



# Depot Fallout



AFTAC Alumni Association West Coast Chapter  
P.O. Box 3974, Citrus Heights, CA 95611-3974  
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## AUGUST 2008 EDITION

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LOOK US UP AT:  
[www.AFTACWest.org](http://www.AFTACWest.org)

## IT WAS A GREAT DAY FOR A PICNIC

*by Dale Klug*

The warm weather brought out almost 50 alumni and their families for our Spring picnic on May 17th. Charlie and Butch did a super job of organizing it and our grillmeisters, Ken, Dave and Dennis had those burgers & weenies just jumping onto our plates. The salads, deserts and hot dishes provided by the guests were a big hit. Thanks to all who helped make it a success. Check out the pictures on the next couple pages.

## AFTAC AIRBORNE REUNION UPDATE

*from the Reunion Website*

The Tropicana Hotel is the venue for the Las Vegas Reunion in November 6 - 9, 2008. The toll-free phone number, 800-634-4000, gets you to the Tropicana Room Reservations. Tell them you are with AFTAC (it may be under the name Ruiz) and give them the dates you need the room. I just tried it and had the room reservation in a matter of two minutes. The Hotel only charges the first night's stay to your credit card (\$169 + tax + facilities charge = approx. \$191; additional nights will be approx. \$159) One of "our" 135s has been formally requested to be displayed at the airshow thanks to Bill Scott. Here is an email Bill received from Bob Avery:

Bill, I spoke with air show director Bob Jones yesterday. Nellis will invite the WC-135 as a static display for AN08. Rob "Lips" Hertberg is in charge of aircraft for the show and will most likely be the one doing the inviting. Both are included here. They have your detailed email and articles that provide background for the aircraft and Special Equipment Operators.

Assuming the aircraft can attend, the Nellis staff will handle all to do with the aircraft and ANF will assist you in getting a tent near the aircraft for your 150 or so alumni. Work with me directly on that part. I hope this works out. Sounds like a lot of fun for the group of SEOs. I'm going out to buy Space Wars II today. Best regards, Bob

#### LIST of EVENTS

- November 6th - Early bird registration and hospitality suite
- November 7th - Nevada Test Site tour and hospitality suite
- November 8th - Air Show, reception, banquet, and hospitality suite
- November 9th - Recovery breakfast, final good-byes

Our <http://chaspenn.tripod.com/> website is dedicated to reunion updates. **Please check the website for updates, make sure your information is correct. Contact Charlie Penn, 916-624-1067 (chaspenn@sbcglobal.net) or 'Butch' Kemna, 916-722-8509 (jklk@mindsync.com), for questions, information & comments.**

## E-MAIL ADDRESS UPDATES NEEDED

*by Joe Johnson*

Sometimes we need to send information to as many alumni as possible in the shortest time possible. So we would like you to keep us updated on your e-mail addresses. **If yours should change, please send your current e-mail address to: [d1price@pacbell.com](mailto:d1price@pacbell.com) and [ga9jo8ro7ca@hotmail.com](mailto:ga9jo8ro7ca@hotmail.com).** We will acknowledge your message and ensure our roster is corrected. **Thank You Very Much!**

## DEPOT eFALLOUT NEWSLETTER

by Joe Johnson

We need your help! Please consider receiving your Depot Fallout newsletter via email. It now costs the association nearly \$1.00 per copy to furnish you the newsletter via regular USPS snail-mail. We now have 50 members on the email distribution list and these people are saving your association about \$400.00 yearly. How about increasing that savings to \$1000.00? Those selecting the email option enjoy several advantages. They receive the newsletter days, if not a week, before mailed copies get delivered. They get copies in full color; great for viewing the many photographs in the newsletter. You can read your email copy online anywhere in the world when you are not at home. You can choose to print or not print your copy.

**To subscribe to the "Depot eFallout" contact us at [ga9jo8ro7ca@hotmail.com](mailto:ga9jo8ro7ca@hotmail.com).**

This may not be advantageous for you, but it frees up a fellow member from printing, folding, stapling, stamping and posting over 100 newsletters. I wish all of you a Healthy and Happy Springtime! *Joe Johnson*

## WAY BACK WHEN

by Dale Klug, Editor

We're running a series of articles called "WAY BACK WHEN". They are patterned after the Florida Chapter's series in the Post Monitor called "B.S. (Barely Substantiated) TALES". We're inviting everyone to submit articles or pictures with stories from days-gone-by at Detachments, OLs, Depot, Squadrons, Headquarters or TDYs. **Crank up your "WAYBACK machines" and send us an article.** Remember to keep all the inputs unclassified. E-mail all proposed articles to me at: [FalloutEditor@AFTACwest.org](mailto:FalloutEditor@AFTACwest.org) or snail-mail to: AFTAC Newsletter Editor, P.O. Box 3974, Citrus Heights, CA 95611-3974. **Editor's Note: Well, we have Col Johnson's submission for this quarter's newsletter. I'm guessing you all got tired of my old pictures!**

### **Pictures from Col Johnson's Wayback Machine**



If you can identify where these pictures were taken, please send us an E-mail at [TOD.Alumni@bigfoot.com](mailto:TOD.Alumni@bigfoot.com) .

## AMERICA THE BEAUTIFUL – NATIONAL PARKS AND FEDERAL RECREATIONAL LANDS PASS

This is a lifetime pass for U.S. citizens or permanent residents age 62 or over and costs just \$10. The pass provides access to, and use of, Federal recreation sites that charge an Entrance or Standard Amenity. The pass admits the pass holder and passengers in a non-commercial vehicle at per vehicle fee areas and pass holder + 3 adults, not to exceed 4 adults, at per person fee areas (children under 16 are admitted free). **The pass can only be obtained in person at the park.** The Senior Pass provides a 50 percent discount on some Expanded Amenity Fees charged for facilities and services such as camping, swimming, boat launch, and specialized interpretive services. In some cases where Expanded Amenity Fees are charged, only the pass holder will be given the 50 percent price reduction. The pass is non-transferable and generally does NOT cover or reduce special recreation permit fees or fees charged by concessionaires. **Editor's Note: Rose & I saved almost \$200 this summer already when we visited six National Parks & campgrounds and two Army RV parks.**

**AFTAC Alumni Assoc. – West Coast Chapter  
Annual ARMED FORCES DAY PICNIC  
19 May 2008 @ Foothill Farms Community Park, Sacramento**



**Charlie Penn & Butch Kemna  
Picnic Co-Chairmen**



**Ken & Eva Breitwieser  
(Great smiles!)**



**Darlene Fitzgerald, Rosa Lee  
Dunn & Jean Charles**



**Dave Tarquino, Dennis Nolan &  
Ken Breitwieser - Picnic BBQ Chefs**



**Preston "PJ" Jones & Family**



**Jim Giordano, Marian Chambers-Jordan,  
Judie Giordano & Charlie Penn**



**Charlie Penn, Al Pavik, Gayle Johnson, Marge Iske,  
Carol Pritchard, George Thompson & Jack Allison**



**The Food Table: Marian Chambers-Jordan,  
Carole Pritchard, Bob Baker & others**



Nancy Price, Peggy Rheault, Tom Callahan, Jean Charles, Darlene Fitzgerald, Corrine & John Miner



Across from each other: Butch & Laurie Kemna, Betty Jo & Rod Hinkle, and Al & Ann Pavik



Ken & Cathleen Denbleyker



Clockwise from middle front: Bob & Tommie Baker, Chum Nolan, Suki Tarquino, Dave & June Paquette



Tae Ja & Tom Hickey



Dale Klug (our Depot Fallout Editor) with Gayle & Joe Johnson & Irene Goodreau



Clay Lemire, Fred Brewster, Joe Johnson, Orville Pritchard, Marge Iske & Tom Bressan



Dave Paquette & Dave Price



Bob Baker, John Miner & Tom Bressan



Bob & Darlene Fitzgerald with Peggy Rheault & Tom Callahan

If you think these photos look good, you should see how great they look uncropped and in full color. To see these & 4 more picnic photos, go on-line to our website: [www.AFTACwest.org](http://www.AFTACwest.org)

## Who Said That??

by Dale Klug, Editor

- >> Birds of a feather flock together and mess on your car.
- >> The older you get, the tougher it is to lose weight, because by then your body and your fat have gotten to be really good friends.
- >> The easiest way to find something lost around the house is to buy a replacement.

**Do you think you know who the above quotes came from? Send your best guess to: [FalloutEditor@AFTACwest.org](mailto:FalloutEditor@AFTACwest.org)  
First WCC member to send in all three correct answers gets a free adult beverage at our next function.**

April's quotes were from Ray Romano, Fran Liebowitz, & Bill Maher. Bob Baker was only one to get all three correct.

## MEMBERSHIP NEWS

by Dave Price, Membership Chairman

### As of 3 June 2008: Active Members = 157 Life Members = 132

Welcome to **Al Gomes, Preston (PJ) Jones, Randy LaBarge and Ralph Simonton**, our new members.

Annual membership fee of \$5.<sup>00</sup> is due by 01 Jan each year. **Check your mailing label for an expiration date.** *Your last newsletter will be the one following your expiration date.* Life memberships are available for \$50.<sup>00</sup> and include a laminated membership card. You can use the Membership application/roster update on the last page of this newsletter or the one on our web site to send with your dues. Don't let your membership lapse. **Those alumni who have not paid their 2008 membership dues have been dropped from the "active" roster and newsletter distribution list.**

## EVENTS CALENDAR

- Business/Member meetings are 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesdays quarterly at the LionsGate Restaurant at McClellan Park:  
**2 Sep 2008 - 2 Dec 2008**  
(Call ahead to our President, to confirm time & place. Or check our 'Events' page at <[www.AFTACwest.org](http://www.AFTACwest.org)>.)
- TBA Veterans Day Dinner.
- 06-09 Nov 2008 Airborne Personnel REUNION in Las Vegas.

## MAIL CALL

**Don't forget our E-mail address: [TOD.Alumni@bigfoot.com](mailto:TOD.Alumni@bigfoot.com)**

**Tom Wentz** Email: 30 Mar 2008. Thanks for the newsletter. Again this year we will be gone for the picnic, we will be at Altus AFB for our granddaughter's graduation and our son's change of command and retirement ceremony. We are well and enjoying our travels in our motor home. Just got back from two weeks in Mexico with friends from our retired military travel group. Hope we are home for the next event. Tom & Sue Wentz [tomwentz@sbcglobal.net](mailto:tomwentz@sbcglobal.net)

**John Johnson** Snailmail: 13 Mar 2008. Sorry my dues are late. Any extra may be used for postage to non-emailers. Also enclosed are three photos, circa 1963, taken on a C-118, field trip with Col Frank Griffith, WFO Commander. As assistant to Lab Director, Lt Col Bob Rowden, Phd, I had just been promoted to "bird" colonel and temporarily assigned as Special Assistant to Col Griffith before going to War College. Do these pictures evoke any "Way Back When" memories? John R Johnson Jr, Col, USAF, Retired, Granite Bay, CA [jjloj@mindsync.com](mailto:jjloj@mindsync.com) **Editor's note: Thanks for renewing Colonel, we put two of the pictures in the "Way Back When" section.**

**Marian Chambers-Jordan** Snailmail: undated. Dear Friends. Thanks, as always for the great newsletter! We do not have a computer so can not send you e-mail info. However, will see you at the picnic. Have lots of pictures, tape & memories of "days-gone-by", but seem to have shortage of time to dig them out. Will try to do better. Love to all, Marian.

**Ralph Simonton** Snailmail: May 2008. I guess it is about time I rejoined AFTAC Alumni West. I think I did a number of years back, but I let my membership lapse. I would take a life membership, but not sure it would be cost effective at my age. I read some of the newsletters on the net, and found the only name I could remember was that of Dale Klug, and I can't put a face on him. Perhaps he can do better with me. I hope to attend one of the get-togethers you have from time to time; might find someone else there I remember. It is a long trip from Lancaster, but at least I am in the same state. I came to WFO as a TSgt after attending SPINSTR, as best I can remember in early 1965. I left in the fall of 1966 to go to Det 441 as Chief Operator (Q).

I played alphabet soup in my career, starting out in Z, then Q, then O, with an abbreviated course in U thrown in just before going to the 1157th. O Technique got me TDY's to places I never would have gone otherwise, like Adak, Midway,

Wake and Ice Island T-3. Not sure that was a plus. After 441 I spent a couple of years at Hq in Virginia, Finished up my enlistment at the 1157th. I retired at the port upon my return stateside in 1972.

Wondering if the new prez is the former Major/LC who used to go to Lackland to hand-pick the new recruits. Maybe someone could drop me an email and let me know. I came over from the regular Air Force, so never met him in that capacity, but assume he screened people like me from their records.

AFTAC was, in some ways, the best thig that ever happened to me. I was in a dead-end situation at McGuire AFB in the early sixties, where an old boy network decided promotions and my boss was a civilian with no clout. I kept applying for different things in an attempt to get away, and AFTAC rescued me when I applied for "Special Electronics Technician," without a clue what it was. A SSGT at the time, I made Tech on a school quota while pipeline at Lowry, and went to work with people who were definitely above average in most respects, including basic intelligence. I managed to retire as a MSgt, something that, in all likelihood, never would have happened otherwise. Ralph Simonton, Lancaster CA [ralphsimonton@yahoo.com](mailto:ralphsimonton@yahoo.com) **Editor's note: Thanks for renewing, Ralph.**

## In Memory Of

**KOERSCHNER, William F, Col, USAF, Retired** Col Koerschner, age 88, died April 16, 2008 at his home in Blowing Rock, NC. As a 25-year old Captain, I first worked for Col Koerschner when he was Chief, Operations Division at the headquarters then located on Telegraph Road, Alexandria, VA. Later in 1966-67 I again worked for him when he was Commander, 1157 TOS, Weisbaden, Germany. Just a few months ago he spent several days with Betty and I while enroute to visit his son in Farmington, NM. We spent many hours talking of the early days of the organization and the great people, both officer and enlisted, with whom we had served. While here he shared with me his secret of "How to prepare the perfect fried egg every time". Needless to say, for the remainder of his visit he was honor-bound to do the breakfast eggs. No better officer or finer man ever served our great organization or the USAF. For his complete obituary go to the web site for the Blowing Rock, NC newspaper "Blowing Rocket". Received from Clentis W. Bailey, Col, USAF (Ret). **Editor's note: The newspaper also has several articles on his leadership of the community's beautification project.**

**PRITCHARD, Carol Ann**, Passed away at her home in North Highlands on August 6, 2008. A native Californian, she was born at the Presidio in San Francisco on October 22, 1936. She attended school in Rio Linda and graduated from Grant Union High School in 1954. She later attended American River College. In 1957 while employed at McClellan AFB, she met and married Orville Pritchard and began her career as an Air Force wife in Fairbanks, Alaska. While stationed in Japan, Carol became very involved in art and was one of the few foreigners to exhibit in the Tokyo Museum of Modern Art. She later became interested in needlepoint as an outlet for her artistic talents. In retirement she enjoyed cruises with her husband and relatives and considered Hawaii her favorite destination which she visited several times. She is preceded in death by her parents, Major Harold G. and Sally Finch. Carol is survived by her loving husband, Orville Pritchard of North Highlands, two sons, Michael and Liz Pritchard of Fair Oaks and Mark and Stacy of Mililani, Hawaii. Five cherished grandsons, Scott, Ben, Elliott, Matthew and Christopher. These boys were the light of her life. A celebration of Carol's life will be held on Friday, August 22, 2008 at 2:00 PM at Mount Vernon Memorial Park, 8201 Greenback Way, Fair Oaks, CA. A reception will follow at the "O" Club at McClellan Park. Published in the Sacramento Bee. See following link: <http://www.legacy.com/Link.asp?I=LS000115775745X>



According to the "TOD Heritage Remembered" book, this was the old specialized depot building, T-740 at Camp Kohler



According to the "TOD Heritage Remembered" book, this picture is of the WFO, Building 628, groundbreaking in 1955



This picture of Building 628, Western Field Office - 1155 Tech Ops Squadron - Technical Operation Division was taken on 22 August 2008 by Dale Klug, newsletter editor.



# AFTAC ALUMNI ASSOCIATION WEST COAST CHAPTER

P.O. Box 3974, Citrus Heights, CA 95611-3974  
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## MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION / ROSTER UPDATE

**Annual membership fee of \$5.<sup>00</sup> is due by 01 January each year.** Check your mailing label for expiration date. *Your last newsletter will be the one following your expiration date.* Life memberships are available for **\$50.<sup>00</sup>** and include a laminated membership card.

PLEASE PRINT

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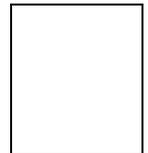
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*From: mm/yyyy - To: mm/yyyy From: mm/yyyy - To: mm/yyyy From: mm/yyyy - To: mm/yyyy*

**Support Your West Coast Chapter: Please pass a copy of this form to your AFTAC Alumni friends.** *[From the Depot Fallout]*

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