



OSOTMG NEWS

VOLUME 6 ISSUE 1

December 2012- January 2013

NEXT MEETING WILL BE 5 FEBRUARY 2013, SOCIALIZE AT 11 am, MEETING STARTS AT 11:45

*** AM AT TREA 39, 15821 CENTRETECH CIRCLE, AURORA, CO 80011. Please remember to RSVP for the March 5 St.Patricks Day Lucheon NLT Feb 28 to Paul Turner 303-366-6770, cost is \$12.00. ***

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

CODMVA

303-343-1268

www.colorado.gov

Deputy Director

CODMVA

Mickey Hunt

720-250-1510

303-249-0146(c)

[michael.hunt@](mailto:michael.hunt@dmva.state.gov)

dmva.state.gov

TRICARE (TRIWEST)

1-888-874-9378

TRICARE for Life

1-866-773-0404

Social Security

1-800-772-1213

TREA 39

303-340-3939

Committee's Corner

Dear Other Siders,

As we implement our plans for 2013, I am reminded of our recent keynote speaker, Major General H. Michael Edwards, The Adjutant General of Colorado. He spoke of the ongoing work of the Colorado Army and Air National Guard. He spoke of the success of our deployed troops and assets as well as those returning home. All in all, his plate is full and he stands ready for the task of maintaining a prepared, professional, fighting force which will defend our country if called upon. Someone in our group asked him what we could do to help and support him. His reply was to join and be active in the National Guard Association of Colorado (NGACO). They are our voice in Washington D.C. and aggressively pursue legislation which is beneficial to our active and retired National Guard members. In addition to that, they are the watch dogs who keep an eye on those who would undermine that which we have achieved or turn the clock back on that which we have earned. Many of those who make the adverse decisions have never served in the military. Our POC is our own Chef (retired) Joyce Saitta. She is the Retiree Director for the NGACO. I highly recommend that we participate in one or all of the upcoming conferences. They are: 1. The State Conference, 26-28 Apr 2013, location: The Vail Cascade Resort in Vail Colorado The theme is "Focusing on the Future". 2. The EANGUS National Conference will be held in Soxie (Selping) South Dakota Aug 18-21, 2013. 3. NAGUS Conference will be held in Hawaii in Sept 20-28, 2013. Go on your own or we can go as a group to any one of these. The time to plan is now. The main POC is Deb Wray CMSGT (Ret) at 720-250-1566 or contact Joyce Saitta if you are interested.

Dewey Hicks

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***Contribution Checks should be made payable to "OSOTMG" can be mailed to Paul Turner at 1945 Ensenada St., Aurora, CO 80011-5353.**

DECEMBER 2012 MINUTES

Don Neary opened the meeting with the pledge of Allegiance. DO Neary introduced the committee that were present, Steve Taylor, Jan Love, Paul Turner, and Dewey Hicks.

The only first timer was Donna Goodwin.

BGen Eyre is currently visiting the deployed troops in an overseas theatre prior to their return in January, 2013. Dewey Hicks is continuing the gathering of information about the COANG Aircraft for a calendar and possibly a descriptive book about the aircraft.

The group approved a catered lunch quarterly with the first meal to catered from Jim 'N Nick's barbecue during the March 2013 meeting. Sue Andrews volunteered to coordinate the first meal.

Joyce Saitti briefed the group about the 2013 NGAUS National conference in Hawaii in September 2013; the NGACO state conference in Vail in April 2013; and the EANGUS National Conference in South Dakota in August 2013. Check the websites for details at ngaco.org. Join the association since this group helped create a General's position on Joint Chiefs Staff for the Guard.

Reed Lutz briefed the group about the current status of the Social Security Retirement Offset for CSRS retirees. Currently there is no change yet for COANG retirees.

Taps: Buford Guinn passed last year and Mel Wilke just passed.

Sick Call: Dave Rubeck, and Phil Pohanic.

Retirements: C-21/T-43 Pilot Al Leachman from the 200AS.

Birthdays present: DO Neary, Dewey Hicks, Susan Schnurstein.

COANG Holiday Party on December 21st at 1200.

DO Neary will have a meeting Wednesday at Buckley with John Rohr and several other COANG members about the current Decade panel.

Steve Taylor talked about his 90 day cross country wheelchair trip in July 2012 to raise money for homeless Veterans and to raise awareness of the many problems returning veterans face when they return home from the many wars. He and four other veterans biked from Washington State to North Carolina and were helped by many other veterans groups such as the VFW and American Legion for hotel stays instead of always staying in a small camper.

Jan read Christmas story and wished all a Merry Christmas.

Judy Pock donated 14 handmade Afghans.

DECEMBER 2012 ATTENDANCE *1ST TIMER

Reed Lutz	John Paul
Tony Burczyk	Judy Pock
Harry Wales	Donna Goodwin*
Larry Sell	Golden Sherman
Steve Taylor	Sue and Andy Andrews
Maxine Merten	Glenn and Ellen Nishiki
Paul and Linda Turner	Dewey Hicks
Sy Harjes	Jerry Smith
Frances Emily	DO Neary
Dave Moos	Mike and Susan Schnurstein
Bob and Myrt Herbst	Bill Frazier
Jan Love	Frank Mullins
Joyce Saitti	Dale Bristol

DATE BOOK 2013**March**

5th—OSOTMG ST. PATRICK'S DAY LUNCHEON

April

2nd- OSOTMG MEETING

May

7th- OSOTMG MEETING

27th- MEMORIAL DAY

June

4th- OSOTMG MEETING AND LUNCHEON

July

2nd- OSOTMG MEETING

4th- INDEPENDENCE DAY

August

6th- OSOTMG MEETING

September

2nd LABOR DAY

3rd- OSOTMG MEETING AND LUNCHEON

JANUARY 2013 MINUTES

Don Neary opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance. There was no official guest speaker for today's meeting, so Don Neary declared himself the Guest Speaker.

Treasury Report: Paul Turner presented a report which was accepted by the members in attendance. He also mentioned that the cost for mailing a newsletter to those who don't have a computer or E-Mail addressed is one of the major expenses. The cost of stamps is going up so he stocked up on the forever stamps. Please let Paul know if you would like to discontinue receiving the newsletter by mail at Paul Turner(OSOTMG), 1945 Ensenada St., Aurora, CO 80011-5353 or call him at 303-366-6770.

March Meeting at TREA: An excellent Chef will prepare and cater Saint Patrick's Lunch for the members. You have a choice of the traditional corn beef and cabbage or a pot roast with potatoes and carrots. Please indicate your choice when mailing or signing up for the March meal. The cost will be \$12.00 per person and you can mail a check to Paul Turner at 1945 Ensenada St., Aurora, CO 80011-5353(make payable to OSOMG), or pay at the February meeting. To prepare a meal like this requires an accurate count to ensure there is enough food. Your reservation will be greatly appreciated by the February meeting. The excellent chef is Goldie Sherman.

Airplane Calendar: Dewey Hicks gave an update on what been happening. He stated it started as a 12 plane calendar, went to an 18 plane calendar and now to a book with 30 planes. He thanked Larry Sell, Jerry Brooks, Paul Turner, and Joe Broom who have help with identifying the airplanes.

NGAUS: Joyce Saitta gave an update on upcoming events for the national and state conferences. National conference will be held in August and September. There will be a mid winter conference in Las Vegas that she is planning to attend. The State conference will be in Vail, Co the last week of April. She also mentioned that there are new members in the US Congress and they will be looking at Tri-Care for Life health benefits and other benefits for retirees. NGAUS will be protecting your benefits and needs your help. If you're not a member **your membership is needed** to help defend your benefits. There is an office at the Revere Street Armory.

SICK CALL: Jan Love is ill and may require abdominal surgery. Phil Pohanic is ill but nobody had details.

TAPS: Dave Rubeck, Donald Hightower and Ken Gillis.

Decade Panels 2000-2010: Don Neary gave an update on the COANG Museum Committee to bring the museum up to date for the COANG history for this decade. The museum committee not being a active Guard member of this decade were experiencing some difficulty reviewing the information and needed the assistance of the younger retirees and active Guard troops. John Rohrer, Gary Greenwood, and Jimmy Riser, and Theresa Theiral stepped up to help; and the decade panels are progressing and should be in place shortly.

Tri Care Changes: Dan Gay called Tri Care West and was told there are changes coming for Tri Care Prime. This applies to those who are under age 65 and enrolled in Tri Car Prime. Tri Care West lost the contract and United Health Group will take over the contract in April. He mentioned that you will have to stop allotment to Tri Care West and start a new allotment for United Health. If you don't switch over you possibly could lose your benefits and have a hassle getting your money back from Tri Care. Your best bet is to check this out and find out how it affects you. There is a form the Enrollment Authorization Fee Allotment at Tri Care West.Com or call Customer Service 1-888-874-9378 for more details. This information is to let you know that there are changes coming for those enrolled in Tri Care Prime. Each person reading this needs to determine how this affects them and what action they should take.

Howdy Duty Stories: All of us have a story or two or something you remember about Buckley or Annual Field Training sites. Dewey Hicks would like to get these stories and put them in the newsletter. You don't have to make it lengthy, just a few words is all takes. His E-mail address is in the Committee box. He will look it over and contact you if he needs to ask a question. Let him know how he can contact you.

Next meeting Tuesday, February 5, 2013 at Aurora TREA 39 Building. 11 AM sign in and socialize. Meeting starts a 11:45 AM. Hope to see you there.

The committee wishes all the best in 2013. We're here for the Group and need your help to make 2013 a success. Your attendance at the meetings would be a great help. If you have comments, suggestions for our meetings or thoughts you feel the Group needs to know contact a Committee Member and let them know.

Sick Call



Jan Love- Intestinal Surgery

Taps



Dave Rubeck
Donald Hightower
Ken Gillis

JANUARY 2013 ATTENDANCE

Henry McCarley
Tony Burczyk
Larry Sell
Sy Harjes
Bill Frazier
Jack Darveau
John Morris
Dan Gay
Dave Moos
Jerry Brooks
Paul Turner
Linda Turner
Joe Broom
Sonja Broom

Harold Brewer
Golden Sherman
Dan Heinz
Art Bowens
Judy Pock
Ken McGill
Dewey Hicks
Joyce Saitta
DO Neary
Frank Mullins
John Paul

MARCH 5TH ST. PATRICKS DAY LUNCHEON

The March meeting will be catered by Golden Sherman. There will be Roast Beef or Corn Beef and Cabbage as the main course. **PLEASE SELECT ROAST BEEF OR CORN BEEF AND CABBAGE FOR YOUR MAIN COURSE WHEN YOU SIGN UP AND PAY YOUR \$12.00 PER PERSON COST.** No dessert will be served. RSVP with your check or cash NLT 28 February either at the February 5th meeting or mail your check made payable to "OSOTMG" and send it to Paul Turner, 1945 Ensenada St., Aurora, CO 80011-5353.

December

Joann Barber
Bettina Bledsoe
Pat Bowling
Jon Bridgman
Angela Cavener
Bob Cherry
John Conroy
Jack Darveau
Donald Goe
Russ Gottenborg
David Hatch
Terry Hatchett
Dewey Hicks
Nancy Heinle
Lois Hoops
Bryan Jordan
Beverly Kalcits
Estring Kidston
Peggy Klapp
Craig Laufert
Yolanda Leggett
Ken Love

Andy Love
Ken Lucero
Don Lovisone
Dee MacLaughlin
Barbara Mandonado
Margaret McGaffin
Jim Mielke
Evan Mitchell
DO Neary
Rosemary Paoliilo
Larry Peters
Diana Pohanic
Diane Richards
Susan Schnurstein
Greg Short
Brenda Stevens
Dennis Simpson
Rose Surprenant
John Swenson
Martha Ann Taylor
Wayne Taylor
Faye Weickum
Pepper Weimer

Birthdays



Sue Andrews
Joe Ashby
Bonnie Asher
Ralph Bernhardt
Bill Blumberg
Harold Brewer
John Christopher
Linda Coble
Charlotte Farmer
Smokey Fields, III
Dan Gay
Darrell Hanson
Kay Harnke
Ben Irvin
Mai Jordan
Karen Kyritz
John Le Van
Verlene Lee
Reed Lutz

January

Jo McDonald
William McGaffin
Ron McHenry
Anne Neuens
Ellen Nishiki
Sandy Overfield
Geraldine Pawley
Shirley Pfister
Deb Popovich
Tom Rochford
Val Rodekohr
Hazel Rutter
Dianna Seiler
Eva Sheeve
Hal Smethills
Jerry Smith
Curt Squire
Carol Swanson
Tamsen Thistlehawk-Ranck
James Tipton
James Weickum
Deb Wray

HOWDY DUTY BY ANDY LOVE



As with most things that happened to the Colorado Air National Guard in the 20th century, it was all Jack Wilhite's fault. During Christmas vacation of 1966, I was standing at the top of Peak 8 at Breckenridge and looked down the valley to see 4 fighters in fingertip rocketing up the Blue River. They came up the lift and did a star burst at the top of the Peak. At the end of the day, at the Gold Pan Bar, I found 4 guys in flight suits. They didn't have to buy their own beer. One was Wilhite, of course.

But, let me back up a ways. I'm a baby-boomer. I was born when my dad was fighting the war in the Pacific, flying PBYs in the Navy. He went on to serve Colorado as its governor for three terms and when I asked him, just before he died, to tell me about the most important thing he had done throughout those 84 years, he said "serve in the Navy during the War". He had raised me talking about Naval flying so it wasn't a big surprise that I was going to be a military aviator.

I thought I wanted to fly in the Navy. A cold couple of days at Olathe Naval Air Station having a physical over the Thanksgiving weekend of 1966 caused a real gut check on whether that was such a good idea. I figured that Olathe probably looked like all of the other Naval facilities and it was cold, bleak and isolated.

When I ran into Wilhite that day in Breckenridge and asked "where are you guys from", they answered "from Buckley" and told me that they flew for the Colorado Air Guard. That cinched it. No more cold barracks in Kansas and bad food. I wasn't that smart but it wasn't too tough to figure that I wanted to fly fast jets in the blue, Colorado sky and have a beer with pretty girls in ski pants at the end of the day.

So, I went to see Don David, then a major running the recruiting part of the COANG. Don told me each state got one USAF pilot training slot each year and that Colorado's were already allocated to Boomer Hoffman and another guy for the coming two years. If I wanted to join and hang around to see if they could round up one more slot, I was welcome to join as an enlisted guy assigned to be an aircraft mechanic. Sounded like a good solution to me, so I joined on 11 April 1967.

Off to Lackland as an E-nothing in the summer of '67 I was sent to Basic Training. Gurney Ulrich was there to see me off on the C-47. It turned out OK and I came home for some OJT under Bill Hagarty on the dock at the NW corner of 801. Bill was well seasoned and understood what I was qualified to do. He gave me the job of sweeping out the hanger deck at the end of each day. Gradually, he let me turn a wrench and scoot down the intake of the F-100s on his dock. By November, I had finished the obligatory active duty time, had my 5-level in aircraft maintenance and was a seasoned A3C.

The ski season was just getting going and I didn't have much to do while I waited to see if Don David could come up with a slot in Undergraduate Pilot Training. I got a job waiting tables and tending bar in Aspen, found a roommate who had a two-bedroom apartment at the bottom of the hill and settled in for a good winter ski-bumming.

Along came January 26th of 1968 and President Johnson, who by that time desperately needed additional airmen and Guard jets in Vietnam called the ANG to active duty. That ended the ski season for me and I, like all of the rest of us in the 140th, reported to Buckley. It was big news in Colorado and, of course, the Rocky Mountain News sent a reporter and a cameraman to see what was going on. They took my picture climbing out of the intake of one of the jets on the dock and it appeared on the front page the next day under the banner telling the readers that the Air Guard had been mobilized and was going to war.

As most now know, it was all an excuse for the president to access just the experienced guys and leave the rest of us behind. They didn't want a one-stripe airman so I hung around Buckley while others went to Cannon and to Korea. We built model airplanes in the sheet metal shop and flew them off of the top of Hanger 801.

Well, things worked out and someone figured that Wyoming wasn't able to fill a UPT slot because they couldn't find anyone who wanted to fly the C-121 in Cheyenne so they transferred me, for a single day, to the WYANG, awarded me the slot and I was off for UPT in June with a brand new direct commission in the USAF. Major General Joe C. Moffitt and my mom pinned the brown bars on my shoulders.

After pilot training I went to Luke AFB to check out in the F-100, came home and became a part of D-flight in the 120 TFS. We transitioned to the A-7 in 1974 in a home field checkout and flew that wonderful and indestructible jet for 17 years. In 1992 I went back to Luke to learn how to fly the incredible F-16 in a three month course flying to the Goldwater ranges and finding that the bar in the club had changed with the changing times. It just wasn't the rabble-raising place it was in 1969.

I was lucky to be mentored by incredible leaders like Bob Cherry and Walt Williams. John France took me under a wing and taught me lots about flying and lots about the Air Force. Colonel Cherry was a gruff guy on the outside and didn't tolerate guys who were dangerous but, if you could fly, he gave you a little slack. Walt "Redeye" Williams had such pride in the Colorado Guard that we couldn't help but feel a little taller flying on his wing. Wayne Schultz ran the squadron, the group and wing in his quiet but firm way that generated a level of loyalty unlike any other. We all marched in formation for the change of command putting Mase Whitney in charge of the wing and the only blemish on his outstanding leadership career was our marching. It was the last time I can recall the entire wing being ordered to march, for good reason. We did a miserable job, particularly 8 abreast confronted with a turn.

Thirty seven years later I retired from the USAF, having spent an entire career in the Air Guard. Together we all had a chance to see the world, have some incredible experiences, bond with the best people in America, be proud that we served at a time when it wasn't popular to wear a uniform and, in the process be part of the force that won the Cold War.