

SPECTRE SPOTLIGHT 2012





Thursday Night

Bill Allen

Once again the Bangkok House hosted the start of the Spectre reunion. We certainly have come a long way from the days of gathering at Spectre Joe's house and bringing our own bottle and grub. We are now pleased to enjoy some of the finest Thai food on the Emerald Coast and being served our favorite beverages by some beautiful ladies barely old enough to be our grandchildren. Kind of brings a tear to your eye, doesn't it?

Pete, Jerry Michaud and Wild Bill did their best to move the line at the door along. In spite of advanced advertisement about the 39th reunion, we still had several attendees show up unregistered at the door. No problem, we collected their funds, updated their names and addresses, and presented them with their own personalized "WALMART Name Tag," complete with shoe string neck tie. We



received several comments on the quality of our name tags this year. (Thanks Don!)



Some of the folks we hadn't seen in awhile were Don and Betty Beardsley, and the Pinettes, Don and Sue. We were glad to have them and hope to see them again soon. We had a lot of the "out of towners," such as Boudreaux, Young Aviator Wilkins and bride, PJ from South Fl, and Gunner Jack from Korea. The

Northern contingent was in attendance with John Wood and his bride, Three Fingers, Ski, Alice, and Vito and his bride. I know I'm leaving someone out, but I can't recall all the names and faces, Black Russians will do that to you!

Friday Night

Bill Walter

Approximately 80 people participated in Friday night's activities at the Sheraton Four Points on Okaloosa Island. Rick Green rode up on his spectacular Harley Davidson motorcycle with a custom paint job honoring the AC-130 gunship. The paint job is absolutely stunning with a ghost rider on the tank and the title Azrael on the rear fender. Awesome bike to say the least!





In the meeting room, many familiar Spectres' gathered to socialize and eat a great buffet prepared by the Sheraton Four Points staff. At one point in the evening, Nick Furda, a former gunner, put on a show with a homemade "one man band" instrument called a 'BOOMBAH.' With Ghostriders playing in the background, he added the "rhythm section" along with flashing lights and sounds.

Everyone seemed to have a good time and many stories were told...as there always are. People are already looking forward to next year's event.

The Raffle

Frank & Alice Gonsowski



The raffle took in \$1000.00. After expenses, a total of \$780.00 was added to the scholarship fund.

The winners were: Al & Sheila Cinko won the 105 round, Bonnie Thrasher took home the Clip of 40 rounds, and Jerry & Ruth Appleby were cheerful with the 'Basket of Cheer.' Denny and Rose Bivens selected the first Bottle of Wine, leaving the last bottle for Larry Michalove.



Spectre Banquet
Bill Patterson



The Saturday night banquet started off with the annual tribute to the fallen and missing crewmembers, always a sobering affair. The 39th reunion was honored to have notable guests attending the banquet. From Cannon AFB was TSGT John Nalepa, SRA Charles Herrero, SRA William Ellis. Also attending was Lisa Stokes, the daughter of SSGT Taylor who was the flight engineer on Gunship 629 that was lost in

1969. The key note speaker was Lt Col Jimmy Mott, Operations Officer of the 16th Special Operations Squadron.



After the evening meal was served, Bill Allen, MC for the banquet, introduced the guest speaker, Lt Col Mott, who had recently arrived back from Afghanistan. Col Mott's presentation was a look at the AC-130W and the devastating fire power it carries. The new addition of powerful guided missiles and the old 105 mm and 25 mm cannon puts a whole new meaning on the old Spectre saying "**You can run but you will only die tired.**" Col Mott also pointed out that "the more things change the more they stay the same". Some things on the gunship can't be replaced with new technology. To this day the AC130 is still the most requested strike system in the Air Force inventory. Its place on the battlefield is guaranteed for the next fifteen years and beyond.

LT COL JAMES V. MOTT II Biography

Lieutenant Colonel Jimmy Mott is the Operations Officer of the 16th Special Operations Squadron located at Cannon AFB, New Mexico. He is responsible for directing squadron flying operations for 170 personnel and eight AC-130H Spectre gunships worth over \$1.1 billion. He manages a 4,500 Flying Hour Program, current operations, contingency planning, and employment tactics enabling AC-130H gunships in providing precise delivery of 40mm and 105mm munitions supporting joint conventional and special operations forces. His unit directly supports theater commanders by conducting close air support, interdiction, escort, and armed reconnaissance missions.

Colonel Mott graduated from the United States Air Force Academy in 1994 and received a regular commission. He is a senior navigator with over 1,700 hours in the C-130E and AC-130H and has flown combat missions in Afghanistan. He has held a variety of assignments, which include navigator, fire control officer, instructor fire control officer, weapons officer, and evaluator fire control officer, as well as staff assignments at Air Force Special Operations Command and the Space and Missile Systems Center, Los Angeles AFB, CA.

Colonel Mott was born in Andalusia, Alabama. He is married to the former Lydia Annette Cuebas of Andalusia, Alabama. They have two sons, Ethan and Elijah.

Moving on, President Pat Carpenter then called on Jerry Appleby to draw the name of the next winner of the associations most highly sought after annual award, **The Promiscuous Pachyderm award**. This year it went to Bob Eberle. "Bob, take good care of the forever young honeymooners."

No one was nominated for the "Gunner Jack Award" this year. We must have a deserving member out there somewhere. Someone needs to write a nomination and send it to the Vice-President.

The next presentation was awarding the scholarships. The two recipients of the \$1000 scholarships are Rachel Pike and Melinda Markulis. Then Pat announced that this year there would be no losers for the awards. "Little Pete" was giving the other six applicants a \$500 scholarship. Rachael Bradshaw, Grace Hofius, Antony Hofius, Ashley Kokekangplue, Mark Patterson and Sarah Walter were awarded these. Congratulations to all and we know it will be put to good use. "Little Pete" a huge THANK YOU from the entire association for your generosity.

What a great way to wrap up the 39th Spectre Reunion, everyone had a wonderful and enlightening time and as always the last roar to come from the ballroom was the sound of pride. **"If you ain't spectre, you ain't shit."**

The Spectre Golf Tournament

Barry Gossman

The 39th Spectre Golf tournament was held at the Fort Walton Municipal Golf Course. Besides being on the cool side and slightly breezy, the weather conditions were good. We had a 0800 hour showtime for a 0900 hour tee time. The day was off to a good start because Daddy Hutch actually made it to the golf course without assistance. Probably because there weren't any left turns to confuse him. He didn't have flashbacks of Biloxi. Bob Turek must have been feeling good this year because he did not have to invoke his DNR (Do Not Resuscitate) clause.

Pat told us that he was going to pull names out of the hat to make the teams, but, as usual, the teams were once again stacked. Out of nowhere, Angelo Pearson showed up with one of his students going through the Gunship school at Hurlburt Field. This guy was a white version clone of Tiger Woods. Angelo isn't a shabby golfer himself and Pat put these two guys on the same team. I was, unfortunately, playing in the group in front of them. These guys were landing their drives where we were hitting our second hits. I wish I would have been wearing the old ballistic helmet because we were constantly in a high threat area the whole time these guys were behind us. We had to strap an IO to the back of our golf carts just to survive through 18 holes of hell! Well, we all made it without any significant battle damage. If these guys ever show up again they will definitely be separated and they will be teeing off first. You just can't golf under conditions like that. That is our story and we are sticking to it!

The final results of the tournament are as follows:

First Place: 8 Under par (Angelo Pearson, Daddy Hutch, Wayne Easley, and Zack Sloan 'The Ringer')

Second Place: 5 Under par (Pat Carpenter, Jimmy Mott, Dick Vancil, and Dwight Howard).

Third Place: 1 under par (Bill Allen, Snake Liles, Barry Gossman, and Bob Turek).

Fourth Place: 3 over par (Barry Wilkens, Sy Wilkens, Gary Thompson, and Bruce Garrett).

SPECTRE MEMORIAL SERVICE

Barry Gossman

The 39th Spectre Reunion Memorial service was held at the Eglin Armament Museum on Saturday afternoon. Darren Vitalo and Bill Walters read the names of those Spectre's who gave the ultimate sacrifice and died in combat operations in South East Asia, those crew members of Spirit 03 who were lost in the first Gulf War and the crew members of Jockey 14 who were killed in operations in Mogadishu, Somalia. They also read the names of those of our ranks whose passing had been reported to the Spectre Association since the 2011 Reunion. Amazing grace was played by bag pipers. The program was ended with a short prayer by Barry Gossman.



The first lady, aircraft 129 was opened up for everyone to walk thru. The war stories started to flow within the airplane.



Thank you to the staff of the Egin Armament Museum who allowed us to sit in the air conditioning and also the bag pipe band. Also, we owe a big 'thank you' to the Friends of the First Lady who worked so hard maintaining our "old girl" aircraft 129 and being on hand to answer questions and conduct tours.

SUNDAY BAR-B-QUE

Dennis Peterson

Another beautiful sunny day and everyone is slowing down (especially yours truly) after four days of hustle and bustle Reunion days. The cuisine for the day was pulled pork, grilled chicken, slaw, potato salad and assorted pies and cakes. The golfers are back with a few smiles and some sad faces. Our guest of honor, COL Mott said he really enjoyed himself and the Spectre golfer's money.



Some war stories were being swapped at a few tables, but a lot of the conversations were "what type of medication do you take for that?" or "my doctor would not prescribe that for me." and "how is your gout?" Not a lot of beer was being consumed that day, but I was sitting at the table with the old guys and Mallox was flowing freely.

Overall, everyone pretty much enjoyed themselves

and a lot of folks were gathering at the hospitality room putting the beverages down. (Thank you, Ski, for watching over it).

We want to thank the board for putting this reunion together and we hope next year will be just as good.



Spectre Store

Vito

Hello Fellow Spectre's, Once again we have survived another Reunion. Hopefully you all enjoyed it as much as I did. First I'd like to thank Mike and Bill for all their help working the store, and for everyone who helped move everything from the storage facility to the hotel on Friday and back again on Monday. Thanks to Duane and Grace for letting us use the peg boards for the shirt and jacket displays. And



thanks to all the friends who stopped in to make sure that we didn't get too "Dehydrated" while we were working. I welcome any and all comments on how the store was set up this year. I felt that it created less congestion and confusion for the members who wanted to browse or shop. I had several members looking for Reunion shirts for sale in the store. I would like to mention that for anyone who wants to get a Reunion shirt for next year, the best way is to pre-order it with your Reunion registration.

We don't order as many extra shirts as we did in the past to avoid having so many left over shirts at the end of the year. I will offer to keep track of

any requests for next years' Reunion shirts for anyone who is not pre-registering, but would still like to purchase a shirt. If anyone would be interested in this option please e-mail me the information. I will find out when the date is, that the shirt order goes to the printers, and contact anyone who provides me with their information, and let them know when the cut-off date is for ordering Reunion shirts

As always if anyone has any requests for new items that they would like to see for sale, please send me (DJVITO@juno.com) and Pat (carkopat@cox.net) that information and we will look it over.

39th Annual Spectre Association Business Meeting

Pat Carpenter

The 39th Annual Business meeting was called to order at 9:00 AM Saturday morning with Pat Carpenter presiding. Board Members present were Bill Allen VP, Dennis Peterson-Treasurer, Barry Gossman, Bill Walter, Norm Evans, Bill Patterson, Darren Vitallo, Mike Skerrett, Frank Konsowski, Jerry Michaud, and our web master PJ Cook.

-- Pledge of Allegiance was led by Pat Carpenter

-- Minutes of the 38th annual meeting were read by Bill Allen; accepted as read.

--Treasurers Report read by Dennis Peterson; accepted as read.

--Reunion sites nominated for the 2014 reunion were (1) Ocean City Maryland (2) Washington DC Area, (3) Wright-Patterson Area, (4) Las Vegas, and (5) Clovis NM.



- (1) Ocean City would not respond with site info.
- (2) Washington DC Area responded with room costs near \$180/day, bus services to memorials, good airline connections.
- (3) Wright Patterson responded with room ranges of \$110/day and up, Air force museum, and good airline connections to Dayton Ohio.
- (4) Las Vegas responded with room rates in the \$120/ range and up, gambling, and good airline connections.
- (5) Clovis NM, base responded with rooms at the Q, squadron support with the new J model gunship as the H model leaves the inventory, but airline connections would have to be through Albuquerque or Lubbock.

-- Discussion: Gunner Jack wanted the people attending to make the decision on the next site but we explained that the by-laws required the complete membership had to vote on the site. It was decided that those who received the spotlight via mail would receive a ballot and other members would vote via e-mail back to the association with their member number attached. A non-binding straw vote was held with Clovis receiving twice as many votes as any other site.

-- Scholarship selection; a total of eight applicants were scattered on the floor and Gunner Jack selected the two winners of the \$1000 scholarships. This year's winners were Rachel Pike (Granddaughter of Pat Carpenter) and Melinda Markulis (Daughter of John Markulis). Lil' Pete announced that he didn't want any child to lose so he donated \$3000 more dollars so that the other six applicants could each be a winner with a \$500 scholarship. THANKS LIL' PETE

-- Nominations for the Board. Two board members agreed that they would serve another term. Pat could not serve another term by the by-laws. Nominations for President were opened. Bill Walter was nominated and a motion to close the nominations was made and passed. Good Luck Bill.

-- Names for the missing man Formation. Jerry Cutrer IO/Loadmaster, Al Cinko-Gunner, Barry Wilkins-Sensor, Jerry Appleby-Eng, Claude Bradshaw-Nav, Ron Bienias-Pilot.

-- Pat read an award presented to the Squadron and a letter written by LTC Sam Schism, the pilot of aircraft 629, that crashed on the runway at Ubon and had the first two war casualties suffered by the squadron.

--Open Forum (1) Bill Walter briefed on the prosecution of Chuck Kaczmarczyk and the status of his two pistols

(2) Don Boudreau gave kudo's to the Board and the Web Master PJ Cook. Then he had the audacity to make a sarcastic remark about name tags, go figure.

(3) Wes Fields announced that the Doolittle Raiders were holding there last reunion in 2013 and we should support them.

Meeting adjourned!

Proposed Budget for 2012/2013

Estimated Revenues

Dues Annual-	\$ 400
Life	<u>-\$2,500</u>
	\$ 2,900
Estimated Sales	\$ 21,000
Donations	<u>\$ 3,000</u>
	\$ 25,900
Accounts Receivable	
	\$ 2,710

Estimated Expenses

Membership Mailings Postage	-\$ 300
Supplies	-\$ 400
Spotlight Printing	-\$ 200
Store Inventory Replenishment	-\$ 9,500
Merchandise Shipping	-\$ 1,500
Memorials	-\$ 1,200
Web Maintenance	-\$ 700
Warehouse Fee	-\$ 1,000
Post Office Box Fee	-\$ 80
Phone Conferencing Fee	-\$ 360

Liabilities

Scholarships	-\$ 2,000
Residual Reunion Costs	-\$ 8,700
Donations	-\$ 2,500
VFW	<u>-\$ 200</u>

Total Estimated Rev \$28,610

Total Estimated Expenses

\$28,640

Capital & Assets

• Certificates Of Deposit	- Life Fund	\$ 26,522.41
	- Life Fund	\$ 6,250.50
	- Gunner Jack Fund	\$ 10,265.65
• Scholarship Fund		\$ 12,774.51
• Special Operating Account		\$ 3,809.86
• Checking Account		\$ 17,725.95
• Inventory On-Hand (Approx)		\$ 46,500.00
• Computer		\$ 350.00
• Projector		\$ 10.00
• Telephone		\$ 50.00
• Flags & Staffs		<u>\$ 60.00</u>

Capital & Assets as of 2 Oct 2012 \$124,318.88