



*315th Airlift Wing Alumni Association
315th Airlift Wing Excellence over the Years
Joint Base Charleston, South Carolina*

Number #1,

31 January 2016

Click on here to pull up our website: <http://www.315awaalumniassoc.com/>

[Please write this website down where you can always find it.](http://www.315awaalumniassoc.com/)

The newsletter will be published on the website shown above every two weeks whenever possible. The newsletter will no longer be sent to you individually by regular e-mail message. Please try to remember. Those without computers will continue to receive the newsletter by regular US mail service every 90 days. At the very end of each newsletter on this website, I will indicate the approximate date the next newsletter will appear so you may be assured that you will never miss an issue.

A Message from the Editor

I celebrated my 80th Birthday over the weekend! There were over 30 family and friends attending and it was a three day celebration. We were loud and we were a little crazy at times. That's my style. It was my style when I served in the 315th Wing and it was definitely the style of many of the outstanding men and women who served together since we were activated in 1969. We worked hard and we played hard. That's what made us such an outstanding Wing. For those of us who are retired, we enjoy talking about the days gone by every chance we get. We have earned the right of passage to brag if we want to. For those of us who wish to continue the connection with all those we served with in war and in peace, we established the 315th Alumni Association 22 years ago. We were established by a set of By-Laws and the election of Officers were established by Public Affairs and the Jag Officer Lt Colonel Andy Savage. A copy of the documentation was filed on 8 September 1994 with the

state of South Carolina IRS as a non-profit organization. We began with 55 charter members. Ray Ardis became the Secretary and Newsletter Editor. By January 2000, I became the new Newsletter Editor and published my first newsletter that month. By this time we had 250 members which quickly rose to almost 300. (Today we have about 1,000, active and inactive members.) You can view that newsletter and many great historic photos if you click the box where it says PHOTOS. You will see the History and Photo Gallery. This is a non-stop moving banner with numerous photos depicting our history, which includes Alumni activities over the years, our Alumni trip to Wright-Patterson to see the very last C-141 take flight and land. We posed for photos by the Hanoi Taxi, 0177, the C-141 that we brought back the last of the POWs. This you got to see! This was posted very recently. A big thanks to our new Webmaster, CMSgt (ret) Tom Clemmons as he continues to make our website tremendously interesting. Tom worked for Boeing after his retirement and now teaches Avionics at Trident Technical College. He is extremely busy teaching, but still takes time out for us. We greatly appreciate all his hard work and his valuable time.

The future of the Alumni Association:

At some point in time all reunion organizations begin to struggle to maintain their membership numbers and the interest of their members. In addition to publishing this newsletter, I also publish newsletters for my high school, my college, family reunions, and my regular Air Force flying squadrons. All of them follow that same path. There are numerous reasons why memberships decline over the years. Some of them are: not enough people to do the work and not enough volunteers coming forward, which is currently our situation. They find other interests. They have physical and mental health issues as they age and can no longer travel, and they may feel too embarrassed to be seen. In today's world of many new technologies, seems almost everyone you see out in public has an I-phone or a tablet, and they are on there talking away, sending and receiving photos, videos and voice messages. So they may ask, "Why go to a reunion when I have all this?" No traveling, no motel bills and I can sit in the comfort of my easy chair. Some may not miss the hugs, handshakes and the feeling of being there in person. These are some the things I hear quite often. Our Alumni Association has a lot more to offer. We have golf tournaments, orientation flights on the C-17, burger burns and fish fries, milestone reunions, and most important of all we have the Heritage Trust Sponsored quarterly luncheons which are free to all members and their spouses and guests. This is better than your normal reunions with a brief program. It's important for us to have a great sense of belonging as card carrying members of a great organization from which we served so proudly. But in order to maintain the integrity and strength of our organization, we need board members to manage our organization. At this time we are running short. We need a treasurer, a membership chair person, and we will be needing a new President as Dick Fuller will not be running again for office in the elections. Dick has served several terms with distinction already and we appreciate his dedication.

Officer Nomination forms were sent out on Thanksgiving Day 2015 for the nomination of new Alumni Association officers. It was from George Shread, Chairman for Nominations, and our past President of the Alumni. They were attached to the Thanksgiving Day newsletter. This form appeared on the website, and it was attached to the newsletters I sent out by regular email message, and to the newsletters I sent out by regular US Mail Service. Since none of them were returned and there were no responses, I have retyped the form here so you can review it and ask any questions that you may have and go from there.

Nomination... We are in need of a few good men and women nominations for Board Officers for the next 3 years. Please email Chief George Shread, Chairman for Nominations email at... glg_gas@tds.net

Positions:

President _____

Vice President _____

Treasurer _____

Secretary _____

Three Directors to serve a 4 year term: 1. _____

2. _____ 3. _____

Your input and support is important to continue an effective Alumni Association... Let us hear about your concerns and comments.

Current Officers are:

President – Chief Dick Fuller

Vice President – SMSgt Ray Ardis

Treasurer – Chief Len Stempin (not eligible for re-election) vacant

Secretary – Civ. Linda Skillman

Nominations for 3 Directors for a four year term

Please write in names, bring to the Heritage Trust Luncheon and Annual Membership meeting on 4 March 2016 or email or call me with your nominations. My email address is glg_gas@tds.net telephone number (843) 85-4571. Let's enjoy another great year... 315th Airlift Wing Alumni Association.

(Please check with your nominees to see if they are willing to serve if elected)

The future of the 315th Alumni Association Newsletter, notice #1

In the past we have had only two permanent newsletter editors. Ray Ardis had it for about 16 years and I have published it for over 5 years. We have never had a backup plan in case we had to take a time out period. My last newsletter went out in December in time to announce the Christmas luncheon. The biggest complaint we receive is that you haven't received a newsletter. I will be more than glad to address that issue. First, when I sent out about 300 newsletters all by regular mail, starting in January 2000, when there were no computers, 100% of our members received their newsletters. Today, we have over 1,000 members both active and inactive, and our primary source for delivery is our website at <http://315awalumniassoc.com>. We opened up this website because it would be virtually impossible to send them all out my regular email message. There are still those without computers that receive them by regular US Mail service. I address this situation at every monthly board meeting and we have not come up with any easy answers. From here on, I will post the newsletter on the website twice monthly and sometimes more often when necessary. I have just purchased a new digital camera for posting photos I will be taking, and I have purchased a hand held scanner for scanning your photos and artifacts when I see you at board meetings, luncheons and at other functions. I have big plans for the best newsletter ever. I will be contacting many of you for your assistance as I can never do it alone. We will also need help from you to fill positions on the board so be sure you vote and volunteer. We can't stay in business without you. Historically the 943rd Group/315th Wing have been the best. Those of you that made us the best are the same great people that will make us the best Alumni Association. We're counting on you and we know you'll be there.

The next newsletter will be published right after our next board meeting on Saturday, 6 February in Bldg. 59 starting at 9:30 am. We will make plans for our Annual Membership Meeting at that time. We hope to schedule this on the same day as the next Heritage Sponsored Luncheon on Friday, 4 March 2016. You will be advised.

This is a special issue newsletter to address the current and future status of the Alumni. That's very important at this time. After today, we will get back to all the regular news and there will be a lot of catching up to do.

Heritage Trust Sponsored luncheons will be 4 March, 3 June, 9 September and 2 December. Board meetings will be 6 Feb, 4 March, 9 April, 14 May, 3 June, 9 July, 6 Aug, 9 Sept, 1 Oct 5 Nov, and 2 Dec. More details will follow in the next newsletter on 7 Feb.

MSgt (ret) Del Oxford, Newsletter Editor & Historian

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The last newsletter, Newsletter #1, was published January/February 2015. Since that time, the website has not been updated. CMSgt (ret) Tom Clemons is our new webmaster, and he has already made many updates. Check it out.

We have been receiving some calls from our members wanting to know why they are not receiving the newsletter. That question certainly deserves an answer. First, let's look back at our newsletter history. The Alumni was established 8 September 1994, 21 years ago. There have been only two permanent newsletter editors, SMSgt (ret) Ray Ardis and myself. Ray had it for about 15 years, and I've had it for six. In the early years there were no computers, and we sent all of them out by regular mail. By year 2000, we had less than 300 members, and 100 % of our membership received the newsletter. Today we have over 1,000 members, some inactive, and most of our membership have computers and are online. A mass mail out to 1,000 individuals with an e-mail address is virtually impossible to accomplish. That's why we have the website. To be assured that you will receive every newsletter, you should check the website on a regular basis.

Many of our Alumni members are getting on up there in years, especially those of us that came on board when we were still the 943rd Group back in the early seventies. They like to know how many of us are no longer around. You can get this information on our website under *Final Flyby*. At this time, several of us are making a coordinated effort to get all the names of those that are deceased. CMSgt (ret) Dave Brock has set up a great looking webpage on Facebook, "315AW Final Flyby" with photos. We have duplicate listing at both locations to give us a good safety net. Things sometimes have a way of getting lost on the internet, so we want to be sure.

Final Fly-by

MSgt Bradley "Brad" Baird passed in Wilmington SC. We all remember Brad when he was an ART at the clinic. He was reassigned to the 707th Squadron as a Flight Engineer and became a commercial pilot after his retirement.

MSgt Herbert G. "Herb" Dais passed at the age of 72 at The Villages, Florida.

MSgt Carl Jennings Hill passed 29 October 2015 at the age of 85 in a Moncks Corner hospital. Carl was a veteran of WWII, Korea and Vietnam.

TSgt Walter L. R. Harrah, III, 701st Squadron Loadmaster, passed from a heart attack. We have no other details at this time.

Donald Newberry, son of CMSgt Jim Newberry, passed at the age of 55 from a heart attack. Donnie was assigned to the 300th Squadron as a Loadmaster.

Capt. Gregory Lynden Elam, passed 6 Oct 2015 at the age of 67 of lung cancer. He was a C-141 pilot in the 315th Airlift Wing.

TSgt Ken Burger passed 20 Oct 2015 in Mt Pleasant SC, and he was assigned to the 315th Public Affairs. Ken was a distinguished award-winning journalist and author in The Post and Courier, Charleston SC from 1984 to 2011. He published five books that are currently on the market. Some of our Alumni members have been asking about the title of his books and they were listed in today's news. They are: Swallow Savannah, Sister Santee, Salkehatchie Soup Baptized in Sweet Tea, and A Sporting Life.

Winners in the elections:

SMSgt Virginia Jamison won a seat on the North Charleston SC City Council, replacing outgoing Council member SMSgt Bobby Jamison.

Lt Col Wiley Johnson was the winner as Mayor of Summerville SC. He was a C-141 pilot in the 300th Squadron. Jim McDonald and Charles Coleman were his Flight Engineers, and Bill Hamilton was his Loadmaster, and many others remember flying with him.

Note: The 315th Alumni Association does endorse political candidates running for office.

Barbara Pack turns 90!

Almost all of you that were assigned to the 315th Airlift Wing in the seventies and eighties remember Barbara Pack. She was Supervisor of the pay section, and worked with Marty Davis, spouse of Bill Davis, Loadmaster in the 300th Squadron. Many of us that were flying on man days at that time for a living remember her best. When we were tight for cash, Barbara would always take time out from her busy schedule to process orders for our pay. She did this numerous times over. We will never forget. Barbara is still pretty and doing well, and she has never looked her age. She still looks almost the same as she did at her 80th Birthday Celebration at the NCO Club at that time. I have many photos of that celebration.

ALUMNI BORD MEETING & HERITAGE TRUST SPONSORED SPECIAL CHRISTMAS

LUNCHEON TO BE HELD AT THE CHARLESTON CLUB:

The board meeting will be Friday, 4 December 2015, at 09:30 hours followed by the Christmas Social and Luncheon at 11:00 hours.

We will be celebrating Barbara Pack's "90th" Birthday at the luncheon and a special celebration is in order for this special lady. A photo board will be on display with Barbara and her many great friends from the 315th that we had attending 10 years ago. We're expecting many of those friends back again and there will be many attending that we haven't seen for a very long time.

Lisa A. Sweat, 315 AW Director, Airman & Family Readiness, is asking that we bring an unwrapped gift or a gift card for children in need that are in their teens. Lisa said that we

accept gift cards in any amount. Lisa said, "As always, we appreciate everyone's generosity."
Thanks, Lisa

We have always have a really great attendance at this special luncheon each year at this time. Christmas is always in the air! If you would like to see all those you served with over the years, this is the time. We realize how difficult it is for many of you that are getting on up there in years to get out, and we understand. I talk to numerous Alumni members almost daily on Facebook, Twitter, Google, numerous websites, on the telephone, and many plan to attend. There will be door prizes, drawings, and entertainment. Younger 315th Wing personnel that that are still active as associate members will be present. We are hoping our new 315th Wing Commander Col Gregory Gilmour will be available to attend and speak to us.

I will publish the next newsletter in about two weeks and it will be posted on the website. In the meantime, we send our best holiday wishes to you and your family. Drive safely!

MSgt (ret) Del Oxford, Newsletter Editor

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