



Gassers

Volume 1, Issue 1

April 29, 1999

Special points of interest:

- Squadron Association formed
- Where do you want to meet next??
- Our Ladies
- K.I. Heritage Museum

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46th Air Refueling Squadron Association Formed

About three years ago a phone call from Dick Slowik started the trail to the organization of the 46th Air Refueling Squadron Association. Dick had begun to collect names and addresses of former members of the 46th and called John Stevens in an attempt to find more names and addresses.

Over the next few months several lists were exchanged and then the roster was begun. Currently there are over 600 names on the roster with over 250 addresses.

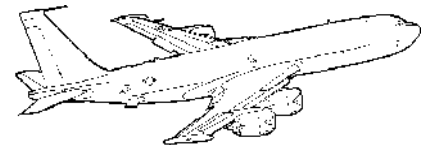
At this time it was decided that an association should be organized to

take advantage of this information and to sponsor a squadron reunion. Further discussions with the members of the 46th who were present at the 1998 Arc Lite/ Young Tiger reunion in Dallas added to the desire to hold a reunion.

At this point the 46th Air Refueling Squadron Association is organized as a non-profit organization in Michigan. All necessary state of Michigan papers have been filed and approved. In the near future after the first annual meeting at the reunion which will officially establish the organization we will file with the federal government

for federal recognition as a non-profit organization.

Current plans are to have the association sponsor a reunion either every year or every two years as decided by the membership and to publish a newsletter on a periodic basis. In both cases assistance from the membership will be required. Volunteers will gladly be accepted to help along the way.



First Reunion of the 46th Air Refueling Squadron

The first reunion of the 46th Air Refueling Squadron Association will be held April 29 through May 1, 1999 at Naval Air Station Pensacola, Florida.

The responsibility for the planning and management of the reunion has

been taken by Dick Ring, Nick Carter, George Batte and Homer Gaouette at the Southern Command Post. Administrative support has been provided by John Stevens at the Northern Command Post.

Reunions in the ensuing

years are being planned, your input on locations, dates and other functions would be appreciated. Contact one of the previous named persons with your inputs.

Association Organization and Officers

The 46th Air Refueling Squadron Association was organized under the laws of the state of Michigan as a non-profit corporation. To complete the formal organization and allow the submission of paperwork for 501c.3 status a formal business meeting must be held.

At the business meeting, the by-laws and Constitution must be accepted and ratified by the membership. Officers to replace the organizing officers and Board of Trustees must be elected and installed. Organizing officers are: Dick Ring, President; Nick Carter, Vice President; John Stevens, Sec-

retary/Treasurer; George Batte and Gary Modlin, Trustees.

Several questions must also be discussed and clarified: how often will the reunions be held and what will be the annual dues of the association be must be finalized. This will allow the officers to plan for the future and provide the necessary funds to operate the association covering such costs as postage and printing.



Name the Newsletter

We called it “Gassers” as something to get started with. What do you want to call the Association newsletter?

Suggest a name and we will consider it. The one that is suggested the most often or the most original or one that fits the Association. What every you can come up with.

Submit your suggestion to John Stevens or any of the officers of the Association either at the reunion or by mail, e-mail or phone.

We will make the decision and use the name on the next edition which hopefully

will go out in 4 – 6 months depending on material input from the members.

“Gassers???”

At the same time, if someone would like to volunteer to be the editor of the newsletter, that action would be greatly appreciated and quickly accepted.

Where do you want to go next?

Well, we have been to Florida now. Where would you like to hold the next reunion?

The main thing is, that wherever we go for the next reunion, there must be someone who is willing and able to take on the job of organizing the reunion and making the neces-

sary arrangements at the site. Ideally it would be someone who lives in the immediate area.

There is the possibility of “piggybacking” with the Arc Lite / Young Tiger reunion in 2000 in Nashville. This would also give us a chance to see those friends from

other tanker units and from the BUFF units as well.

There is also the possibility of going back to KI. (in the summer of course) if desired. Marquette would certainly welcome us back.

Let the officers know and volunteer your help.

Where are they?

We have had some success in finding former members of the 46th, but there are some that we have yet to find:

Tom Adamchek	Lou Endris
Glen Aden	Tom Fleckton
Tom Allard	Randy Gallas
Jerry Angley	Arnold Gorrell
Dick Ballas	Dave Halverson
Al Bekkerus	Joe Harrop
Tom Boehm	Rod Hildebrand
Billy Brockington	John Holcomb
John Butler	Bob Jewell
Ray Carter	Bob Lefevre
Mike Cimino	Ed Little
Steve Coleman	Howard Marquand
Bill Cook	Craig Nordmark
Charlie Cook	Kim Northrup
Jesse Deal	Bobby Ochoa
Paul Ducharme	Herbert Parker
Gary Ebert	Larry Peppel
	Jerry Redd

TAPS

Bob Abernathy
 M.G. Anderson
 Joseph Blaylock
 Kirk Bowers
 Bert Brunner
 Scott Burkett
 Don Corbin
 Don Fonke
 Harry Funk
 Frank Gelsone
 Charles Griffin
 Wilson Howard
 Robert Joyal
 Roy Lancaster
 Billy Lucas
 Ed Meidlinger
 Cameron Morrison
 Jimmy Nelson
 Stan Octaluk
 Ed Palm
 Robert Paterno
 Whit Pertl
 James Peters
 Pete Pettingill
 Phil Wangsness
 Hauser White

Lets not forget our ladies!

Each year as time passes we lose more and more of our squadron mates. This should not cause us to forget their spouses who supported them during their careers.

Often with the death of the spouse our ladies are lost to us. They were integral members of the squadron and should be included in our association. We are aware

of several who have received information on this reunion and hopefully will be able to attend.

If you are aware of the name and address of any wives of departed members please get them to John Stevens so they

can be included on the Squadron Roster. This will allow us to provide them with news of the association and to invite them to future functions.

“Where are our ladies?”

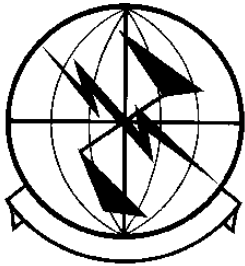
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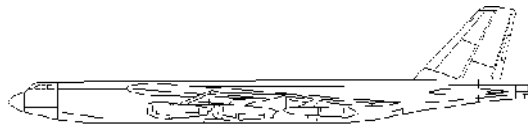
Email: ARS46@aol.com

Webpage: <http://members.aol.com/ars46/page1>



46th Air Refueling Squadron

KI SAWYER



Heritage Air Museum

With the closure of K.I. Sawyer, all artifacts and the static display aircraft located at the base were scheduled to be moved by the Air Force to other bases across the country. To retain the aircraft, and the history of the men and women who flew, maintained and supported them, the K.I. Sawyer Heritage Museum was established under the auspices of the Air Force Museum.

In August of 1993 the Superior Northland Chapter of the Air Force Association agreed to take the initiative and sponsor

“The K.I. Sawyer Heritage Air Museum”. To date the museum has been chartered by the state of Michigan as a non-profit corporation and the 501c.3 tax exempt status has been requested from the IRS. A building to house the museum has been requested from the Closure Authority and we have been included in the base reuse plan.

Although sponsored by the AFA, once established, the museum will be a self sustaining educational facility. The K.I. story, from construction to closure will be told through displays and presentations.

We need your support through your donations of money, time and anything that you may still have tucked away in your closets that pertains to the base or its mission. Photos, documents, models, equipment anything that tells the story of the Air Force, SAC and especially K.I. Sawyer would be appreciated.

Contact Dan Benstrom at 248 W. Flint, Gwinn, MI 49841 or 906-346-3567. Or, you can mail your monetary donations to The K.I. Sawyer Heritage Air Museum, P.O. Box 215, Marquette, MI 49855.