

Geodetic Survey Squadron/Group 2012 Reunion, Newsletter #9, early April 2012

Greetings, Fellow Veterans of the Geodetic Survey Squadron/Geodetic Survey Group, and Happy Spring!

I've been busy lately, so I missed my late March deadline for this newsletter. I'll keep this early April message short and send a second update later this month.

Or perhaps I just have spring fever!

Spring has sprung here in the Washington, D.C. area well ahead of usual. Even the fabled cherry blossoms around the Potomac Tidal Basin near the Jefferson Memorial have long since passed. They arrived about 10 days ahead of their usual time. Bad timing---this is the 100th anniversary of the goodwill gift of cherry trees from Japan, so the annual Cherry Blossom Pageant is a month long for the occasion and has to carry on without the cherry blossoms. Even so, I hope this early spring weather is a good omen for the rest of the year and our reunion in particular.

In that same spirit, here's some ***more good news...***

We Have a Contract!

Holiday Inn and I have come to agreement on our contract. I signed it on 10 March, and we are now locked in. Here are the main highlights:

- We have large private rooms (the Shoshone or Laramie Rooms) for the three main events---the Friday evening Ice Breaker social, the Saturday luncheon and Sunday brunch.
- We also have the 6th floor "Rawhide Suite" as our hospitality room for Saturday evening's wine and cheese social graciously hosted by **Anita Rakestraw**.
- We have reserved a block of 60 hotel rooms at a special rate for reunion attendees.

Here is a detailed breakout of the costs and "secret code" to get the special room rate:

- Room rate at Holiday Inn will be \$85 per night plus applicable taxes, currently 10%.
- Friday night Social – pay as you go; Holiday Inn will provide wait-staff service for drinks and free snacks ("savory snack mix", tortilla chips with salsa and queso, buttered popcorn, etc.).
- The menus and price per meal for our eating events are not yet settled, but I should have that information later this month.

You may now start making reservations and firming up your plans for our reunion, which will take place beginning with a Friday evening "Ice Breaker" through Sunday morning brunch, 3-5 AUGUST 2012!

- Make your room reservation by calling Holiday Inn at 307-638-4466 or 1-800-HOLIDAY; be sure to state that you are attending the "Geodetic Survey Squadron Reunion" to get the special rate of \$85 per night.
- Be sure you register at the Holiday Inn Cheyenne, and not the Holiday Inn Express elsewhere in town! Our reunion is at:
Holiday Inn Cheyenne
204 West Fox Farm Road
Cheyenne, WY 82007
Use this address to get a Google Map of the location.
- If you encounter any problems with room registration, refer the reservation taker to Katie Edmiston, Sales Manager, direct line: 307-757-9112.
- The cut-off for reserving a hotel room at Holiday Inn for our reunion at this special rate is 20 July, but I do not recommend waiting that long. After 20 July, any unreserved rooms will go back to the regular price and be available to reunion attendees only on a space-available basis.
- I expect to have the breakout of meal prices for Saturday's luncheon and Sunday's brunch next time I write; I also need to consult with **Fritz Frieauf** to get details on the anticipated golf outing on Saturday.

More Good News: Commemorative Coin in Production!

As reported last time, we had run into a design snag on our commemorative coin project in late February. Now I am pleased to report that those problems have been overcome and as of 20 March, our special commemorative coin is now in production at the Northwest Territorial Mint!

Former GSS commander, Gordon Barnes and I are very pleased with the design and the look of the coin artwork. The design elements on the face show a banner at top with the years of the unit's existence, 1959-1993. The Air Force Shield is in the upper left quadrant, reflecting that the Squadron was an Air Force asset for the first 14 years of its existence. The upper right quadrant shows the Defense Mapping Agency Shield, reflecting the Squadron's transition to DMA for the remaining 21 years of its existence. Below these are the generalized emblems used by the Squadron while assigned to the Air Force and DMA. Around the rim of the coin are all the various designations by which the Squadron or Group was known during the years between 1959-1993, from 1381st Geodetic Survey Squadron (Missile) to Geodetic Survey Group.

On the back of the coin is the standard DoD emblem.

Naturally, I want everyone of you to see the design of this beautiful coin, but I have second thoughts about attaching the color image to this e-mail. (It doesn't take much for a batch of mass e-mailings to bounce because of some touchy quirk.) So, Ron Nesti, our webmaster, will place the full color artwork from the Mint displaying our beautiful coin on our website for all of you to see. The artwork shows the coin both in large scale for a detailed view as well as in actual size.

Go to <http://www.1381st-gss.freeservers.com/> and follow the link to view the artwork from the Northwest Territorial Mint. (Note: if it's not there when you look, check back periodically. Ron has been traveling recently and may not have gotten to it yet.)

How to Order Your GSS/GSG Commemorative Coin

Only 100 coins were ordered from the Mint, and they will be sold on a first come, first served basis. The cost of the coins will be \$15 each by mail order, postage paid, and only \$10 each if picked up at the GSS/GSG reunion in August. All coins will include a protective "flip" plastic case.

Send no money now.

Those requesting delivery by mail can expect delivery next month. I want you to receive and be completely happy with your coin(s), then either send me your payment or return the coin(s).

Reunion attendees can pay me at the reunion, cash or check, after you pick up and inspect your coins.

Check out the coin artwork online, and if you decide to order one or more, just send me an e-mail with the following information:

DATE OF ORDER:

YOUR NAME:

HOW MANY:

WILL PICK UP AT REUNION:

or

MAIL ORDER

SHIPPING ADDRESS:

The selling price is rounded-up to a whole dollar amount from the actual production price to simplify transactions. ***Any small profit from these coin sales will be used to defray the costs of current and future reunions!***

When considering how many coins to order, Gordon points out that there are several reasons for considering buying more than one. A lot of members will want to incorporate the coin into a display that will require two coins in order to show front and back side-by-side. You may also want to consider gifts. Your family members may want one, and ladies have discovered that the coins can easily and inexpensively be modified by a competent jeweler to create a pendant, a pin, or enable attaching it to a charm bracelet. Another consideration--- there probably will not be a reorder, so you should consider all

your current and future needs for this one-time order, especially at this low price. And remember---you get a 33% discount (\$5 off) by picking up your order at the reunion!

Photomapper Coin Interest Poll

If you were a member of the Squadron anytime prior to July 1972 when it was still part of the Air Force Photomapping family, then you are also eligible to purchase a Photomapper coin. (You may view the Photomapper coin at www.1370th.org/coin.html) These coins are currently sold out, and it requires a minimum order of 50 to put them back into production at the Mint. Gordon asked me to find out how many Photomapper coins GSS veterans may want. If you want to have a Photomapper coin, now is the time to tell Gordon how many you want to order. If there is enough demand, the reorder will occur after the reunion, around mid-August 2012, and you should expect to receive your Photomapper coin(s) in the mail near the end of September. The cost of these coins is \$10.30 per coin plus the cost of a padded mailer and postage. (This coin will be available from Gordon by mail order only, and only if there is enough demand to meet or exceed the 50-coin minimum.) ***If you are interested in ordering a Photomapper coin, please contact Gordon Barnes at glbjlb@charter.net and tell him your dates of service and how many coins you want.***

***My friends, we are now less than FOUR months away from our next reunion!
Make your plans, reserve your room at the Holiday Inn and remember to ask for your special room rate by mentioning "Geodetic Survey Squadron Reunion."***

Commemorative Coin collectors, follow the viewing and ordering instruction mentioned above!

More news coming later this month...

Looking forward to seeing you all in August 2012!

Garrett

Field Survey & Astro

GSS/Cheyenne

April 1967 - May 1970 and January - December 1972

***Nothing makes the Earth seem so spacious as to have friends at a distance—they make the latitudes and longitudes.
--Henry David Thoreau, Surveyor & Philosopher***