



OSOTMG NEWS

VOLUME 2 ISSUE 1

January 2009

Important
Frequently Used
Phone Numbers
140th Phone #'s
Casualty Assist
720-847-6946
Family Support
720-847-9116
460th Phone #'s
RAO (Retired Activities
Office)
720-847-6693
Legal
720-847-6444
Other Phone #'s
VA
1-800-827-1000
TRICARE (TRIWEST)
1-888-874-9378
TRICARE for Life
1-866-773-0404
Social Security
1-800-772-1213
TREA 39
303-340-3939

✳ **NEXT MEETING** - 3 February, 1100, TREA 39, 15821 Centretech Circle, Aurora, CO 80011 ✳

Howdy Duty Time

Hi folks ... This is your Chairman's hubby with a contribution to Howdy Duty Time. Well, it's been five years since I retired from Civilian and Military Service at Buckley AFB. (Buckley Field always sounded so much better to me, but then, nothing stays the same any more.)

My career started off many years ago with a seven year hitch in the USAF. I spent most of my time deployed in Europe ... Rhein-Main AB, Germany, Athenai Airport, Athens Greece, and Mildenhall AB, England. Not bad, even if I do say so myself! Two memorable things happened during my European tour ... I got stationed with my brother at Rhein-Main AB and at the conclusion of the tour; I got reassigned to Peterson Field in Colorado Springs. Little did I know when I got to Colorado that my career would blossom into retirement many years later.

I did the usual thing after getting out of the USAF. I bummed around working at a radio sta-

tion in Colorado Springs, moved to Denver for better opportunities, worked for a Mercedes dealership, and drove a tractor-trailer. Those were all good career moves, a? After a while the idea came up to look into the Air Guard and see if I could make something out of the seven years I had in the USAF. A couple of trips to the Recruiting Office and I enlisted and was assigned to the flight line. To my amazement, I ran into an old AF buddy (John Poyer) that had joined the Guard right out of the USAF! Small world!

Shortly after joining the Guard as a week-ender, I discovered the Civil Service side of the house. It wasn't long before I got hired on as a technician. For the next 25 years I called Buckley HOME! And that's what it really was, HOME.

The early years of my career at Buckley, it was all family. They call it a Family Program today,
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ORI, 13-16 February 2009

The 140th Mission Support Flight (used to be CBPO) will be closed due to the ORI, from 13-16 February for I.D. cards, etc. If you plan to visit on 17 February, please call first as this is an ORI back-up day. The Customer Service phone # is 720.847.9244.

HEALTH CARE ELIGIBILITY - PLEASE READ!

If you retired from the Guard or Reserves as a Traditional Guardsmen, are 60 years old, you are eligible for TriCare Standard or TriCare Prime Health

Flash (Hot News)

Coverage. TriCare Prime will cost you **\$230 a year** for a single member or **\$460 a year** for a family (including children). At 65 you are eligible for TriCare for Life, which **has no annual premium**. Co-pays are \$12, prescriptions at the Air Force Pharmacy are **FREE**. If the AF Pharmacy does not carry your medication, Kings Soopers, Safeway and Walgreens (and other local pharmacies) will provide prescriptions at a reduced rate (currently \$3 a month). Even if you do not live in a metropolitan area, your Primary Care Doctor may already accept TriCare or can sign up.

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BIG THANK YOU!!!!

Lowell Leigh
Leon Duggins
Tom Schultz
Judy Pock

Judith Cummings

All who threw money into the Poor Box at the January meeting

***A special thank you and apology to Jan Axton. Jan sent me a check in October and I did not see it in the envelope with her note. (Good thing I don't throw away correspondence!) Thanks, for keeping me on my toes!

Attendance

Jerry Bozarth
Harold Brewer
Joe Broom
Sonja Broom
Dale Bristol
Tony Burczyk
Judy Cummings
Ralph Evans
Deb Eyre
Don Ford
Terry Gaer
Woody Glaser
Michael Haines

Joe Harnke
Sy Harjes
Bob Herbst
Mryt Herbst
Dewey Hicks
Robert Huffman
Harold Jackson
Jan Love
Sam Lovell
Ken Love
Pat McCabe
Mac McCarley
Ken McGill

Ann Muniz
B.J. Nanney
Bill Pickens
Joan Pickens
Judy Pock
Diana Richards
Lloyd Richards
Joyce Saitta
Lawrence Schlager
Mike Schnurstein
Susan Schnurstein
Larry Sell
Arlo Sorheim

* 1st Timers

Tom Schultz
Harold Taylor
Doug Teasdale
Jim Thurmond
Linda Turner
Paul Turner
Harry Wales

FEBRUARY LUNCH -
Spaghetti with Meatballs,
Caesar Salad & Garlic
Bread. COST \$6.00,
RSVP to Jan Love at
303.693.7538 or
OSOTMG@comcast.net
NLT 29 January.
(Meals reserved and not
eaten are paid for out of
OSOTMG funds.)

Sick Call

JR Ewing accidentally removed the top of his trigger finger, ouch.

Ray Zorens doing much, much better after complications from a shoulder replacement last June (2008)

Fred Bahmeier has had a stroke and now is in Collier Hospice Center, 3210 Luthern Pkwy, Wheatridge, CO 80033



Birthdays



Bonnie Asher
Ralph Bernhardt
Harold Brewer
John Christopher
Linda Coble
Ralph Evans
Dan Gay
Karen Kyritz
John LeVan
Verlene Lee
Lowell Leigh
Armin Lichtfuss

Reed Lutz
Jo McDonald
William McGaffin
Anne Neuens
Sandy Overfield
Tom Rochford
Hazel Rutter
Eva Shreeve
Hal Smethills
Jerry Smith
James Weickum
Deb Wray

Taps



Donna Burch, wife of CMSgt Richard Burch, (Ret),
27 December 2008.

Date Book

February

1st - Super Bowl Sunday
3rd - OSOTMG Meeting
14th - Valentine's Day
14 - 16th, Western Regional Military Bowling Tournament (Hosted by COANG)
16th - President's Day
25th - Ash Wednesday

March

3rd - OSOTMG Meeting
8th - Daylight Savings Time Begins
17th - St Patrick's Day

April

7th - OSOTMG Meeting
12th - Easter

May

5th - OSOTMG Meeting
10th - Mother's Day

June

2nd - OSOTMG Meeting
14th - Flag Day
21st - Father's Day

July

4th - Independence Day
7th - OSOTMG Meeting & BBQ

August

1st - Colorado Day
4th - OSOTMG Meeting

September

7th - Labor Day
8th - OSOTMG Meeting

October

6th - OSOTMG Meeting

November

3rd - OSOTMG Meeting
26th - Thanksgiving

December

1st - OSOTMG Meeting
12th - Hanukah begins
21st - First day of Winter
25th - Christmas
26th - Kwanzaa begins

Committee's Corner

What does a geek retiree do in his spare time? Well, I am a HAM. I have been accused of telling some bad jokes. No, I am not that kind of HAM. My first hobby was given to me under the Christmas tree when I was 12 years old- a Hallicrafters Short Wave Radio. I obtained my Novice license in 1975 but did not use it much because of the Morse code requirement was not my cup of tea. The requirement for Morse code was dropped two years ago, so I decided to obtain my Amateur License again. This time I went from Technician to General to Amateur Extra license in a couple of months this last August.

I am amazed and surprised at the progression of Amateur Radio. Regular TV, digital e-mails, regular voice and internet linked radios are the forefront of HAM radio. Most people use cell phones to make calls around town and around the country. I was frustrated in the mountains and in a lot of areas around the country where dropped calls were the norm. Now with amateur radio, I can call anyone from my house, my car or from a portable radio and patch through on the phone line to anywhere in the world with a range of 200 miles on FM repeater nets for free; OR the entire country and world on High Frequency Short-wave. With the free OSCAR satellite orbiting overhead, I can use a handheld radio and connect with anyone in the world. Now, add the internet as a link to the radios and I can connect with radios from the South Pole to New Zealand.

On Christmas day, my granddaughter, Dulcinea was watching me talk to people around the world and asked to contact someone for her. From the map she selected New Zealand. We called up New Zealand via an internet linked FM radio repeater system and talked to a "Mate" there like he was in the same room as us. Compared to cell phones, this was such a clear and understandable signal on my radio.

One last thing about Amateur radio, it is the only form of communication that gets through during disasters and emergencies when the energy company

loses power since it is mostly battery powered. Oahu, Hawaii lost power when Obama was vacationing there and Amateurs ran the emergency communications net and kept things going. It is run by geeks like me, NOT dispatchers in local emergencies who do not understand radio propagation and use.

As Always Paul Turner

If you know of **any** past members of the Colorado Air National Guard we haven't reached, please pass along our E-Mail address, OSOTMG@comcast.net or our mailing address, OSOTMG, 16059 E. Milan Drive, Aurora, CO 80013.

Due to the increase in Identity Theft and compliance with The Privacy Act of 1974, we will not longer be publishing signatures or personal information on the electronic version, on the website.

Committee Members:

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Dale Bristol

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If anyone want to bring valentines to the meeting for us to sign to take to the Veteran's home please do. Jan will be bring some.



Howdy Duty Con't from page 1

but on the flight line, we just took care of one another. I can remember when on a deployment to Alaska I was required to move into a new house, a week too early. It took one phone call to Moe Etter and things got handled! When I returned from deployment, I found that Moe had mobilized 18 pickup trucks from Guard guys and they moved all my stuff to my new home! Wow!

Lots of changes over the years ... the Guard got more involved in worldwide issues, we transitioned into the F-16, new members joined our ranks, and a lot of deployments! Regarding the deployments, even the worst location was a lot of fun!

Retirement for me is not a sedentary thing. In fact, my time is completely consumed being active. Sometimes I wonder how I get anything done. I've stayed active working with a NASCAR sanctioned race car every year since I, retired. That's a whole ton of fun. I've had a couple of part time jobs. Currently, I work for the City of Aurora at Aurora Hills Golf Course and I mow grass. You can't beat this for a job.

Being that I just turned 60 years old another milestone has been reached ... that Military Retirement Check! Now I can say that I'm now 'Fully Retired' and things look great. I wish everyone a speedy trip to retirement ... you'll love it!

Ken Love

Flash (Hot News) Con't from page 1

If you have questions, please call the TriCare numbers on the front/first page of this newsletter. You need to ask!

Recently, we found out that a retired Chief Master Sergeant has been eligible for TriCare for the past 15 years, but did not have the correct information and was still paying for other health coverage (i.e. Kaiser, Pacific Care, Blue Cross Blue Shield, etc.). (You can "suspend" your current coverage, incase you decide to pick it up again.) If you compare the cost per year, it is well worth it!

If you know of **any** past members of the Colorado Air National Guard we haven't reached, please pass along our E-Mail address, OSOTMG@comcast.net or our mailing address, OSOTMG, 16059 E. Milan Drive, Aurora, CO 80013.

WING PROJECTS

Deb Eyre (wife of BG Eyre, 140th Wing Commander), attended the January meeting to give us updates for the projects. She explained that even though most of the work (except for Adopt-A- Family), will start after the ORI, you can still sign up by contacting us (OSOTMG) either by phone or e-mail.

Adopt-A-Family

Pre-deployment briefing held 11 January for 140th Security Police Squadron, who are deploying soon. Dale Bristol represented the Other Siders (as I was down with the crud). The main area of responsibility will be during the upcoming overseas deployment, with families matched up and introduced in the coming months. One of the main advantages to Adopt-a-Family is your willingness to share experience and knowledge. Families of current members will receive great benefits when they have someone who has "been there, done that". Retirees and their families can truly understand and empathized with their situation. Volunteers are needed!

Wing History Office and Colorado Pride 3

Starting in med February, MSgt Rochelle Smith will begin working in the Wing History Office. MSgt Smith, formerly assigned to the OPS Life Support Shop is currently assigned militarily to the Wing Visual Information Section (we used to know this office as Audio Visual or Photo Lab). Rochelle is tasked to update the files and records from the past ten years. She will also be the full-time contact for Colorado Pride "3". She needs volunteer help in both areas; you may leave her a message at 720.847.6948.

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Wing Dining Facility Committee

Brig Gen Eyre would like to expand the "heritage" of the COANG, to the walls of the Dining Facility in Bldg 730. With the help of the Wing Visual Information Section (formally called Audio/Visual or the Photo Lab), we would like to display memorable moments in COANG history, centered on the theme of "Colorado Firsts". This project has been temporarily put on hold until after the ORI (May).

WESTERN REGIONAL BOWLING TOURNAMENT - Is still in need of volunteers and/or bowlers.

The Colorado Air National Guard is proud to host the 32nd Western Regional Military Bowling Tournament 13 - 16 February 2009 in the Denver. *Questions or want to be added to the email list? Email your Tournament Director, Tammy Dudley at WRMBT2009@aol.com*

Hats for Heroes

Our total is 2817 hats given out to date.



Our 2000th Hat
TSgt Chris Hodges with daughter Jeanne,
140th Medical, Air National Guard



Our 2500th Hat
Specialist Lance Taylor
Company B, STB, 86th IBCT
Army National Guard

Happy Valentine's Day