

556 SMS ASSOCIATION

REUNION 2000 NEWS LETTER

Greetings and welcome to the reunion edition of the newsletter. For those of you who were unable to attend you missed another great reunion. Drexel Biddle did an outstanding job with the arrangements and the activities. While the attendance was low the enthusiasm was high. The low turn out was in part due to the illness of some of our members as well as illness in the family.

REUNION

WEDNESDAY

Things started on Wednesday with the early arrivals greeting each other in the hospitality room through out the evening.

THURSDAY

Thursday many went to Cripple Creek to enjoy the gambling and some of the history of the town. Since I did not go on the trip I cannot comment on it except I am not aware of anyone who came back a millionaire. If they did they did not let the rest of us know.

FRIDAY

Friday was a day full of activity. We started out by boarding the bus at 0700 to go

to the Space Command for an information briefing. It was enlightening to see what is going on with the command and how we rely so much on the satellites we have put in space and the many things for which we use them.

Because of things out of our control, the guided tour of Shriver AFB had to be cancelled. However, we were able to go to the pilot training facility and see some of the things the cadets from the academy, as well as other pilots, do periodically. We were briefed on the different testing as well as use of the altitude chamber and the submersion chamber. (I am not sure of the name but it is the one that simulates being submerged in the water.) One of the things used was a chair that you sit in and the instructor spins and you keep your eyes Closed and use your thumbs to tell him which direction you are turning. Since no one else was willing I volunteered to try it. At first I indicated I was going to my right. Then stopped. Changed direction and went left. I was told I was only going in one direction all the time. The object was to show how pilots can become disoriented and must trust their instruments.

Friday evening we

went to the Flying W Ranch for dinner and the show. One thing That stood out to those that were in Colorado Springs the last time we had the reunion there was how much the area was built up on the way to the ranch. Where there use to be fields was a new subdivision. Also, this time there was snow on the ground. That made for a pretty scene on the ride. The food was good as well as the show.

SATURDAY

Saturday was the business meeting in the morning (see attached minutes) and the banquet in the evening. During the afternoon many of us congregated in the hospitality suite and reminisced and watch some football and playoff baseball.

BANQUET

We had a speaker at the banquet, Col. James Nap who spoke on the importance of reunions in general and ours in particular. He stated it was good to get together and recall the things we accomplished and the part we had in winning the cold war.

That concluded the formal reunion, but as usual many moved to the hospitality

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suite for more talk and refreshments as well as Sunday morning before we had to leave.

MORE STUFF

Many of you wrote your e-mail address on the roster at the business meeting. Unfortunately some handwriting looks like mine. So, if you could please, everyone, if you have an e-mail address send it to me at raleighb@ili.net. I am making a mail list so if something comes up I can get it out quickly to those who are on the INTERNET.

After my last mailing several envelopes were returned. If you know the current address of the following let me know, mail or e-mail them to me: Harry Riley, Harold Wamsley, Herbert Young, Mike Kennedy, Gerhard Perry, Cliff Mahlon, Bradley Johnson and Donald Ives. Also, send me any other corrections to the enclosed mailing list.

Received an e-mail from Col. Beck. He says Elsie has shown some improvement and has regained her speech completely. She had an inflammation of the larynx but no malignancy or growth. They plan to be at the next

reunion.

From Ray Kelsay. He has looked into a squadron patch. He can have a round embroidered 3 inch patch with white outside edging. Projected cost per patch is \$6.00 per which would include mailing cost. The minimum order would have to be 50. If interested advise Ray Kelsay, 4637 E. Harmon Ave., Las Vegas, NV 89121.

That's all for now. I'll be keeping in touch as plans are made for reunion 2002.

Bruce Raleigh ,
Secretary

P.S. As of now we still don't know who the next president will be. What an election.