

## **ROADRUNNERS INTERNATIONALE MONTHLY HOUSE SIX NEWS AND GOSSIP**

(Not to be confused with the Stars and Stripes)

1 April 2008 - 18th Edition

### **FINAL FLIGHT**

Dear Friends and Family, On behalf of the Harnage family, I want to extend the sincerest thank you for the kind words and prayers received from many of you. For those who were able to attend Dad's funeral services, it was a pleasure to rekindle old acquaintances and make new ones. It was an honor to meet those individuals who knew my Father.

It has been suggested that I write a book about my Father. The truth is that I am currently putting the finishing touches on a fiction novel that I started eight years ago. I welcome the challenge of writing about my Father. I would like to invite those of you who knew my Father to write a paragraph or two or more about your relationship with O.B.. This will help me in getting a better picture of what was behind the man. I saw Dad from a Son's eyes. I have learned more about my Father in the past 30 days than I did in a life time. I am still in awe about some of the stories and experiences I've heard from many of you. If you wish to participate in this project, you may send your correspondence via email or to my home address: 7170 S. Y Lightning Ranch Road, Hereford, Az. 85615. Thanks and God Bless, Rob Harnage

### **NEW MEMBERS**

We welcome Al Sorrell, known to many of us as a former CIA security officer who worked with Tom Bolich and several others of our Roadrunner family. We also welcome William Reed of early U-2 General Precision Lab. engineer fame who also decided to finally join us at the urging of Tony Bevacqua. Bill has a very interesting bio that we will be posting on the web site shortly.

### **EARLY CIA REMEMBRANCES By: Charles Christian**

I recall Art Abrams was a C in the old SigCen in the mid 50's and about the winter of 55-56 he went as one of the first individuals to staff Groom Lake (Area 51) for the U-2 project. From there he went to England Det 1 and then resigned for family reasons and later went with State Dept. Dick Pigg was first Ctc at Area 51 and Doug Weber came about the same time as Art. Dick later went to the Pacific for the A bomb tests and died of cancer. Many think it was caused by the radiation? Don Dloreto and Dan Proko Sr went to the Area in April of 56. If any of you guys are still around we would like to hear from you.

## DONATIONS

In behalf of Roadrunners Internationale we wish to recognize additional donations received this past month to help cover the costs of the Roadrunner brochure we produced last month. Joining sponsoring donors TD Barnes, Ken Collins, and Frank Murray are Associate Members Al Rubin \$200 (Wings of Flight Museum), Joerg Arnu (webmaster) \$100, and Alan Johnson (webmaster) \$180. Initial printing was 1,000 brochures which are available at cost upon request and at cost to any Roadrunner or A-12 events. Several orders have already been filled to various agencies, museums, and Roadrunner members. Thank you Al, Joerg, and Alan for once again chipping in to support the association's exhibit & legacy fund.

### HONEYWELL SPOOKS PLANNING REUNION No. THREE

Reunion number 3 will be held at the Sheraton Sand Key Resort in Clearwater, Florida Thursday, October 23 until Sunday, October 26, 2008. Russ Buyse reports a block of rooms have been set aside and will be held until approximately September 22, 2008. Updates are being posted on the Roadrunner web site under Member Activities as they become available.

### UPDATE ON THE TRIBUTE TO JACK WEEKS WHOM WE LOST DURING OPERATION BLACK SHIELD 40 YEARS AGO THIS COMING JUNE



Within the next couple weeks we expect to have the scheduling and events worked out for the tribute to Jack hosted by the Battleship Memorial Park Museum in Mobile. Plans for the event are being coordinated between the museum and Roadrunner staffs as well as the CIA EAA store, Dru Blair Studios, and the Agency itself for a long overdue tribute to Alabama born Jack Weeks, the only pilot lost during the Black Shield operational phase of Project Oxcart. Within the next few days we expect to post full details on the Member Activities page of the RI web site. Those who haven't done so please RSVP TD Barnes so he can pass it on to the museum staff for planning purposes. We commend another of our Associate Members for stepping up to the plate in our behalf. For this occasion Mike Schmitz is working with Sharlene Weeks to restore the only photo we have of Jack in his A-12 flight suit for presentation to the museum in Mobile during the tribute ceremonies and permanent display. Those attending our last reunion will recall that Mike donated all the framed photos of the 5 pilots with the A-12. We owe Mike a lot of kudos.

### BLACKBIRD AIR PARK NEWS

FYI, YF-117A #783 was placed on display alone side the A-12 this month at the Air Force Flight Test Center Museum's Blackbird Airpark Annex at Plant 42 in Palmdale, CA. Photo provided by Doug Nelson, former director of the AFFTC Museum. As you read this Doug and Ilah plan to be moving into their new home in Tucson. Thanks Doug and Ilah for all you did for the Roadrunners while you were running the museum and Blackbird Air Park at Edwards and Palmdale.



#### SPEED RECORD By: Dennis Sullivan



Very early in the flight test stage of the program, I was scheduled for an unrefueled test mission. During the subsonic climb at about 25,000 feet, I had a severe electrical surge that momentarily lit up everything and kicked off the auto pilot. I could not find any problem, so I continued as briefed. I was at mach 3 plus on auto pilot, headed south from northern California to southern California

when I noticed the shadows changing in the cockpit and the airspeed building up. The attitude gyro on the INS mode showed level flight. As I glanced out the window I was approaching a 90 degree bank. I quickly kicked off the auto pilot, rolled level and got the nose back up while setting a new personal speed record at about mach 3.3. The attitude gyro was switched back to its normal mode from the INS system and was then OK. Further check showed the inertial NAV system had quit. I continued the route without it, and after landing, it was determined that the power surge kicked the NAV system onto a back up battery and eventually the battery went dead, all without any cockpit warning. This became my personal speed record with a near acrobatic maneuver at mach 3 plus.

#### MUSEUM STUFF

In recent months we have concentrated heavily on establishing the legacy of the Roadrunners with the A-12s on display at various museums. We are very happy with the response of most of the museums. One museum we haven't heard from is the one in Birmingham, Alabama with whom we complained about their identifying the A-12 on display as an SR-71, and defacing it with NASA logos and stickers. Pat Halloran says the SR-71 planes have experienced similar experiences of misinformation from their caretakers. Pat Halloran reports: "In November I wrote a letter to the director of the great air museum at Warner Robins concerning our Blackbird, # 958, which they have on display. It had come to my attention that on the side of the airplane they had painted the name of Lt Gen Hails as the pilot. Gen Hails had in fact had a \$\$ ride in the B model trainer back in 1976, as a senior officer in the support chain assigned to AFLC. He was from the local Robins area and might have been instrumental in their getting the SR for display but I pointed out his lack of relationship to our operations and also, that we did not paint the names of crew members on the planes as they did in the fighter community. The director responded immediately and said they would remove his name and prepare a "story board" in front of the plane identifying it as the vehicle used in 1979 by two different crews from the 9th Wing to establish two world speed/altitude records. I gave them the pertinent information for those flights and identified the crews involved. I'm eager to drop by one of these days and see if he came through. Cheers. Pat"

#### 2008 THUNDERBIRD ACCEPTANCE DEMONSTRATION

If one needed an excuse for retiring in Las Vegas enjoying our Roadrunner relationship with Nellis AFB would be top of the list. This past month for TD Barnes, Harry Martin and wives it was the "invitation



only" viewing of the Air Force Thunderbird Acceptance Demonstration to kick off their 2008 season. Flying inverted past the reviewing crowd was home-grown Las Vegas pilot Major Nicole Malachowski, first woman to fly with the Thunderbird demonstration team. TD and Harry both tried to reenlist, but -----.



#### NELLIS AFB CMC LUNCHEON

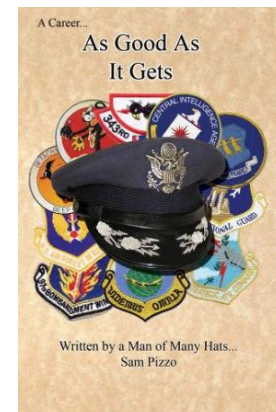
This last month Barnes and Martin also attended the quarterly Civilian Military Council luncheon at the Nellis Officer's Club where Lt. Col. Paul Calotagirone, 3rd Special Operations Squadron commander provided an overview of how the 3rd SOS mission at Nellis supports the Global War on Terror through the use of Unmanned Aerial Systems. Several videos were shown where the habits of the bad guys were studied and recorded through the use of the Predator UAV and when the time was ripe, the bad guy dispatched to join his 72 virgins with little or no collateral damage to structures or population. Barnes and Martin both reported it to be impressive evidence of our capabilities. They can't wait to see the Reaper in action, which the Air Force guys report being like the Predator on steroids.

#### DRAGON LADY ASSOCIATION REUNION SCHEDULED

Listen up all you Roadrunner deuce drivers for a word from "the Godfather." "Well gang, we've got the wheels rolling for the reunion this coming September. We met with the folks at the Sheraton Grand Hotel in Sacramento, and signed a contract for rooms, food, banquet rooms, etc. Although not as elaborate as the '05 reunion, we still aim to provide you all with a fun filled weekend. Our scheduled guest speaker is Gen Kevin Chilton and I hope to talk Bryan Anderson into being the MC. There will be lots more details posted on the web site [www.u2dla.org](http://www.u2dla.org) in the coming months. Dick (GF) Panzica, President"

#### NEW BOOK

As part of our mission of establishing and maintaining our Roadrunner legacy, each month we hammer on those of you who haven't provided us with a bio for the web site or submitted stories for the Newsletter. Sam Pizzo has done all these things and has just completed a paperback book covering his exploits during his 30 years of service with Uncle Sam. It covers his assignments during WWII, Air Guard Activities, B-29 days, his sojourn with the 55<sup>th</sup> SRW, the Area 51 CIA-12 Activities, running the SR-71 program at the SAC Recon Center and his final assignment at USAFE where he ran the Intel Collections Programs. Sam is making these available to his fellow Roadrunners at cost. To save you having to go to the web site where we have his contact information posted on his bio and on the Author's page, we are posting purchase information as follows: Please mail check for \$10.00 along with a mailing address AND phone number or E Mail address to: Sam Pizzo, 218 Nottoway Dr, Mandeville LA 70471-1516. Sam can be reached at 985-845-7445 or on-line at [sampizzo@webtv.net](mailto:sampizzo@webtv.net).



### MORE ABOUT OUR MISSION



Some of you may have noticed how the web site seems to be changing from day to day as it is being formatted for possible future linkage with the UNLV Cold War History section of the university's national library keyword search program. To facilitate this venture most of the stories written for the web site are being moved to make them accessible through the Cold War Stories section of the web site. The university has interviewed several Roadrunners and published their transcripts in hard back, which is what we think will eventually occur with the stories on the web site. The transcripts of our symposium panels at the past two reunions were also

published in hard back and are now part of the UNLV library collection. During the month of April these Roadrunners will be honored at a reception at the university. Those so honored and details will be posted in the next newsletter. This reception merely launches the program, so get those stories to us so your legacy can also become a vital part of the overall legacy of the projects. Sam Pizzo's book referenced above is now part of this system and your book or short stories can be as well.

### Air Force Cyber Command

If you former Voodoo drivers turned computer nerds think the Air Force wasn't watching your ability to articulate into a new profession you had better think again. The Air Force Cyber Command (Provisional) (AFCYBER) is the newest United States Air Force major command whose development was announced by the Secretary of the Air Force on November 2, 2006. Originally designated to stand up around Summer 2007, but pushed back to Mid-2008, AFCYBER will draw upon the personnel resources of the 67<sup>th</sup> Network Warfare Wing as well as other resources of the Eighth Air Force. It will be placed under the command of Major General William T. Lord. Secretary Wynne summarized the mission of the AFCYBER: "The aim is to develop a major command that stands alongside Air Force Space Command and Air Combat Command as the provider of forces that the President, combatant commanders and the American people can rely on for preserving the freedom of access and commerce, in air, space and now cyberspace."



### EAA STORE UPDATE

The CIA EAA store is making great strides towards getting our Roadrunner memorabilia available for purchase online. Cheryl, the store manager, reports the number of Roadrunners submitting membership applications to the EAA has been great. We will keep you informed as the Roadrunner merchandise becomes available in the next few weeks.

**TIRED OF THE SAME FACES EACH EDITION? - SEND US YOUR STORIES AND GOSSIP.**

