

# The AC-119 Gunship Association

## July 2015 News Flash

### Association President's Message:

July, 2015

Our AC-119 Gunship Association Reunion landing in St. Louis is fast approaching touchdown. Reunion coordinators Ev Sprous and Wade Dunn have worked hard to make this 16th reunion a fun-filled and memorable experience. You can help them by making your reunion arrangements ASAP. All necessary information for reunion registration, hotel reservations, tours, and other activities can be found in this "FLASH!"

Please read Peggy Craig's (Don's better-half) notice below about reunion Silent Auction donation items. Our auction is a big fund-raiser for our Association. Your participation is appreciated. Of course, Gus Sininger will again be the auctioneer. Thank you, Peggy, Cindy Poisey, and Gus.

Special recognition goes to St. Louis native, Shadow Gunner **David Voisey**, who is now the **17th SOS** Point of Contact (POC) for our Association. Thank you, David.

Our Association Videographer J.P. Mac Isaac will again be at the reunion to record your memories / close calls, etc. associated with AC-119 Gunships. Thank you, John Paul.

Among all the things to do, I look forward to seeing old friends and meeting new friends, touring St. Louis on Friday, listening to "The USAF Band of the Midwest" at the Saturday banquet, and cruising the Mississippi on Sunday. The Party Hootch opens at noon on Wednesday, Sept. 16!

Show-Me your Spirit of St. Louis and Meet Me in St. Louie. Like Uncle Sam posters state, "We Want You." Sign-Up Now!!

v/r

Larry Fletcher

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### News & Reminders from the Secretary

1. We do very much want to keep in contact with you. Therefore, PLEASE remember to contact your group POC or the Association Secretary when you change contact information.
2. NEW Point-Of-Contact for the 17<sup>th</sup> SOS: David Voisey (former gunner) accepted the challenge to handle the tasks associated with the POC. You can contact him: [dvoisey@hotmail.com](mailto:dvoisey@hotmail.com)
3. **Change of Command, 18<sup>th</sup> Flight Test Squadron, Hurlburt Field, FL. Associate Gus Sininger attended the COC ceremony on Friday, July 10, 2015.** LTCOL Kevin "Hubbie" Huebert relinquished the command over to LTCOL Daniel E. Kobs.
4. IF YOU RECEIVE THIS Newsletter by U. S. POSTAL MAIL DELIVERY AND YOU DO HAVE AN EMAIL ADDRESS, let me know if you want future Newsletters and FLASHES sent via email. You can SAVE us a lot in "office expenses!"  
Contact Association Secretary: Mike Drzyzga at: [drzyzga513@hotmail.com](mailto:drzyzga513@hotmail.com)

5. Are you interested in some AC-119 historical facts, current events, and interesting dialogue and stories about AC-119s? If you have Internet (web-www) access on your computer, then you have to browse to: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/195912423919726/>  
Join the **Facebook group**, which now has **over 300** interesting FB members!!
6. Also, there are FB pages dedicated to “Air Force Gunners”, “Air Force 462 Weapons”, and “U.S. Military Veterans news you can use” – very interesting pictures and history, and valuable information.
7. The Association’s IT Committee is working very hard to bring-up the Association’s new Web site. The exiting Web site is designed so that current content can not be simply moved to the new one website. Therefore, almost all of the files and items for the new site are being reorganized, renamed and/or reformatted. Progress is steady and sure, thanks to Wayne Laessig, Ron Julian, Jim Mattison, Bob Dydo, and Mike Drzyzga. Thank you Bill Petrie for continuing to update info on the existing site.

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**FINAL FLIGHT addendum – May they rest in peace (Thank you Wayne Laessig for excellent records):**

**Bobby Pritchard , Shadow FE, March 3, 2015**

**Rodney Sizemore, Shadow Nav, October, 2013**

**Maurice Sluss, Stinger Ops Officer, December 20, 1997**

**Merle Young, Stinger Nav, February 14, 2015**

**We also lost Margaret Scott, 18<sup>th</sup> Maintainer Wayne Scott’s spouse & our best “outreach” person ever – she found or re-established contact with over 300 of our Gunshippers.**

Good news: Paul Campbell, Ron Hinton, Marshall Mullins, Neil Taylor, & Andy Turlington are either recovered or still fighting to keep & regain their health.

Please keep all the above & their families in your prayers.

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**Welcome to New Association Members:**

1. **Bruce Whelan, Pilot, 18<sup>th</sup> SOS, Jan. – Dec. 72, LIFE #408**
  2. **Gordon Roberts, Gunner, 18<sup>th</sup> SOS, 72-73, LIFE #409**
  3. **William Withuhn, NAV/NOS, 71<sup>st</sup>/17<sup>th</sup>, Feb.69 – Feb.70, LIFE # 410.**
  4. **Bruce L. Muller, Crew Chief, May 69 – May 70, LIFE #412**
  5. **Michael S. Smith, Gunner, 17<sup>th</sup> SOS converted to LIFE # 411, and**
  6. **Dana Hensley, Maintainer 17/18 (14<sup>th</sup> FMS) converted to LIFE #413.**
  7. **Leonard “Gene” Vanover, Pilot, 17<sup>th</sup> SOS, Nov 70 – Sep 71, converted to LIFE #414**
  8. **Lt. Col. Daniel E. Kobs, Commander 18<sup>th</sup> FLTS, Hurlburt Field, Honorary LIFE #415**
  9. **Kenneth “Festus” Heister, 4<sup>th</sup> SOS and 17<sup>th</sup> SOS, FE and Maintainer, May 69 – Jun 70.**
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**AC-119 Gunship Association Reunion XVI**  
**St. Louis, MO, Wed. Sept. 16 – Sun. Sept. 20, 2015.**

**"Meet Us in St Louis" is hosted by Ev Sprouss and Wade Dunn in the "Gateway to the West".**

**NOW is the time** to complete your plans to join us in St Louis, MO for another great reunion. Our reunion begins on Wednesday, Sept. 16th, where you can sit down with old and new friends in the Hootch and share your memorabilia and photos (we'll scan your documents for posterity and our historical archives). You will also be able to do a videotape session or remake an old one about your time with the AC-119 gunships for your family and our AC-119 history.

The reunion and the St Louis area has much to offer... AND we have plenty of activities lined up for you.

**\*\* See the information BELOW regarding the "Discover St. Louis" tour on Friday!**

**\*\* Also, there will be a Sunday Brunch** while cruising on the Mississippi River by paddle boat, late Sunday morning (see the information BELOW).

**NOTE:** There will be "goodie bags", provided to the reunion attendees, containing a lot of information about sight seeing and attractions in the St. Louis area. As examples: There is a spectacular **Botanical Gardens**, and of course, the **Budweiser Brewery!**

Also, **IF** you have a Name Tag lanyard from a previous reunion sitting at home, **THEN** bring it with you for reuse this year!!!

**Video Recording YOUR History:** J.P. Mac Isaac will attend, and is again eager to have you relax and tell "your story" in order to preserve this in our history. You can do this individually or gather a group of buddies to join together to tell your story!!

**NOTICE – Silent Auction after Banquet:** two supporting spouses, Peggy Craig and Cindy Posey, are planning to hold an upbeat silent auction. They would like you to consider donating easily carried items (travel friendly) to the reunion for this silent auction. Handmade items or things that are particular to one's home area (like pecans from Texas or wine from your State winery) are fun. Donors will be able to request a minimum bid for their donation. All the bids will be secret - the only folks who will know who bids a given amount will be the committee that sorts the bids and declares the winners. They and Auctioneer Gus Sininger will complete this activity at the end of the Banquet. This is a lot of fun, and is an important fund-raiser for the Association. Please contact Peggy Craig at email: [peggy22222@aol.com](mailto:peggy22222@aol.com).

**Reunion Shirts:** Order your Association SHIRT using the shirt order form BELOW. Your shirts will be in your Welcome Bag at the Reunion Registration Desk when you arrive. These are high-quality Golf Style Jerseys, with collar, in either Black or Grey. Help your Association save money by ordering shirts early so we know exactly how many we need and avoid trying to sell leftovers.

Early orders will also assure a shirt is available when you arrive. **Order deadline is August 15, 2015.** Print the form, complete the information, and mail it along with your Registration Form.

**The Crown Plaza Airport Hotel Information**

The Crown Plaza St Louis Airport Hotel and Conference Center is the Official site of Reunion XVI, located near the Lambert St Louis Airport. The reunion hotel is close to all tourist attractions, Convention Center, and Downtown.

Check this:

<http://www.ihg.com/crowneplaza/hotels/us/en/bridgeton/stlap/hoteldetail/local-guide-whats-nearby>

St Louis Airport Crown Plaza  
 11228 Lone Eagle Drive  
 Bridgeton, MO 63044  
 Tel: (314) 291-6700  
 Call Toll Free: 1-800-2CROWNE (1-800-227-6963)  
 Web: [www.cphotelstlouis.com](http://www.cphotelstlouis.com) for on-line reservations

**Important! Hotel reservations are not part of the Reunion Registration Form! You must make your Hotel Reservation separately.** Don't delay making your room Reservations.....with the St Louis Balloon Festival going on this weekend, rooms will go fast.

**ROOM RATE** is \$99 per night, PLUS fees/taxes total \$115.31, for single or double occupancy.

Reunion Group Rates is available for 3 days pre/post reunion, based on hotel availability.

ROOM Rates include;

- Complimentary Full Hot Breakfast.
- FREE SHUTTLE to/from the Airport.
- FREE SHUTTLE within a 5-mile radius of the HOTEL, that includes Old Town St. Charles, Metro Link light rail.

**Cut-OFF DATE: 25 August, 2015.** After that date, you will have to go one-on-one with the HOTEL for availability!!

FIRST complete your hotel registration. THEN print out, fill-out, and mail in your Reunion Registration Form, including a check or money order (and shirt order form) TO Association Treasurer Doug Wohlgamuth. His address is on the Reunion Registration Form.

**Who is coming: as of 7/20/2015 –**

Alderson, Larry & Debbie	McCall, Cash & Mary
Barkalow, Jimmy & daughter Jennifer & Guests William	Michels, John & Linda
Arnall & Jacey Morgan	Nelson, Larry & Lorrie
Bright, Andy & Linda	Posey, Bill & Cindy
Byrd, Bruce & Jo Anna	Rash, James (1 <sup>st</sup> Reunion)
Cole, Ernest	Raveling, Vern & Betty with guests Roland & Helen Wunder
Connolly, Robert & Guest Cathy Henry	Renfro, George & Betty
Drzyzga, Mike & Andrea	Sarul, Terry & Theresa
Dunn, Jim & Janet	Seiferd, Pam & David (Sister of Tommy Lubbers – Shadow
Dunn, Wade & Sons David & Brain Daughters Renee` &	78) with daughter Lisa Murray & son Jeremy Burke (1 <sup>st</sup>
Emily, Grandson Tyrus, Sister Linda Lowley	Reunion)
Eggert, Dee & Rhonda Jones	Sininger, Gus & daughter Alonda Sininger
Fletcher, Larry & Sue	Smith, Bernie & Judy
Fraham, Leroy & Rose	Sprous, Ev with guests Thui Maddux, sister Ruth Chapman
Graves, Karen	& husband Bill, Daughter Charlotte Sue Wagner and her
Hansen, William	boyfriend, Steve Heddrich
Heuss, Herman (AL) & Helen	Stearn, Ken & Veronika
Hinton, Ron & Carol	Stevens, Rogers with guest Mel Mehlinger
Hunter, Larry & Soncy	Voisey, David & Mary
Jordan, Lee & Tim (Daughter of Meredith Anderson-	Whelan, Bruce & Susan (1 <sup>st</sup> Reunion)
Shadow 78)	Wohlgamuth, Doug
Krauss, Mike	Wolf, Lee & guest Rosie Bishop

Laessig, Wayne & Lynette Mac Isaac, Steve Martin, Dale & Jeanette Mattison, Jim & Lynn	Bastin, Jack & Carolyn Diehl, Phillip & Mary Lois Greisamer, Tom & Melan Jaeckle, Al (Jake) & Beverley Taylor, Neil & Murel Wolf, John & Laura (1st Reunion)
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**OFFICIAL Association Golf Shirt ORDER FORM**

**REUNION XVI in St. Louis, MO – Shirt Oder DEADLINE: Aug. 15, 2015**

Golf-shirts are available in MOST SIZES and either grey or black. Golf-shirt is made with Association logo and your name embroidered on the front. SIZES: Medium, Large, X-Large, XX-Large without pocket!

**DONATION PRICING** (Includes Shipping and Handling) = **\$40.00 (new price effective Jan. 2015)**

SIZE	QTY	COLOR		UNIT PRICE	TOTAL PRICE

**\*\*MULTIPLY YOUR QUANTITY BY THE UNIT PRICE TO GET YOUR TOTAL PRICE.\*\* MAKE CHECK or MONEY ORDER PAYABLE TO: AC-119 Gunship Association *INCLUDED with your registration payment!!***



**Friday, Sept. 18, TOUR.....Discovering St Louis is more than just the Arch.** It is seeing the city's neighborhoods and some of its major attractions on a driving tour narrated by an experienced guide. Your professional Discover St Louis guide will meet your group at the hotel and depart with you for your city tour. We begin with Laclede's Landing, a nine block historic area named for the founder of the city. Driving through the cobblestone streets will bring you to the riverfront and to a view of the 630 foot tall Gateway Arch. You will see the oldest cathedral west of the Mississippi, the Old Courthouse where the Dred Scott case began, and Busch Stadium. Enjoy a historic drive through Soulard, the oldest surviving residential neighborhood in the city. The neighborhood centers around an outdoor market that dates from the 1700's. Another beautiful neighborhood to enjoy is Lafayette Park, which boasts the largest concentration of Victorian-era architecture in the nation and is also named one of the "ten prettiest painted lady neighborhoods" in the country by Better Homes and Gardens and Architecture magazines. Enjoy a tour at Anheuser Busch InBev Brewery where you will see the stables, cellar and brew house and enjoy a complimentary sample. **Lunch today will be on your own at Favazza's** Restaurant ((314) 492-3262 [www.favazzas.com](http://www.favazzas.com) . Located in the famed Italian neighborhood known as "The Hill," you'll enjoy an authentic Italian lunch. We round out our day with a tour to the Cathedral Basilica, home to 84,000 square feet of mosaic tiles. (Cathedral is available based around mass, funeral and wedding schedules).

***Cost for tour is \$33.00 per person based on a minimum of 25 people paid. Cost includes a luxury motor coach, a professional Discover St Louis tour guide, a tour at AB InBev Brewery, tour of Cathedral Basilica, and all arrangements and reservations. Lunch is on your own at Favazza's Restaurant. Gratuity to driver and guide is not included in the cost. Suggest a \$1 - \$2 per person for each guide and driver. The bus will pick up the tour attendee's at 9:30 AM, at the hotel and return to the hotel at 2:30 PM***

## AC-119 Reunion -- Sunday Group Activity

For those who are interested, we thought it would be nice to put together a Sunday outing.

On Sunday, September 20th there is a Riverboat Cruise/Sunday Brunch, 12:30-3:00, that the "Gateway Arch Riverboat's" run. This is a 2 hour river boat cruise on the Mississippi.

The cost is \$40.00 per person, \$18.00 for children 3-12. The cost is separate from the reunion registration fees.

**Brunch includes:** French Toast, Cheese Blintzes, Sausage, Eggs, Prime Rib, Chicken Breast, Vegetable's, Pasta's, Tossed salad, Fruit salad, OJ, Coffee, Ice Tea and Assorted Cakes.

**We have 50 seats reserved for this activity; seats can be added based on availability of the River-Boat.**

Donations are greatly appreciated to offset the cost for a bus rental.

Any further information, please contact:

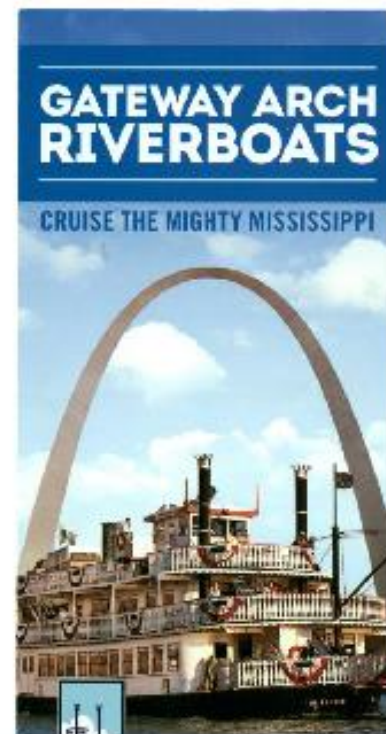
Andrea Drzyzga  
973-409-4861 or email [andreadrzy@yahoo.com](mailto:andreadrzy@yahoo.com)

If you are interested, fill out the bottom registration form and send it along with your check or money order payable to:

AC-119 Gunship Association/Memo River Cruise

Mail to:

Doug Wohlgamuth (AC-119)  
504 Shea Place  
Sun City Center, Florida 33573-5726



### 2015 SPECIALTY CRUISES

Call (877) 982-1110 or visit [GATEWAYARCH.COM](http://GATEWAYARCH.COM) for more information or to make cruise reservations. Reservations required.

\* **SUNDAY BRUNCH** - A midday getaway includes a delicious brunch buffet accompanied by the upbeat sounds of a live Dixieland duo. **Adults \$40; Children (3-12) \$18**  
**Cruise Time: 1 pm-3 pm (Boards at 12:30 pm)**

#### 2015 CRUISE DATES:

Sundays: April 5th, May 10th, June 21st, July 19th, August 16th, September 20th

### Sunday Group Activity-Gateway Arch Riverboats

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ # of seats \_\_\_\_\_ x \$40.00 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Donation for Transportation \_\_\_\_\_ Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

**2015 AC-119 GUNSHIP REUNION XVI REGISTRATION**  
**SEPTEMBER 16 - 20, 2015 ST. LOUIS, MO**  
**“Meet Us in St Louis”**

*This is NOT your Hotel Registration (this is your Reunion Registration Only!)*

**Name** (First, Middle Initial, Last) \_\_\_\_\_  
Are you an AC-119 Gunship Association member? Yes\_\_\_ No\_\_\_ Years Served with Gunships: \_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_  
Squadron: 71<sup>st</sup>\_\_\_\_ 17<sup>th</sup>\_\_\_\_ 18<sup>th</sup>\_\_\_\_ other (\_\_\_\_\_) Crew Position/Role: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address (include Zip+4) \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_ email \_\_\_\_\_  
Spouse/Guest Name: (First, Middle Initial, Last) \_\_\_\_\_

Additional Guests (#) \_\_\_\_\_ Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Are you staying at the Reunion Hotel? Yes\_\_\_ No\_\_\_ If staying somewhere else, where? \_\_\_\_\_

Is this your 1<sup>st</sup> Reunion: Yes\_\_\_ No\_\_\_

**REUNION FEE**.....# attending \_\_\_\_ X \$25 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**NOTE: Hootch opens 12:00 Wednesday**

**YES! I / We will attend:**

**Friday** Tour St Louis (see web or Newsletter for details) (Min 25 People).....#attending \_\_\_\_ X \$33 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

• **Friday Night Meet & Greet** (see web or Newsletter for menu)..... # attending \_\_\_\_ X \$29 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

• **Saturday Night Banquet**

▶ Beef Stroganoff ..... # of meals \_\_\_\_ X \$37 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

▶ Stuffed Chicken ..... # of meals \_\_\_\_ X \$37 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

▶ Baked Cod ..... # of meals \_\_\_\_ X \$37 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

• **Sunday Morning Golf Tournament** ..... # playing \_\_\_\_ X \$10 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

• **Sunday Evening Western Buffett Dinner**..... # attending \_\_\_\_ X \$30 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Check # \_\_\_\_\_ Total Payment = \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

**NOTE:** For special meal needs or questions, contact Ev Sprous 314-221-7385 ([ac119gunner@hotmail.com](mailto:ac119gunner@hotmail.com)) or Wade Dunn 314-429-7396. Gluten Free meals are available upon special request.

Print this Registration Form **First** and then fill it out (since our current website version will not save your info) and snail-mail the registration form along with your check or money order payable to: AC-119 Gunship Association to: Doug Wohlgamuth (AC-119)  
504 Shea Place  
Sun City Center, FL 33573-5726

Mailing this page with your payment completes your Reunion registration. **BUT**, you still need to contact Crowne Plaza Hotel in Bridgeton, Missouri for room reservations at [www.cphotelstlouis.com](http://www.cphotelstlouis.com) or call toll free 1-866-282-4643 – code is **GUN**. Tell them you are attending the AC-119 Gunship Reunion. Your Reunion rate is good for **3 days** before and after our Reunion Dates of September 16-20. More information about Reunion Tours will be posted on our Website [www.ac-119gunships.com](http://www.ac-119gunships.com) and in our Newsletter.

**Questions about Registration?** Contact Doug at [Busch791@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:Busch791@tampabay.rr.com) or at 813-938-1886 or 813-781-5728.

Reunion Registration cancellations on or before August 25: Refund or Donation as requested.

Reunion Registration cancellations after September 1<sup>st</sup>: The Association has to pay hotel “guarantees”, so no refunds. (But talk to us if there are special circumstances like family emergencies or losses).

Hotel Registration: If you cancel after the minimum **72 hour notification**, you will be charged for one day.

**See You in St. Louis, Missouri**