



# the WIRE BENDER

Volume 2 Issue 1

January though June 2010

## FROM THE AMTA PRESIDENT ...

**W**ith the even numbered year being without a reunion it gives many of us an opportunity to pull things together and reflect on how to make the Airborne Maintenance Technician Association a better organization and better for those around us. Our membership continues to grow and thanks to the diligent and almost obsessive efforts of Tom Joines we are finding more AMTs every day. If you have not taken the opportunity to thank Tom drop him an email ([tfbrjoines58@comcast.net](mailto:tfbrjoines58@comcast.net)) because I don't know anyone that would pursue this with such passion. I know he does it because of his love for the AMTA and his AMT friends over the years.

Mike McLaughlin as part of the reunion committee attempted to put together a 2010 reunion as quite a few expressed interest in having one in 2010 but when we faced the reality of the situation not enough signed up to warrant having a reunion. None the less we are looking forward to September 2011 and our sixth AMTA reunion. If everything goes as planned I believe the committee (Mike, Noe C and Bob) plans to have it at the Hilton at the airport in San Antonio. The staff at the Hilton was definitely one of the best groups we have ever worked with and we look forward to working with them again.

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This made the third year in a row we have made a \$1000 contribution to the Air Force Enlisted Village in Shalimar, Florida. They add an AMTA gold brick to the courtyard each year. This is what the AMTA is all about, helping others in need.

Remember you can obtain AMTA memorabilia anytime you want as Mike McLaughlin has many different items on hand at this time. The only thing the AMTA asks for in return for memorabilia is the shipping charges and a donation to the AMTA. You can send Mike and email ([mbmc1@amtassociation.org](mailto:mbmc1@amtassociation.org)) or just go on the AMTA website [http://www.amtassociation.org/AMTA\\_memorabilia.htm](http://www.amtassociation.org/AMTA_memorabilia.htm).

Hope everyone is doing well in 2010 and even with the economy hopefully everyone will have a very good year. It may not be the banner year you had hoped for but I believe it will be a great year for all of us. I look forward to seeing you at the sixth reunion next year.

*Johnnie Estes  
AMTA President*

## FROM THE AMTA VICE PRESIDENT...

**F**or my second article as the AMTA Vice President, I thought it would be a good idea to introduce you to another person writing their second article for the WireBender. That would be our new AMTA Chaplain, Henry Leupp. That is Henry on page 3 next to his article. You can also go to the AMTA homepage at [www.amtassociation.org/index.htm](http://www.amtassociation.org/index.htm) click on Board of Directors and at the bottom of that page you will find a link to Henry and his wife. I'm sure Henry will pick up very nicely where our previous Chaplain, Jeff

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## FROM THE AMTA SECRETARY...

**I** hope everyone is having an enjoyable summer. My summer started with a trip (working vacation) to Wisconsin to visit my brother for a week or so. It was a nice break from the Texas heat and we did get to go fishing a couple of times. Fresh bluegill and corn-on-the cob is hard to beat.

During the 2009 reunion, several people asked if there would be a 2010 reunion. A survey of members by email revealed that there was not enough people interested in a 2010 reunion pursue it any further.

Many of you may have read in the newspaper or in an email that many non-profit organizations were on the verge of losing their exempt status due to failure to file the appropriate IRS documents. The AMTA is NOT one of these. All required IRS reporting requirements have and will continue to be submitted.

The time between reunions is quiet and I have plenty of time to send out memorabilia so don't wait till 2011. We will not have patches in stock until approximately the beginning of August. I also have time to research any suggestions you may have for new memorabilia items.

The best to all.

*Michael McLaughlin*



Col. Bob Cope, 2009 Speaker Extraordinaire

## AIRBORNE MAINTENANCE TECHICIANS, 951 NAMES! WHERE ARE THEY???



### FROM THE MEMBER- SHIP CHAIR . . .

#### BECOME A MEMBER OF THE AMTA

**W**e presently have the names of 977 AMTs/IMTs worldwide which includes 105 deceased members and 163 that are AMTA voting members. We have information for 416 individuals in the database that we have been unable to keep current. We have at least 30 incorrect email addresses and over 333 AMTs with no contact information other than a name. We have 50 or more with limited information and 38 of the 50 individuals we contacted have not provided any information for the AMTA database. Please be aware that the AMTA is extremely careful about protecting everyone's personal data and will not release it without that persons authorization .

I have had wonderful help locating AMTs and keeping the personal data up to date. From my monthly email list of lost AMTs, one individual has updated and verified over 20 AMTs' email addresses. I thank everyone that provides information, no matter how insignificant you think it may be. It could help find a "lost" AMT. Thank you for your help.

Many people do not know about the AMTA, therefore, we need your help in promoting AMTA membership. As we find friends from the past, we need help spreading the word about the AMTA and inviting those who are to become members of what I consider an

outstanding organization. I am sure many people out there (that I do not know or have not been with) have said, "Who is Tom Joines and the AMTA?" You as a personal friend and fellow AMT can help by contacting them. If you do not have their information, call or send an email to someone on the board of directors or to me so we can assist you in contacting the person. The more active you are as an AMTA member, the stronger the organization will become.

The AMTA stands for a lot more than just great reunions and fellowship. I found an AMT last week that had been through a tornado, lost everything, including his military orders/papers. He had been at the 6988th. When I found him, he was out helping others that had just gone through a tornado. When he is ready, we will try to help him locate what he needs. We also send money yearly to the Enlisted Widows Home, and we help our comrades in difficult situations, such as Katrina. It helps us grow into a stronger, close-knit not-for-profit organization.



### Airborne Maintenance Technician

11615 Old Hills Lane  
SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS 78251

I hope everyone has started making plans for our 2011 reunion. I would like to see every AMT there. Put it on your calendar now, September 2011. We had about 130 attend the 2009 reunion, and quite a few were there for the first time. With your help, we have time to get the word out to every AMT. We have a great time together and would love to meet every one of you at the next reunion. Call a friend and come join us in San Antonio for a fun-filled three days in 2011.

*Tom Joines  
Membership Chairman*



Bob and Maxine Dobbins. Bob is an AMT that will long be remembered.

### FROM THE AMTA VSO

**T**here are so many new or updated disability claim and benefits changes occurring these days I suggest you each check the VA's News Releases often, at the following site: [www1.va.gov/opa/pressrel/index.cfm](http://www1.va.gov/opa/pressrel/index.cfm)

*John Hurst  
AMTA Veteran's Service Officer*

We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence, therefore, is not an act but a habit.  
-Aristotle

#### **AMTA Board of Directors:**

Johnnie Estes - President, Director  
Mervin Gross - Vice-Pres, Dir, Newsletter  
Mike McLaughlin - Secretary and Director  
Robert White - Treasurer, Director  
Jim Hargrove - Director  
Joe Jesty - Director  
Stan Aarhus - Director  
Bill Wilson - Director (Permanent)  
Del Jolly - Director (Permanent)

**CHAPLAIN'S CORNER.**

**I**n these troubling times I've been wondering what to share with all my friends and the AMTA. Perhaps this tract I came across will help someone to think about having the peace of God through trusting in Jesus the Christ.

**LABELS:** Labels are handy. They help us keep track of things, tell us how much things cost, warn us, and instruct us. Sometimes we label people. Many people are called Democrats or Republicans. A person may have the label "Success" if he has made a lot of money.

A vague, but often used label is "Christian." Most people when asked, "Are you a Christian?" find it easy to answer, "Yes." That's because this label includes:

**HEREDITARY CHRISTIANS:** People whose parents were Christians and who think they are also.

**ETHICAL CHRISTIANS:** People who are good. They don't break the law and they try to live by the Golden Rule

**CULTURAL CHRISTIANS:** People who live in a Christian community or nation. They like the music and the ceremonies-- especially to get married and buried with.

**RELIGIOUS CHRISTIANS:** People who are members of a church, attend regularly, and have been baptized.

**TRUE CHRISTIANS:** People who believe that Jesus the Christ is God's son and trust Jesus completely, read Scripture regularly and apply those teachings to their lives.

True Christians may also have Christian parents, try to lead decent lives, go to church and enjoy Christian music. But they realize that none of these things makes them a Christian. Only trusting in Jesus the Christ can make a person a true Christian.

If you are a true Christian, it does not matter what labels others put on you.

If you are not such a person, no label will help.

Accept in simple faith the wonderful offer of salvation through trusting in Jesus the Christ.

God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whosoever

believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life. John 3:16

If anyone is in Christ [Jesus], he is a new creation: the old has gone, the new has come! All this is from God who reconciled us to Himself through Christ [Jesus]. 25:17, 18

Where do you stand? Do you think you are a Christian because of your parents, your behavior, your culture?

Examine yourselves to see whether you are in the faith; test yourselves. Galatians 5: 22-26

If you don't pass the test, please tell God you want to follow His rules for living and ask Jesus to come and live in your heart from now on. Romans 10: 9-10

Here I stand knocking at the door; if anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and sit down to supper with him and he with me. Revelation 3:20 (New English Bible)

To all who received Him, to those who believed in His name, He gave the right to become children of God. John 1:12  
In Christ Jesus,

*Henry Leupp  
AMTA Chaplain*

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Knisley left off. Jeff, as you may or may not have heard, is now our Chaplain Emeritus. Thanks for all your terrific work Jeff.

Keep in mind our next reunion will be in September of 2011 and we already know it will be at the same venue as 2009, the San Antonio Airport Hilton. It is not at all too soon to start planning for the event. For some reason, at our ages, time has a way of going extremely fast. You think about it and suddenly, it is upon us. I have every confidence that you will thank yourself for attending once you have experienced one of our AMTA reunions.

All the best to everyone and see you next September.

*Mervin A. Gross  
AMTA Vice President*



New AMTA Chaplain, Henry Leupp, left, with AMTA President Johnnie Estes



Jeff Knisley,  
AMTA Chaplain Emeritus

**FROM THE AMTA  
TREASURER . . .**

**I**n December 2009 members of The AMTA donated \$1350.00 towards "Christmas for the Troops" fund. In Apr 2010, the Commander of the 763<sup>rd</sup> Expeditionary Reconnaissance Squadron sent the AMTA a thank you letter expressing his sincere appreciation for our magnificent donation. They were honored and humbled by the AMTA generosity. They made some great additions to their squadron to improve the morale of the unit. In return we received a number of items; a group picture of the unit personnel with a RC-135, a certificate and an American flag that was flown for the AMTA aboard an RC-135 Rivet Joint aircraft tail #62-4130 and a unit coin. The AMTA thanks all of its members in supporting the servicemen and women of the military.

From the 25IS, "Thank you for your support and everything your organization does. I'm sure that you guys all know and appreciate what it is like for people who are already on a high OPSTEMPO to have to spend the holidays deployed and away from their families. I can assure you that the dedicated young folks we have downrange all appreciate the

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**the WIREBENDER  
Staff:**

**Editor:** Whitey Gross

**Publisher:** Whitey Gross

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



AMTA Yahoo Group:

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/AMTAssociation/>

AMTA Website:

[www.amtassociation.org](http://www.amtassociation.org)

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support of organizations like you...all the more so when they know that the support comes from people who have walked in their shoes before. Please give my best to all the T's."

In Dec 09 the AMTA donated \$150 to Hospice of Dayton toward a Memorial Brick for Bob Dobbins. We received a thank you letter from Hospice of Dayton, Inc. thanking the AMTA for choosing Hospice of Dayton as a recipient of our charitable gift. <http://hospiceofdayton.org> The Air Force Enlisted Village Home in Shalimar, Florida is the charity selected for the AMTA financial donation. Once again in Feb 2010 the AMTA was in the position to exceed our present financial commitment and donated \$1,000 to the

Air Force Enlisted Village. In return the AMTA received a very nice thank you card from the Air Force Enlisted Widows Village, "To All AMTA Members: We're deeply grateful for your support and generosity. As a token of our thanks, we will order a brick engraved with your organization's name to be placed in our Garden of Hope on the Bob Hope Village Campus." [www.afenlistedwidows.org/](http://www.afenlistedwidows.org/) Since the first of 2010 we have had four Lifetime memberships and four three year memberships renewed. Tom Joines and a number of other AMTA members have been quite active in locating past AMTs, as well as contacting current members that have changed

emails or phone numbers. Thanks again to everyone that has attempted to boost AMTA membership and spread the word of what the AMTA is all about. As of now the AMTA financial status is sound and we can meet present financial commitments. The bulk of funds come from memberships, donations and memorabilia donations. In the future we may need to come up with other ways to raise money. Please keep this in mind and feel free to contact the AMTA Board of Directors with realistic inputs. I truly appreciate the support of the AMTs, thank you!

*Robert J. White  
AMTA Treasurer*

