

## 2008 Association Meeting Minutes

1. President Vern Hansen called the 2008 Annual meeting of the AC-119 Gunship Association to order at 0900 on Saturday, September 13, 2008 at the Radisson Hotel, Branson, MO with about 100 Association members present.
2. Secretary's Report: members approved the 2007 Association Meeting Minutes as posted on web.
  - a. Memberships: Jim Alvis reported that we have leveled off at 420 Association members, with increasing Life & decreasing Annual memberships resulting in reduced future revenue from dues.
  - b. POCs: great work with everyone present having received some contact last year. Board will work to increase contacts via POCs & Newsletter in 2009.
  - c. "Undeliverable" e-mail returns & snail-mailed Newsletters: please update your e-mail if it changes. It results in extra work for our volunteers & snail mails that cost our Association \$\$ that we'd rather spend on reunion activities & history efforts. We snail mail 116 Newsletters due to undeliverable or no e-mail.
3. Treasurer's Report: Doug Wohlgamuth reported that after last year's reunion, we had \$14,443.
  - a. Branson Reunion costs for Thursday Branson Belle, Friday Social, Saturday Banquet, Sunday BBQ, Hootch for 4 days, & videography for 4 days was \$31,787.
  - b. After merchandise costs/sales, dues, Reunion Fees, & raffles, we expect to have about \$13,000 to begin next year.
4. History Book: Larry Fletcher & Ralph Lefarth discussed the status of the history book project.
  - a. One of the largest hurdles is the cost of having the book printed. One solution is to contact all Gunship Association members via the POCs & determine who would pledge or prepay \$50 per copy toward the printing cost of the history book, & how many copies the individual would want to purchase. The majority of the members present indicated they would pledge or prepay the cost per copy to speed up the process. We will communicate pledge/prepay options to members very soon. Members should also consider extra copies for their local libraries or other repositories. Note: we took reservations for 20 History Books during the Reunion.
  - b. Another challenge is the follow-up on missing info, identifying photo locations or people, as well as the proofing & editing of submitted materials. Larry & Ralph need assistants to help in these roles. George Carter, Pete Chamberlain, Allen Chandler, Don Craig, Phil Diehl, Chuck James, Wayne Laessig, Larry McManus, & Howie Reid volunteered & Larry will ask Bill Petrie to continue as proof reader.
  - c. We will have a History Book at the next Reunion. There will be a deadline for biographies, stories, & pictures. Not meeting it might mean non-inclusion in the History Book. We will publish more info in the Newsletter.
  - d. We also need video transcribers who can transcribe our DVDs, interviews, or mission tapes. Volunteers, please contact Wayne Laessig at 707-592-4492 or [Qadvocate@sbcglobal.net](mailto:Qadvocate@sbcglobal.net).
5. Association's official history repository: we confirmed Texas Tech University (TTU)
  - a. Official repository only means the Association members believe TTU provides the best combination of protecting documents while providing access. It is not a mandatory repository – just very good & our recommended choice.
  - b. TTU created an *AC-119 Gunship Collection* within which every member can create their own individual collection in their own name, with biographies & any other information or documents they want to contribute. TTU makes digital copies, archives & maintains your documents, & they are accessible via the TTU website.
  - c. We will post information on how to make donations on our Association website.
6. AC-27J "Stinger": Howie Reed discussed this new Air Force gunship & its similarities to the AC-119K. Mac Maclsaac discussed that the squadron designation for the AC-27J could be the 17th or 18th SOS. Howie is the POC on this project. Anyone having input or info, please send it to him.
7. Awards & Decorations: any gunshipper who was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross is encouraged to join the DFC Society. Their link is [www.dfcsociety.org](http://www.dfcsociety.org) or check our Associations' Awards & Decorations website link. Mac Maclsaac warned us to NEVER send original documents to a government agency - send a notarized copy instead.
8. Several outreach activities were highlighted:

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- a. Possible AC-119 aircraft survived: there was much discussion about a possible AC-119 located at Tan Son Nhut, & the possibility of recovery. Chuck Williams, Wayne Laessig, & Lee Kyser discussed the possibilities, & Lee will be the POC of this project. Anyone having input or info, please send it to him.
  - b. Ron Soderquist built & donated a commemorative rifle & pistol. We discussed & agreed the two are very similar & should remain as a set. They will be raffled next reunion as a set, with one winner. We are offering raffle tickets at \$10 donations for one, 6 tickets for \$50, & 13 tickets for \$100. We will publish pictures & info on the set in upcoming newsletters. We will offer raffle tickets all year; you do not have to be present to win; & we will provide shipping as needed to comply with all laws. These will be "gifted" to the winner as the easiest legal way to transfer ownership. The winner will not need any paperwork beside the gifting documentation. More info in the next Newsletter.
  - c. Air Force Enlisted Village: Garry Gourley, Gus Sininger, Wayne Laessig, & Lt Col Jon Peck, current 18<sup>th</sup> FLTS Commander coordinated the donation & presentation of our Shadow & Stinger lithographs to the Village. The AFEV's CEO, Retired CMSgt of the Air Force Binnicker, accepted the lithos & they hang in the entry to Teresa Village. Articles were published in the AFEV Newsletter, Eglin AFB Newsletter, & local press. Great work!
  - d. Active Duty 71st SOS & 18th FLTS squadron contacts: we added current 71<sup>st</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup> active duty Squadron Commanders to our Honorary Memberships & we will contact the 17<sup>th</sup> SOS Commander shortly. Each Commander has responded with a strong desire to maintain their link with our heritage.
    - i. Jim Alvis & Al Heuss continued to build our relationship with the current active duty 71<sup>st</sup> SOS, attending Command Changes, & assuring we contact the incoming Commanders to maintain our heritage.
    - ii. Gus Sininger re-established our relationship with the 18<sup>th</sup> FLTS Commander, attending Commander Calls, & coordinating their Commander's participation in the AFEV presentation. We also learned that Tony Pakutinski & Lt Col Peck (the 18<sup>th</sup> FLTS Commander) flew together on AC-130s ~~many~~ many ☺ some years ago & both are now AC-119 Gunship Association members!
    - iii. We have info on the current 17<sup>th</sup> SOS Commander (MC-130 Squadron in Kadena) and we will contact them.
  - e. Stinger Monument: we're working to request a filter on the sprinkling system in the Hurlburt Air Memorial Park. As soon as the filter is installed, the Monument folks will redo our Monument to its original color & luster.
  - f. British Modeling journalist & magazine (there are world-wide organizations for model builders & hobbyists). Glen Sands of Britain is building an AC-119 model & writing a story for a British Modeling magazine. We provided as much data & pictures as we have & we will let everyone know when they publish the story.
  - g. Newsletter: Tony Pakutinski volunteered to take this role & give Bill Petrie additional time to focus on our website.
  - h. Flags: we will try to obtain Battle & Campaign Streamers for our Squadron flags.
    - i. Proposal was made to create an Association flag in addition to the three squadron flags. Motion carried
    - ii. A proposal was also made to create an AC-47 flag. Motion carried, & Sam Tollett will purchase it.
    - iii. Mac MacIsaac will coordinate with Lt Col Jon Peck (18<sup>th</sup> FLTS/CC) to complete the needed Battle & Campaign Streamer paperwork and other requirements for all our Squadrons.
    - iv. Someone suggested changing our name to "Radial Engine Gunship Association". Motion not carried.
9. Breakfast gathering option: several groups have held regional breakfasts throughout the year as a way to gather AC-119ers locally, especially those who cannot make reunions.
- i. A California group meets every 3-4 months for breakfast with growing numbers, especially maintainers, & including Gunshippers' children & grandchildren! Great work Jim Terry!
  - ii. Jim Alvis coordinated a 71<sup>st</sup> get together & again had great success & a great time!
  - iii. Requirements? A local place who will hold a specific number of tables or a small room; contact everyone in your area including a map to wherever you'll eat; tell the breakfast place your total numbers; meet & re-establish old friendships plus make some new ones; swap info on gunship roles; have fun.

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- iv. Anyone desiring to coordinate a breakfast in their area can contact Jim Terry, Jim Alvis, or Wayne Laessig. They can explain how to get the e-mail & phone contacts for Gunshippers in your local area.
- v. You can also get an update from any board member on what the latest is with Reunion or Association plans.

### 10. Next Reunion(s):

- a. Wayne Laessig went over attendance figures for all our Reunions:

Year R#	Location	Total	Fri Social	Sat Banquet	Sun BBQ
2000 R1	FWB Florida	404	360	404	250
2001 R2	FWB Florida	190	175	190	140
2002 R3	FWB Florida	225	205	225	170
2003 R4	FWB Florida	171	171	170	143
2004 R5	Dayton Ohio	368	316	368	235
2005 R6	FWB Florida	221	199	221	141
2006 R7	Albuquerque New Mexico	263	249	263	192
2007 R8	Destin Florida	222	213	202	131
2008 R9	Branson Missouri	254	238	236	161

- b. We discussed the location for Reunion X
  - i. Proposal for Fort Walton Beach, FL includes \$94 rooms with breakfasts, with Gus Sininger as Coordinator.
  - ii. Bill Dudley offered an alternate proposal for Saint Augustine, FL to take advantage of the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the delivery of our AC-119s after Fairchild-Hiller modified them there. He has a hotel with \$97 rooms that includes breakfasts; a 1-day free trolley tour (downtown tour plus on-off all day); & a Northrup-Grumman tour.
- c. Given the one-time anniversary opportunity & the facts that FWB numbers are lower than our other sites, the members voted overwhelmingly to select Saint Augustine for our 2009 Reunion X, & Bill Dudley will be the reunion coordinator. We selected October 1 - October 4, 2009 for Reunion X at St. Augustine, with the Hootch opening September 30th. We will provide more details in the Newsletter.
- d. Wayne Laessig again proposed a 2010 Reunion XI in northern California (Fairfield, CA between San Francisco & Sacramento). The members voted unanimously to accept, with Wayne, Bill Zito, & Jim Terry as the Reunion Coordinator team.

### 11. Officer nominations for 2008-2009 were presented & accepted by acclamation as follows.

- a. President: Gus Sininger
- b. Vice President: Jerry McDonald
- c. Secretary: Jim Alvis
- d. Treasurer: Doug Wohlgamuth
- e. Member-at-large: Wayne Laessig

### 12. We adjourned the annual meeting at 1115 hours.