

# The AC-119 Gunship Association

February 21, 2019 News Flash

## President's Message, February 2019

Greetings fellow AC-119ers:

As expected, your Board of Directors is working diligently to tweak-up plans for the Salt Lake City, UT reunion, Sept. 3 – 8, 2019. We are meeting monthly by teleconference and tackling issues as they arise. Reunion Coordinator Chuck Williams is planning for a special event to recognize our 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary reunion, and wow, 50 years of brotherhood. I am expecting Reunion XX in Salt Lake City to be awesome.

The previous *Firing Circle* did not have many reunion details, so we are blasting out a **FLASH** message to provide a lot more information. I am sure many of you are waiting for the registration process to go online. We are finalizing a few critical components before we can activate the online registration: 1) we have secured an Associate Member of the Association, who helped with tours in the past, to help with making tour arrangements for this year, and 2) the IT team, headed by Wayne Laessig and new web-master Liz Buss, have to first update a few of our web site "service modules" before we can get the registration page up and running. This is an internet issue that many large well-established web sites are experiencing.

Chuck is asking for a number of volunteers at the reunion to help with: 1) organizing the Saturday night auctions, 2) welcoming and signing in attendees at the hotel registration desk, and 3) to "watch-over" the Hootch if/when any Association Board members may not be present. We will have sign-up sheets available for those who are willing and able to help.

In closing, I cannot help but let "some cats out of the bag". The next full *Firing Circle* will have information about: 1) Larry "Doc" Fletcher's "Association History Project", and 2) an outstanding return-on-investment from an outreach effort by Everett Sprou (Membership Coordinator) and new member Roy Davis (we are in contact with may new or "lost" AC-119ers).

"Chance favors the prepared mind."

Mike Drzyzga, Feb. 13, 2019



*AC-119 Gunship Association*  
**20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Reunion**  
*Celebrating*  
**50 Years of Brotherhood!**

*Little America Hotel, Salt Lake City, Utah - September 3-10, 2019*

Brothers,

*This year's reunion will quite conceivably be our best yet. If you can find the time, please try to attend. Whether you are a long-time attendee or a first-timer this will be a great opportunity to renew old acquaintances and celebrate our efforts of so long ago. I am looking forward to seeing you in Salt Lake City in September. Come to Utah and bring your family and fellow comrades.*

*Mike Drzyzga*

**Are you ready for Reunion XX? It is going to be great!**

Utah, Salt Lake City, and the surrounding geography offer everyone something fantastic.

Come early and stay late – the hotel rates will be good for ten days. By March we will have reunion registration and hotel reservation details and post them on our website as well as send them to you.

Please, wait for our details before trying to register or reserve a room.

**Our Hotel:** First and foremost, we are in one of the finest hotels in the city (check their website at <https://saltlake.littleamerica.com/>). Our events in the hotel are in first class areas. We'll post a list of all the food and beverage menus and cost for our events plus the restaurants / cafes soon. You'll also be able to Reserve your room soon – we'll post details on our website and send you the info in a Newsletter (please wait for that).

**The Hootch:** huge two rooms with wide doors that go out to a terrace and the indoor-outdoor pool. We will have lots of round tables in both rooms and on the terrace. We will have narrow rectangle tables on all outside edges of those rooms with more rounds in middle. It is bigger than Tucson, and that was big :-). Lots of room to mix and mingle so bring your memorabilia, photos, and family.

**Transportation:** **No matter how you arrive, we have you covered:**

- **Airlines:** If you provide us your flight information, we will have someone available to escort you to ground transportation and see you to the hotel.
- **Trax Green Line** light rail shuttle is \$1.25 per person and takes 10 minutes from Salt Lake City International directly to Little America.
- **By Car:** Parking at the hotel is **free** and close to your room.
- **By RV:** The hotel has a closed secure RV lot and it is **free** to us.

**Arrival:** We have our own separate check-in and check-out desk at the hotel, where you'll receive your reunion package. One stop!

**Rooms:** Little America is a big hotel and they blocked a whole area just for us. We have direct inside access to the main part of the hotel.

**Food:** The area immediately surrounding the hotel has many very good restaurants, plus the hotel has several excellent restaurants and cafes. We will post a map that highlight's the best places to visit and eat.

**Itinerary Outline – we will provide you with a detailed agenda / calendar / schedule soon.**

- **Breakfasts** – on your own (the Hotel's Café has excellent, affordable breakfasts)
- **Hootch** - opens daily 8:00 am and closes about 10:00 pm Wed–Sun; we'll confirm details soon.
- **Lunches** – on your own
- **Dinners** – Wed/Thurs on your own; Fri/Sat/Sun Dinners are included in our planned Events.
- **Tours / Excursions / Events** Thurs – Sun (days and places soon), plus Free Time - daily
- **Friday Welcome Meet-n-Greet** – designed to really mix and mingle and enjoy great food.
- **Saturday Morning Business Meetings** (Association and Spouses)

- **Saturday Banquet and Auction** – this banquet is special; it’s our 20<sup>th</sup> Reunion Anniversary coupled with our 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the AC-119 time we had in SEA. We plan a first-class event with first-class food – special entertainment – a short-winded speaker – a super auction. Dress will reflect the quality of the event: party suits, coat and tie, suits, dress uniforms including Mess Dress, and evening dresses for our ladies. No grousing – this is our 20<sup>th</sup>/50<sup>th</sup>!! If you still have hair, get a haircut!
- **Sunday Board Meeting**
- **Sunday Golf Tournament**
- **Sunday Farewell BBQ** – if you can, stick around for this event. It will be a great Reunion XX close out.

**Adventures:** we’ll do 1 or 2 as Group Tours & some are for you to do On Your Own.

1. Here’s some options so far, but more to come – stay tuned for calendar and sign-up sheets):
  - **Hill AFB Aerospace Museum** with a base tour, and ceremonies with the fighter wing there. Incredible museum – rivals Wright-Patterson’s.
  - **Tour Park City** – dining; shopping; 2002 Winter Olympics site
  - **Temple Square and Tabernacle Choir:**
    - Rehearsals Thursday 7:30-9:30 pm with no dress code.
    - Live, televised performances Sunday mornings where admission is limited to those eight years of age and older. For Sunday, doors open to the public at 8:30 am, and guests should be seated by 9:15 am, when the doors are closed. The broadcast is 30 minutes in length and ends at 10:00 am.
    - BOTH are Free!
  - **Family History Library** – the world’s largest genealogical library. Look up relatives you didn’t even know you had. Free, so bring whatever info you have and get started!
  - **Kennecott’s Bingham Canyon Open Pit Copper Mine** – largest man-made hole in the world!
  - **This Is the Place State Park and Living History Museum**
  - **Gondola ride to summit of Snowbird Ski Resort**
2. **Air and Ground Crews:** send us Crew pictures (including Maintenance) and we’ll put them in a folder on the Reunion Page, with some words about finding your crew and pictures, and contacting them to get together for a “Then and Now” picture celebrating your *50 Years of Brotherhood*. That means you’ll want to contact your crewmates – now, while they’re still around :->

**The Reunion Team:** something for everybody.

1. **Volunteers are need as usual to Help the Coordinator:** during and after the reunion.
  - **Reception/Check in** Volunteers (only need to cover one morning, afternoon, or evening):
    - Wednesday afternoon or evening.
    - Thursday morning, afternoon, or evening.
    - Friday morning or afternoon.
    - After that, the Reception and Check in packages will be in the Hootch.
  - **Hootch** Sitters (Hootch Opens daily Wed – Sun and Closes late daily Wed – Sun). Coverage includes watching over the refreshments, guiding lost guests and new attendees, and monitoring auction items. Sitters only need to cover one morning, afternoon, or evening stint:
    - Wednesday afternoon or evening.
    - Thursday morning, afternoon, or evening.
    - Friday morning or afternoon (evening Meet and Greet Not Required).
    - Saturday afternoon; (morning Association / Spouses Meetings and evening Banquet Not Required).
    - Sunday morning or Sunday afternoon; (evening Farewell BBQ Not Required).
  - **Auction:** we can use some help in putting this together / finding donors / setting up / soliciting items from members and others / presentation in the ‘Hootch’ and at the banquet.

If you can volunteer to help with any of the above, please contact Chuck Williams at [chuckhole@earthlink.net](mailto:chuckhole@earthlink.net) and let him know what you’d like to do. You can make suggestions on others who can help with a specific item or event. **Don’t text Chuck, please.**