

San Antonio Reunion at the El Tropicano Riverwalk Hotel

Our **14th AC-119 Gunship Reunion, "BACK TO BASICS!"** includes reunion and tour events on September 26th -29th (Thursday through Sunday), as well as tons of great things to see or do while you're in the area!

To get things started, on Wednesday, September 25th, at noon, you can sit down with old or new friends in the Hootch and share your memorabilia and photos (we'll scan your documents for posterity and our historical archives). You will also be able to do a videotape session about your time with the AC-119 gunships for your children, grandchildren, and family history and more. Full reunion activities begin on September 26th, so check the Agenda below for all the activities and any changes or additions. We look forward to seeing you in San Antonio!

REUNION REGISTRATION



NEW! Reunion registration is now open! Click on the icon above to download the registration form.

HOTEL RESERVATION

NEW! HOTEL registration is now open!

Click on the link below to go to the AC-119 Gunship reunion HOTEL booking page.

AC-119 Gun Ship Association Reunion XIV Hotel Room Reservation page
<http://booking.ihotelier.com/istay/istay.jsp?groupID=668470&hotelID=75553>

The El Tropicano Riverwalk Hotel is situated on the banks of the San Antonio River and is one of the original River Walk's hallmark hotels; a well-kept and super bargain for the location, with our Hootch Room opening right onto the River Walk. Features include up to two free full breakfasts for AC-119 Reunion folks staying in the hotel, high-speed internet, a fully equipped fitness center, and heated outdoor pool. Breakfast, lunch, and dinner are served at the hotel's restaurant, Mangos, which offers American and Latin cuisine.

Our hotel rates are \$122.59 all inclusive plus \$9.00 per day if you'll be parking a car. Our Reunion rates are good from September 20th through October 3rd (dependent on availability) – a great deal for those wanting to take a longer vacation to see more of this part of Texas! Guests can also enjoy a smoothie or coffee at Espresso, the hotel's on-site cafe.

From the hotel, you can hop on a [VIA trolley](#) (\$1.10 per ride or \$4.00 for all day) or a [Rio \(River\) Taxi](#) (\$10-\$15 daily or \$25 for a 3 day pass); both of which can take you just about anywhere in downtown San Antonio.

REUNION EVENTS SUMMARY

Wednesday, September 25th Hootch Opens at 12:00 PM

- Sit down with fellow crew & friends – renew friendships & start some new ones
- Bring & share your pictures & memorabilia
- We'll scan your documents for posterity & our historical archives
- Do a videotape session about your time in AC-119s for our kids, families, history

Thursday Special Group Tour & Optional Dinner (*we'll send an update once we lock these in*)

Friday Meet & Greet (*possibly an optional morning tour; more info as soon as we have it*)

Saturday morning Association & Spouses Meetings; Saturday night Banquet

Sunday Golf Tournament; Sunday night Farewell BBQ

REUNION EVENTS AGENDA

Wednesday, Sept 25th

12 PM: Hootch opens & stays open till 6 PM Sunday night in Trinidad Room of the El Tropicano Riverwalk Hotel. Soda, Beer, and Snacks **FREE** to Reunion Attendees, except "during" Friday Meet & Greet, Saturday Banquet, and Sunday BBQ. Bring your picture albums & memorabilia to share – we'll scan pictures and documents for inclusion in our AC-119 Historical Archives. Videotape sessions (sign up in the Hootch) all weekend – tell your stories about AC-119s for our kids, your family, friends, & history.

Thursday, Sept 26th (*Plans for Thursday events haven't been finalized, but we'll send information for these events out to the membership and post it on the website as they're locked in.*)

8:45 AM – 4 PM: Optional Tour (*Possible tour of Fredericksburg or Hill Country Wineries*)

7:00 PM – Optional Dinner (*Possible dinner at one of San Antonio's Mexican restaurants or on a river barge*).

Friday, Sept 27th

8:00 AM – 12:00 PM: Optional Tour (*Possible half-day tour of Missions National Historic Park or other sites*)

6 PM – 10 PM: Meet & Greet in the El Tropicano Coronado Room. Buffet Style. Fee \$29. Dress casual or Party Suits; Pay as You go Bars.

- ▶ Chicken Diablo – bite size chicken breast filled with Monterey cheese & wrapped in Bacon
- ▶ Tamales
- ▶ Cheese Quesadillas
- ▶ Beef Kabobs
- ▶ Chile Con Queso & Salsa with chips

Saturday, Sept 28th

8:30 AM – 10:00 AM: Membership Meeting in El Tropicano La Habana Room.

9:00 AM – 10:00 AM: Spouses Meeting in the El Tropicano Trinidad Room (Hootch).

6 PM – Happy Hour in El Tropicano Casino Room. Dress up a bit or wear your Party Suit; Pay as You go bars

7 PM – Banquet Dinner in El Tropicano Coronado Room.

- ▶ Pecan Crusted Chicken Breast w/Serrano Cream Sauce \$34
- ▶ Beef Tenderloin w/Demi-Glaze \$36
- ▶ Roasted Salmon w/White Wine Sauce \$35

NOTE: Wine by the glass or bottle is available for table or individual purchase at the Pay as You go bars.

9 PM – Association Awards & Raffles (bringing raffle items welcomed; they help keep us solvent!).

Sunday, Sept 29th

9 AM - Golf Tournament: Entry Fee \$10 (plus Greens Fees); details from Doug Wohlgamuth & Col Mac.

5 PM – 9 PM - Farewell Tex-Mex BBQ in El Tropicano Coronado Room. Buffet Style. Fee \$28. Dress casual; Pay as You Go bar.

- ▶ Slow Smoked Beef Brisket
- ▶ Barbeque Chicken
- ▶ Hill Country Field Greens with Choice of Dressings
- ▶ Country Potato Salad
- ▶ Cowboy Baked Beans & Corn Bread Muffins
- ▶ Pecan Pie
- ▶ Ice Tea, with Columbian Coffee available by request

PLUS, Tons of Things You Can Do in or near San Antonio!!

Things to do around San Antonio: *(see links on website or electronic version of this document)*

- [The River Walk](#). A public park, lined with restaurants, hotels, attractions, and art vendors.
- [Market Square](#). The largest Mexican market outside of Mexico; dining, shopping, and events.
- [La Villita Historic Arts Village](#). Art galleries, boutique stores, and restaurants/cafes.
- [The Alamo](#). Where William Travis, Jim Bowie, & Davy Crocket defended liberty.
- [Alamo IMAX Theater](#). Features “ALAMO...the Price of Freedom!” and other movies.
- [San Antonio Missions National Historic Park](#). Four Spanish missions along the San Antonio River.
- [San Antonio Zoo](#). Enjoy the animals and/or ride the train through Brackenridge Park.
- [Tower of the Americas](#). Has an observation deck, revolving restaurant, and 4D Theater Ride.
- [Institute of Texan Cultures](#). Exhibits and displays tell the stories of Texans (UTSA/Smithsonian).
- [The Witte Museum](#). Contains collections in natural history, science and South Texas heritage.
- [San Antonio Museum of Art](#). Located in the former castle-like Lone Star Brewery.
- [San Antonio Children’s Museum](#). No children needed to enjoy this interactive experience.
- [Buckhorn Saloon](#). A Café, Gift Shop, Shooting Gallery, and the Buckhorn and Texas Ranger Museums.
- [Pearl Brewery](#). A variety of restaurants and boutiques are now located at this former brewery.
- [Ripley’s Haunted House Adventure](#). Also offers the Guinness World Record Museum and the Tomb Rider 3D adventure ride.
- [Ripley’s Believe It or Not](#). Also offers Ripley’s Moving Theater 4D and Louis Tussaud’s Wax Works.
- [Ultimate Mirror Maze](#). See 1,000’s of Mirrors and Endless Hallways.
- [Sea World](#). A 250-acre marine mammal park, oceanarium, and animal theme park.

- [Six Flags Fiesta Texas](#). A 200-acre park with wild rides, great shows, and attractions (21-22 Sept.).
- [Natural Bridge Caverns](#). The largest and most spectacular show cavern in Texas.
- [Natural Bridge Wildlife Ranch](#). Over 500 animals from 40 exotic, native, and endangered species.
- [Bracken Bat Flight](#). Home to the world's largest bat colony.
- [San Antonio Tours](#). There are 48 guided tours and more [self-guided tours](#). Guided tours include the [Alamo Trolley](#), [Grand Trolley](#), [Double Decker](#), and [River](#) tours (all have hop-on-hop-off access).
- [Local Shopping](#). *Forbes.com* rated San Antonio in the top ten of America's 25 Best Shopping Cities.
- [Joint Base San Antonio](#). The largest base organization in DoD, with three primary locations:
 - [JBSA – Lackland](#). AF Basic and Technical Training; Air Force Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance Agency; and the USAF Airman Heritage Museum with the AF Enlisted Memorial where a plaque with Bill Petrie on it represents all enlisted Airmen.
 - [JBSA – Randolph](#). Known as "the Showplace of the Air Force" because of the Spanish Colonial Revival Style architecture (including the "Taj Mahal"), Randolph is home to the AF Personnel Center, AF Education and Training Command, and the 12th Flying Training Wing.
 - [JBSA – Fort Sam Houston](#). Home of the US Army North, US Army South, Army Installation Management Command, Army Medical Command (MEDCOM), DoD Medical Education and Training Campus (METC), and Center for the Intrepid (amputee/ prosthetics therapy).

Possible day or overnight trips: *(see links on website or electronic version of this document)*

- [Texas Hill Country \(varies\)](#). Beautiful towns, shopping, countryside, parks, and restaurants.
 - [Texas Hill Country Wineries \(varies\)](#). More than 30 unique and visually stunning wineries.
 - [New Braunfels \(35 miles\)](#). A little bit of old Germany smack dab in the middle of the Texas Hill Country, including Gruene Hall (Texas' Oldest Dance Hall) in the Gruene Historic District.
 - [LBJ Ranch and National Historic Park \(60 miles\)](#). Halfway between Fredericksburg and Johnson City (location of the LBJ Ranch Visitor Center).
 - [Fredericksburg \(70 miles\)](#). Historic sites & museums (including the National Museum of the Pacific War), shopping, attractions, and wineries.
 - [Austin \(80 miles\)](#). Over 167 attractions, including the State Capitol, Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center, University of Texas at Austin, and the LBJ Presidential Library.
 - [Corpus Christi \(145 miles\)](#). Home of the USS Lexington, Texas State Aquarium, Padre Island National Seashore, South Texas Botanical Gardens & Nature Center, and Mustang Island State Park.
 - [Bryan – College Station \(170 miles\)](#). Texas A&M University, nine First-Rate galleries and museums – including the George Bush Presidential Library and Museum.
 - [Waco \(180 miles\)](#). Texas Ranger Hall of Fame and Museum, Texas Sports Hall of Fame, Dr. Pepper Museum, Baylor University, Waco Mammoth Site, Suspension Bridge, three wineries and a distillery.
 - [Houston \(200 miles\)](#). Over 137 attractions, including the NASA Space Center, Houston Museum District, Cockrell Butterfly Center, and Houston Arboretum and Nature Center.
 - [Galveston \(245 miles\)](#). Port Bolivar Ferry, Tree Sculptures, Lone Star Flight Museum, Tall Ship ELISSA, The Strand, The Seawall, Treasure Island Tour Train, and Railroad Museum & Terminal.
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Handy Links

Need a San Antonio Weather forecast? View one at www.underground.com.

Want news about the San Antonio area? Read the San Antonio News at www.mysanantonio.com.

For general information on San Antonio, check out www.sanantonio.com.

Need a car rental or airline tickets? Visit www.travelocity.com.

Driving to San Antonio? See www.mapquest.com for directions.

Need info on Joint Base San Antonio (JBSA includes Lackland, Randolph, and Fort Sam Houston)?
Click on <http://www.jbsa.af.mil/>
