

Geodetic Survey Squadron/Group 2012 Reunion, Newsletter #15, 28 July 2012

Greetings, Fellow Veterans of the Geodetic Survey Squadron/Geodetic Survey Group!

Pack your bags, folks, and put on your party rags---it's reunion time!

Bonnie and I have our suitcases locked and loaded, and tomorrow we will point the car west toward the Magic City of the Plains. We'll take a comfortable four days to get there from the Virginia side of Washington, DC, but we plan to arrive a day or two early to make sure all things are lined up as planned and ready for all to have a great time.

This is my very last update before the reunion...

Reunion Details

Turnout for this reunion is slightly lighter than previous reunions. As I write, **95** of us have already reserved our places at the reunion, and many have signed up for all three catered events. Here's the breakout so far. I don't expect these numbers to change significantly.

Total attending: 95
Friday night social: 53
Saturday lunch: 89
Sunday brunch: 84

If you have not made your hotel reservations yet, you have missed the 20 July deadline for getting the special room rate. As reported here in the last several newsletters, any unreserved rooms after 20 July have reverted to the regular price and are available to reunion attendees only on a space-available basis. Likewise, the hotel will now require a \$5 surcharge for anyone wanting to pay at the door for the three catered events.

The three catered events include a Friday evening "Icebreaker" social, Saturday mid-day luncheon and Sunday late-morning brunch, 3-5 August 2012.

- Our reunion is at:
Holiday Inn Cheyenne
204 West Fox Farm Road
Cheyenne, WY 82007
- Late registrants may make room reservations by calling Holiday Inn Cheyenne at 307-638-4466; you are welcome to try mentioning "Geodetic Survey Reunion" to see if they'll honor the discount rate even though it's past the 20 July deadline.
- **The adjusted prices (including the pay-at-the-door late fee) for our three catered events are:**
 - **Friday Evening Icebreaker Social – \$7 per person. Drinks are on you.**
 - **Saturday Mid-Day Luncheon -- \$18 per person**
 - **Sunday Brunch -- \$16 per person**

If you plan to attend any or all of these three functions, and have not yet paid me in advance, SEND ME NO CHECKS! I'll be on the road heading to Cheyenne over the next few days, so please pay me in person at the reunion by check or cash for the events you plan to attend.

Please make checks payable to Garrett R. Moore.

Menus for the Catered Events

Here is the menu breakout for the three events being catered by Holiday Inn. All events will take place in the hotel's Laramie/Shoshone large meeting room; location will be confirmed and posted on the hotel lobby bulletin board each day of the reunion.

Note: I just got the catering contract and there are some minor changes, mostly in the longer allotted times for each event. Also, lemonade is included as a lunch beverage on Saturday.

Friday Evening "Icebreaker" Social, 1800-2300 hours, Shoshone/Laramie Room

Holiday Inn will provide a bartender and free snacks

Holiday's "savory snack mix"
Tortilla chips with salsa and queso
Buttered popcorn
Bar beverages are pay-as-you-go

Saturday Lunch Buffet, 1100-1400 hours, Shoshone/Laramie Room

Mixed Garden Salad
Penne Chicken Alfredo
London Broil with Mushroom Sauce
Garlic Mashed Potatoes
Mixed Seasonal Vegetables
Dinner Rolls
Beverages: Coffee, Iced Tea, Lemonade and Water

Sunday Brunch Buffet, 1000-1300 hours, Shoshone/Laramie Room

Fresh Seasonal Fruit Display with Cinnamon Yogurt
Assortment of Muffins, Breads and Pastries
Freshly Scrambled Eggs
Choice of Hickory Smoked Bacon, Sage Sausage And Smoked Virginia Ham
Home Fried Potatoes
Buttermilk Biscuits & Country Gravy
Orange, Apple & Cranberry Juice
Fresh Brewed Coffee
Assortment of Hot Herbal Teas

Holiday Inn's Catering manager promises to accommodate dietary needs, providing substitutes, if someone has an issue, allergy or dietary restriction with items on the above menus.

Saturday Afternoon Golf Outing---a Bust!

As you know, **Fritz Friehauf**, former GSS commander and Cheyenne resident, has been trying very hard to organize a golf outing as part of our reunion festivities on Saturday afternoon 4 August, with prizes and other goodies for participants.

I recently received this disappointing news from Fritz on those plans:

Garrett, no good news to report. I have 2 official sign-ups plus two other folks...if we needed to fill out a foursome. At this point I'm inclined to just scratch the whole golf outing. Maybe we can sell off the 40 golf goody bags for \$10 each for keepsakes. That way I could recover some of the cost (\$436) I spent getting the logo balls, the sleeves, the printing and putting the bags together. As you might expect, I'm disappointed ,,but what you gonna do?
So, I'm willing to fold my tent and forget about the whole thing, if it is OK with you. It's always iffy when you try to plan these things. We tried, and it did not work out. Sorry. Anyway, regards and will see you next weekend. Fritz

Sad, but true---the golf outing is now cancelled. However, the GSS logo golf balls and sleeves will be available during the reunion for \$10 to help recoup the money that Fritz put up.

Many thanks to Fritz for his great volunteer effort in planning this golf outing for us, even if in vain!

Other Saturday Events

Since no one will be golfing, there are many other local diversions to make your Saturday afternoon enjoyable. One of the best bets may be the **Laramie County State Fair and Rodeo**, billed as Wyoming's oldest and largest county fair. It kicks off on Saturday and takes place in Cheyenne's Laramie County Archer Complex, 3967 Archer Parkway. (I erroneously reported previously that it would be in Frontier Park.) It's free and open to the public. For more information, click on < <http://www.laramiecountyfair.com/> >. If you missed Cheyenne Frontier Days, this may be the next best thing!

For additional information on things to do, places to go, local restaurants, and a calendar of events happening in the Cheyenne area, go to the website of the **Cheyenne Convention and Visitors' Bureau** at < <http://www.cheyenne.org/> >.

You may also obtain information on Cheyenne and the rest of Wyoming from **Wyoming Travel & Tourism** by clicking on WyomingTourism.org.

I have arranged for delivery of hospitality bags from the Visitors' Bureau for folks staying at the Holiday Inn. The bags will include maps, coupons and other goodies from local businesses. If all goes as planned, these hospitality bags should be available for you when you check in at the Inn. If you are not staying at the Holiday Inn Cheyenne, you may pick up the same package at the Bureau's downtown location near the train depot.

Cheyenne Convention and Visitors' Bureau

One Depot Square
121 W. 15th Street, Suite 202
Cheyenne, WY 82001
800-426-5009

Wine & Cheese Social

Finally, don't forget to cap off Saturday evening by joining us at **Anita Rakestraw's** wine and cheese party in our sixth-floor Hospitality Suite at the Holiday Inn---the *Rawhide Room*. Festivities begin at 7 p.m. Anita will bring the starters and you are all invited and encouraged to bring your own favorite beverages and snacks to share. (Non-alcoholic drinks are okay too!) This will be a perfect way to top off a busy Saturday of touring and site seeing. We will confirm the time and location during the lunch event on Saturday, and that information will also be posted in the hotel lobby.

GSS/GSG Coins for Reunion Attendees

For those of you who ordered GSS/GSG commemorative coins and said you would pick them up during the reunion, there will be two main opportunities. The first will be during Anita's wine and cheese party on Saturday night, and the second will be just before the brunch on Sunday morning. These times and locations will also be posted in the lobby during the reunion. If you have a conflict with either of those two times, seek me out during the reunion and I'll take care of you individually.

Another GSS Vet Recently Deceased

I recently got sad word from **Ed Finke** that another of our former colleagues passed away last January. Here's the news directly from Ed:

This may be old news, but **Edgar "Ed" Rosser**, age 68 of Dorcas, WV, died 20 Jan 2011 at the Grant Memorial Hospital in Petersburg, WV. He was in Field Survey in 1964-1967 with **Ed Fincke, Herb Guenther and Joe Noel**, in Orlando and Cheyenne WY. - Ed Fincke, GSS, 1963-1967

This was particularly sad news for me, as I remember Rosser very well. After basic training at Lackland, I went through the Topographic Surveyor course (as the Army Engineer School then called it) at Ft Belvoir in early 1964 with all three of the men mentioned by Ed Finke---Guenther, Noel and Rosser. I recall that they all got orders for Orlando when the course was over, but I was sent to a Civil Engineering Group at Andrews AFB on the Maryland side of Washington. (I lived in the barracks right across from the hangar where Air Force One was parked.) A few years later, after the 1381st had moved Hq from Orlando to Cheyenne, I met up with them again. I got orders to the Squadron and FEW in 1967. They all got out later that year when their enlistments expired. Herb went on to serve the citizens of Arizona and became a state representative and senator there and an able advocate for water conservation. Rosser did not have e-mail, but Herb and Joe have been on our e-mail distribution list for reunions. Regrettably, none of them has ever made it to a reunion. Recently, my e-mails to Joe have bounced, due no doubt to a change in Internet service providers. (That's why it's so important for us to have your full contact information!) I hope they are aware of Ed Rosser's passing, and that they will soon be in contact with us over the loss of their old friend and survey colleague. (Send us your updated contact info, guys!)

Rest in peace, Ed Rosser. May you end up in your next life, as you often liked to say in this life, flashing a grin and a twinkle, and in your best West Virginia drawl, "Ah'm fine, fine, finer than a frog's hair!"

Ron Nesti has added Rosser's name to our online deceased list, and you all may read his obituary there at < <http://www.1381st-gss.freesevers.com/> >. Follow the link to the Deceased List.

More Names Added or Updated on Our Online Roster

Three more vets have sent in their contact information or updated their existing contact information.

Roger Koehler (1968-71) was an old astro hand and also taught at the Squadron's training facility. He lives in Texas now after retiring from a second career with Lockheed Martin Aero.

Lee Peterson (1976-79) served the Squadron in Gravity and ALS, and now lives in California.

Jack Quirk (1978-1990) spent 12 years as a civilian with the squadron as an illustrator, photographer, and video specialist (retired former Marine Corps) and now lives in Cheyenne.

These GSS veterans now (or soon will) have their names entered in our "Hall of Fame" of living GSS/GSG veterans on our webpage at < <http://www.1381st-gss.freeservers.com/> >.

Check out this site!

If you don't see your name in The List, it's either because you are deceased and forgot to tell us (Ha!) OR you are alive but you haven't sent us your contact information yet!

Come on---what are you waiting for?! Take the few simple steps listed below to get on the roster!

Get your name listed among your old friends and colleagues on the GSS/GSG veterans' webpage by sending us your locator information!

Just copy and paste this little form into a reply e-mail to me and fill it out with your

NAME:

ADDRESS: (Include street or mailbox #, city, state and zip code)

PHONE:

E-MAIL ADDRESS:

MILITARY or CIVILIAN: (Answer "both" if you served the unit in both capacities)

HIGHEST RANK or POSITION in GSS/GSG:

START/END DATES OF SERVICE IN GSS/GSG: (Multiple entries, if you had more than one tour of duty)

ORGS: (i.e., where you worked/what you did in the unit)

OTHER: (Whatever else you want to share here about your time in the Squadron or since then.)

Your information is protected by user name and password, so only other Squadron veterans with IDs and passwords will see it. If there is something you don't want posted, leave that item blank.

If you haven't checked it out lately, take a look at Ron Nesti's excellent handiwork managing our GSS/GSG Veterans' website at <http://www.1381st-gss.freeservers.com/>.

[Send us your digitized photos, "war stories", and TDY adventures from your special time in the Squadron, and Ron will add those to our growing collection. There's also a blog spot for communicating with or searching for old friends.](#)

Why Come to This Reunion?

Why come? You could be like **John and Sally Allen**, and make a grand adventure of it. John and Sally are ambling their way cross-country in their RV. At last report, they had made it all the way from the Carolinas via New York to Medora, North Dakota, home of Theodore Roosevelt National Park, and were heading south toward the South Dakota Badlands and Rapid City. They should hit the Cheyenne area just in time for the reunion!

There's also this discomfoting thought---If you have never come to any of the previous four reunions, you really ought to make the effort to attend this one! None of us is getting any younger, and this may be your last opportunity to meet up with an old buddy, a barracks roommate or an esteemed colleague from one of the most interesting and formative times of your young life!

Meanwhile, **John Sarles** (1971-77 & 1984-91), **Roger Koehler** (1968-71), **Pete Patera** (1987-92), **Del Walkenshaw** (1973-78), **Bobby Walters** (1960-65; 1969-72; 1975-80), **Jack Gerushalme** (1960-67)

and **Bill Carter** (1961-63 & 1965-67) all recently sent their regrets that they will miss this reunion for various reasons and they wish everybody to have a great time. But it's still not too late for you to join us.

For those of us who have already committed, we are ONLY SIX DAYS from our next reunion! For those joining the party late, here's a checklist of things to get done ASAP!

Checklist:

- ü ***Out-of-towners, if you haven't done so yet, reserve your room at the Holiday Inn Cheyenne: 307-638-4466.***

- ü ***Late arriving attendees who have not made prior reservations for the catered events, please pay me at the door for the catered reunion events you plan to attend.***

Over and Out!

Looking forward to seeing you all soon!

Garrett

Field Survey & Astro

GSS/Cheyenne

April 1967 - May 1970 and January - December 1972

Nothing makes the Earth seem so spacious as to have friends at a distance—they make the latitudes and longitudes.

--Henry David Thoreau, Surveyor & Philosopher