



Air Weather Reconnaissance Association

Volume 20 No. 1

May 2012



1937 - 2012 75 YEARS OF AIR FORCE WEATHER

On 1 July 1937, the Secretary of War designated the Army Air Corps as the Army organization responsible for weather services.

In 1987, Air Weather Service recognized this date as a good beginning to our AWS Heritage. The real lineage of today's Air Force Weather Agency traces to 14 Apr 1943, when the Army Air Forces created the Weather Wing in Asheville, NC. In 1945 the name changed to Army Air Forces Weather Service, and then it became the Air Weather Service (AWS) on 13 Mar 1946.

AWS operated under the Military Air Transport Service, and then the Military Airlift Command until 1991.

The Air Force redesignated AWS as a Field Operating Agency, and assigned it directly to HQ USAF in 1991.

On 15 Oct 1997, AWS was redesignated the Air Force Weather Agency (AFWA) and moved to Offutt AFB, NE.

AFWA today continues the heritage of providing great weather support to the warfighter. It is organized into a headquarters element (with staff agencies), two groups, four directorates, a subordinate center, and five solar observatories. It consists of over 1,400 active duty, reserve, civilian and contract personnel. These men and women strive daily to continue the 75 years of outstanding work that has gone before.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

by G.D. "Stoney" Faubus, AWRA President

I would like to start my first "Message from the President" with a great big thank you to Bob Tuttle, for the super job he did as the President for eight years. That will be a hard act to follow, but I promise to do the best that I can. A second thanks goes out to the Association for electing me as the new President. (I think)

For those of you who do not know me here is a brief bio. My name is "Stoney" Faubus and I have been married to my wife, Melva, for 46 years. I retired from the Air Force in 1985 and my last duty assignment was the 54th WRS in Guam from Dec. 1978 until our departure in June of 1985. I was a WC-130E/H Instructor Flight Engineer and loved the Weather Recon mission. After retiring from the USAF in '85, Melva and I both worked for Edwards AFB as Civil Servants. In 2005, we completely retired, and sold our home in California. We have been "On the Road" as full time RVers since. Following military reunions, doctor appointments, friends, kids and grandkids all over the US and enjoying life. I hope to see some old and new faces at this year's reunion in Omaha.



Melva and "Stoney" Faubus enjoy traveling during their retirement. They are seen here on an Alaskan Cruise, but are often found in their home on wheels. They travel throughout the year, visiting family and attending reunions. "Stoney" seems happiest in his new Ford diesel pick-em-up truck, towing their fifth-wheel trailer. You can often find them at a campground near you

Thanks, G.D. "Stoney" Faubus

AWRA Selects New President, Vice President, and Treasurer

At the 2010 reunion, held in Portland, OR, a committee was formed to look for possible replacement for the AWRA President. Then President, Bob Tuttle, had said that health issues were making it more and more difficult to travel to the annual membership meetings held at our reunions.

The Board of Directors (BOD) also asked the committee to review all of our current Association Officers and BOD positions to see if any additional replacements should be identified.

Ralph Ruyle, who had served for a long term as Association Treasurer, requested that we try and find his replacement. In addition, it was noted that our two Vice Presidents were both over 85 years old.

The committee interviewed a large group of possible replacements, and made a recommendation at the 2011 general membership meeting that "Stoney" Faubus be elected as the next President. They also recommended Peter Copeskey as a new Vice President, and Bob Tuttle to become the new Treasurer. After discussion, a motion was made and seconded to accept the recommendations. All three new officers were elected by acclamation of the membership.

Congratulations to "Stoney", Peter, and Bob. Thank you for your willingness to serve.

1 - 5 Aug, Please Join Us in Omaha !!

75 Years of Air Force Weather A Time to Celebrate and Reflect

During the 2011 reunion, AWRA members voted to join AWA in Omaha to help the Air Force Weather Agency celebrate the past 75 years of weather support to the warfighter. The reunion dates are 1 - 5 August 2012.

In the past, when AWRA held joint reunions with AWA, a few AWRA members felt like we were not treated equally. Bernie Barris, the 2012 Reunion POC, has done everything possible to make sure things will be better this time around. The AWA folks have been extremely helpful, and open to making AWRA an equal partner in Omaha.

Both groups will be staying at the Doubletree by Hilton Hotel in downtown Omaha. The rooms are blocked for the Air Force Weather Reunion. It is the same room block for both AWRA and AWA. The beginning rate is \$94 per night (plus state and local tax) for either single or double occupancy. There is a higher rate for 3 or more people in a room. The special rate should be good for up to 3 days before or after the reunion.

On Page 7 of the newsletter, you will find a tentative agenda for our reunion. Wed, 1 August, is arrival day. There will be a separate AWRA Reunion Information table in the lobby of the hotel. After you check into the hotel, you will be directed to the AWRA Hospitality, which will be in one of the "Presidential" Suites.

Thursday, 2 Aug, will be a busy day. Everyone who wishes to take part in the formal AFWA Anniversary functions will depart the hotel via a commercial bus. The exact cost is still being worked, and will depend on total number of seats. We have asked for \$10 per seat on the registration form. This should be the absolute max cost. If we end up paying less, we will refund any extra. It is possible to drive onto Offutt, but you will need a Military ID (Active or Retired). Parking will be extremely limited, so we recommend taking the bus.

After the formal morning events at AFWA, it will be possible to have lunch at the Patriot Club on base. AWA is coordinating a prepaid selection of meals. The cost is \$14.50 person and includes tip.

After lunch, there will be a Weather Heritage Panel and tours of the AFWA work centers. We will work the return to the hotel details based on member needs.

Col Bill Burnette, AWRA Board of Directors member, has offered to host an open house on Thurs evening. This will not cost you anything. We will set up a car pool plan for folks to share a ride to and from the open house. Details will be available in the AWRA Hospitality Suite.

On Friday morning there will be a flight line tour at Offutt hosted by the 45th Recon Squadron. We hope to have at least one, but possibly both, of a WC-135 and OC-135 aircraft. We will use a car pool to and from the hotel, making sure that we have an ID-carrying member in each vehicle. Base parking is always a problem, so we will let you know where to park.

On Friday evening, we have coordinated with AWA to allow any of our members who desire to attend the AWA formal banquet, to do so. We will have an appropriate number of tables reserved for a Reconnaissance section. The cost is \$45 per person, which is not included in your \$70 registration fee. The dress is coat-and-tie. The guest speaker will be General Tom Moorman, former USAF Vice Chief of Staff. Nightwings, a USAF band, will play before dinner, as well as for dancing later in the evening.

On Saturday, we will have a full schedule, including the Board of Directors meeting, followed by the AWRA general membership meeting in the morning. Saturday evening is the AWRA Annual Banquet. This plated dinner is included in your registration fee. Per vote of the AWRA membership, the dress for the Saturday banquet is casual. We will have remarks and presentations from AWRA officers. In addition, the NASA WB-57F Program Office has offered to provide a presentation about their ongoing projects. Included will be a status update on bringing a third aircraft out of storage at Davis-Monthan AFB. There will be chance to ask questions after the presentation.

On Sunday morning, there will be departure hospitality in the Hospitality Suite. Folks can get together one last time to say "Goodbye, and see you next year!" One of our agenda items is to decide where "Next Year" will be. Suggestions for Sacramento, Tucson, and San Antonio have been made. Let us know where you want AWRA to gather.

Contact: bcbarris@aol.com with your ideas!

AWRA Officers		Board of Directors	
President	Stoney Faubus (See Directors List)	Ralph Ruyle (<i>Chairman</i>) 1502 W Mariah Way Fort Walton Beach, FL 325474 (850) 862-1571	
Vice Presidents	Peter Copesky (See Directors List)	Bernard Barris 11019 Oaktree Park San Antonio, TX 78249 (210) 696-5072	William Burnette 1910 Crest Ridge Dr Papillion, NE 68133 (402) 502-3771
	John Hug (See Directors List)		
Secretary	William Burnette (See Directors List)	Charley L. Cooper 10837 St. Xavier Lane St. Ann, MO 63074 (314) 428-4379	Peter Copesky * 4112 E Kilmer St Tucson, AZ 85711 (520) 514-8844
Treasurer	Bob Tuttle 17444 Meadow Creek Dr Eagle River, AK 99577 (907) 694-4992	Stoney Faubus 1329 Hwy 395 N STE 10 – 242 Gardnerville NV 89410	Pat Hanavan 12402 Winding Branch San Antonio TX 78230 (210) 479-0226
Historian-Emeritus	Otha Spencer 4245 Spencer's Road Campbell, TX 75422	John H. Hug 1975 N Peartree Ave Meridian, ID 83642 (208) 898-0601	Arnold Jarvis P.O. Box 776 Elephant Butte, NM 87935 (505) 744-5722
Historian-Archivist	Bernard Barris (See Directors List)	John E. Lein P.O. Box 41288 Charleston, SC 29423 (843) 522-5796	David Young 3800 Vista Circle Dr Lancaster, CA 93536
Membership	Bernard Barris (See Directors List)		

The AWRA Newsletter is an unofficial publication of the Air Weather Reconnaissance Association. Address questions and comments to Bernard Barris, the Editor, at the address listed above, or E-mail Bernie at: awra038@aol.com



We are currently coordinating with Mr Scott Gahrng, the WB-57F Program Manager for NASA, to have a presentation on the current status of their program. NASA has been flying two of the F-models ever since the late 1960's. Early on, the 58th WRS provided crews and support to these flights. After the USAF announced the closure of the 58th, NASA took ownership, and has flown the aircraft on a wide variety of scientific missions. Recently, NASA pulled aircraft 63-13295 from storage at Davis-Montham AFB. This aircraft is currently being fully refurbished, i.e. it will be a zero time, 50-year old, aircraft. It should join the NASA fleet in December 2012.

Official NASA Photo

From the Archives



Robert G David

Included in the TAPS list this year is a true weather recon pioneer that many AWRA members have never heard of.

Bob David was a real hero in WWII, flying B-17s with the 8thAF in England, leading numerous hazardous missions and rising to be group Operations Officer. In 1945 the Army sent him to Command and General Staff School at Ft Levenworth.

Upon graduation, he joined the Air Weather Service at Morrison Field, FL. He was named the first commander of the 1st Air Weather Group (Provisional). He took over Operations when Colonel Richard E. Ellsworth arrived in Sep 1946. In Oct of that year, the 1st was replaced by the 308th Recon Group (Wea).

In Jun 1947, Col David was named commander of the 53rd Recon Sq (VLR) Weather, in Bermuda, and remained commander when the 53rd was replaced by the 373rd in Sep 1947. While with the 53rd/373rd he flew hurricane penetrations in B-25, B-17, and B-29 aircraft, one of the few people to do this in all three aircraft types.

In Jun 1948, Bob transferred to Fairfield-Suisun and took command of the 2078th WRS (Special) that had been created to train crews for planned weather recon squadrons in Hawaii and Japan. In May 49, he became the first commander of the 512th RS (VLR) Weather, destined for Japan.

The 512th continued training in CA, and moved in early 1950 to Yokota AB, Japan. The squadron would play a major role in the Korean War, flying at least one mission over enemy held territory every day. They moved to Misawa during the winter of 1950, and in Feb 1951, the 512th was replaced by the 56th SRS when all the squadrons were renamed. In a little over six years, Bob David commanded (by name) 5 weather recon squadrons, and a Group. Quite an unmatched record.

In 1952, Col David moved to SAC, where he would successfully command both a B-47 and B-52 Wing, earning the first ever Outstanding ORI rating for a B-52 Wing from the SAC IG Team.

TAPS

Sadly, over the past year, AWRA has learned of the deaths of several more members of our weather reconnaissance family. May they Rest in Peace.

Wilson Kelly	2004	
Edward Kaiatt	2005	
Dortha Merrill	2008	Wife of Orrin (D/05)
Margaret Shaefer	2008	Wife of Earl (D/10)
James Coyle	2009	
R. Gustav Danielson	2009	
Jacqueline Durham	2009	Wife of "Bull" (D/02)
Billie Milne	2009	Wife of Dale (D10)
Pat Vineyard	2009	Wife of Jerry (D92)
Robert G David	2010	
Donald G Ketcham, Jr	2010	
Dale Milne	2010	
Leslie Nelson	2010	
Earl A Shaefer	2010	
Swede Wogsland	2010	
Charles Wood	2010	
Pat Bilyeu	2011	Wife of H. Pierce (D/12)
Carlos Bonnot	2011	
Norman Cox	2011	
Donald Haas	2011	
Emma Kaiatt	2011	Wife of Edward (D/05)
James B McClain	2011	**
Tunis Morrow	2011	
Judy Severn	2011	Wife of Bill
Arnold Zimmerman	2011	
Hiram Pierce Bilyeu	2012	
Fred Blum	2012	
Jackie Cox	2012	Wife of Norm (D/11)
John Harris	2012	

As the newsletter was heading to press, we learned of the passing of Barbara Collens on 27 April 2012. She was the wife of former AWS Commander, Maj Gen John W. Collens, III.

In addition, we found out from AWA that Col Robert L Kane died on 5 April 2012. Col Kane commanded the 54th Weather Reconnaissance Squadron from June 1966 through June 1967.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to General Collens and all of the other families who have lost loved ones.

Our lives are so much richer for having known them.

We will greatly miss them all

Hiram Pierce "Bill" Bilyeu

1925 - 2012



AWRA is very sad to report that Colonel H. Pierce "Bill" Bilyeu passed away suddenly in Pocatello ID on 5 Jan 2012. Col Bilyeu was an AWRA Vice President at the time of his death, a position he had held since 1992.

H.P. enjoyed a long association with the Air Weather Service weather reconnaissance mission, beginning in 1948 with his assignment to the 374th Recon Squadron (VLR) Weather, flying B-29 and WB-29 aircraft. He arrived at Fairfield-Suisun AFB in time to be sent to England with a B-29, and his all-bachelor crew, to fly weather missions in support of the Berlin Airlift. He enjoyed telling how his crew was selected for longer than normal deployments due to their unmarried status.

H.P. moved with the 374th to McClellan AFB in 1949. His crew was one of several that chased the radioactive debris from the first Soviet atomic test in Sep 1949.

On 20 Feb 1951, the 347th Recon Sq was inactivated, to be immediately replaced by the 55th Strategic Recon Sq, Medium, Weather, as part of a renaming of AWS units worldwide.

While on Christmas leave in Pocatello, he was captivated by a special young lady who was singing in the choir. On 10 May 1952, he married Patricia Downing at that same church – forever ending his all-bachelor crew days.

Together, Pierce and Pat headed off to Alaska and assignment with the 58th SRS. While there, they celebrated the arrival of their two youngest children.

He stayed with the 58th WRS until 1955, when he left Alaska for the 9th WRG at Andrews AFB, MD. He transferred with the 9th Group to Scott AFB, IL in 1957. He next went off to Air Command and Staff College, graduating in Sep 1961. Then followed assignment to the 53rd WRS in Bermuda, where he added WB-50D to his long resume'. In 1963 he moved with the 53rd to Hunter AFB, GA, and checked out in the new WB-47E. He was selected for promotion to full Colonel, and went off to Air War College, graduating in Jul 1967.

"Bill" now became the commander of the 55th WRS at McClellan, holding that post from Jul 1967 until Nov 1969. He was extremely popular with his troops and was often found out on the flight line, checking to see what they needed, and how he could help. The 55th was operating both the WB-47 and WC-135B aircraft. During his tour, the WC-135 was modified as an air refueling receiver, and began operations around the globe. One of his proudest moments came when he flew a mission with his oldest son, Jay, a Captain assigned to the 1155th Tech Ops Sq, the air sampling "customer".

Beginning in Nov 1972, Col Bilyeu served at HQ Air Weather Service as the DCS/Air Operations/Recon Division. He was the last DCS Air Ops for AWS. His retirement in 1975 coincided with the transfer of the remaining weather recon flying squadrons from AWS to the Aerospace Rescue and Recovery Service. While Col Bilyeu was out visiting the squadrons, your editor had the good fortune to occasionally fly with him on the WC-130. His tens of thousands of hours in AWS aircraft was clearly apparent, a natural pilot.

H.P. stayed very busy in retirement. Near and dear to all of us was his role in setting up the Air Weather Reconnaissance Association. He attended almost every reunion, and we all noticed if he was unable to get together with us. H.P. would always call his many friends to see how they were doing. He made a point of thanking each and every person for all that they did. It is us who need to thank him.

In August 2011, Pat passed away after a long illness. They are survived by their three children, eleven grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren.

Clear skies and fair winds for all your future flights.
May God Bless.

Help Needed

AWRA currently has 660 Life Members and individuals who have a current annual membership. Unfortunately, we do not have valid contact information for quite a few of these folks. Their newsletters have been returned by the USPS as undeliverable. Each year we get about 20 of these returned.

We know that a few of these folks have passed away, some have changed jobs or retired, others moved to smaller homes, or retirement/assisted living. Please check the list and see if you can help us update our information:

Fred J Belli
Joe G Bender
Douglas Brandt
Homer Brooks
Edwin C Brown, Jr
Dennis A Cassidy
Clarence (Bud) Chamberlain
Harold B Chandler
Enoch W Daniels
Leslie (Doc) Dokter
Al Elam
Theodore Ferdaszewski
Norman B Foster
Germanus (Jack) France
L. Ray Gibson
A.J. (Red) Gross
Franklin Gunther
Robert Hegstrom
Eugean L Hochstedler
C.A. (Jack) Howell
Billy F Hughes
Francis (Frank) Hughes
Dale Jackson
Carl F Johnson, Jr
Joseph C Kennedy, Jr
Dr Clifford Kern
Joe Landa
Warren Lawyer
Joseph Liuzza
Kevin Loy
Gordan Macek
John L Madray
Clifton K Momberg
Bernard Mullany
Orbrey Owens
Kimberly Paradis
Robert Pauls
Donald Pittman

Leslie Poff
Jack Reed
James W Reel
Fellie (Fred) Robinson
Clarence Sakamoto
Gary Schafer
Donald C Schertz
Stephen Schild
Jack W Shelton
William C Simpson
David Skaret
Fred Staab
Hester Stubbs
Fred M Towles
Larry Turpin
Roy Voda
Earl (Curt) Wells
Howard White

WIDOWS

Pamela Bradbury
Peggy Brannum
Evelyn Bullock
Joyce Collins
Marjorie L Crowe
Loretta DeSandoro
Barbara A Gaughan
Barbara Gilchrist
Sharon Grisham
Betty Lou Marsh
Betty Nelson
Margaret (Scottie) Rice
Kay Rowan
Alma Stanfield
Barbara Stengel
Eileen Thomas
Lyda Vigansky
Gladys Yeomans

If you know the current whereabouts of any of these folks, please contact the AWRA Membership Chairman, Bernie Barris, at: **(210) 274-9974**

You can also E-mail him at: bcbarris@aol.com

Or use the return "Snail Mail" address found on the back of newsletter.

If this newsletter was forwarded to you by the USPS, PLEASE contact Bernie to update your information, so we can keep our database as current as possible.

2012 AWRA Reunion Tentative Agenda

Wed, 1 Aug 2012

1300-1800 Registration in Lobby
1400-2200 Hospitality in the Hospitality Suite
1800-2200 Registration in the Hospitality Suite
All Day Personal Activities

Thu, 2 Aug 2012

0900-2300 Hospitality/Registration in the Hospitality Suite

0730-0800 Depart Doubletree for 75th Anniversary
Celebration of AF Weather - Offutt AFB
Car Pool or Commercial Bus - \$10

0900-0945 Flagpole Ceremony
0950-1000 MIA/KIA Plaque Unveiled
1000-1030 "State of AFWA" Briefing: Dr Lewis
1030-1245 Lunch at Patriot Club - \$14.50
1300-1430 Heritage Panel
1445-1700 Work Center Tours
TBD Return to Doubletree Hotel
Based on Member needs, Bus/Car Pools
can return folks as required

TBD Open House at Bill Burnette Home
We will Car Pool from the Hotel

All Day Personal Activities

Fri, 3 Aug 2012

0800-2300 Hospitality in the Hospitality Suite
(May be closed after 1800 if most /
all attend the optional AWA Banquet)

0900-1300 Possible Offutt Flight Line Tour
Open Skies (Former WC-135B)
1800-2359 **(Optional)** AWA Banquet - \$45
Dress: Coat and Tie
Speaker: Gen Moorman
Music: USAF Band, Nightwing
Dancing: 2100-2359
All Day Personal Activities

Sat, 4 Aug 2012

0800-1700 Hospitality in the Hospitality Suite

0900-1030 AWRA Board of Directors Meeting
1030-1200 AWRA General Membership Meeting

1800-1900 No-Host Social Hour
1845 Group Photos
1900-2200 Annual **AWRA Banquet** - Casual Dress
Speaker: Scott Gahring
NASA WB-57F Program Manager

Sun, 5 Aug 2012

0800-1200 Departure Hospitality



Air Weather Reconnaissance Association

c/o Bernard C. Barris
11019 Oaktree Park
San Antonio, TX 78249-4440

Place
Postage
Here

IMPORTANT REUNION REMINDER!

The 2012 AWRA Reunion
will be held in Omaha, NE
from 1 - 5 August 2012

PLEASE FILL OUT THE ENCLOSED
REGISTRATION FORM AND
MAIL IT IN TODAY!

Also, Call the Doubletree Hotel and make your reservation!