



the WIRE BENDER

Volume 2 Issue 2

July through December 2010

FROM THE AMTA PRESIDENT ...

I hope everyone had a nice quiet and peaceful summer for 2010. The pace has slowed considerably since we are not planning a reunion or planning on attending one. However, some of the AMTA board members did convene in San Antonio the weekend of September 25th during the FTVA Reunion. It was an informal meeting and while things were discussed no decisions were made. I realize it is a year away until we vote for AMTA Board members again, but we need to be thinking about it as the ballots will be sent out in the spring of 2011. Everyone should be thinking about nominees to fill the AMTA board member positions. We have four board members whose term will be up at this time and we do not know how many will run for re-election and how many may feel it is time to turn it over to someone else. Be thinking of your nominee for the AMTA Board of Directors and talk with them to make sure they will accept your nomination. Once you have a person in mind and they will run on the ballot, contact the AMTA Secretary, Mike McLaughlin, to ensure they are included on the 2011 Board of Directors ballot. I know it is a little early to be talking about the 2011 AMTA Reunion in San Antonio, but we should be making plans shortly to ensure the best price on travel. I know the reunion committee has

already negotiated a very good price on hotel rooms. Unless something drastically changes, the reunion should be at the San Antonio Hilton at The Airport, the same as it was in 2009. Those people were very accommodating and worked very well with the reunion committee last year. As we get older we may want to consider attending the next reunion for sure as we have lost four AMTs (that we know about) since the last reunion, September 25, 2009. Only one was a member of the AMTA but none the less our friends are still gone. I have yet to hear anyone who has attended a reunion say they did not enjoy it or that it was not worthwhile. It is always a great time for everyone and the fellowship with friends from the past cannot be described in words, you really have to be there.

As everyone has probably figured out by now due to phone calls or emails that Tom Joines is the Chairman of the AMTA membership and does an outstanding job. Our last eight members to join the AMTA are attributed directly to the efforts of Tom Joines and those who have helped him by providing him with information. Tom is always asking if you have even the smallest bit of information on anyone to please share it with him as it may be the one piece of the puzzle he needs to find another AMT. Old flight orders or PCS orders are an excellent source of information. Tom does appreciate all the help he receives and we presently have 166 AMTA members which is in large part due to the efforts of Tom Joines and those that help him.

Again, we hope to see everyone in San Antonio next fall for the sixth AMTA reunion. I am sure Mike McLaughlin will be putting out a preliminary survey in the spring to get a feel of how many plan to attend. Take care everyone and we will see you soon.

*Johnnie Estes
President*

FROM THE AMTA SECRETARY...

After a year of relative inactivity, 2011 will have an election and a reunion. Four board members are up for re-election (Johnnie Estes, Jim Hargrove, Bob White, and Whitey Gross) and all have said they would serve again. In early 2011, the AMTA will solicit members for a nomination committee to identify additional candidates for these four board positions. Voting will again be by email as much as possible. There will be more to come on this issue later.

The 2011 reunion is again slated to be held at the Hilton near the airport in San Antonio during the same time frame as the FTVA reunion. We will post the specific dates as soon as the FTVA locks in their dates. The dated reunion and RC -135 t-shirts went over big at the 2009 reunion and it may be worth pursuing for the 2011 reunion. I will do a poll well in advance to gauge whether or not there is enough interest. We strongly encourage members to bring unique or memorable items for the silent auction. If you have any suggestions that you feel would make the 2011 reunion better, please contact me by email or by phone. mbmcl1@amtassociation.org. Phone 830-995-4109

*Michael McLaughlin
Secretary*

FROM THE AMTA VICE PRESIDENT...

I have been on the internet a bit lately and over time I have come across a couple sites I think are worth looking at.

www.tricare.mil. A great place to check on anything you want to know about

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



FROM THE MEMBER- SHIP CHAIRMAN . . .

JOIN NOW, BECOME A MEMBER OF THE AMTA

I would like to take this opportunity to thank each and every individual that has helped in locating airborne maintenance technicians (AMTs). It is a slow process and we would not have located as many as we have without your help. At present, we know of 881 AMTs and we have data on 465. We have no information except names on approximately 300 AMTs and only email addresses on 30. We will continue to gather information in order to complete the data base on them as well as the 300 with no data. If anyone has orders with AMT's names on them please share them with the AMTA. Even sharing the AMT's full name with a middle initial will be quite helpful and will save hours of work.

I encourage each of you to join the Yahoo Group. At present it only has 141 individuals. It has a lot of information posted that is pertinent to each one of us. It helps identify bills that our Representatives will be voting on and we can let them know our opinions regarding the bills. It may not make a big difference now but it may in the future, perhaps for your children or grandchildren. Please express your opinion. You have been there and walked the walk. Please know that we

each can make an impact in our government and it's future.

We had 57 members at our last reunion, not including family members that were also present. It was a great get-together. I would like to double that number by finding AMTs that have not heard of the AMTA. I think we can accomplish this and maybe more. Now, I need your help in getting them to come to the reunion. If you had a friend that you worked with, make a phone call or send an email and tell him we would love to have him in San Antonio next year at the reunion. He does not have to be a member to attend.

Out of the 465 known AMTs, we have 166 members. Please help get the word out. It is a good organization and does a lot of good for others. Each member, including the board, takes nothing from it and every dime is for your benefit and help for our comrades in need. I hope you will consider joining the AMTA as a voting member. Come and look us over at our next reunion. The fellowship is great and everyone seems to enjoy themselves.



Airborne Maintenance Technician

11615 Old Hills Lane

SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS 78251

I'm excited that the AMTA is growing. It originated from 7 men; Johnnie Estes, John Hurst, Del Jolly, Bob Miller, John Shaffer, Vern Stump, and Bill Wilson. We have grown from these 7 to 166 members.

Please help us to continue to grow. Thank you in advance for your help and just watch and see us grow.

*Tom Joines
Membership Chairman*

FROM THE AMTA TREASURER...

The AMTA financial status remains well enough to meet present financial commitments such as the Air Force Enlisted Village. Support towards "Christmas for the Troops" is strictly from donations at Christmas time. Christmas for the Troops in 2010 is in progress now; details on totals and recipients will be announced after donations have been collected. We have been informed by an anonymous donor that they will match the FULL AMOUNT the AMTA raises for Christmas for the Troops. This appears that this will be the most successful contribution that we have ever had for Christmas for the Troops. The AMTA is constantly ready to support worthy causes and this is one we can truly identify with. The AMTA thanks all of its members in supporting the servicemen and women of the military. The bulk of our funds come from memberships, donations and memorabilia. Spreading the word and allowing our

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Did you ever notice: The Roman Numerals for forty (40) are 'XL.'

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..

The election is past. The congress is trying to figure out how to spend your tax money on their favorite projects and fool the people into believing that they are going to be fiscally responsible.

The Congress will now save money by slashing the Defense expenditures, as they have done in the past. When there is no one left to defend our freedoms, the special interest groups will wonder what happened. A government that must borrow money from foreign governments to meet its budget is destined to fail. One party doesn't want to make the people pay for what they want; the other party wants to raise taxes without curbing their spending habits. This is a recipe for disaster.

We have hope but it is only found in Christ Jesus. God, the Father sent His Son, Christ Jesus, to earth to live amongst us and to pay the penalty for our rebellion against His Father. God the Father gave us His laws to govern our relationship to Him and our fellow man. We are unwilling to live by His laws, so He decided to make a way for us to be forgiven. He did this by sending His Son to earth to be born a baby in the family of King David and then to live a life of teaching and doing miracles to prove who He was. He was rejected by the Clergy and put to death, but He rose again. Now if we put our faith (trust) in Him we can have eternal life (never be separated from God and Jesus forever).

While we cannot cancel the debt our politicians have built for us, we can have peace in trusting in Christ Jesus. He also tells us that if we love Him, we will obey His commandments.

"Jesus said unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man comes unto the Father, but through Me." John 14:6

"For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus; who gave himself as ransom for all, to be testified in due time." 1 Timothy 2: 5-6

"A pessimist sees the difficulty in every opportunity; an optimist sees the opportunity in every difficulty" - Winston Churchill

"The Father loves the Son and has entrusted him with all authority. He who puts his faith in the Son has hold on eternal life, but he who disobeys the Son shall not see that life; God's wrath rest upon him." John 3:35-36 NEB
In Christ Jesus,

Henry Leupp
Chaplain

FROM THE AMTA VSO

WARNING TO VETERANS

Forwarded by Kevin Secor, VSO Liaison, Office of the Secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

An organization called Veterans Affairs Services (VAS) is providing benefit and general information on VA and gathering personal information on veterans.

This organization is not affiliated with VA in any way.

<http://www.vaservices.org/us/index.html>

VAS may be gaining access to military personnel through their close resemblance to the VA name and seal. Our Legal Counsel has requested that we coordinate with DoD to inform military installations, particularly mobilization sites, of this group and their lack of affiliation or endorsement by VA to provide any services.

In addition, GC requests that if you have any examples of VAS acts that violate chapter 59 of Title 38 United States Code, such as VAS employees assisting veterans in the preparation and presentation of claims for benefits, please pass any additional information to Mr. Daugherty at the address below.

Michael G. Daugherty
Staff Attorney
Department of Veterans Affairs
Office of General Counsel (022G2)

The preceding has been provided by,

John Hurst
Veteran's Service Officer

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Tricare whether you are active duty or retired.

www.military.com. Another sign-in for free site that has vast amounts of info for all services and great discounts on a number of items. I purchased Microsoft Office Standard 2007 edition for about \$50.00.

www.militarylife.com. Quite similar to military.com.

www.aafes.com. Will get you to your local AAFES exchange web site through a Store Locator link. This is also quite handy.

www.howtodothings.com. Ask it a question and receive an answer. Try it, you'll like it.

Plus always remember the AMTA home page, www.amtassociation.org. It's great!

As I hope all of you are aware, the AMTA has given, through individual donations, to the "Christmas For The Troops" effort last year and again this year. This year we raised a total of \$4200 for the 2010 Christmas for the Troops drive. Half of this amount (\$2100) was an anonymous "Matching Donation" from an AMTA member. Funds were disbursed to squadrons at Offutt and Hurlburt Field. I'm sure the funds will be put to good use.

Well, the lull of reunion talk is coming to an end as you can see from accompanying articles. Our next reunion is just over the horizon in, most likely, late September. That is just nine months away. I'm not sure about everyone else, but in my later years, time goes by at the speed of light. That means the reunion will be on us in a heartbeat. I'm getting ready! Join us! You'll enjoy it! Guaranteed!

Mervin A. Gross
Vice President



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



Johnnie Estes

BOD ELECTIONS

The nefarious characters shown in the four corners of this page are the four members of the Board of directors that are up for re-election this year. This is not an endorsement of the individuals, but a chance to see them and renew your memory of them. I realize that could be a traumatic moment for a lot of people. In any event, we will be sending out ballots this coming spring so be prepared by giving thought as to who you might like to see on the Board or possibly suggest nominating someone you think can contribute to the organization. We are always looking for a few good "old" men and maybe some younger ones..

*Whitey Gross
 Editor, the WireBender*



Bob White

(Continued from page 2)
 members time to respond is the answer in collecting donations. We as an organization need to come up with additional ways to raise money to meet our goals. The AMTA Board of Directors is always open to constructive input. If you have a suggestion or issue, don't be shy.

So far in 2010, we have had 21new/renewed memberships and 11 Life memberships added. Once again a special thanks to Tom Joines that's quite vigorous in locating past AMTs that are not present members, as well as contacting current members that have let their memberships expire. Trying to keep the AMTA data base current and updated is an enormous task. Thanks to everyone that's attempting to increase the AMTA membership and spread the word what the AMTA is all about.

I would hope everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving and a very Merry Christmas in 2010. The next AMTA reunion is moving ever closer. I encourage all AMTs to try to join us. Until the reunion in September, the very best in 2011. I truly appreciated the support and hard work of all the AMTA members, thank you!

*Robert J. White
 Treasurer*



Last Flight From UBON

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



Whitey Gross

GREAT GOLF MUSINGS

These greens are so fast I have to hold my putter over the ball and hit it with the shadow.

~Sam Snead

If you watch a game, it's fun. If you play at it, it's recreation. If you work at it, it's golf.

~ Bob Hope

I never pray on a golf course. Actually, the Lord answers my prayers everywhere except on the course.

~ Billy Graham

I'm not saying my game is bad, but if I grew tomatoes, they'd come up sliced.

~ Lee Trevino

After all these years, it's still embarrassing for me to play on the American golf tour. Like the time I asked my caddie for a sand wedge and he came back ten minutes later with a ham on rye.

~ Chi Chi Rodriguez



Jim Hargrove