

From: GARRETT MOORE [garrettmoore@verizon.net]
Sent: Saturday, July 31, 2010 9:37 PM
To: garrettmoore@verizon.net
Subject: ANNOUNCING THE 2012 GEODETIC SURVEY SQUADRON REUNION

Greetings, Fellow GSS/GSG Veterans!

As the end of June approached, it occurred to me that it had been exactly a year since we had our grand 50th anniversary reunion in Cheyenne. That, of course, means that *THE NEXT REUNION IS ONLY TWO YEARS AWAY!* It also means that I have been woefully negligent by failing to get back to all of you with feedback on how the last one went down!

Report on Last Reunion

By all accounts and despite the sour economy, it was a very successful reunion. Dana "Phred" Hannon, our man on the ground in Cheyenne, reported that the attendance for the first evening's social was 114 +/-, the attendance for the second day's luncheon was 114; and the attendance for the final day's brunch was 96. We were especially gratified to have a great turnout of many of the senior GSS veterans, those who were "present at the creation" of the original 1381st GSS, and who had served in Orlando in the early days.

As you may recall, the majority of GSS veterans voted to turn over all Squadron memorabilia to the F.E. Warren Heritage Museum. Many veterans, including some who could not attend the reunion, submitted personal mementos ranging from news articles, to patches, to hats, to photos, to survey disks, to training manuals, and a host of other items. All of the items were on display for the attendees to see.

During the final day's brunch, we recognized individuals for their support of the reunion. Vic Haas received a brass 50th anniversary disk and certificate of appreciation for being the first to donate his original Squadron manuals and for kicking off the avalanche of donations by other GSS vets for the FEW Heritage Museum. Dana Hannon, Mike DaRonco and Ron Nesti also got disks and certificates; Dana for being our key coordinator in Cheyenne; Mike (in absentia) for his continuing work to locate the missing; and Ron, for his efforts in updating and improving the Squadron's reunion website. Dana reciprocated by giving me a plaque acknowledging my expertise in *herding cats!* We also conducted a semi-formal turnover of all the collected memorabilia, the Squadron scrapbook, and the Squadron's guidon with Outstanding Unit streamers. Col Fritz Frieauf, the last GSS/GSG Commander, handed over the memorabilia to the museum representative.

Options for Next Reunion

One of the final orders of business at the last reunion was to take a vote on whether to continue meeting every three years and to decide on the location for the next reunion. Suggestions for meeting every five years and alternative locations such as Orlando and Branson were offered. However, *the nearly unanimous choice of attendees was to continue to meet every three years in Cheyenne, but later in the summer than June!*

Bev Millians, wife of Major Bob Millians, a former Squadron officer and Det 1 commander, had a great idea. Bev suggested that we time the next reunion to be just before or just after Cheyenne Frontier Days (CFD). That way, interested GSS veterans can take in both events during the same trip. I personally favor the 'week before' option, as the hotel prices are likely to still be reasonable and the local merchants will be well stocked and enthusiastic in anticipation of CFD rather than depleted and pooped out! Unfortunately for us, CFD actually goes longer than a week, lasting 10 days and occupying two full weekends at the end of July. In 2012, the dates for CFD are Friday, 20 July through Sunday, 29 July. That means that there can be no direct transition from our weekend reunion into Frontier Days, unless we schedule the reunion during the week days preceding CFD. This would likely present a problem for GSS veterans who are working during the week. The alternative, for those preferring to take in both the reunion

and CFD is to schedule *during* one of the CFD weekends. The drawback to that is that we run into competition for space and services at a time when hotel prices are at their max.

Your feedback and suggestions are welcome on this dilemma, but for initial planning purposes I will use the weekend preceding CFD in 2012 as our working date. That tentatively places the next reunion on Friday through Sunday, 13-15 July 2012, leaving a gap of 4 days between the end of our reunion and the opening weekend of CFD. Remember, this date is *tentative* and may change depending on cost, availability of venues, and on what kind of deal we can negotiate with the hotel.

Which brings up another matter...

Cheyenne Volunteers Needed!

Dana "Phred" Hannon has been our point man in Cheyenne for the last three reunions doing all the coordinating, negotiating and making of final logistical arrangements. He was a virtual one-man committee, but he has already announced that he will not play a major role next time. He has had some recent health issues, so even if he relents (as he usually does), I suspect Winne, his wife, will lay the hammer down---and rightly so!

It's time to "spread the wealth." There are probably enough GSS/GSG retirees living in Cheyenne to staff a large detachment, including senior officers and NCOs, so I am going to lean on some of you to be our local committee to take on the work that Dana did so well. Dana promises to remain available in an advisory capacity, but *without the assistance of 2 or 3 steadfast committee members in Cheyenne, the 2012 reunion will not happen!*

CHEYENNE VOLUNTERS, PLEASE STEP FORWARD!!

Contact Dana to see what the job entails:

Dana "Phred" Hannon
5310 Mountain Road
Cheyenne, WY 82009--5014
PH: 307 637-5629
E-MAIL: dwhannon2@aol.com

Other Committee Members

I will continue in my capacity to get the word out with these newsletters, perhaps every two months at first, more often as the reunion date approaches and plans begin to gel. I encourage all of you to help locate missing colleagues, get the word out to GSS friends and colleagues who have no e-mail, and to report any known deaths of Squadron colleagues.

In this capacity of tracking down our missing brethren, I hope we can continue to enlist the aid of Super Sleuth Private Eye and Godfather of all GSS reunions, Mike DaRonco, who virtually built the original contact list of hundreds of GSS veterans single-handedly from scratch more than 30 years after he left the Squadron! Due to unfortunate personal circumstances, Mike has had to miss the last two reunions, so we hope to see him next time around.

Ron Nesti has done great job in updating and improving the look and utility of our GSS Veteran website, <http://www.1381st-gss.freeservers.com/>. I encourage all of you to avail yourself of the website to view names of contacted and deceased veterans, enjoy photos (including some from the last reunion), use the blog space to contact other GSS veterans, and review other interesting related links. A number of our vets are also on contemporary social websites such as *LinkedIn, MySpace, Face Book, Classmates.com*, and others, so look for them there as well. If you have photos, updates or corrections to add to our reunion website, please contact Ron at ronnesti@comcast.net.

As things progress, we may call for additional volunteers to address short-term focused needs.

Where's Harly?

Unfortunately, we have learned that the website put up by former Squadron geodesist, Harly D. Pitt, has been taken down. Harly's site had provided an excellent summary of the Squadron's history. We have not heard from Harly for some time. He has not responded to e-mail or snail-mail, and he has not attended

any of the last three reunions. If any of you know of his status or how to reach him, please advise. Meanwhile, an abbreviated version of his original work is at the 1370th Photo Mapping Wing website, <http://1370th.org/gsshhistory/gsshhistory.htm>

More Squadron Vets Found

Since the last reunion, we have heard from or received information updates from a few more missing veterans and we are happy to add their names to our e-mail list and the list of living GSS colleagues.

Among them are:

David Baber
Greg Gard
Robert C. Glazier
Jim Green
Darlene Kirkpatrick
Pete McKenzie
Anthony B. Nicholson
George Picha
Martin Selinfreund
Mark L. Stevens
Tom Teixeira
Jim Unfried
Bobby C. Walters

Recently Deceased GSS Veterans

On a less happy note, last spring Ed Finke reported that Ken Havasi, a Squadron veteran serving 1965-1969, passed away on March 3rd after having a leg amputated, as well as losing a long fight with cancer. He was 63 and had worked for Baker Engineering in Beaver, PA, since leaving the Squadron. He attended the reunion in 2003, but did not come to the other reunions in 2006 and 2009 due to health problems.

Ken was on my Thailand TDY team in 1968 out of Cheyenne. Our team pioneered what became a series of long and tough TDYs picked up by a steady succession of Squadron teams stretching out over several years providing geodetic and nav-aid support to the several air bases and radar sites in Thailand during the Vietnam era. Ken and I, along with 1Lt Roy Herbst, Jim Peek, Roger Poe, and the late Herbie Matson and the late Charlie Cramer made up the first team and spent over 4 months in the jungle between August-December 1968, working 6-7 days a week, 18-20 hours a day. Ken was with us until he got sidelined in a Khorat hospital with a bad case of hemorrhoids! Ken had also performed TDY surveys for two months in Viet Nam in 1966 with Dave Stouden, as well as numerous additional TDY missions around the US.

We have added two other new names to the deceased list since the last reunion:

Pete Pammel
John "Jack" Carr

Personal Note

Following the last reunion, wife Bonnie and I jumped into her Blue Sebring convertible and continued our trek west from Cheyenne through Rocky Mountain National Park, where it was still snowing in late June as we crossed the 12,000-ft elevation of Trail Ridge Road. In Utah we paused long enough to soak in the Great Salt Lake, then moved on across Nevada to Lake Tahoe, where we stayed with friends for the 4th of July, and finally cruised down the High Sierras into California across the Golden Gate. Having begun at Cape Cod, we were thrilled to have made the Great American Journey from "sea to shining sea." We lingered for a few days in the Bay area to visit two of our three sons and some of Bonnie's kin, and then continued through the lovely mission towns along the beautiful California coast as far as Santa Barbara before pointing the convertible eastward again. As we crossed the Mojave, we were grateful for the hospitality of fellow GSS vet and current National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency (NGA) geodesist, Bob Tyszka, who gave us a tour of the facilities of the Geodesy & Geophysics (G&G) team stationed at

Edwards AFB. (Recall that NGA's G&G operations took over the functions of the Geodetic Survey Squadron/Group, when the unit stood down in 1993.)

Moving on, we decided on a whim to brave the heat and depths of Death Valley, which checked in at 282 feet below sea level and 120 degrees F when we got to Bad Water, the lowest natural on-land point in the entire western hemisphere. From there, we pressed on to Las Vegas ("Lost Wages"), crossed the Hoover Dam, ventured to the Grand Canyon, visited Meteor Crater and got our kicks on Route 66 in Arizona and New Mexico!

We detoured south from Amarillo to visit our old friend and GSS buddy of many years, John DePuy, in Wichita Falls, TX. (Thanks for your Texas-sized hospitality, John!)

After several weeks on the road, we pressed on across Oklahoma, Arkansas, Tennessee, North Carolina and finally, home to Virginia. We had added nearly 7700 miles to the odometer in 6 weeks of driving. In the course of our travels, we had occupied the geographic center of the 48 states, traversed the highest and lowest paved elevations in the country, visited four presidential libraries (Kennedy, Truman, Clinton and Jackson), and several National Parks---and of course, we also had a great reunion in Cheyenne with many you! We had a lotta weeds to pull and a lotta laundry to do when we got back, but *we are hooked* on this land of ours!! We'll do it again at the next reunion and take a different route next time. Soothe your inner gypsy---I highly recommend it!!

50th Anniversary Disks Still Available

By the way, if you missed out on getting one of the specially made polished brass survey disks commemorating the Squadron's 50th birthday, or if you want more, I still have a handful of these collector's items remaining. Just send a check for \$40 per disk, and I'll turn your order around, postage paid. Only 50 were made and they are bound to become collector's items.

Send your check to:

Garrett R. Moore
6406 Stonehaven Ct
Clifton, VA 20124

I hope you are looking forward to the next reunion as much as we are. Please plan to come, especially if you missed any of the previous ones.

Looking forward to seeing you all in two years!

Garrett

P.S. The following GSS veteran needs help proving he was TDY to Vietnam. Can any former Sat Tri folks who were on duty in 72-73 verify? See e-mail below:

NAME: Greg Gard
ADDRESS: 3308 S. Norton Ave. Independence, MO 64052
PHONE: 816-246-9046
E-MAIL ADDRESS: gardg@sbcglobal.net
MILITARY or CIVILIAN: (Military)
HIGHEST RANK or POSITION in GSSq: Sgt
START/END DATES OF SERVICE IN GSSq: 1972-Sept 1973
ORGs: FE Warren, Survey – Geociever Operator/Radio Repairman

Garrett,

Unfortunately, was unable to attend the reunion due to prior commitments for my disabled grandson. But have appreciated all of the work done to make it a success.

I am trying to get my DD214 amended to reflect TDY duty in Viet Nam, Sept 1972. Orders were cut for only one person in our group SMSgt/CMSgt Alan Ladd. Am trying to locate anyone who might have participated in this mission or knows of someone who participated in this mission? Local Congressman said a witness or someone else who has already been through this amendment process (as a result of only one set of orders, with only Alan Ladd's name attached) would be most helpful. Since this occurred 37 years ago, my memory of those went on this mission with me, is somewhat vague.

Is it possible to send out a blast email? I submitted an entry on the GSSQ blog and have emailed a couple of men whose email addresses were included on the GSSQ list. Any other suggestions would be helpful.

Thank you in advance,

Greg Gard
816-246-9046
gardg@comcast.net