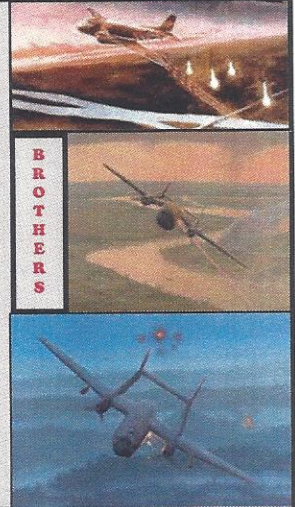


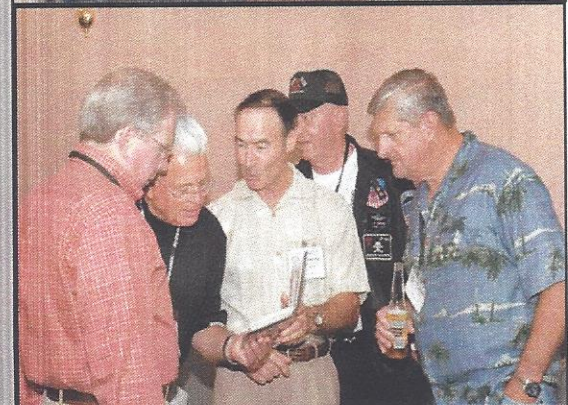
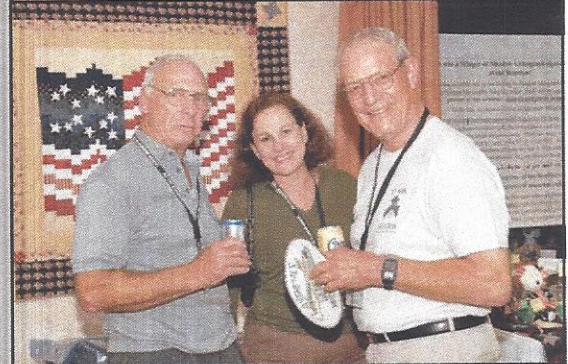
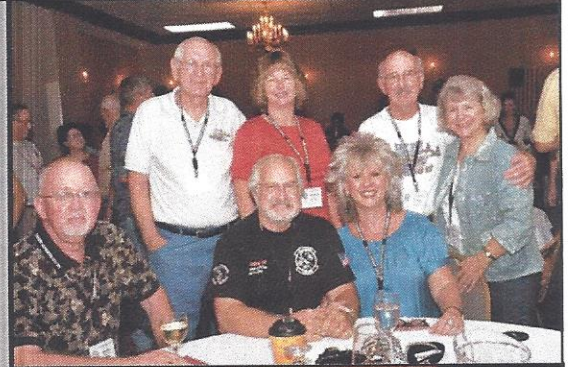
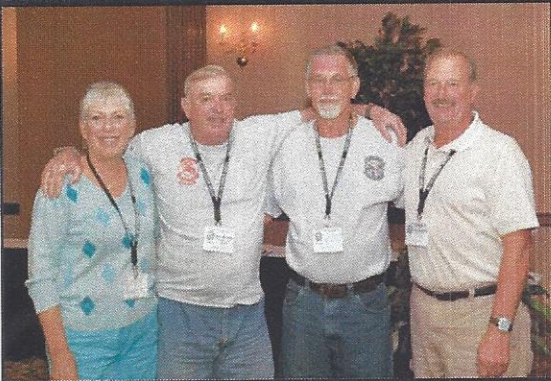
FIRING CIRCLE



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Reunion IX—Wrap-Up

September 11-14, 2008



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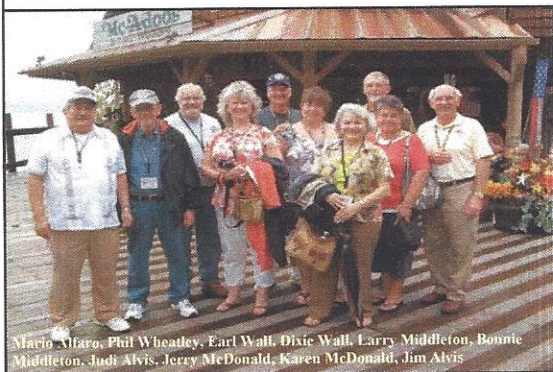
Reunion IX Wrap-up

September 11-14, 2008

Reunion IX is history, and certainly one that attendees will remember for a long time. The location in southwest Missouri, the hotel accommodations, entertainment, and camaraderie were excellent. Reunion coordinator Jerry McDonald deserves a lot of credit for stepping up two years ago and offering to host the reunion. The result was a job very well done. Branson provided a wide array of top-notch entertainment, the excellent Veterans Memorial Museum, and plenty of good restaurants. The entire Branson community was very veteran-friendly. At 1330 hours on Thursday, a valiant effort to establish a video link between the Branson Hootch and Gus Siningher in Fort Walton Beach was initiated. Doug Wohlgamuth, Tony Pa-

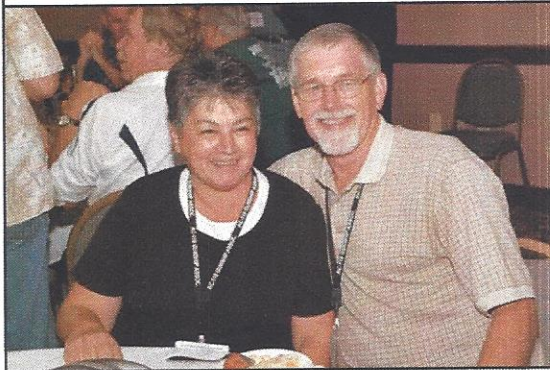


Memorial Service at the Branson Belle with Wayne & Larry



Mario Alfaro, Phil Wheatley, Earl Wall, Dixie Wall, Larry Middleton, Bonnie Middleton, Judi Alvis, Jerry McDonald, Karen McDonald, Jim Alvis

'The Phan Rang Gang, Spring 1969'



Karen and Jerry McDonald

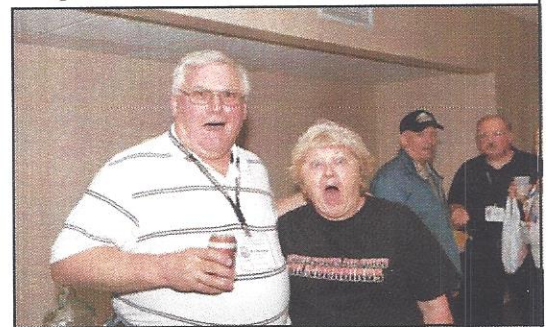


John Michels and Bill Tyler

Audio was achieved, but no joy on video. Well, there is always Reunion X! We held a memorial service on Thursday afternoon September 11 at 1500 hours, followed by a dinner cruise on the showboat *Branson Belle*. About 180 gunshippers were treated to a fine meal followed by very good entertainment. Ventriloquist Todd Oliver selected two gunshippers, Dan Thompson and Carolyn Gravenmier, to assist him on stage. Carolyn's role especially, was a scream. The entertainment emcee announced the names of quite a few groups that were present on the cruise. When he recognized the AC-119 Gunship Association, the yells of recognition completely blew the other groups out of the water – it was great. Friday was open all day for gunshippers to shop, hit the entertainment venues, or just relax.

Friday evening was the Meet and Greet social in a large banquet room complete with Hors D'oeuvres and bar. The annual AC-119 Gunship Association business meeting was held on

Saturday morning, September 13, 2008. Minutes of the meeting are included elsewhere in this newsletter. A key outcome from the meeting was the change of location for Reunion X from Fort Walton Beach, FL to St. Augustine, FL. Earlier this summer Bill Dudley offered to host the reunion at St. Augustine. Several circumstances indicated the change was warranted (see Incoming President's Message for details) and it was overwhelmingly approved by the membership. Bill was employed by Fairchild-Hiller as Manager, Flight Line, and Flight Operations during the days of the gunship conversions. **The dates for Reunion X are September 24-27, 2009.** The membership also approved Reunion XI to take place in Fairfield, CA in 2010.



Gunshipper and Cruise Stars Dan Thompson and Carolyn Gravenmier

Reunion IX Wrap-up

September 11-14, 2008

Saturday evening's banquet was highlighted by special guest speaker and 17th SOS gunshipper Chuck Williams. Chuck is currently the Assistant Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Installations (ASUSD-I), Office of the Secretary of Defense (OSD)/Member of the Senior Executive Service. The banquet was also highlighted by the raffling of several useful items relating to gunshippers and an auction of a beautiful American flag quilt made by Judi Alvis. All totaled, the raffle and auction raised over \$1,000 for the Association's general fund. The Fred Graves Awards was presented to Ray Meckstroth for the farthest distance traveled (Soldonta, AK). The Terence F. Courtney *Above and Beyond Award* was presented to co-winners Wayne Laessig and Jim Alvis for their efforts over the past several years. Special Edition Challenge Coins were presented to Jerry McDonald, Ralph LeFarth, and JP MacIsaac for their excellent efforts and contributions to the success of the Association. A special presentation of the 'Brothers' print was made to Meredith Meadows, sales director of the Radisson Hotel. Reunion IX was a big success, and thanks to all gunshippers who attended.



Guest Speaker Chuck Williams

Thanks again to Jerry McDonald and all his volunteers—Branson will never be the same!



Karen Graves, her guest Earl Hollon, and Judi Alvis

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Jim Alvis and Herman "Al" Heuss



Vern Hansen and Wayne Laessig

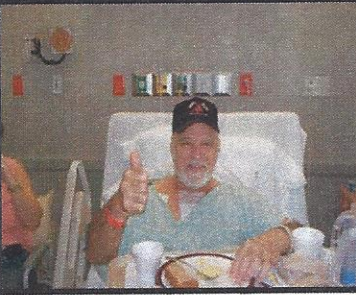


JP MacIsaac and Vern Hansen

Submitted by Jim Alvis

President's Messages

Incoming President



Our 9th Reunion just wrapped up and from all accounts, it was a great one! Jerry McDonald and last year's board and volunteers did a great job! The Branson Belle dinner cruise was a hit with a couple of our AC-119 folks even becoming a big part of the entertainment! The Radisson and their staff were great, the food was very good (and there was plenty of it), the Hootch worked great, and the ability to go to local shows and sights was welcomed by everyone! Thanks also to Chuck Williams, see his note in this newsletter, who (as our guest speaker) reminded us who we are and that we made (and make) a difference.

2009 Officers

President:
Gus Sininger

Vice-President:
Jerry McDonald

Secretary & Circulation Manager:
Jim Alvis

Treasurer:
Doug Wohlgamuth

Member-at-large:
Wayne Laessig

Appointees:

Webmaster:
Bill Petrie

Chaplin:
Larry Hunter

Next-of-kin Locator:
Jim Terry

Reunion X - St. Augustine Florida:
Bill Dudley

Awards & Decorations:
Steve 'Mac' MacIsaac

71st SOS Coordinator:
Jim Alvis

17th SOS Coordinator:
Chuck James

18th SOS Coordinator:
Everett Sprou

Maintenance Coordinator:
Jim Terry

3rd & 4th AC-47 Air Commando
Coordinator: Al Sproul and
Sam Tollett

Newsletter Editor:
Tony Pakutinski



With the loss of my loved one and open heart surgery, last year was a tough one for me, but your support as part of my family helped me get through it all. I'm happy to be back as your repeat President. Only Basketball teams do three-peats, so let's get some additional volunteers stepping up! Reunion X is coming together and I want to give you some highlights. First, take a look at the Association Meeting minutes in this Newsletter for some of the highlights and things the board and volunteers did last year. Our newest volunteer is Tony Pakutinski taking on Newsletter Editor and coming through on this first edition. Nice work, Tony! Also, I need a new 17th POC, Chuck James has asked that he be relieved. Anyone interested, please contact Wayne Laessig at 707-592-7492 or qadvocate@sbcglobal.net.

Now, many of you heard there are some changes in our Reunion Plans from two-years ago! First, we learned that our 40th anniversary of the delivery of our converted AC-119s is next year. Many of us picked up an AC-119 at St. Augustine Florida, ferried them to SEA, and all of us worked on or flew those converted dollar-nineteens during our AC-119 tours. Bill Dudley was involved with those conversions 40 years ago, and he volunteered to coordinate next year's reunion to St. Augustine, with lots of local support and attractions. Second, we reviewed the Reunion attendance numbers, (see 2008 Minutes for numbers), and it's obvious that moving reunions to other locations results in higher participation and some new folks being able to join us.

The 40th anniversary of our aircraft pick-ups, ferry flights, and deliveries was a one-time opportunity, and the members present in Branson **overwhelmingly voted Fort Walton Beach out** (and me as that Reunion Coordinator) for next year, and St. Augustine, Florida in. I fixed them though; I volunteered to be on the Board again and here I am!

The 2009 St. Augustine Reunion will be **September 24-27, 2009** with the Hootch opening September 23rd. There will be free trolley VIP passes to go downtown, a Northrup-Grumman tour to see our sister Navy's aircraft being produced, plus a couple of dozen sights and things to do with your spouses and friends.

(Continued on next page)

President's Messages

Incoming President

We will have our traditional hootch to gather in, visit with old friends and meet new ones; our Friday night meet and greet; Saturday morning gals meeting concurrent with our association meeting; Saturday night banquet; and Sunday evening barbeque buffet. Breakfast buffet is included in your room reservations, and we'll send the details on reunion and hotel reservations very soon. See Bill Dudley's note in this newsletter for some added info along with things to see and do. **Yes, I know the minutes have the reunion dates as October 1-4, 2009. The dates were changed by the board, basically due to increased rates for hotels and restaurants after October 1st. So be sure to mark your calendar for September 24-27, 2009.**

After three years of hard work, Larry "Fletch" Fletcher and Ralph LeFarth have led an effort to publish an AC-119 History Book for the St. Augustine Reunion. There is still time to get your biography, story, and your then & now picture in this groundbreaking History Book – finally, our own story as told by each of us! See Fletch's note in this Newsletter on what, how and when. There are deadlines to assure you'll be in this first History Book.

Complementing and parallel to our History Book efforts, this last reunion we did 50 video sessions with guys (and gals) to help us capture what life was like in AC-119s and SEA. JP MacIsaac now has almost 60 sessions that we plan to put on DVDs for sale, along with the 64 video sessions on DVD from our Wright-Pat Reunion in 2004. For St. Augustine, contact some of your AC-119 crew, sign your History Book stories, bring an old crew or mission picture, and we'll do a "then" picture plus a "now" picture as a great memento. You can also continue to be part of our video collection, fill in the stories about our time and friends in AC-119s. Bottom line: send your History Book input in, reserve your book, bring your pictures and stuff - you never know who will show up!

Check out the Commemorative Rifle and Pistol set made by Ron Soderquist, an Association Life Member (article in this Newsletter). We'll raffle this unique, one-of-a-kind set at the St. Augustine Reunion (you don't have to be present to win) and we'll sell raffle tickets all year via our web, by contacting me, or at St. Augustine, Florida. One winner will take this beautiful set home!

Thanks to the following people: Judi Alvis, Karen Graves, Lynette Laessig, Sam Tolbert, Sue Fletcher, Peggy Craig, Bill Petrie, Bob & Kay Johnson, Ronnie & Ken Stearn, Jerry & Karen McDonald, and Ron & Venita Soderquist. These folks all sent a raffle or auction item, helping to make this reunion a great success, Thank you all!!

Some last thoughts: Welcome aboard to the new VP, **Jerry McDonald!** Serving on the Association Board is an honor and a responsibility. Please think about filling one of our all-volunteer roles next year - Board member as well as one of the many who contribute their time to contacting people, coordinating plaques, pictures, patches, shirts, speakers, local breakfasts, etc. Bottom line is we can always use volunteers, and you can call me for opportunities to support our Association. God Bless you all!

Gus Sininger

AC-119 Gunship Association, Incoming President for 2009

P.S. The Air Force Magazine will be running a Classic Aircraft Edition on the \$1.19 in the January issue, (comes out in Dec 08). We provided input; look for it. The Association members also voted to go to Northern California (between San Francisco and Sacramento; near enough to visit both cities, or wine country, the redwoods, the Golden Gate Bridge, etc) for the 2010 Reunion, so look for info on this in upcoming Newsletters.

President's Messages

Outgoing President

It has been my great honor to serve as your president for the past nearly two years. As I step down, I am proud that we have achieved many of our goals during that time, but certainly not all we had targeted. Our POC's have reached many members and potential members. We have not achieved our goal of getting a greater number of those eligible to join our ranks. We continue to contact those who have not participated in our history projects, both oral and written, to do so. We continue to encourage all AC-119 Gunshippers to attend our annual reunions.

We've had two reunions during my term—one joint at Sandestin, Fl and one at Branson, Mo. Jerry McDonald and his wife did a really outstanding job of coordinating one of our most successful reunions. We owe both of them a great deal of thanks for their enormous effort. It'll be hard to top the results of the most recent reunion.

Our next reunion will return to Florida at St. Augustine, the assembly point of both the AC-119G and AC-119K aircraft. Many of the early crewmembers had the pleasure/challenge of picking up a new aircraft at the factory. I was one. Like Wright-Patterson much of our early history leads to St. Augustine. I hope to see you all in St. Augustine next year.

At this point I must thank all of the board members for their unwavering support. I look forward to our continued growth, establishment of a lasting place in military history and many more reunions. Get your personal bio/history in now. The book will be published this year!!

Vernon C. Hansen

AC-119 Gunship Association, Past President 2007 and 2008
First Wave, AC-119K Aircraft Commander
October 1969-October 1970

To all the members of the AC119 Gunship Association,

Thank you very much for privilege of addressing you at the reunion in Branson. Below is an excerpt from that speech that sums up my feeling regarding our role in Vietnam, so I thought you might like to have it also.

"Most folks don't start out to become heroes, but when your nation called, you came – you didn't run away – you put yourself in harms way – you left your loved ones behind not knowing whether or not you would return. You did your duty in an unpopular war. So don't let anyone tell you that you lost the war in Vietnam

You are heroes and America needs heroes.

And when the day comes that you finally slip the surly bond of earth and put out your hand to touch the face of God, he will take your hand and say, "welcome in oh noble airman of the night, job well done, come into the light."

God bless you for all you have done & may God bless America!"

Thank you again.

Warmest regards,

Chuck Williams

2008 AC-119 Gunship Association Minutes

After the opening invocation by Chaplin Larry Hunter and the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance, President Vern Hansen called the 2008 Annual meeting of the AC-119 Gunship Association to order at 0900 on Saturday, September 13, at the Radisson Hotel in Branson, MO. Approximately 100 Association members were present.

Secretary's Report: members approved the 2007 Association Meeting Minutes as posted on web. Jim Alvis reported our membership has leveled off at 420 Association members, with increasing Life & decreasing Annual memberships resulting in reduced future revenue from dues.

Points Of Contact: great work with everyone present having received some contact last year. Board will work to increase contacts via POCs & Newsletter in 2009.

"Undeliverable" e-mail returns & snail-mailed Newsletters: please update your e-mail if it changes. It results in extra work for our volunteers & snail mails that cost our Association \$\$ that we'd rather spend on reunion activities & history efforts. We snail mail 116 Newsletters due to undeliverable or no e-mail.

Treasurer's Report: Doug Wohlgamuth reported that after last year's reunion, we had \$14,443. Branson Reunion costs for Thursday Branson Belle, Friday Social, Saturday Banquet, Sunday BBQ, Hootch for 4 days, & videography for 4 days was \$31,787, after merchandise costs/sales, dues, Reunion Fees, & raffles, we expect to have about \$13,000 next year.

History Book: Larry Fletcher & Ralph LeFarth discussed the status of the history book project. One of the largest hurdles is the cost of having the book printed. One solution is to contact all Gunship Association members via the POCs & determine who would pledge or prepay \$50 per copy toward the printing cost of the history book, & how many copies the individual would want to purchase. The majority of the members present indicated they would pledge or prepay the cost per copy to speed up the process. We will communicate pledge/prepay options to members very soon. Members should also consider extra copies for their local libraries or other repositories. Note: we took reservations for 20 History Books during the Reunion. Another challenge is the follow-up on missing info, identifying photo locations or people, as well as the proofing & editing of submitted materials. Larry & Ralph need assistants to help in these roles. George Carter, Pete Chamberlain, Allen Chandler, Don Craig, Phil Diehl, Chuck James, Wayne Laessig, Larry McManus, & Howie Reid volunteered & Larry will ask Bill Petrie to continue as proof reader. We will have a History Book at the next Reunion. There will be a deadline for biographies, stories, and pictures. Not meeting it might mean non-inclusion in the History Book.

We also need video transcribers who can transcribe our DVDs, interviews, or mission tapes. Volunteers, please contact Wayne Laessig at 707-592-4492 or Qadvocate@sbcglobal.net.

Association's official history repository: We confirmed Texas Tech University (TTU) Official repository only means the Association members believe TTU provides the best combination of protecting documents while providing access. It is not a mandatory repository - just very good & our recommended choice. TTU created an *AC-119 Gunship Collection* within which every member can create their own individual collection in their own name, with biographies & any other information or documents they want to contribute. TTU makes digital copies, archives & maintains your documents, & they are accessible via the TTU website. We'll post information on how to make donations on our Association website.

AC-27 J "Stinger": Howie Reed discussed this new Air Force gunship & its similarities to the AC-119K. Mac MacIsaac discussed that the squadron designation for the AC-27J could be the 17th or 18th SOS. Howie is the PQC on this project. Anyone having input or info, please send it to him.

Awards & Decorations: Any gunshipper who was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross is encouraged to join the DFC Society. Their link is www.dfcsociety.org or check our Associations' Awards & Decorations website link. Mac MacIsaac warned us to NEVER send original documents to a government agency - send a notarized copy instead.

(Continued on next page)

2008 AC-119 Gunship Association Meeting Minutes

Association activities:

Possible AC-119 aircraft survived: there was much discussion about a possible AC-119 located at Tan Son Nhut, AB Vietnam & the possibility of recovery. Chuck Williams, Wayne Laessig, & Lee Kyser discussed the possibilities, & Lee will be the POC of this project. Anyone having input or info, please send it to him.

Commemorative Rifle & Pistol Set: Ron Soderquist built & donated a commemorative rifle & pistol. We discussed & agreed these one-of-a-kind guns should remain as a set. They will be raffled next reunion as a set, with one winner. We are offering raffle tickets at \$10 donation for one, 6 tickets for \$50, & 13 tickets for \$100. (see page 14 of this Newsletter) for pictures and info on the set. We will offer raffle tickets all year; you do not have to be present to win.

Air Force Enlisted Village (AFEV): Garry Gourley, Gus Sininger, Wayne Laessig, & Lt Col Jon Peck, (current 18th FLTS Commander) coordinated the donation & presentation of our Shadow & Stinger lithographs to the Village. The AFEV's CEO, Retired CMSgt of the Air Force Binnicker, accepted the lithos & they hang in the entry to Teresa Village Activity Hall. Articles were published in the AFEV Newsletter, Eglin AFB Newsletter, & local press. Great work!

Active Duty 71st SOS & 18th FLTS squadron contacts: We added current 71st & 18th active duty Squadron Commanders to our Honorary Memberships & we will contact the 17th SOS Commander shortly. Each Commander has responded with a strong desire to maintain their link with our heritage. Jim Alvis & Herman "Al" Heuss continued to build our relationship with the current active duty 71st SOS, attending Command Changes, and assuring we contact the incoming Commanders to maintain our heritage.

Gus Sininger re-established our relationship with the 18th FLTS Commander, attending Commander Calls, & coordinating their Commander's participation in the AFEV presentation. We also learned that Tony Pakutinski & Lt Col Peck (the 18th FLTS Commander) flew together on AC-130s some years ago & both are now AC-119 Gunship Association members!

We have info on the current 17th SOS Commander (MC-130 Squadron in Kadena) and we will contact them.

Stinger Monument: We're working to request a filter on the sprinkling system in the Hurlburt Air Memorial Park. As soon as it's installed, the Monument folks will redo our Monument to its original color & luster.

British Modeling journalist & magazine (there are world-wide organizations for model builders & hobbyists). Glen Sands of Britain is building an AC-119 model & writing a story for a British Modeling magazine. We provided as much data & pictures as we have & we will let everyone know when they publish the story.

Newsletter: Tony Pakutinski is taking this role to give Bill Petrie additional time to focus on our website.

Flags: We will try to obtain Battle & Campaign Streamers for our Squadron flags. A proposal was made to create an Association flag in addition to the three squadron flags. **Motion carried**, and a proposal was also made to create an AC-47 flag. **Motion carried.** Gus Sininger and Gary Gourley will work the association flag. Sam Tolbert will look into getting the AC-47 flag(s). Mac MacIsaac will coordinate with Lt Col Jon Peck (18th FLTS/CC) to complete the needed Battle & Campaign Streamer paperwork and other requirements for all our Squadrons.

Suggestion to changing our name to "Radial Engine Gunship Association". **Motion not carried.**

Next: We discussed the location for reunion X. Proposal for Fort Walton Beach included \$115 and \$135 rooms with breakfast included. Gus Sininger designated as coordinator. Bill Dudley offered an alternate proposal for St. Augustine, FL to take advantage of the 40th anniversary of the delivery of our AC-119s after Fairchild-Hiller modified them there. He has a hotel with \$97 rooms that includes breakfasts; a 1-day free trolley tour (downtown tour plus on-off all day); & a Northrup-Grumman tour. Given the one-time anniversary opportunity & the facts that FWB numbers are lower than our other sites, the members **voted overwhelmingly** to select St. Augustine, FL for our 2009 Reunion X, & Bill Dudley will be the reunion coordinator.

(Continued on next page)

2008 AC-119 Gunship Association Meeting Minutes

We originally selected October 1 - October 4, 2009 for Reunion X at St. Augustine, with the Hootch opening September 30th (**see date change and reason in the Incoming President's letter**). We will provide more details in the next Newsletter. Wayne Laessig again proposed a 2010 Reunion XI in northern California (Fairfield, CA between San Francisco & Sacramento). The members voted unanimously to accept, with Wayne, Bill Zito, & Jim Terry as Coordinators

Breakfast gathering option: Several groups have held regional breakfasts throughout the year as a way to gather AC-119 gunshippers locally, especially those who cannot make reunions. A California group has breakfast every 3 months, with growing numbers, especially maintainers, Gunshippers' children & grandchildren! Great work Jim Terry! **Jim Alvis** coordinated a 71st get together, again, great success & a great time!

Requirements: A local place who will hold a specific number of tables or a small room; contact everyone in your area including a map to wherever you'll eat; tell the breakfast place your total numbers; meet & re-establish old friendships plus make some new ones; swap info on gunship roles; have fun. Anyone desiring to coordinate a breakfast in their area can contact **Jim Terry, Jim Alvis, or Wayne Laessig**. They can explain how to get the e-mail & phone contacts for Gunshippers in your local area. You can also get an update from any board member on what the latest is with Reunion or Association plans.

Wayne Laessig went over attendance figures for all our Reunions:

| <u>Year R</u> | <u>Location</u> | <u>Total</u> | <u>Fri Social</u> | <u>Sat Banquet</u> |
|---------------|------------------------|--------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| 2000 R1 | FWB Florida | 404 | 360 | 404 |
| 2001 R2 | FWB Florida | 190 | 175 | 190 |
| 2002 R3 | FWB Florida | 225 | 205 | 225 |
| 2003 R4 | FWB Florida | 171 | 171 | 170 |
| 2004 R5 | Dayton Ohio | 368 | 316 | 368 |
| 2005 R6 | FWB Florida | 221 | 199 | 221 |
| 2006 R7 | Albuquerque New Mexico | 263 | 249 | 263 |
| 2007 R8 | Destin Florida | 222 | 213 | 202 |
| 2008 R9 | Branson Missouri | 254 | 238 | 236 |

Officer Nominations for 2008-2009 were presented & accepted by acclamation as follows:

President: Gus Sininger
Secretary: Jim Alvis
Member-at-Large: Wayne Laessig

Vice President: Jerry McDonald
Treasurer: Doug Wohlgamuth

We adjourned the annual meeting at 1115 hours.

Jim Alvis
Secretary

Reunion X – St. Augustine, FL - Highlights and Information

Just a brief update to keep everyone up to speed. I have meetings scheduled tomorrow with the 1) Visitors and Convention Bureau, 2) Northrop-Grumman, and 3) Hotel Management. I will begin laying out all the requirements with the Hotel management. I had a Navy event at that hotel this past weekend and the service was outstanding. I met with the Suncruz Casino people yesterday and they are very anxious to put together a good package for us. I did an all day trip with them about two years ago and it was superb. They send a bus down from Mayport to pick you up, take you directly to the ship, free passes for the day which includes lunch, drinks are very modestly priced. You go off shore several miles and then cruise south. It's a lot of fun and lots of gambling for anyone so inclined.

Visitors and Convention Bureau: I will be asking them for the free passes for all our folks to all the attractions in the city as well as free trolley passes for Thurs-Sun. Impossible to see everything in one day so you can go back on the trolley the following days to see other attractions. A very popular event for those who may have an interest is the nightly ghost tour. St. Augustine is a beautiful city at night, especially along the Bay-front and the ghost tour is a walking tour along the bay area. I have asked the V&C folks for a DVD of the area which I will pass along to Bill Petrie to be loaded on the website.

Northrop Grumman: I plan to have an escorted tour through the factory at NG. This plant is currently building the latest version of the E-2 Hawkeye for the Navy as well as many other integrated systems. As we tour the facility, I will be pointing out the line flow when the C-119G was converted to the AC-119G/K. All the hangers, flight line area, and runways are exactly as they were when the Gunship was produced here.

Jalaram Hotels: The management is prepared to turn over the complete hotel for the reunion. The Hooch area and hotel rooms are not a problem for guests and the rate is \$95 per night. We have lots of convention space in this town for the two major events, our welcoming social and banquet, and it's all nearby the hotel. This hotel is in the heart of the city so it makes it convenient.

Other Activities: Golf is a favorite past time in the St. Augustine area and we have the World Golf Hall of Fame here. This will be one of the side trips I will be working on to acquire special passes for all the golfers who may want to visit the Golf Hall of Fame or play the two pro courses. Fishing charters are also available directly from the downtown city Marina for 1/2 day and full day trips for anyone interested. Cape Canaveral is about 1.5 hour drive down I-95 and day trips are available. I will update everyone periodically as I meet with different groups and finalize details. My intent is to comply with Gunship Association policy and make this a rememberable experience for everyone who attends.

Bill Dudley

Latest Cruise Information: The best cruise deal so far: Carnival Cruise ship 'Fascination' (nicer and larger than the "Holiday" out of Mobile) Departing Jacksonville(40 miles from St. Augustine) at 1600 on September 19, 2009. it's a 5 night cruise to Nassau and Half Moon Cay, returning to Jacksonville at 0800 on September 24, 2009. Total cost is \$400 /person for outside cabin, with \$100 ship credit per cabin. Rate will be less if we book more than 8 cabins.

Bob Krueger

AC-119 History Book Project Report Branson Reunion

AC-119 History Book Project Report Branson Reunion

An overwhelming majority of the 95 association members attending the Saturday morning business meeting raised their hands to help fund printing of the AC-119 History Book at a cost of \$50 per person. A \$50 contribution assures the member of one copy of the history book, hopefully at the 2009 St. Augustine Reunion. Additional copies are guaranteed at a cost of \$50 per copy. With Association funds limited and the need for "seed money" to print the approximately 300-page history book, members present did not hesitate to voice their support of this proposal.

The Drop Dead-Line Date for accepting bio's and/or stories for this history book is "Inauguration Day", Tuesday January 20, 2009. Twenty-six additional biographies / stories were collected during the Branson Reunion. AC-119 Gunship History Book Biography / Stories Forms are available in this Newsletter and on the AC-119 Gunship Website for anyone who has not submitted a bio and/or story. Although the Association will continue to accept bio's, stories, and photographs after January 20, there is no guarantee that they will be included in this history book.

The Drop Dead-Line Date for Book Orders is "Air Force Day", Saturday August 1, 2009. A History Book "Order Form" is obtainable on the next page, and on the AC-119 Gunship Website. Although the Association will continue to take orders past the August 1 deadline, sending your order form after August 1 will not guarantee a book for you at the 2009 St. Augustine Reunion. Ralph Lefarth and Larry Fletcher have set the Dead-Line of August 1 because they must have time to solicit bids from book printers and final selection of the printing company. Adequate time is essential in proofing print drafts and the final printing process. Then the selected printing company must have time to print the books.

Submitted by Larry Fletcher
History Book Project Coordinator

AC-119 Gunship Association History Book Order Form

AC-119 GUNSHIP HISTORY BOOK
SHADOW - STINGER
ORDER FORM

Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone #: Land Line _____ Cell Phone _____

E-Mail Address: _____

AC-119 Gunship History Book - Number of Copies x Price per Copy = Total

_____ X \$50 = \$_____

Check Number: _____ Amount: _____ (No Credit Cards Accepted)

Make checks payable to **“The AC-119 Gunship Association History Book Fund”**
and mail this completed order form plus your check to:

Doug Wohlgamuth, Treasurer
AC-119 Gunship Association
504 Shea Place
Sun City Center, FL 33573
Ph: 813-633-0685

E-mail: busch791@msn.com

Drop Dead Date to order a Book for the 2009 St. Augustine Reunion
“Air Force Day” – Saturday – August 1, 2009

AC 119 Gunship Association Biographies & Stories Form

AC 119 Gunship Association Biographies & Stories Form

Instructions: For AC-119 Gunshippers who have not submitted bio's & stories for the History Book, please complete this form to the best of your ability and return to Larry Fletcher; 606 Racquet Club Drive; Lake Ozark, MO 65049 or via e-mail fletch12@charter.net. If needed, use additional sheets to complete your bio information and war stories and attach them to this form. Drop Dead Date is 'Inauguration Day', January 20, 2009!

NAME: _____
(Last) (First) (Middle)

ADDRESS: _____
(Street) (City) (State) (Zip)

E-MAIL: _____

PHONE #'s with Area Code: Home: _____ Cell: _____

Year of Birth: _____ Place of Birth: _____

Home Town/City: _____

High School Attended & Date of Graduation: _____

College Attended & Date of Graduation: _____

Date/Place You Entered the USAF: _____

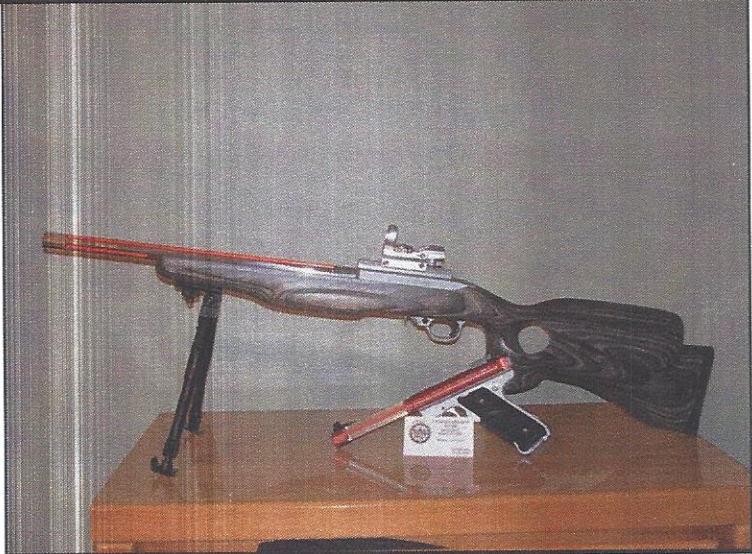
Why you joined the USAF: _____

Squadron Number(s) {17th/18th/71st}, Job {Pilot/Nav/Sensor/FE/GunlIO/Maint.}, Dates and Place Assigned to AC-119 Special Operations Squadron(s):

My Most Exciting AC-119 Mission(s) or Event(s) in S.E.A. was:

AC-119 Gunship Association Commemorative Rifle/Pistol Form

Rifle is a 22 (long rifle) caliber built on a Ruger Model 10/22 action, with a custom laminated Boyds stock, SS bull barrel, action tuned trigger, bipod, and 4 reticle Halo sight that will group three shots in 1/2 inch at 50 yards. The stock is black to signify our night missions, the receiver is silver signifying our wings and medals, the barrel is red to signify the blood we lost in SEA, the names of our brothers lost in SEA are engraved in the barrel, and the Association coin is embedded in the rifle's stock. Pistol is a 22 caliber 10 shot Ruger "Tactical Solutions" Model with a similar color scheme.



**Raffle Tickets: One for \$10, Six for \$50,
Thirteen for \$100**

ONE- \$10

SIX- \$50

THIRTEEN \$100

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

Phone: () _____ Cell: () _____

E-Mail: _____

Total Tickets: _____ Total Amount: _____

(No Credit Cards Accepted)

Make Checks payable to:

"AC-119 GUNSHIP ASSOCIATION COMMEMORATIVE RAFFLE"

SEND COMPLETED FORM AND CHECK TO:

**Doug Wohlgamuth, Treasurer
AC-119 Gunship Association
504 Shea Place
Sun City Center, FL 33573
(813)-633-0685**

bush791@msn.com

THE RAFFLE FOR THIS ONE-OF-A-KIND SET WILL TAKE PLACE AT THE ST. AUGUSTINE REUNION BANQUET, SEPTEMBER 26, 2009

YOU NEED NOT BE PRESENT TO WIN

Fly-By



You've just finished reading my first attempt at editing a newsletter, I hope you've enjoyed it! I welcome your inputs and ideas, and look forward to hearing from you. Although my personal history with the \$1.19 is short, the 'honor by association' is, and will be, always with me!

I started training July 72, with Lt Col Dick Ring as my class leader, and my instructors were Jim Boyd & Tommy Newbold. *as far as I know*, I was the last In-Country Qualified AC-119K Gunner. Check ride completed on 26 Nov 72, by TSgt Leroy Jackson, in Bien Hoa.

The honor of being witness to the amazing history of all *your experiences*, is the highlight of my career. All of your efforts, and the sacrifice of our lost Brothers, will be remembered, not as a side note in Gunship development, but as a proven heroic, indispensable, and deadly part of the Viet Nam War. The \$1.19 legacy will be handed down, and given her well earned place in Air Force history.

See you next quarter!

Tony Pakutinski

Newsletter Editor, AC-119 Gunship Association

Moments



P.S. I hope you enjoy the various pictures in this Newsletter. Because this is the Reunion IX issue, I took the liberty of including the most possible. The AC-119 Gunship Association Web site will always be the 'Place to Go' for viewing all the submitted photos. But, if there is room in the newsletter, I'll keep putting snapshots of our friends and family in the 'Moments' section.

Help Save Association Resources: If you receive multiple copies, or wish to receive the newsletter via e-mail, contact Association Secretary, Jim Alvis, at shadow1969@indy.rr.com, so we can update our mailing list.

AC-119 Gunship Association
3110 Magua Court
Carmel, IN 46033-4136



Place
Stamp
here