



FAC Association Newsletter

Volume 24 Issue 1 January 2024



A publication of the Forward Air Controller's Association

In this edition

President's Corner

Treasurer's Report

In Memoriam

"Fini" Reunion

President's Corner December Newsletter

As I compose this article the Christmas season is upon us and the New Year just around the corner. First, Mary and I wish all of you a very Merry Christmas and a Prosperous, Healthy, and Happy New Year.

The year 2024 will be a special one for the FAC Association. We will hold our final Reunion this October, back, once more, where it began for so many of us, in Fort Walton Beach, FL. Hats off to Claude Newland and his gang for hosting us once again, and putting together what will be our Last Hurrah as an Association. I sincerely hope that many of you will be able to join us in this final salute to all who flew or supported the FAC mission in Southeast Asia.

Information about the Reunion is available on the FAC Association website (fac-assoc.org) and Harry Pearce will update it as more info becomes available. We will notify you via FACNET when this occurs.

Your Board of Directors has been busy, under the guidance of Darrel Whitcomb, working through the contingency planning process to properly handle the intricacies of closing the Association and the transfer of assets and memorabilia held by us. We have held quarterly meetings of the Board to confirm what needs to be done and who has primary responsibility to complete these actions. Specifics of these actions will be presented to the general membership for final approval at the Reunion, but a couple of things can be noted up front. The FACNET, to include the Hooch, will be funded for ten years following the dissolution of the FACA. The FAC website will be available via the Texas Tech Vietnam Center and Archive no later than second quarter of 2025.

As you might expect, the FAC Museum at the Fort Worth Air Museum will be the repository for the vast majority of our hard assets, such as books and photos.

We plan on publishing two more newsletters in 2024 (mid-year and post reunion) and then giving Gary Beard and his bride our heartfelt thanks as the last issue is published.

More to follow, so keep up to date via the website and/or FACNET.

Again, all our best wishes for the holiday season and looking forward to seeing as many of you as possible, in FWB next October.

Brad Wright
Covey 251

TREASURER'S REPORT

January 2024

As of the end of December 2023, our financial worth was \$107,306, a decrease from June: Checking Balance - \$2,498 (includes \$896 in the reunion account and \$1,302 in our Utah historian account); Savings Balance - \$7; CD Balance - \$68,552; Investment Balance - \$35,749.

In 2023, we made our three approved annual contributions of \$2,000 to the FAC Museum, \$1,000 to the Homes For Our Troops Foundation and \$1,000 to the Fisher House Foundation. We will make all three contributions in 2024. We also sent \$5,000 to the Ft Walton Beach reunion committee to cover early expenses. We will also file our annual Florida business registration and IRS tax report in January or February.

Here are some interesting approximate numbers of our membership. We have 23 paid annual members, 777 life members, 746 non-current members, 3044 non-members and 1060 deceased FACs. Our first objective still needs to be to get the non-current members back in the fold. If you know some, work on them. If they are unsure of their status, have them contact me or Fred Pumroy.

We still have new FACA challenge coins. Since our historian, Al Matheson, is back on active duty, I have been handling their sales: \$5 each (\$10 for non-members), plus shipping of \$5 regardless of the number of items purchased. I have "Hit My Smoke" key chains and decals at two for \$5.

To help the association save money, if you haven't already done so, consider switching your newsletter delivery to email. We still have more than 230 members getting the newsletter by snail-mail, costing us more than \$800 each year to print and mail the newsletter. Just let me know and I'll make it happen.

If you do get a snail mail copy, you can also help by keeping track of your membership by noting your status on the first or second line of your address on this newsletter. The first number is the last year of your membership. Unfortunately, the printer has failed to get this in the address twice. If you get the newsletter by email notice, you can email me or Fred Pumroy to check your membership status.

Since we are tentatively planning to close operations at the end of 2024, with the approval of the membership at the October 2024 reunion, recently enrolled life members (within the last three years) will have the opportunity for a refund of a portion of their dues. This affects about 20 members.

I occasionally send emails inquiring about duplicate membership payments, most commonly from someone who has forgotten their LIFE MEMBER status. Unfortunately, I get few answers back. I like to think it is because the email ended up in your junk folder. To help avoid this happening, please make sure the two addresses I use, factres@live.com and nail13zg@centurytel.net, are on your acceptable list.

Trey Moran, Nail 13



In Memoriam A tribute to those who have flown west since July 2023

Links to some obituaries are located at <https://www.fac-assoc.org/flew-west/flew-west2023.html>. Please send additional information of a brother-in arms who has passed and not yet recognized by the association, to Bob Cohen bobcohenx@aol.com. or Trey Moran <nail13@fac-assoc.org> or Harry Pearce <helix35@fac-assoc.org>

Note: Although the title to this section calls attention to those who have passed since the last newsletter, we have listed some outside that window because we have just learned of his passing.

Slow hand salute to these brothers-in- arms, American patriots all.

Allen	Jerold	Nail 14	13-Dec-23	Life Member
Eby	Timothy Ray	Covey 540, Rustic 40	15-Oct-23	Life Member
Knight	Garry Lee	Radio Operator	15-Aug-23	
Stewart	Richard L.	Nail 76, Covey 513, Mike 13	8-Apr-23	Life Member
Weiss	Jerold L	Covey 259	28-Aug-22	Life Member



PREFLIGHT: The summer 2024 issue of DFC Society News Magazine will feature airmen and aircraft that performed "the critical and dangerous role of airborne Forward Air Control (FAC). It will include both slow and "FASTFAC" missions.

News about Reunion 2024 the “FINI” Reunion

Submitted: by Claude Newland, 2024 Reunion Coordinator
rustic19@cox.net, 850-582-1074

OUR 2024 REUNION WILL BE HISTORIC, 24-27 OCTOBER 2024. (THURSDAY-SUNDAY).

You don't want to miss this one, so start making plans now to attend. The reunion will be at The Island Hotel on Okaloosa Island, Ft Walton Beach, FL. The Island Hotel is the former Ramada Plaza Beach Resort where we held our 2000 and 2014 FAC reunions. This property is now under new ownership and has undergone several upgrades and remains, by far, the best hotel in town for a large reunion group.



The Island Hotel, Okaloosa Island, Ft Walton Beach, FL (www.theislandfl.com). The FAC Hooch will be the poolside building in the lower left corner with the blue roof.

HELP US GET A COUNT! IF YOU PLAN TO ATTEND OR THINK YOU MIGHT ATTEND, PLEASE COMPLETE THE SURVEY ATTACHED TO THE END OF THIS ANNOUNCEMENT AND MAIL IT TO THE REUNION COMMITTEE. This will help us better plan for the reunion. Currently, we have no idea how many may register next July when we send out the Registration Newsletter and Registration Form. We don't want to be overwhelmed at the last minute as in 2000 when 750 attendees unexpectedly registered for that reunion.

Remember how great that 2000 reunion was? That reunion spawned the formation of the FAC Association and served as the launching pad for writing and publishing of our Forward Air Controller history books.

MAKE A HOTEL OR RV RESERVATION NOW. We recommend you make your initial hotel reservation now to ensure you get the room rate and room type you prefer. The hotel has 329 rooms available at three different discounted prices (See “Hotel and RV Reservation Information” below).



Why do this now? Since we have no idea how many rooms will be needed, we gave a low-ball estimate of the number of reserved rooms needed because the hotel contract will hold us to pay for 80% of the number of rooms reserved. We didn't want to overcommit and place the association in a financial bind.

If you make a reservation now, the hotel will charge you a one-night room deposit. The balance is due when you check out. You can always cancel, if necessary, by cancelling 48 hours before your check-in date.

HOTEL AND RV RESERVATION INFORMATION. The Island Hotel (www.theislandfl.com) has 329 well-appointed rooms. Most have two Queen beds. King beds are available upon request.

- Each person must make their own reservation by calling 800-874-8962 or 850-243-9161
- Tell them you are part of the Forward Air Controller Reunion.
- The cutoff date for getting our discounted room rates is Tuesday, September 2024.
- Reservations may be cancelled 48 hours before your check-in date at no charge.

Hotel Room Rates: (Good 3 days before and 3 days after the reunion.)

Standard Guest Room \$179 + tax

Pool View (Tower bldg.) \$199+ tax

Beach View (Tower bldg.) \$249 + tax

The hotel has waived their resort fee and parking fee for all attendees.

RV Reservations. Destin West RV Resort (www.DestinWestRVResort.com) is directly across the street from the Island Hotel. Contact them at 850-200-4533. This is a beautiful facility. They get booked up early so make a reservation now.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS. There will be an Early Arrivals' dinner Wednesday night, 23 October 2024. Thursday's events include Registration, a Meet & Greet, Welcome, and dinner at a nearby seafood restaurant.

Friday's events include a tour of Eglin AFB's Armament Museum with a briefing on Eglin's mission, sunset sailing from the beautiful Destin harbor, and seafood dining afterwards.

Saturday's events include a tour of Hurlburt Field with mission briefings, followed by a FAC Memorial Service at the Air Park. Lunch will be at the Hurlburt Club. An afternoon membership meeting will be followed by the Big Finale – A farewell banquet. The FAC Association Board is working hard to put together a banquet program that will make this a memorable event.

Come help us celebrate our association's many accomplishments and legacy. Cleared Hot!

If you have any suggestions for the reunion, please contact the reunion coordinator, Claude Newland, rustic19@cox.net, or 850-582-1074, or members of the FAC Board.

AIRPORT AND RENTAL CAR INFORMATON. The Destin-Ft Walton Beach (VPS) airport terminal is co-located at Eglin AFB, 11 miles from The Island Hotel. Six companies provide rental cars.

WEATHER REPORT. Expect daily high temperatures in the high 70s or low 80s. Daily low temperature will be in the low 60s.



Our first FAC Memorial & OV-10 #67-14626 which were dedicated at the Oct 2000 FAC reunion.

“WITNESS TO WAR” FOUNDATION INTERVIEWS (www.witnesstowar.org).

Martin Madert of the Witness to War Foundation will attend our 2024 reunion if there is sufficient interest. He conducts interviews about your experiences in Southeast Asia. The Foundation’s goal is to “Preserve & Share the Oral Histories of Combat Veterans.”

This is an excellent opportunity to tell your story(s) and have them recorded for posterity. The interviews are scheduled for 1 ½ to two hours. You can talk about any number of subjects. Mr. Madert has some initial questions to introduce you and get your interview started. Afterwards, you will be mailed a DV of your interview. This will no doubt become a family heirloom.

Cut off survey on dotted the line.

FAC Association 2024 “Fini” Reunion Survey

24-27 October 2024

Please fill out this survey if you plan to attend the 2024 FAC Reunion in
Ft Walton Beach

This is important because it will help us better prepare for this historic gathering of FACs.

Please print all information and return soonest.

First Name: _____ Last Name: _____ Nickname for name tag _____

Street number: _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone (____) _____ Email _____

Spouse/Guest First & Last Name: _____ Nickname for name tag _____

Your Callsign(s) _____ I have a military ID for access at Hurlburt Field: Yes ___ No ___

What day will you arrive at the reunion? Tues. ___ Wed. ___ Thurs. ___ Fri. ___

Coming by: Car ___ Air ___ Rental Car ___

I will attend solo, but would consider sharing a room with another FAC Yes ___

I will make my hotel reservation now and give a one-night deposit Yes ___

I/we will be staying at another hotel/facility rather than The Island Hotel Yes ___

I/we will attend the early arrival dinner on Wed, 23 Oct, 6 pm. Yes ___

I would like to be interviewed by the Witness to War Foundation. Yes ___

Do you or your guest(s) require any special assistance? Please Specify: _____

Please mail survey to Lendy Edwards, 11 Poplar Ave, Shalimar, FL 32579.

FAC ASSOCIATION

1849 Southlawn Drive
Fairborn. OH 45324

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

PRSRT STD
US POSTAGE
PAID
AUSTIN, TX
PERMIT NO. 882

Contact specific Association officers or directors by going to our website: <https://www.fac-assoc.org/contacts.html>

Annual dues are \$20. Life membership dues depend on age 55 Years and under - \$225.00 56 to 60 years - \$200.00 61 to 65 years – 175.00 66 to 70 years - \$150.00 71 to 75 years – \$125.00 76 plus years - \$100.00	Copy this page, complete the form below and send your check, payable to FACA, Inc. to: Trey Moran P O Box 222 Polson MT 59860
--	---

FAC Association Membership and Annual Dues Form

Last Name:	First Name:	Initial:
DOB (dd/mm/yyyy):	Spouse's Name:	
Address	Phone #:	
City & State:	Zip + 4:	Cell #:
email:	Send newsletter: <input type="checkbox"/> By Email <input type="checkbox"/> By Snail Mail	
A/C or Specialty:	Call Signs :	
Organization/Sqdn/TASS:	FAC Tour Dates:	
Locations:		
Comments:		
Enclosed is my check # _____ for \$ _____. Make me a member or continue my membership in the FAC Association. (Note: Your Dues Status can be found in the address block printed above.)		
Current Dues Status:	Signature:	