

Geodetic Survey Squadron/Group 2012 Reunion, Newsletter #10, Early May 2012

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

Here's our latest update on our evolving reunion plans.

More News on Reunion Reservations

If you have not done so yet, you may now make your hotel reservations and firm up your plans for our reunion, which will take place beginning with a Friday evening "Ice Breaker," Saturday luncheon and Sunday morning brunch, 3-5 AUGUST 2012!

- ? 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 or to program your GPS vehicle navigator.
NOTE: Be sure your reservation is at THIS Holiday Inn, NOT the Holiday Inn Express, elsewhere in town!
- ? Make your room reservation by calling Holiday Inn at 307-638-4466 or 1-800-HOLIDAY; state that you are attending the "Geodetic Survey Squadron Reunion" to get the special rate of \$85 per night.
- ? If you encounter any problems with room registration at the discounted rate, refer the person taking your reservation 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 do not 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.
- ? After a few weeks of playing telephone and e-mail tag with the catering manager at Holiday Inn, I finally have the detailed breakout of prices for our main events.
 - o Friday Evening Ice-Breaker Social – \$2 per person – this covers the bartender fee only; Holiday Inn will provide free snack items, but drinks are on you.
 - o Saturday Mid-Day Luncheon -- \$13 per person
 - o Sunday Brunch -- \$11 per person

IMPORTANT: I have told the hotel to expect about 100 people and secured the cost with my personal credit card. So, if you plan to attend any of these three functions, please pay ME in advance by check for these meals, NOT the hotel! These items cannot be charged to your hotel bill.

When you send me your check, please include a brief note indicting what your check covers; i.e., which of the three events you plan to attend and how many people are in your party.

I will have the detailed menus for each event in the next newsletter. Let me know if you have any special dietary restrictions and need substitutes for the regular menu items at that time.

I will also have more news about the proposed golf outing in the next newsletter.

Other Things To Do In Cheyenne

In between reunion events, you can get information on other things to do, places to eat, and a calendar of events happening in the Cheyenne area by going to the website of the Cheyenne Convention and Visitors' Bureau at <http://www.cheyenne.org/>

Commemorative Coin News

Since my last newsletter I have already received advance orders for **60** of our specially minted GSS/GSG commemorative coins, so **they're going fast!** If you have been procrastinating about placing an order, take a good look at the design at our GSS website <http://www.1381st-gss.freesevers.com/> where **Ron Nesti**, our webmaster, has placed a full color image of the coin for all of you to admire and check out what you're buying. If you like what you see, send me your order.

How to Order Your Commemorative Coin (If You Haven't Yet)

Remember, folks, we only minted 100 of these special coins, and nearly two-thirds of them are already spoken for, so don't delay if you want one or more!

The cost of the coins is \$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. Whether you want your coins shipped or will pick them up yourself at the reunion, **here's how to order.**

First, check out the design online, and then, 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

SEND ME MY COIN(S) POSTAGE PAID

(INCLUDE YOUR SHIPPING ADDRESS)

Either way, send no money now!

I want you to receive your order and be completely happy with your coin(s), then either send me your payment (checks only, please) or return the coin(s).

Reunion attendees can inspect your coins during the reunion, and if satisfied, pay me at the reunion, by cash or check.

I just received an update on our order from the Northwest Territorial Mint, and I am pleased to report that the coins have already left the Mint and were shipped on 30 April. I anticipate receiving them via FEDEX on 7 May. Assuming no glitches with the order, that means those of you who ordered your coins to be shipped to your address, postage paid, can **expect to receive your order from me around mid-May.** I will hand deliver the others during the reunion.

Air Force Photomapping Association and Coin

Also, remember that GSS veterans who served between July 1959 and July 1972, when the Squadron was still attached to Air force photomapping parent units, are also eligible to join the *Air Force Photomapping Association* and purchase the Photomapping coin. ***If you are interested in joining the Association, contact Gordon Barnes, Director of Membership, at glbjlb@charter.net.***

If you are interested in the Photomapper coin, you may view it 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. 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 how many coins you want and your shipping address.***

Reunion Publicity

In addition to **Gerry Abraham** publicizing our reunion in the *American Legion* magazine and **Gordon Barnes** giving us some publicity in the *Air Force Photomapping Association* newsletter, I have personally placed reunion announcements in the April *Bulletin* of the *American Congress on Surveying and Mapping*, *eNewsletter* of the *American Association of Geodetic Surveyors* and the *News & Views Briefs* of the *National Society of Professional Surveyors*. It is also currently appearing in the *Professional Surveyor* and the *American Surveyor* magazines and in *Linked In* and *The Retired Officers Association (TROA)*. **Hank Miller** also recently reported seeing our announcement in the *VFW* magazine. Last October NGA employee **Dan Mullaney**, Coordinate Systems Analyst, stepped forward to take on the task of getting reunion information out through NGA's Public Affairs office. Dan, please give us an update on that. Let me know if you were successful and what the PAO is doing for us. **Merilou Miller** and friends have also volunteered to get us some publicity in the local Cheyenne media as reunion time approaches.

More Names Added to Our Online Roster

We were pleased to add **Bill Brewer**, former GSS surveyor, computer, gravity guy and "First Shirt" to our roster this month. Bill had been one of those folks, like many of you still out there, who was on my e-mail list, but who had not yet sent in his contact information to get listed on our webpage. Now, Bill is listed among his friends and colleagues, where he belongs, but **what about you?**

Remember, your e-mail address alone is not enough to get you listed in our hall of fame. If you want to be listed among your old friends and colleagues on the GSS/GSG veterans' webpage, then PLEASE send us your full locator information using the template below! Take a moment, if you not already done so, to copy and fill out this little form and paste it into an e-mail to me right after you read this newsletter:

NAME:

ADDRESS: (Include street or mailbox #, city, state and zip code)

PHONE:

E-MAIL ADDRESS:

MILITARY or CIVILIAN: (Answer "both" if you served the Squadron or Group in both capacities)

HIGHEST RANK or POSITION in GSS/GSG:

START/END DATES OF SERVICE IN GSS/GSG: (Multiple entries OK, if you had more than one tour of duty)

ORGS: (i.e., where you worked: Survey, Astro, Sat Tri, Gravity, Data Reduction, Detachment, etc.)

OTHER: (Add whatever else you want to share here in a few lines.)

In addition to **Bill Brewer**, thanks to the efforts of **Del Walkenshaw**, we have also recently added **Bill Cramsie** (Cheyenne, 1973-76) to our roster. Another "lost" Squadron veteran who has found us recently is **Keith Lebon** (Orlando and Cheyenne, 1963-68). **Pat Graham** has been untiring in searching out names of missing or deceased GSS veterans. **Hank Miller** has discovered that **George Moran** and wife **Linda** are now back in Cheyenne after having lived elsewhere for a while. George was a Logistics Branch warehouse man, who issued supplies and all that TDY equipment we needed for our frequent deployments. **Warren "Woody" Woodard** also sent us the name of **David J. Schmitz**, who was in the Squadron from 1975 to 1986 and now works in Germany. And last but not least, **Gordon Barnes** sent **Julian Higgins** our way. Julian had three tours with the Squadron ending up as the commander of Detachment 1 at Vandenberg AFB, CA from 1977-80. All are now added to our e-mail list.

New additions, if you have not already done so, please send us your full contact info in the format above ASAP so we can add your names to our website roster!

Another Name for Our List of Deceased

I received this note just a few days ago from **Obie Chambers**, one of "the originals" from Orlando:

"... it is my sad duty to report the death of one of our 1381st brothers. A good friend from my early days in the Squadron at Orlando and a resident of the open bay barracks. I last spoke to him just before our last

reunion trying to get him to attend but he could not. He did say that he hoped that he could do the next one. Well, he apparently died very soon after that and I only found last night as I was trying to contact him about this year's reunion:

JAMES J. TERRY, JR.
DIED AUG. 19, 2009
TIFFIN, OH.
RIP

Regards,
Obie Chambers

Thanks, Obie. With sadness we will add **James Terry** to our online list of deceased veterans. Jim's obituary is at <http://www.advertiser-tribune.com/page/content.detail/id/516949.html> .

If you are aware of other GSS veterans, military or civilian, who have gone on to their reward, please let us know, and if possible, please include a link to their obituary.

***Friends, we are just three months away from our next reunion!
Make your plans, reserve your room at the Holiday Inn and remember to ask for your special reunion discount when you reserve your room by mentioning "Geodetic Survey Reunion."***

Also tell me what events you plan to attend, how many in your party, and send me a check to cover the total.

Commemorative coin collectors, follow the ordering instruction mentioned above!

Looking forward to seeing you all this summer!

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*