are from the great state of Texas. They are: Doug and Clara Miller; Hank and Ingrid Gebbia; Chuck Fuller; Mike Gehri; Ken and Heather Khoma; John and Lynda Shaffer; Vern Stump; Bob and Billie White; Noe C. Guerra; John Dockins; Jeff and Cecelia McRaney; Ken and Yolando Cates; John Halfacer; Pat Williams; Johnnie and Betty Jo Estes; Bill and Sharon Whitehead; Rick and Lois Davis; Jim and Cheryl Worrell; Mike and Sharon McLaughlin; Charlie Bursell; Bruce and Margaret Pike; and

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2004 AMTA San Antonio Reunion....

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last but by no means least, Bill Wilson. The people listed in this article are the ones who made the reunion in San Antonio a total success. The idea of visiting with friends we have not seen in over 30 years was wonderful. Most had changed, but a few looked almost the same as they did back in the 70s and 80s. Another reason for the success of the reunion was having it in conjunction with the FTVA and SOB reunions. Quite a few AMTs played in the FTVA golf tournament, but did not come out a winner, but had a lot of fun. The FTVA picnic Friday afternoon was available to those who wanted to attend. A few AMTs attended the SOB and FTVA banquets Friday and Saturday evening, but neither could compete with the AMTA banquet. Many of the AMTs and their wives went on a tour of San Antonio, and the only complaint was it was too short. This reunion was only a dream a few months ago, and now it is a thing of the past. Many AMTs had other commitments, some did not have enough time to plan for the trip to San Antonio, but with luck everyone will have plenty of time to plan and get ready for the second reunion in San Antonio next September 2005. We are making an effort to plan two years in advance and we are planning the 2006 reunion to be in Omaha, Nebraska.

By: Johnnie Estes, AMTA Director

The person who does things that count doesn't usually stop to count them.



Airborne Maintenance Technician Association

3818 Sage Ridge

SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS 78247

From the AMTA President (Cont'd)

(Continued from page 1)

Members at the AMTA 2004 General Membership Meeting passed two motions establishing the 2005 reunion in San Antonio and the 2006 reunion in Omaha. These sites were selected for a number of reasons, including the benefit of holding our reunion in conjunction with the FTVA. This will allow our members to minimize their travel, join in with other scheduled activities, and allow the AMTA to get another year of growth and stability under our belt before striking out on our own.

An important order of business at the next membership meeting to be held at the 2005 reunion is the election of your next AMTA Board of Directors. The new Board will then elect the officers to serve the Association until the 2006 reunion. This is very important to the AMTA and deserves thoughtful consideration. We are asking for volunteers for the "Nominating Committee". This committee will receive suggestions and evaluate potential Board members, and provide recommendations. Volunteer directly to any current Board member (listed elsewhere in this newsletter).

With respect to the upcoming reunion, we solicit ideas or recommendations concerning possible guest speakers for the banquet. This year we saved some money by getting speakers from within our own organization, for which we thank them. We welcome comments you may have concerning a possible guest speaker next year and send them directly to any reunion committee member (John Hurst, John Shaffer and Del Jolly).

Another important issue; one of the AMTA's main purposes is to "*engage in charitable projects/donations*". We need your thoughts and recommendations of charities deserving support from the AMTA sent to John Hurst. Your recommendation must be one of the many military oriented charities. Any one of a number of worthy organizations could use our help.

Personnel Assignment Changes: A number of assignment changes have occurred recently. Due to personal reasons, Vern Stump has resigned as AMTA Treasurer and Historian. John Shaffer has been elected Treasurer and Rick Davis has been appointed as Historian. Bill Whitehead has been appointed as the AMTA Photographer.

Finally look for the website unveiling shortly and everyone please scan the contact list Johnnie Estes has distributed and let Johnnie know of any AMT or an AMT spouse who may not be included and update any missing address info you may know.

God Bless to all AMTs, remember "WE MAKE IT HAPPEN" and see you at the next reunion!

Bob Miller, AMTA President and Director

From The AMTA Secretary.....

Legal Bits
During the General Reunion Meeting it was announced the Association was incorporated under the laws of the State of Texas as a "not for profit" corporation and application has been made to the Internal Revenue Service for a ruling exempting the association from income taxes as a 501(c)(19) veterans organization under the IRS code which we hope to obtain by the end of 2004. The IRS reacted swiftly and issued a favorable ruling 09/24/2004, which granted the requested exemption from taxes as a 501(c)(19) veterans organization and will also grant donor deductibility. The remaining major Association challenge is to obtain exemption from State of Texas Franchise fees and Sales Taxes on purchases to be utilized within the association. Application has been made to the Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts for these exemptions which is expected to be granted since the state normally follows the federal lead. Hopefully this will be approved by year's end.

By: Bill Wilson, AMTA, Secretary and Director

Remember the on-line store
For your AMTA Memorabilia
Contact John Shaffer
jshaffer5@satx.rr.com or
call him 210-545-2628

Other Things of Interest with the AMTA

Questions for the AMTA Board of Directors....



Question:

Why was the first reunion held in San Antonio while the Yahoo vote indicated it should be in Omaha?.

Answer:

The reasons San Antonio was selected are:

- San Antonio was the home of USAFSS, the origin of our AMTs
- Secondly the opportunity to piggy back the SOB and FTVA groups with a known hotel benefited us getting ready for the reunion in September which was of concern.
- The USAFSS connection was the reason for using San Antonio as the Association address.
- The vote for site location had been assigned to Bob Miller, and the votes he had collected (very few) had San Antonio , TX having the most votes. The Yahoo Group vote was started by someone who was not involved with organizing the Airborne Maintenance Technician Association reunion . Some AMTs did not have access to the Yahoo AMT Group.
- Our thoughts of an association were just a dream in April 2004. A lot of things had to be decided about a reunion before deciding, *where*. Such as; **When, How, who would pay and who would do the work?**

Even though we had the reunion in conjunction with the FTVA and SOB reunions in just four months, it required a tremendous amount of work and a lot of money. Seven AMTs who were established as the first AMT Board of Directors donated money to get the ball rolling. We established a membership program and continued to receive donations from many AMTs. With the financial help we received and the seven original board of directors working almost around the clock, we were able to plan and carry out a fantastic AMTA Inaugural Reunion September 22, 23 2004. The founders and the majority of the membership pool wanted to form a strong association that would be around for many years and an

association everyone would be proud to be a part of for years to come. This we think we have accomplished.

The people in the Omaha area are planning to have their gathering October 15, 16, 2004. Some of the AMTs attending are members of the AMTA, and we are sure everyone will have a great time. One of the Officers and Board of Director member will be attending the Omaha gathering and providing support as much as possible. The Airborne Maintenance Technician Association does not want to lose our life long friends to a splinter type organization. Our goal is to solidify the AMTA into one strong Association and have annual reunions at various locations over the years. We seek harmony and camaraderie among the AMT family. Our next two reunions will be held in San Antonio for 2005 in conjunction with the FTVA, and for 2006 it will be in Omaha, Nebraska. Our largest single group of AMTs are located in the Greenville, TX and Dallas area. That site is being considered for the year 2007. This is your Association take advantage of it. Join the AMTA today and attend the membership meetings during the reunions so you can have a vote as to where you would like to see the reunion held.

*Thank you,
AMTA Board of Directors*



AMTs with RC 135 at Offutt



One of the RC 135s today, Offutt

Omaha Reunion Another Giant Success.....!

You did it! AMT reunion 2004 is in the record books. This first time every effort went very well, and at two locations in the same year to make it even more unique. The seventeen AMTs and guests who met in Omaha included some of us who were in San Antonio just a couple weeks earlier. The Omaha gathering was given the opportunity to tour aircraft 842 thanks to the efforts of Scott Kleinhesselink. Scott also provided the chance for everyone to meet the next evening for socializing at his apartment complex. Pictures taken by Scott and Bill Boltinghouse are available on the Internet at the AMT_Association Yahoo site and at Bill's own personal website at:

http://usafss_boltinghouse.tripod.com/2004_amt_off

and AMTA website. More photos will be added to the AMTA website as the Webmaster obtains them.

Both meeting locations are significant in the history of our special mission history. I had the pleasure of attending each gathering and cannot describe how great it was to spend time with every one of the attending AMTs and their spouses, or in Scott's case his lovely significant other. Scott and his helping hands made sure drinks and sandwich trays were available for everyone's enjoyment. Every Omaha attendee received an AMTA tote bag from the Association just as those who attended the San Antonio reunion. Every AMT who attended in Omaha purchased an AMTA Memorable coin and several committed to joining the AMTA. Every AMT wants to support building a permanent association, and ensure future reunions for AMTs, and to make it possible for the AMTA to give to military related charities in our collective name.

By: John Hurst, AMTA President and Director

Have you enjoyed this Newsletter, if so join the AMTA today and never miss an issue!!

Just for the fun of it

Puzzle Something About Today

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

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|----------------|-----------------|
| 1. Airplane | 14. Cheney |
| 2. Air Force | 15. Miller |
| 3. Association | 16. Wilson |
| 4. Security | 17. Hurst |
| 5. Service | 18. Stump |
| 6. USAFSS | 19. Shaffer |
| 7. ESC | 20. Estes |
| 8. AFIA | 21. Jolly |
| 9. AIC | 22. Deaver |
| 10. ACC | 23. Knisley |
| 11. United | 24. Omaha |
| 12. States | 25. San Antonio |
| 13. Bush | 26. Reunion |

No, we do not provide the answers. Sorry!



A really great cockpit shot, Offutt, Omaha



Airborne Maintenance Technician Association

3818 Sage Ridge
SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS 78247

Yes, We Had Fun at The Omaha Reunion.....!!!

The AMT reunion held in Omaha, Nebraska over the weekend of October 15th and 16th was a huge success. A nice group of over 20 AMTs, mixed with a few wives, arrived at Offutt AFB Friday October 15th for a tour of an aircraft. Some met at the base gate and others made their way to the Bennie Davis Maintenance Facility. Everyone was ready to see aircraft 842, now in a Baseline 7 configuration. Everyone had to climb up the crew entry chute (*which way do you hold your hands when bailing out?*) and every one popped right up into the aircraft. We split everyone into two groups to keep the crowd smaller within the aircraft. Detachment 2 from Greenville was performing some modifications on the aircraft and seemed to enjoy our visit. They had some positions running so, everyone was able to get a small idea of how the aircraft works. The new systems and equipment are a far cry from the old C-130s, M and V models we once flew on.

We met again Saturday evening at a local apartment complex for a few snacks and a little to drink. Most everyone who made it to the Friday aircraft tour arrived for a nice evening of fellowship with friends from the past. A grand time was had by all. John Hurst made a passionate plea for folks to join the AMT Association and he did a very good job in the process. All eras of AMTs were at the gathering and many old stories were told, yet again. Jim Tam arrived with his survival school gear and his old V-Model notebook complete with RF distribution, Video distribution and most any other distribution we thought we needed to know. Scott Kleinhesselink provided some old photos many folks viewed and helped to renew old memories. The event lasted well into the evening and we all agreed it is something we must do again.

By: Scott Kleinhesselink, Omaha Freelance



Outstanding photo of Everyone at 842!!

Pictures! Pictures! San Antonio and Omaha!!!



Mr. Bob Miller, AMTA First President and Mrs. Elaine Miller, First AMTA First Lady



Does this make you think of the good ole days?



I know three: John H, Stan A, and Stan P. ???



Fellowship with friends in San Antonio...

2004 AMTA Reunion Memories



Del Jolly and his wife Sharon and Bonnie Hurst did a fantastic job at the Welcome Table.



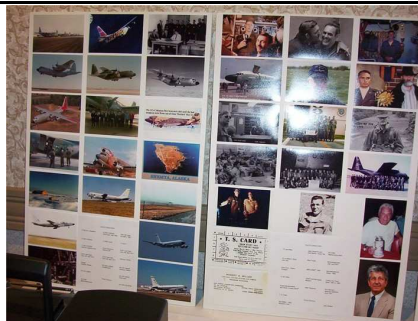
Clara says, "Here Doug get in this tote bag right this minute!"



AMTs having fellowship Bob Hickey, Charlie Bursell, Charlie Vidor, Bob Dobbins, Bill Wilson, John Shaffer and Johnnie Estes



The golf team, ugly, but still the golf team. Charlie, Johnnie, Bob H. & Bob D.



Historical poster acquired by Vern Stump, AMTA Historian from L3-Communications



Around the table. Bill Wilson, Jeff Knisley, AMTA Chaplain, Jim Worrell, and Hank Gebbia



The AMTA Banquet was more than a success, it was fantastic. A great time for all



Mr. Bob Miller, AMTA President gave two excellent presentations on Big Safari and Predator.

Success has many fathers, while failure is a lonely orphan.

Author: Unknown

From the AMTA National VSO

As part of our charter and as a recognized veteran's organization as described by the Internal Revenue Service, I have been selected by the AMTA Board of Directors to serve as the National Veterans' Service Officer for the AMTA.

As the AMTA VSO, I am available to answer questions concerning veteran's benefits, and assist or advise veterans on benefits available through the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) or Department of Defense (DOD). My history has been as a County Veterans' Service Officer for the past eleven years. I am an accredited representative to the VA through the National Association of County Veterans' Service Officers.

Since being a County Veterans' Service Officer I have received training beyond that provided by the Veteran Administration to their benefits counselors you would contact if you called the VA Regional Office in your home state. I can provide you with the information and guidance you will need to apply for well deserved veteran's benefits.

I will be glad to help any AMTA member with veteran benefits questions or problems. I can guide you through the paperwork needed under various programs, even to the point of completing some forms using the Internet. Completed forms would require your signature and forwarded by you to your local VA Regional Office or Veterans organization representative. I will do everything I can to make the process as simple as possible for you to receive the benefits you EARNED by serving our country. I have contact information for many agencies and State Departments of Veterans' Affairs in every state.

I plan to keep information concerning changes in benefits updated on my web site for your review. Guide your web browser to www.cassne.org/vetservices.html and click on the VETGRAM heading at the top of the page to read; what I hope will be useful information. You can contact me by email at veterans@cassne.org for questions or suggestion concerning veteran's benefits.

By: John Hurst, AMTA, Vice President and National Veterans Service Officer

More AMTA News.....

More Photos and Wonderful Memories.....



Nice to see the ladies enjoying themselves. Fellowship time in Omaha, NE.



A photograph from a long, long time ago.



During the AMTA Banquet, San Antonio, TX



Larry I know the others I should, but don't?

AMTA Membership Has Advantages!!

Many AMTs are wondering, "What is the advantage to being a member of the AMTA? You can attend every AMTA activity without being a member, except you cannot attend the general membership meetings if you are not a member. Only AMTA members are permitted to attend the general membership meetings, as members are the only ones allowed to vote on topics set before the members, including By-Laws and Article changes. You cannot hold office or be on the Board of Directors if you are not a member of the AMTA.

If you do not like the method in which the Association is being run the best thing you can do is join the AMTA and as a member, attend the general membership meeting and make motions to put forth the changes you feel would enhance the organization and make it better. The AMT Association is for the AMT members. It is not for the Officers and neither is it for the Board of Directors. The AMT members are the owners of the AMT Association.

Any AMT who has served or is serving in

any of the following commands is eligible to become a member of the Airborne Maintenance Technician Association. USAFSS (United States Air Force Security Service), ESC (Electronic Security Command), AFIC (Air Force Intelligence Agency), AIA (Air Intelligence Agency) and the ACC (Air Combat Command).

Step up today and support your Association. Join the AMTA, it is not expensive and the camaraderie and fun are limitless.

Contact any member of the Board of Directors if you would like to join the AMTA.

By: Johnnie Estes, Membership

AMTA Board of Directors:
John Hurst - President, Director
Bill Wilson - Secretary and Director
John Shaffer - Treasurer and Director
Del Jolly - Vice-Pres and Director
Johnnie Estes - Website and Director




Del lying to Pat, but is Pat taking it in?



Jerry says, "Why am I a 3 year member?"



I guess Bob and Mike are posing for picture

 **AMTA Semi-Annual Newsletter Staff:**
Editor: Johnnie Estes
Publisher: Jim Worrell
Freelance: Scott Kleinhesselink
"It's your newsletter for use to communicate with other AMTs."