



556 SMS ASSOCIATION SEPTEMBER 2014 NEWSLETTER

Greetings once again to members of the greatest Strategic Missile Squadron there ever will be. Bar none. This is our after-reunion newsletter as is our custom.

The 2014 Plattsburgh Reunion was a special, unique reunion and a huge success. A trip back in history. Or, if you prefer, as Yogi Berra would say, “deja vu all over again.” Got you interest yet? Here is a summary of one great fantastic weekend.

It all started the evening of 5 June 2014 when members started arriving. Since my wife and I did not arrive until late in the evening we did not participate in the gab session. But Ed Deshields did buy me a beer when I went down to the meeting area and there were only the two of us. So that’s all I can say about 5 June.

Six June was a biggie!! We were invited by Alex Michael, current owner of Lewis Missile Site 5, for a cookout at 1 PM. (For more info on Alex checkout his web site at www.siloboy.com.)

Here is the list of those who were at the reunion and I can only assume were at site 5 for the cookout and opportunity to go into the silo again:

Melvin Driskill	Dick Somerset	Bruce Raleigh	Leon Hojegan
James Roskopf	Al Matzat	Bob Cowen	John Stone
David Jenkins	Paul April	Barry Bernstein	Jean Schneider
Dave Evans	John Fillette	Don Groce	Ed DeShields
Franklin Joe Parker			

Several of us brought our wives with us.

The tour of the silo was of the self-guided version. You can imagine the shape of some of the items that were not removed over the years. Even so, you knew where you were and memories came flowing back. For an excellent view of the silo and the activities at the site Ed DeShields has provided us with a CD with some timely background music to accompany it. Contact me at braleigh@wowway.com, or the return address on this newsletter if you do not have email capability, if you would like a copy. I highly

recommend everyone get it. You will not be disappointed. The reimbursement costs for the CD will be minimal and are to be determined.

Seven June was the formal opening of the PAFB Museum. There were a couple of short speeches and a formal ribbon cutting. While overall most of the space is set aside for the aircraft portion, the amount for the 556th is extensive. There are several items that were donated by 556th members including the hard hats of Col's Kretzschmar and Beck. Again, much more can be viewed on the CD from Ed DeShields. Be sure to get it.

And if you are not a member of the museum let me know and I will send you the info. Annual membership is \$25.00 and lifetime membership is \$250.00. Please join since they need the memberships to ensure keeping it open.

Reunion 2014

Because we had a reunion in 2013 and the one in June this year at Plattsburgh, the officers have decided not to have a formal (Official) reunion in October 2014 with the AAFM. If the members who do attend want to get together for gabbing, etc. they can check with Charlie Simpson for a place to meet. The current plan for us is to have the next reunion in 2016 with the AAFM. That will give us time to organize the meeting.

**Bruce Raleigh
556 SMS Association
Sec/Treasurer
braleigh@wowway.com**