



# 456th FIS Newsletter

From your Alumni  
Committee

Issue 13  
April 10, 2009

## Meet Chuck & Dawn Anonsen



One of the great parts about doing these newsletters is getting to meet the children of 456th FIS members. I recently heard from Chuck Anonsen's son, Eric, via email. Eric was looking for some 456th memorabilia to take to his Dad for a Christmas visit last year. Eric was successful and Dad was very pleased with the additions to his military memorabilia collection.

I also learned that Chuck was the pilot who took the famous pictures of the flight of four 456th Sixes over Lake Tahoe. See inside for more on **the Ansonsens**.



Just like these two Darts headed home after a hard day's work, we find our Weapons Officer, Karl Bossi, relaxing in an ejection seat at Peterson Air Museum in Colorado Springs, fondly reminiscing about the days when his group took care of the missiles for the 456th. Here's a mockup of the Nuclear Genie he stored across the runway in the bunkers.



Photos by Chuck Anonsen

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### 456th Alumni Committee

- Bruce Gookin
- Jim Arnold
- Bob Justus
- Pat Perry
- John Marcotte
- Lou Pizzarello
- Paul Ketchum
- Al Mueller
- Erv Smalley

## If 456er Fred Williams offers you a Docent Tour of the Udvar-Hazy Museum... You Take It!

Fred Williams, former 456th pilot and now docent at the Udvar-Hazy National Air & Space Museum at Dulles, VA gave the best tour we have ever seen. He not only knows all the aircraft in the museum but can tell you stories behind them that most people have never heard or read about.

Fred's tour was the highlight event of our 2008 Reunion.

See inside for more pictures of the museum, The Whitehouse Tour and the reunion dinner. Our next Reunion will be held June 3-4-5, 2010 at Colorado Springs, CO at the Peterson Air & Space Museum Foundation.

Fred Williams



**...the Anonsens:** My father, Ret. Col. Charles E. Anonsen, flew the F-102 at the 317th FIS at Elmendorf AFB in Anchorage Alaska from 1959-1963. My brother Marc and I were born there. His Commanding Officer was Joseph Rogers, who on December 15, 1959 (50 years ago next year!) broke the world single engine jet fighter speed record in a F-106 at 1,525 mph over an 11 mile long course to beat the Russians speed record.

After Rogers set the record, which still stands today, he went to Anchorage to command the 317th FIS and patrol Russian airspace. There, he and my father became great friends as they flew together every day. After 4 years, Joe went back to testing jets at Edwards AFB in California, and was one of the first SR-71 pilots. Joe gave my father, who later gave to me and my brother, tie pins made from the titanium rotor blades from the engine of the SR-71. I still own that tie pin.

After Anchorage we moved to Castle AFB and the 456th FIS from 1963-1966, where Dad was a flight commander and captain of the 1965 William Tell Team. Some of my best memories are playing baseball as a young boy in Atwater and seeing my dad take off with those yellow tailed F-106s. In 1966 we moved to Duluth, MN and joined the 11th FIS "Red Bulls".

Dad went to Viet Nam for a year as a FAC, flying an O2-A out of Ban Me Thuot, and came back and rejoined the 456th. We then moved on to Langley AFB, VA and the 48th FIS in 1970 and then to Homestead with the 2nd Detachment of the 48th FIS in 1972 where he was Squadron CO. I still have a picture of his F-106 on the tarmac next to Air Force One, and it's signed by Richard Nixon!

I'm sorry to say that my father's health is deteriorating but he still has his F-102 and F-106 models and patch-board in his room at the ARC Retirement Facility in San Antonio where he and my mother live. I am so glad this web page exists as it brings back many memories to me and others and it stands as a memorial to all the people who have served in ADC all those years.

Thank you for sending the 456th memorabilia. I showed my dad the pictures and the posters of John Marcotte that I got from the Castle Museum, and the Gold 456th/ADC coin, all this morning. John Marcotte and his wife Ginny actually ended up at Ft. Lee, Va. with our family in 1974 at NORAD.

If anyone would like to drop Dad a line I'm sure he would be glad to hear from you. Col. Charles Anonsen 7400 Crestway Apt. 1119 San Antonio, TX 78239-3098

Thanks, Eric Anonsen



Dina and Marc Anonsen



Dawn Anonsen and son Eric

456th FIS 2008 Reunion at Dulles, VA



Hosts Lou Pizzarello and Barrie Wolf



456th Challenge Coin—Pat has 32 left—\$13 each includes postage



Richard & Lina Scorza...



...Got us into the Whitehouse for a tour



Dean & Irene Rager haven't missed a 456th Reunion



next stop: Udvar-Hazy Center



Lockheed SR-71



Space Shuttle Enterprise



Mach 3.2 versus Mach 0.32



The Enola Gay



The Concorde Mach 2.0



L-R: Dean Mehlberg, Al Mueller, Karl Bossi, Dave Brownwood, Fred Williams and Guy Jack Sherrill



The "Old Sarge" Jim Gier of the 27th FIS and Peyson, AZ designed and made some custom awards for our 2008 Reunion. Each is a unique work of art and enabled us to send a nice donation to CAM following the raffle. Jim and Sandy plan to attend our next Reunion at Colorado Springs in 2010.



Erv Smalley was presented a special "Chief o' the Facts" Award for his excellent work on F-106 historical web sites. Visit them at <http://convairf106deltadart.homestead.com/index.html>

Adopted by the 456th Erv Smalley, Marv Donnelly & Ralph Robledo



Jim Arnold presents a raffle award to Ted LeDane

Erv has designed and created some 11x16 prints with the squadron and base assignments for F-106, F-102, F-104, F-101, EC-121, B-57, F-89, F-94, P-61, F-82, P/F-47 and P/F-84 Aircraft used by Air Defense Command & NORAD. These are available at <http://www.petemuseum.org/AircraftMaps.html>

And speaking of another great family I got to meet several years ago...



Troy & Sue Curnutte (Troy's Dad was Bill Curnutte)



Ginnie Curnutte and Guy Jack Sherrill (Jack flew with Bill)



Troy tracked down a F-4 Phantom his Dad once flew and it is now restored and on display at Tyler Historic Aviation Memorial Museum in Texas

Then and Now...



THEN: One of these 456th FIS F-86 pilots on the left conducted the first 456th Reunion in 1998. He is Ken Bell and we hope to have him attend Colorado Springs. Can you guess which one he is? I know...but I ain't tell'in.

NOW: The guy on the right is Bruce Gookin. He started tracking down 456ers in 2000 and got the Alumni Committee started. Our first reunion was in 2001 and that started an effort to get a F-106 at CAM. And the rest as they say is history.



**1st Lt. Dave Brownwood - Castle AFB, CA 456th FIS**



David & Bo Brownwood

My old and great friend, Colonel Fred Williams, just let me know about the 456th FIS reunion you are organizing in the D.C. area 1 May to 3 May. Please put me down as a definite yes. I'm really looking forward to it. I haven't seen my fellow 456th pilots for nearly 47 years, so it's about time! Fred and I flew deuces and sixes together at Castle (and played a lot of poker with appropriate lubrication) for three years from the fall of 1958 to the summer of 1961. As I'm sure you know, Fred stayed on at Castle for another couple of years and went on to a brilliant 30-year USAF career. (I went on to law school instead and spent a career behind a desk... not much of a substitute for the cockpit of an F-106!) David Brownwood Feb 2008

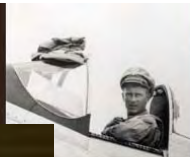
Then and Now...



John Gatlin, Pat Perry, Bob Justus  
circa 1967 in Barracks #124 Castle AFB



We've not found John Gatlin yet. I think our wives would agree that Bob and Pat have not changed much in the last 43 years... well maybe a little rounder, grayer and certainly wiser for



**HOME**  
**HISTORY**  
**MI BROOKS**  
**THE STORY**  
**THE LEGACY**  
**VIDEO**  
**CONTRIBUTIONS**  
**CONTACT**  
**LINKS**

**VIDEO TRAILER**

Enjoy this short presentation that we put together that illustrates the importance of seeing this project through to completion.

Press Play to view Video Trailer. If the video lags please press Pause and allow video to load a bit before you hit Play again.

(You need Flash Player to view Video Trailer. [Click Here to Download it Free.](#))

having married them!

Bob has always had great timing. He ended up in a video about a P-51 Fly In held in Ohio. I remember he showed up just in time back in 1967, too. I had just dropped a screwdriver down into the fuselage of a F-106. I was looking at having to spend the next 20 hours tearing the thing apart to get that tool out so it wouldn't get hung up in some moving parts. I hailed Bob when he drove by in

a tug. I held him by the ankles and lowered him down into the reefer compartment. He finally found the errant screwdriver and I only dropped him once! Later, after a few shots of Haig & Haig Pinch, the pain subsided and we had a good laugh. Thanks Bob!



Then and Now...



Top L-R: Karlton R. Hall, Steve Keesey, James E. McShann, Robert D. McClain  
 Mid L-R: Rudy ( not sure) Cobuer or Cobeer, Joseph E. Ingrams, Mitch Haas, Mike Henderson  
 Low L-R: Instructor, Larry F. Brooks, James H. McDermott, Steve Rohder, John K. Keller, Instructor  
 May 16, 1966 at Shepherd Air Force Base. Keesey, Keller, Ingrams, Henderson and Rohder all went to Castle in 1966.

Steve Keesey  
 Crew Chief 57-2456

THEN: Ted "Pudd'in" LeDane

NOW: Ted "Jake the Sled Driver" LeDane



Then.... Gosh, I wish I had a copy of that cartoon they sent...

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE  
HEADQUARTERS 26TH AIR DIVISION (ADC)  
ADAIR AIR FORCE STATION CORVALLIS, OREGON 97330

OFFICE OF THE COMMANDER

7 June 1968

Lt Colonel John C. Marcotte  
456th Fighter Interceptor Squadron  
Castle Air Force Base, California

Dear John

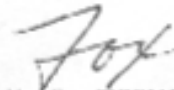
I would like to express my appreciation for the splendid color pictures of the 456th FIS in action. The photography is outstanding, the formation splendid, and the composition superior. I am particularly grateful for the autographs by your squadron pilots.

As to the "456th's cartoon impression of 26th Air Division", I am almost at a loss for words -- but not quite. Obviously there is no lack of imagination in the 456th; rather, it would appear that the imagination is devious, psychedelic, and possibly even LSD stimulated. If this is correct, and I do not propose to press this question too far, your artists and contributors have a splendid future before them on the Mad Magazine staff, provided that they can stay out of jail long enough. Every time we look at this piece of art, we discover something new.

The 456th FIS has been, is, and I am sure will continue to be, the outstanding F-106 outfit in ADC. I sure hate to see you leave this Division. To you, and all your airmen and officers, my thanks for your consistently superior performance and best wishes for continued success in the future. These sentiments are echoed by all the members of the Division Staff and Commanders of other units in the 26th Air Division.

Again, many thanks for the mementos, and for the outstanding 456th FIS sparkle and pizzaz.

Sincerely



W. E. RHYARD, Colonel, USAF  
Commander

Men, I consider this letter as one of the finest tributes that has ever been paid to a fighter squadron by any division commander. I feel that flowery words at this time would be either misunderstood or out of place. So I just want to take this opportunity to say thanks and hope you all share the same feeling as I.

*Meanest Mutha*  
JOHN C. MARCOTTE, Lt Colonel  
Commander

Here's a few random pictures...



If you're the enemy, you don't want to see this in your rear view mirror



A gun sight view of a Six Driver and his buds



Picture provided by Fred Williams... might be titled the flight of the Bumble "B"ees

Visit Pat McGee's F-106 web site at <http://www.f-106deltadart.com/home.htm>

And F-106 Forum at <http://forum.f-106deltadart.com>

What's happening at Castle Air Museum...



As you can see, the Century Series Row has been moved to the back section of the museum



A very nice looking Falcon Missile



A scale model F-15 is getting ready for paint

What's happening at Castle Air Museum...



What do you do when you have a TF-102 that's been sitting in your back yard for many years. An aircraft that was used for years in Northern California as a trainer for fire fighters. Missing its wings, landing gear, cockpit glass and many metal skin panels.

SIMPLE...



You drag it indoors and start looking all over the US for parts. You find a bunch of parts and start going after them. Pretty soon, you've got the nose wheel down and she's starting to look like there's hope.



Then you find an RF-8 Crusader with all the parts still in it. Your pals at Jameson Harvesting go get her and bring her home. Ah, life is good at CAM.

Two things that brought a tear to my eye...



Photo Oct 2003 by Hans van Herk: The above photo is a sculpture by artist Nancy Rubins and was taken at an art exhibition in October of 2003 at Fort Belvedere in Firenze Italy by Hans van Herk of the Netherlands and was provided to me by Andy Marden of Lincoln Great Britain. The exhibit ended 26 Oct 03 and its location is unknown to me at this time and the details of how the tail section of a F-106 that crashed on 22 April 69 in California USA appeared in a sculpture 34 years later in Italy is a mystery to us....Erv 16 Nov 03



I remember painting the tail of this F-106, 57-2457. To think that part of this Six would show up in a piece of art brought a tear to my eye... For the loss of the F-106... not for the art.

At the 2008 Reunion, Bruce Gookin presented this acrylic casting to me on behalf of the 456th FIS Alumni Committee. It reads: Presented to Pat Perry With great appreciation for your dedication to the 456th FIS alumni. We honor you with "The Luther Award" for outstanding achievements in our quest to honor those of the 456th. 2008

It has been my honor for the past 9 years to coordinate the 5 reunions conducted by the Alumni Committee. There has always been a host in every reunion city who has done the heavy lifting of setting up the entire reunion. Bruce Gookin, Jim Arnold, Bob Justus, Al Mueller and Lou Pizzello have all served as hosts and we are fortunate that Erv Smalley has volunteered to host our 6th reunion Colorado Springs, CO on June 3-4-5-6, 2010.

2010 will be my final year as coordinator. It's time for me to get out of the way and let others have a chance to coordinate the 456th FIS reunions. In the future, whether it's a mini-reunion or a formal reunion, I'll be there to attend it!

With a tear in my eye, I thank you all for the Luther Award and the honor of serving you as a member of the Alumni Committee!

Visit our web site at <http://www.456fis.org>

June 3-4-5-6, 2010 456th FIS Reunion at Colorado Springs, CO...



<http://www.petemuseum.org>

<http://www.petemuseum.org/CityHangarCeremonyArea.html>



Air Force Academy Chapel



Royal Gorge



God's Gate View of Pike's Peak

See you at Colorado Springs June 3-4-5-6, 2010 at the next 456th FIS Reunion

*High Flight*

*Oh! I have slipped the surly bonds of Earth  
And danced the skies on laughter-silvered wings;  
Sunward I've climbed, and joined the tumbling mirth  
Of sun-split clouds, — and done a hundred things  
You have not dreamed of — wheeled and soared and swung  
High in the sunlit silence. Hov'ring there,  
I've chased the shouting wind along, and flung  
My eager craft through footless halls of air. . . .*

*Up, up the long, delirious burning blue  
I've topped the wind-swept heights with easy grace  
Where never lark, or ever eagle flew —  
And, while with silent, lifting mind I've trod  
The high untrespassed sanctity of space,  
Put out my hand, and touched the face of God.*

*By John Gillespie Magee, Jr*

Memorials since our last reunion

The 456<sup>th</sup> Fighter Interceptor Squadron proudly salutes and honors the memory of

***Edward D Barton***

***Sammy Jones***

***Larry Lee***

**For their years of dedicated service to the 456<sup>th</sup> FIS, the US Air Force  
and the United States of America**

...with our deepest condolences to their family and friends.



*These Colors do not Run, and this Light will never Fade!*