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Geodetic Survey Squadron/Group, Newsletter #71, 1 March 2018, Distribution 8

1 message

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

And Happy March!

This month we have another unusual occurrence of two full moons, including one tonight (March 1st) of a super moon---our last one for a while. A super moon occurs when the full moon is at or near its closest approach to Earth during its elliptical orbit. Regrettably, much of the East Coast will probably miss this one because of an impending storm with very high winds due here for tonight and Friday.

The second full moon of the month, a so-called "blue moon," will rise as the sun sets on March 31st. While this second full moon of the month will not be a "super moon," it will be the first full moon following the March equinox heralding the arrival of spring.

Indigenous Algonquins called the March full moon the *Worm Moon*, because it signaled the time of year when the thawing ground at the end of winter began to bring earthworms to the surface. A second full moon falling within the same month has been referred to as a blue moon since the 1930s, although an older definition refers to it as the fourth full moon in a season or the thirteenth full moon in a year. Find out more about blue moons by [clicking here](#).

More Reunion Good News!

More good news arrived in recently with regard to our reservations at the Radisson Hotel. **Jack Studley** (Gravity, FEW, 1971-75), our point man in Cheyenne, has stepped up to coordinate our hotel arrangements for this summer's reunion. Jack recently sent me two updates:

The first is that we are locked in for August 3, 4 & 5, 2018 with the Radisson Hotel (former Holiday Inn) and we have a draft contract in hand for the same events as the previous several reunions. The second update is that the special room rate will be \$91 per night, only \$3 more than the rate in 2015. Says Jack:

"The room rate provided is \$91.00/night

[To make reservations] call:

Radisson Hotel Cheyenne

[204 W Fox Farm Rd](#)

[Cheyenne WY 82007](#)

Hotel phone: [307-638-4466](#)

Refer to: GEODETIC, or Event #1006, to obtain conference rates."

I will share the details and the planned main events, as they become firm, and how to order and pay for the events

you plan to attend.

Thank you, Jack!

Recent Gains and Losses:

We are pleased to add **Wayne Paige** (Data Reduction, FEW, 1969-73) to our online roster.

Says Wayne:

“Dalton [Boe] Borchardt suggested I contact you. I recently connected with him on Facebook in the 1CEVG group. At the age of 18, I was assigned to the Geodetic Survey Squadron from 1969 thru 1973. I was at F.E. Warren during that time, except for brief training at Barksdale, before being sent to Bongo in 1971 and Bromo in 1972 as a Data Computation Specialist.

In 1973, three months prior to discharge, I took advantage of Project Transition and started my career in broadcasting as a radio announcer in Cheyenne. I extended 20 months and entered AFRTS after training and graduating from the Defense Information School.

Hear's what I do now:

<http://www.digitalwave.tv/>

I am grateful for my time in the Air Force.

I have many great memories.

I would love to register with this group. I recognize some members, including Frank Grudzinski.

Best, Wayne Paige”

We are also pleased to add the name **Wayne Miller** to our roster, and it's a mystery why he was never on it until now. Wayne was a long-time senior civilian geodesist at Detachment 4, Patrick AFB, FL. We got his contact information via our colleagues at the Air Force Photo-Mapping Association.

On a sadder note, several people advised me of the recent death of two of our long-serving veterans, well known to many in the Squadron. First, **Fred Krumm** passed away in January at age 89. When I arrived at the Squadron in May 1967, TSgt Krumm was already in charge of the unit's in-house month-long training school in Building 842 for newly arrived field survey hands. Some of us affectionately dubbed the school “Krumm Tech.” Fred was a patient and able instructor, demonstrating---and making us practice---all the field survey tasks incumbent on us newbies, from Airmen to Lieutenants. It included everything from precision taping, electronic distance measurement, geodetic leveling and triangulation, astro-azimuth observations, geodetic field computations and much more.

One of Fred's endearing personal quirks was to teach us with a cigarette perched on his lower lip. As he spoke, the cigarette bobbed up and down and the ash would gradually grow to an extraordinary length. We would all take mental bets on whether Fred and his prodigious ash would make it to the ashtray before it fell on him. Sometimes it did, and he would just look up at us and smile a big wide grin. I suspect his fatigue uniforms had a few burn holes in them! Fred retired in the late 1960s and went to work for the Wyoming Highway Department as a surveyor. Here is Fred's obituary: https://www.wyomingnews.com/milestones/obituaries/frederick-krumm/article_a3496cc0-0efc-11e8-a45a-8705de7d08b1.html

To our list of deceased, we also sadly add the name of **Larry Hootman**. Larry passed away on February 16th just shy of his 77th birthday this month. Larry was a near institution in the Squadron having served many years, from 1960 to 1985, at various locations, including Orlando, Cheyenne and Vandenberg's Detachment 1. He and the late **Ben Billings** accomplished the survey of LS-85, a super-secret radar site on a mountaintop in Laos in 1967. You can read the challenging details of this now declassified mission on our website at this link:

http://geodeticsurvey.mysite.com/images/Moore/Photomapping_support_of_SkySpot.pdf

Larry's avocation in his retirement was serving as the Sergeant-at-Arms in the Wyoming state Senate. Here is Larry's

obituary: https://www.wyomingnews.com/milestones/obituaries/larry-hootman/article_c4c1cf12-153e-11e8-862e-2fd27754e47e.html

Thanks to all the following folks who alerted me to the passing of our two dearly departed colleagues: **Gerry Abraham, Dana Hannon, Rick Eckhardt, Merilou Miller, Herb Stoughton, Bob Tyszka and Hank Miller.**

I also heard from **Anita Rakestraw** (Orderly Room & Personnel, FEW, 1978-87) with a few more details on the 2010 death of **John Lamons**, former head of GSS Logistics at FEW.

“Some time ago I sent you a message indicating that John Lamons had passed away. He was the Chief of the Logistics Office. You asked me for more specifics, date, etc. I just received a message from his son, Joseph. He died in St. Louis on July 6, 2010. This is the only information he shared.

Armed with that extra detail, I was able to find an obituary for John in the archives of the *St. Louis Post Dispatch*: <https://www.legacy.com/obituaries/stltoday/obituary.aspx?pid=143981451>.

May Fred, Larry and John all rest in peace...

Dick Winslow, our Webmaster, will add these names to our online roster of deceased GSS/GSG veterans.

Proposed Off-Year Reunion in Orlando in 2019:

In the last newsletter, I announced that **Werner Koslowski** has contacted me with a grand idea for an off-schedule reunion in Orlando, FL. Next year will mark the 60th anniversary of the founding of the original 1381st GSS (Missile) on 1 July 1959 at the now deactivated Orlando AFB, FL. Werner has proposed some ambitious plans:

“Hello, I thought we may consider the 2019 event be held in Orlando, since it would be 60 years since GSS was established in 1959 at Orlando AFB, please kick this around with our many folks,,warm regards

Hello again: I'm thinking of contacting my US Congressman, Bill Posey, for a possible political angle to the 60th reunion here in FL, to see what he thinks of the idea AND a potential event having President Trump as a speaker at the 60th. Just a thought, that may, could, spark some interest among our vets! The pres would certainly be interested in 2019 since FL is critical in elections. Let's talk later,, Werner K”

I asked for a “show of hands” last time to assess interest in Werner's proposal, but so far have only received two or three positive responses! In previous polling Orlando came out as the second most popular venue for a reunion, and I sometimes hear from a few veterans that they dislike having to go to Cheyenne every time. So, this would be the opportune time to chime in.

Well, what do you all think? Any interest? I realize that another reunion in 2019 will follow less than a year after our August 2018 reunion, but Orlando has plenty to offer, especially as the place where it all began for our unique unit. Even if the special guest does not show up, there's the Kennedy Space Center Visitor Complex, Disney, Universal--- and the NGA Geodetic Support Team at Patrick AFB, the former Detachment 4, whose staff might be persuaded to give us a tour or brief us on their current activities.

ACTION ITEM: Let me know as soon as possible about your interest in having an off-year reunion in 2019 in Orlando to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the founding of the Squadron. Exact date to be determined.

And speaking of additional reunions...

Proposed Reunion for 100th Anniversary of Defense Mapping School:

In the February newsletter I asked for responses on the proposed May 11th reunion of the Defense Mapping School and its Army Engineer School predecessors from those of you who have also served as staff or faculty at the Defense Mapping School (DMS). The Army Engineers arrived on Ft. Belvoir, VA, with its schoolhouse in 1918 and called it home until their move to Ft. Leonard Wood, MO, in 1985.

So far, I have received only one response! The reunion will take place on or near Ft Belvoir on Friday, May 11th. **Jack**

Batt, long-time Army and civilian veteran of DMS, known to many of you, has sent me an update:

“Fast news first – we are still a go for May 11th for our 100th Anniversary Reunion. I have no details yet, as I am waiting on a couple phone calls. So far, I have 44 confirmed names including guests/spouses. I’m going to give all an **April 16th RSVP deadline**, so if getting your taxes done is the priority, then you can let me know if you will attend.”

Jack and his helpers are hoping to include a visit and briefing at the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency’s (NGA) Campus East facility, which is also home to the successor of DMS, now called NGA College. At this point it’s probably best to reply directly to Jack, if you plan to attend.

ACTION ITEM: DMS veterans receiving this newsletter, please let Jack Batt know your intentions about attending the 11 May 2018 weekend reunion at Ft Belvoir. Please identify yourself as staff, faculty or former student and whether you plan to attend accompanied (how many). [RSVP to Jack Batt by April 16, 2018! Thanks!](#)

Jack’s cell phone: (540) 846-5413

Jack’s e-mail: jackbatt@comcast.net

News from NGAA East and West:

Our colleague veterans from DMA and NGA, as represented by the NGA Alumni Associations, East and West, have sent out some news items. First, is the announcement of a new museum on the Virginia side of the Washington Metro area.

“The OSS Society is building the National Museum of Intelligence and Special Operations in Loudoun County, Virginia. The eight-acre site is close to Washington Dulles International Airport. The museum will honor Americans serving at the “tip of the spear.” It will educate the American public about the importance of strategic intelligence and special operations to the preservation of freedom. It will inspire future generations of Americans to serve their country. Please click here to read an article in the *Washington Business Journal*. Please click here to reach the brochure about the museum.

If you would like to make a tax-deductible donation, please click on the “donate” button here. When you make a donation, please click on “add special instructions to the seller” and write “NMISO.””

The Office of Strategic Services (OSS) was the WW2-era forerunner of the CIA.

The second item is a progress report on the new NGA Campus West in St. Louis.

The land has been cleared and construction offers are about to be bid on the \$1.7 billion project. Here’s a link to the February 25th story in the *St. Louis Post Dispatch* newspaper, which includes a photo of the cleared site with the famous St. Louis Arch clearly seen in the background: http://www.stltoday.com/business/local/feds-prepare-to-select-construction-firms-to-build-billion-nga/article_69dd6f70-c46d-592a-8750-f20cb322961c.html

Current plans call for completion by 2024.

Final Notes:

That’s all for this newsletter. Next time, I’ll have more on the commemorative coins and the status of two ongoing projects---the story and people behind the two-year photo calibration survey that has become of interest to Myke Weiskopf of KCRA, Santa Monica, and the final version of our history and evolution of geodetic computing in the Squadron/Group over its history from 1959-1993.

Don’t miss out on this month’s super moon and blue moon (tonight, March 1st, if you have clear skies, and again on March 31st in the USA)! There won’t be another pair of full moons occurring during a single month until October 2020.

Bonnie & I took that Valentine's Day cruise to Cuba with two friends a couple of weeks ago. While it was an interesting and worthwhile trip, I would say the Cuban government still has a long way to go to improve Cuba's appeal to tourists. I did bring home some Cuban coffee and a few cigars, but have not partaken of either yet.

We will soon be off again to visit our kids and grandkids in California, then to Australia, to visit son Tim and his wife. We plan to spend some Australia time in the Great Outback, Australia's continent-sized desert. We will camp near Uluru (Ayer's Rock) near Alice Springs smack dab in the middle of the Outback. Except for the odd tree or shrub, the landscape suggests a trip to Mars! Looking forward to the adventure! More on Uluru here: <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Uluru>

If you are on Facebook, I invite you to be my Facebook friend. Find me at <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100009342009837>

There is also a Facebook page for the Squadron/Group at <https://www.facebook.com/1381GeodeticSurveySquadron/>

Garrett

Field Survey Branch & Astronomic Positioning Branch

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 and Philosopher*