



The SAC ACCA Flyer

Strategic Air Command
Airborne Command Control Assn.

Volume 10, Issue 1

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Recording, Preserving and Celebrating the Legacy of PACCS

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Folded Wings

SMS John Ostronic
26 September 2003

SMS Ann Billau
6 December 2003

REUNION 2004

The initial planning for Reunion 2004 continues to progress at a rapid pace toward a solid program. September 22nd through 26th remains the selected timeframe and the calendar of events has begun to emerge.

The Downtown Double-Tree hotel located at 1616 Dodge Street, Omaha, NE 68102 has been selected to be our reunion central location. Our Agreement with the hotel requires that reservations be made by individual call-in, so you might want to write down the telephone number right now in order to ensure that your reservation is made on a timely basis. The telephone number for making that reservation is 1-800-222-8733. When you call to establish the reservation, be sure to tell them that you are with the SAC Airborne Command Control Association. Reservations must be made no later than Sunday, September 5, 2004. Sooner is always better, please don't wait until the last moment to do so.

Room	Single Rate	Double Rate
<i>Pres Suite</i>	<i>\$169.00</i>	<i>\$169.00</i>
<i>Deluxe Guest Rooms</i>	<i>\$95.00</i>	<i>\$105.00</i>

On **Wednesday** September 22nd we will join together for the traditional first evening reception. This will be a casual affair and provides an opportunity to gather together to renew old as well as new friendships and speak of current events and days gone by.

Thursday September 23rd will feature a trip to the Strategic Air & Space Museum at Ashland for those of you who are interested. Transportation and admission are included in the price as indicated on the registration form. The tour will be followed in the evening with a buffet.

Friday September 24th features a trip to Offutt AFB and the aircraft tours during the day. The evening highlight is a cruise on the river aboard the *River City Star*. The cruise is tentatively scheduled to take place between 6:30 pm and 8:30 pm. The cost of the events of this day (Offutt AFB and the dinner cruise) is projected at \$49.00 including transportation. The cruise travels the Omaha riverfront at approximately four MPH. Additional information about the *River City Star* is available on their website (<http://www.rivercitystar.com/about.htm>)

Saturday September 25th we will begin with our business meeting. This will, of course, include the election of your new Association officers. Please give this aspect of our business due consideration in advance, nominate and chose those who will keep our Association moving in the forthcoming two years. If you can serve, please volunteer. The Association can not survive unless the membership is willing to participate.

Don't forget our equally traditional banquet Saturday night. This event is, of course, a coat and tie affair where all the other events are more casual.

Since Saturday afternoon is essentially free, you might want to consider one of the following attractions as an independent venture.

1. The Outlet mall located to the west of

Omaha and on the highway route to the Strategic Air & Space museum.

2. Mahoney park is located almost adjacent to the Strategic Air & Space Museum. This is a nice place to just walk and enjoy the mid western fall season. It also features a Lodge/dining facility which is quite nice for lunch.
3. There are several Casinos across the river in Council Bluffs if you are so inclined (I would guess that there is transportation between the hotel and Casinos, but haven't confirmed that).
4. Western Heritage Museum in the Old Market.
5. Henry Doorly Zoo. By any standard this is a first class zoo and can easily take up the day.

Sunday September 26th will include the memorial service dedicated to those of our warrior brothers and sisters who are a part of our heritage both then and now.

If you intend to carouse the local golf course, Hector Campos can get tee times for most days. So... if you are inclined to play golf and wish for Hector to make a reservation for you, let Hector know as we get closer to the event date.

The above information has been provided by your Reunion Committee consisting of Amy Walton, Hector Campos and Jim Simmons. As you might have gathered, they are working very hard to put together a reunion you will be anxious to attend.

The first reunion of the SAC Airborne Command Control Association was held in Omaha in 1994 so that makes this the ten year anniversary of our Association.

Now you have all the individual pieces of the current reunion 2004 schedule. What follows is the same information in a chronological sequence. Given the current world situation, it is subject to change.

September 2004

- Wed 22nd** Reception
- Thu 23rd** Strategic Air & Space Museum
tour.
Buffet Dinner
- Fri 24th** Aircraft tours (at Offutt)
Riverboat cruise aboard the River
City Star.
- Sat 25th** Business Meeting
Evening Banquet
- Sun 26th** Memorial Service

During the last several months there has been a lively debate via email concerning whom the champion Trailing wire antenna "wire dumper" might be. We think we know who that is, but there are said to be others who participated in this stiff competition. We shall wait and see what the membership has to say about that. In the mean time one story follows. -- editor

The Trailing Wire Antenna Story

By Fred Kemp

I have been asked to tell the story of the Trailing Wire Antenna and how we lost two and a half miles of it in Lake Superior. The moral to this story is ... if you don't want something to come back and haunt you for years, don't take your Squadron Commander (Col. Jack Suggs) along when it happens. For those of you that are not familiar with the Trailing Wire Antenna (TWA), it was a five miles long, 6 strands of copper wire counter wound on a single strand of titanium with a 100 lb. cone shaped drogue on the end. In theory (you notice I did say theory) it could be extended from underneath the aircraft and provide low frequency communications and then be retracted. Actually the Navy had used the system for communication with submarines for years and also used it to locate enemy submarines, but not at the lengths that we were trying.

SAC started their testing way back around 1963, I didn't get into it until 1970. When the 3ACCS was established at Grissom AFB, IN., I

contacted Tom O'Brien at SAC and told him that the 3ACCS was trained and ready to fly some of the test missions. We had spent quite a bit of time, both book and simulator, in learning the system. SAC was having quite a problem with the wire not retracting and they decided to give us a try. What made that bad was the fact that the first two that we flew were perfect, and the powers to be at SAC HQ wanted to know why. To shorten the story, Tom O'Brien showed up to fly with us on the next mission to see why we were so successful.

Our first indication of disaster was the fact that we were changing birds and the one we were using had come from SAC and had already lost a few wires. We left for Lake Superior, Ed Nixon as the TWA (Trailing Wire Antenna) operator, Jack Kehoe from TWA maintenance along to observe and Tom O'Brien and I in the boom pod to watch the wire. We got a little more than two and a half miles of wire out and shut it down to make a turn. After the turn was completed, we started retracting the TWA and there was a distinctive thump and a bulge about 4 feet high started down the wire. I had binoculars on it and Tom left to see what had happened. When the bulge hit the end, the drogue was broken off. I called the AC on intercom and reported the loss and they started calling FAA (falling object) and SAC to cut the wire. We got permission to do that and the AC dropped the nose down and headed for a lower altitude to drop the antenna. What he forgot was that without the drogue, the wire was very unstable and it came right up into my face.

This newsletter is published three times per year by the Strategic Air Command, Airborne Command Control Association (SAC ACCA) and is free to Association members.

Information, general correspondence, changes of mailing address, newsletter articles or recommendations to:

Steve Leazer, Secretary
6141 Bagley Ave.
29 Palms, CA 92277-2502

New Memberships and renewals to:

SAC/ACCA
James Kroskey, Treasurer
501 Foxwood Dr.
Jacksonville, AR 72076

To say that I made a hurried intercom dispatch reporting that the wire was now "very close to the aircraft" would be putting it mildly. The rest was routine, we slowly made the descent and 2 1/2 miles of wire at \$35,000 was dumped into Lake Superior and as NCOIC of the TWA section, I got credits in the Wire Dumper Hall of Fame. Many things have changed since then, first of all the spool is now crossways to the line of flight instead of lengthwise and runs down through the inside of the fuselage so it can be seen. Our problem was a quick loss of hydraulic fluid at one of the valves causing it to close prematurely.

REUNION 2006

By Fred Kemp

When we get to Omaha in September 2004, one of the decisions that we hope to make has to do with the preferred activities for Reunion 2006 in Tucson. With close to one million people and the high temperatures in March at 75 to 80 and lows of 45-50 many of you people in the North will just want to come to enjoy the weather. Tucson is also known as the Old Pueblo. It is located in the Sonoran Desert, just 60 miles North of the border with Mexico and surrounded by five mountain ranges. With only three days to see the many attractions available, we will be taking votes at reunion 2004 for activities.

— **Sport Fans** -- Three Major League baseball teams have Spring Training in Tucson during March; Arizona Diamondbacks, Chicago White Sox and the Colorado Rockies. Tickets are available. Golf ... with year round golfing available, the choice is yours. The LPGA tournament is also scheduled to be in Tucson during March.

— **Sightseeing** -- Davis Monthan AFB, active since W.W.II houses a variety of aircraft and is home to the many of the EC-130's. A part of this Base comprises the AMARC otherwise known as the Aircraft Bone yard and

is open to tours. Most of the EC135 aircraft that many of us remember are now located here. Just South of the base is the Pima Air and Space Museum that is well worth visiting. Just South of Tucson is the Titan Missile Museum (a National Historic Site) which still has a missile silo and a Titan II missile is still in the silo.

— **Tours** -- The Desert Museum will give you a quick course in Sonoran wildlife. Sabino Canyon ... A 45 minute tram ride takes you up and back through the canyon. Madera Canyon ... is reported to be the best bird watching area in the United States. Historic Tubac ... where art and history meet is a must see for history buffs and shoppers alike.

San Xavier del Bac Mission ... called "The Dove of the Desert" or "The American Sistine Chapel." A Spanish Mission built sometime between 1778 and 1797 rises out of the desert just South of Tucson.

These are just a small sampling of the many things that are available to see in and around Tucson. To give you a complete list would take up the whole newsletter.

IN MEMORIAM **JOHN OSTRONIC**

By Marcel-Henri Claing

John Ostronic, SMSgt died September 26th 2003 at his home in Woodcliff, Fremont, Nebraska. He was a longtime ABNCP Radio Operator (R/O) and Standardization/Evaluation (Stan/Eval) Chief at Offutt during the 1st Comm group/HQ SAC days. He participated in the original test flights on ALCS launches as well as the launch-hold-launch tests. He was interred at the Offutt AFB cemetery on September 30th. His wife Ruth died in 1976 and was also buried there. It was the first burial at Offutt in a long time and none of the present Security Police had ever taken part in a funeral. He was afforded full military honors, color guard and fittingly a twenty-one gun salute. A Roman Catholic



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Membership Application or Annual Dues

Name: _____ Spouse's name: _____

Last, First, Middle

Rank/Title: _____ Branch of Service: _____ Status: _____

Active, Retired, other

Mailing Address: _____

Phone No.: _____ Email address: _____

Indicate your affiliation with PACCS, ACCS: [Organization - Duty - (Dates)] Examples: [22nd ARS - IP (74-82)], [34ARS - BO (63-66)], [HQ SAC - ABS (69-71)], [2nd ACCS - In-flight Maint (69-72)], [55th SRW - Staff (72-73)], [(4th ACCS - Crew Chief (74-76)], [AEAO/40ADIV (74-76)], [SAC Hq - Planner (88-90)].

Amount Enclosed:

Initial Fee (\$10.00) Annual Dues (\$15.00) Reinstatement (\$10.00)

Initial membership requires the payment of the initial fee and dues for the year (\$25.00). Dues are for the period 1 Jan through 31 Dec. Dues are due the first day of January (\$15.00) each year. A reinstatement fee, plus current dues is due for inactive members who wish to reactivate their membership after an absence of two years or more (\$25.00).

Please indicate your preferences regarding the publication of you name and address on membership rosters which may be provided to the membership of ACCA.

I authorize my; Name and Address to be published on ACCA rosters to the general membership
 Neither are to be published on ACCA rosters to the general membership.

Send to: SAC/ACCA
James Kroskey, Treasurer
501 Foxwood Dr.
Jacksonville, AR 72076



SAC Airborne Command Control Assn. REUNION 2004 Registration Form Omaha, Nebraska: SEP 22 - 26, 2004

Attendee Name(s): _____
(List all attendees; member, spouse, guest)

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Telephone No. _____

Mail Registration form to:

SAC ACCA
Jim Krosky, Treasurer
501 Foxwood Dr
Jacksonville, AR 72076
Tel (501) 982-9483

I am a former ACCS Squadron Commander?: Yes No

To obtain a reservation at the Downtown Double Tree hotel, Telephone 1-800-222-8733. This registration form does not include hotel reservation or cost.

Reunion Attendance requires current membership in the SAC ACCA. Members may bring guests.

The complete Reunion Package price is \$191.00. It includes Registration, Reception (Wed), Buffet Dinner (Thu), Banquet (Sat) and the tours listed below. Registration must be received before 25 August 2004.

Note: You DO NOT have to select the package price, you may select individually those items priced out below. Enter the number that will be attending each event and multiply out the total line for each event if selecting individually.

Event Date	Event	No. Persons	Cost Each	Total
Sep 2004				
Wed 22 nd	Registration Fee (includes Wed reception)		X \$45.00	
Thu 23 rd	Strategic Air & Space Museum (includes transportation)		X \$25.00	
	Buffet Dinner		X \$32.00	
Fri 24 th	Offutt Aircraft Tour & River City Star Boat Cruise w/Dinner		X \$49.00	
Sat 25 th	Banquet (Beef & Chicken combo)		X \$40.00	
Total amount for all events selected:				

Note: Early submission of your registration form is greatly appreciated as it helps with planning the numbers, activities and especially transportation when required. Registration forms received after 5 September 2004 can not be accepted. SEE YOU IN Omaha for the 10th Anniversary of the SAC ACCA

Chaplain presided over the services.

The military contingent attending the burial service included retired CMS Mike Parente, former Offutt Command Chief and past Air Force Sergeants International President, CMS Marcel Lang, former SAC INTEL, and CMS Marcel-Henri Claing, Looking Glass and ABNCP R/O and PACCS Communications Superintendent. Long time close personal friend of John's and best man at his wedding. John followed his military career with a new career as a Lewis and Clark High School teacher. He helped found and was a charter member of the Woodcliff Lions Club. The last time we were all together was at the reunion in St Louis last year.

IN MEMORIAM
ANN F. BILLAU

Ann F. BILLAU, Senior Master Sergeant USAF Retired. She entered the Air Force for active duty on September 1, 1975 as an aircraft communications electronics technician. She later trained to be a Post Attack Command and Control Communications technician. She was a student, qualified line flyer, instructor, standardization and evaluation evaluator, Non-Commissioned Officer In Charge of the standardization and evaluation section and NCOIC of the In-flight Maintenance Technicians. While serving as an In-flight Airborne Radio Maintainer she logged more than 6000 flying hours aboard the "Looking Glass" Strategic Air Command airborne command post and the Commander in Chief Pacific "Blue Eagle" airborne command post.

On May 17th, 1984 she was a member of the Honor Guard for the Unknown Soldier of Vietnam when the remains were transferred from a Navy ship to an Air Force C-141 for Transport to Arlington National Cemetery.

In 1996 she became the first female Aircraft Production Superintendent on Offutt Air Force base. In the course of her career she was

stationed at McConnell, Grissom, Hickam, Offutt and Warner-Robins Air Force Bases and served extensively in the Pacific, Europe and South West Asia.

She retired from active duty on October 1, 2001. She continued her studies and graduated from the University of Nebraska in Omaha in December 2002. She was an avid railroad history buff and private railroad car restorer and rider.

From the Secretary

We are now in the year 2004, so if the number in parenthesis on the mailing label of this newsletter indicates **04** or higher, your dues are paid. If, on the other hand, there has been an oversight and you are not current, please ... before you forget, make use of the membership application.

Just a reminder ... that we need your assistance in order to keep this newsletter interesting and informative to the membership. Please, if you have a memory of an event associated with PACCS Command Post operations or the many great social events that are a part of our individual and collective history, take the time to share that with the membership by writing to me about it. I'll be happy to take your input in hand written format, typewritten or electronically via email.

A significant part of the mission and purpose of our Association is to hold the reunions so that we can get together and keep old friendships alive. Let's revitalize and maintain the camaraderie that characterized the Strategic Air Command. Remember the many nights of preparing for those long and difficult missions as well as the performance of them. Never forget that they were made possible by those many other men and women who planned and supported them. So, if there is any way you can get to the next reunion, please start planning now.

*SAC Airborne Command Control Assn.
Steve Leazer, Secretary
6141 Bagley Avenue
Twentynine Palms, CA 92277-2502*

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

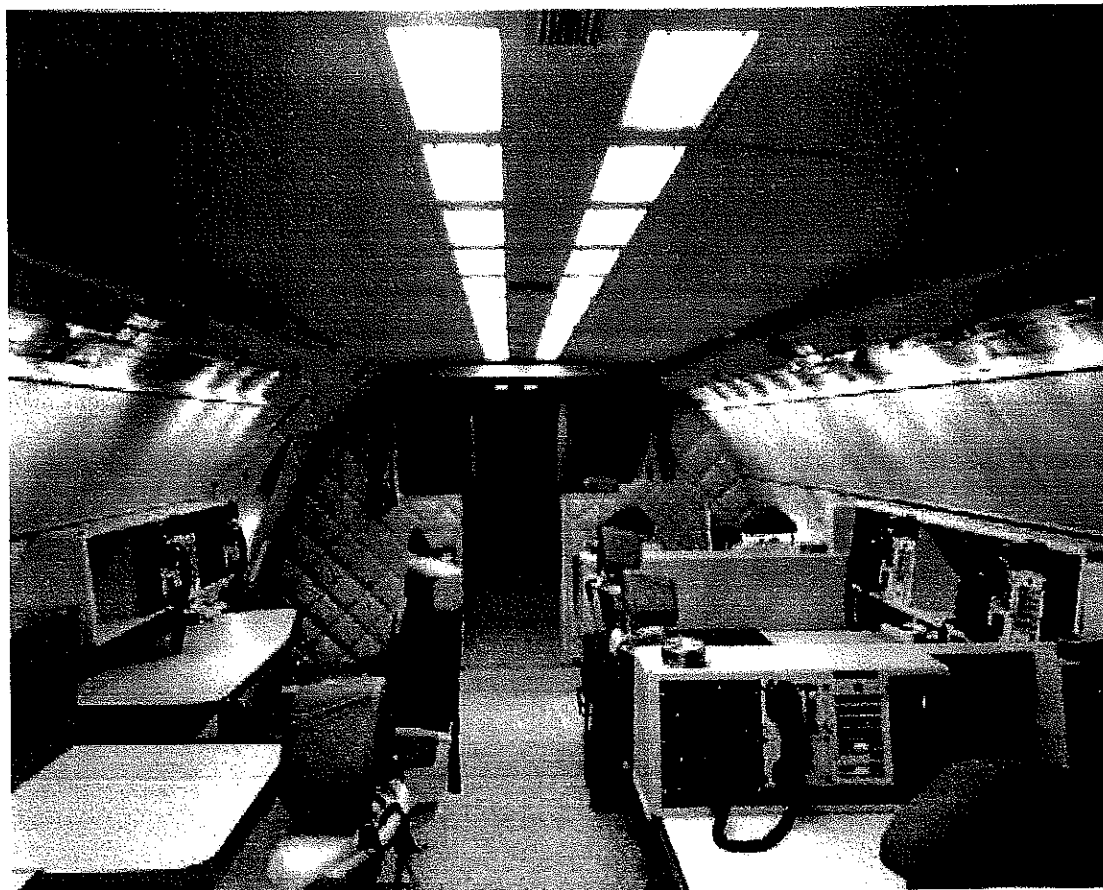


Photo courtesy of Derwyn (Doc) Crabb