

Please mail **AI** the enclosed registration form by **May 1st** if you plan to attend the 456th FIS Reunion on June 1-4, 2006. We need to get an accurate headcount for planning. Look below for info on accommodations and the agenda.

456th FIS Newsletter # 11 February 10, 2006



This newsletter is a publication of the 456th FIS Alumni Committee. The Committee consists of seven former 456ers from the mid-sixties who decided to record some history of the 456th FIS from its birth in the mid-forties to its final deactivation in 1968. Our home base is Castle Air Museum in Atwater, CA. We hold no offices and work as a team to do a little of everything to find former members and conduct events where they can reunite and have some fun. We do have some primary duties listed here so please email us if we can help you in any way.

Jim Arnie Arnold jsarnie@insightbb.com - group founder
Bruce Gookin profun41@aol.com - group founder
Bob Justus bpiustus2@earthlink.net - webmaster and historian
Paul Ketchum pketchum@twcny.rr.com - people finder
John Marcotte JohnMarcotte@aol.com - morale officer
Al Mueller jaqnal@inreach.com 2006 Reunion Coordinator
Pat Perry popperry@hotmail.com - newsletter & mail list
Lou Pizzarillo loupizz@comcast.net - people finder

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Hi All You 456ers & Friends!

Yes, we are having a reunion on June 1-4, 2006 in Merced, CA. Al Mueller (MA-1), newest member of the Alumni Committee, has graciously agreed to be our host for this year's event.

Accommodations:

Al has spoken to the operations manager at the Ramada, Pepa-Sandra Sandalski, about blocking 30 to 40 rooms for us, and she agreed to do so. She quoted a price of \$79 for double rooms and \$89 for the suites (they have a sofa and separate seating area).

To get those rates, reservations must be made by **April 30** and must be made directly with their office, NOT through the Ramada 800 number (which will quote a best price of \$99!). The phone number is (209) 723-3121 or fax to (209) 723-0127.

The mailing address is: Ramada Inn, 2000 Childs Ave., Merced, CA 95340. **Be sure to mention the 456th reunion to get the special rate."**

Tyler, TX Air Museum honors former 456th Pilot William A. Curnutte



See Page 4 (picture from Col. Guy J. Sherrill USAF Ret)

Tentative Reunion Agenda:

Thursday June 1: Arrive and relax at the Ramada. Meet with friends around the pool or in the bar.

Friday night June 2: 7:00 PM. A (cash bar) cocktail reception with hors d'Oeuvres is being scheduled at the Ramada Inn Eagles Nest.

Saturday June 3: 9:00 AM A continental breakfast is planned at the Castle Air Museum Banquet Room.

Afterwards, we'll tour the museum. It is possible that there may be a dedication of the F-102 that day.

Saturday night June 3: A banquet dinner will be held at the Branding Iron with (cash bar) cocktails at 6:00 PM and dinner at 7:00. Dinner will consist of your choice of one of three entrée selections.

Sunday June 4: An optional Dutch treat breakfast will be held at the IHOP.

Possible Events to attend with the Reunion
Castle Open Cockpit Day Sunday May 28, 2006
9:00 AM to 4:00 PM.

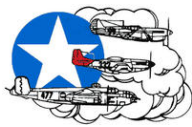
CAM will host an **Antique Aircraft Fly-in** on June 2-3, 2006. This makes it possible to attend the Open Cockpit Day and/or the Fly-in in conjunction with our **next reunion that is scheduled for June 1-4, 2006**

Our honorary 456th FIS Member and clock builder Jim Gier has a photo album featuring many of the clocks he has built for F-106 Savers.
<http://community.webshots.com/album/382041832hZhsMD> Jim plans to be at our next reunion and will to bring some more of his famous door prize and fund raising clocks.

Jim Gier – clock builder



Jim is currently building a fund raising clock for the "Red Tail Project", a P-51 restoration for the Tuskegee Airmen. It will be presented at the Wings of Freedom Air Show in May



456th Alumni in Harm's Way

Hurricane Katrina damaged the home of Don & Kathleen Deroche in Gramercy, LA. I spoke to them after the storm and they sustained roof damage but everything else was OK – no water in the house. They also had about 10 neighbors staying with them whose homes were badly damaged.

I have been unable to contact Harry & Eileen Savoy of Gulfport, MS. We hope and pray that they evacuated before the storm as they lived only a block or two off the coast and pretty much everything there was destroyed.

If anyone has been in touch with Harry Savoy since Katrina, please contact Pat Perry at 972-355-2116.

Past Reunion Pictures Available

Bob Justus reports that many of the 2005 Reunion pictures from the table cameras and the portraits are on the 456th web site at
http://www.456fis.org/PAST_REUNIONS.htm .

Pictures can be downloaded from this site using your mouse right button and the "Save picture as" command.

Pat reports that USAF Museum photos and 2005 Reunion pictures can also be found at
<http://community.webshots.com/user/popperry> .

Visitors to this site can order prints and memorabilia with prints on them (no proceeds from this site go to CAM). You can also use the right mouse button technique to download pictures free from this site.

Announcement: 1/48 scale model Decals for the F-106 displayed at CAM are now available at the CAM Gift Shop. Names on the nose wheel door are Marcotte, Keesey and Koss! Phone 209-723-2182

HELP WANTED: If anyone has any pictures of 456th FIS F-102 aircraft please let Pat Perry know. Popperry@hotmail.com

There's a new Tom Cat prowling around at Castle Air Museum. F-14D #164601 arrived at Castle on 9/20/05. It is in the restoration hangar for minor cosmetic work and awaiting site preparation.



While these aircraft acquisitions are underway, CAM's continuing goal is to raise funds for a new building to replace two old barracks buildings that currently house the inside museum collections. Larry Birks has replaced a retiring Dale Griffin as CAM Curator. Larry welcomes donations of 456th memorabilia. And don't forget the CAM web site at <http://www.elite.net/castle-air>

Note: Donations to CAM should be made out to Castle Air Museum and mailed to 5050 Santa Fe Drive, Atwater, CA 95301. Be sure and write in your favorite project on the check memo or leave it blank to let them decide.

The F-15 is in storage at Shepard AFB in Wichita Falls, TX until it can be transported in April 2006. Meanwhile CAM has to pay \$100 monthly for storage. About \$5,000 is still needed for this project so any donations will certainly be appreciated.

CAM F-15 sits in storage at Shepard AFB in Wichita Falls, TX



When the F-102 is completed around Memorial Day it will be displayed next to the F-106 and F-100. The eventual plan is to move all the Century Series jets up to the front of the Museum after PG&E removes the power substation.

The F-102 at CAM is almost ready for paint. Rumor has it that it may be on display by Memorial Day



Lee Nellist and our pals at the 87th FIS, K.I. Sawyer Heritage Air Museum have brought their F-106 (56-0461) home to Gwinn, MI and are restoring it as we speak. Look for pictures and donation info at <http://www.kishamuseum.org>



Dick Stultz and our pals at McClellan Aviation Museum are restoring their F-106 (59-0010). Check their progress and consider donations at <http://www.mcclellanaviationmuseum.org/home.html>



"It's cold, windy, & snowing outside but 0461 is tucked away in her nice dry hanger for the winter. We occasionally visit her to make sure she is OK and she remains proudly standing on her tires and gear. Most major things are done and we will resume in the spring preparing her for paint. We continued our work through the winter on both the K.I.Sawyer Heritage Air Museum and the plan to finish the 106. Arrangements need to be yet done to get her on display. Forty feet of airport fence has to be taken down and put back up after we pull her through. Pads have to be poured (Because of the frost here they have to be down 4 feet) to support her when she is put on display. And then numerous other odds and ends. It is ironic that by being able to get a 106 interest has been awakened in the museum again. You will find information about the Museum and 0461 at www.kishamuseum.org. Any support including monetary can be sent to P.O. Box 1210, Gwinn, MI 49841-1210. One last thought. Thank God we were able to save 0461 from the fate of the two they cut up in December. What an unjust end to such a beautiful airplane." Lee Nellist former 456th and 87th FIS member.

Visit Pat McGee's World of F-106 web site for the most comprehensive collection of F-106 information ever!

<http://www.f-106deltadart.com/index1.htm>

Also see Pat's F-106 Forum and sign up to become a member (it's free!). Join in the discussion topics.

<http://mcgeep.proboards7.com/index.cgi>

And if you're looking for your old aircraft by tail number there is no better place to research the F-106 fleet than Erv Smalley's web site (it's free too!) and chances are you'll find pictures of all the old birds you used to know.

<http://convairf106deltadart.homestead.com/index.html>

Reunion Attendees So Far

Yes Total 50

Pat & Judy Perry
Bruce & Gail Gookin
Al & Jacqueline Mueller
Lou Pizzarello
Eldon Clark & wife
Dean & Irene Rager
Tom & Peggy Dwell
Don & Susana Tharp
John & Ginnie Marcotte
Ed & Arlene Barton
Keith & Margaret Young
Michael Trefethen
Mike & Judy Woloszyn
Denver & Nancy Tate
Jose Ybarra & Guest
Elvis Gene Crooks & Charlene Powell
Robert & Karen McNew
Art Mimler & Robert McNew
Troy Curnutte
Richard & Ann Boutelle
Paul & Mary Gray
Ralph & Sandy Robledo CAM
Ervin Barnes
Buel & Linda Patton
Sam & Garnet Blankenship
Sue & Jon Doolittle
Daryl & Debra Young

MAYBE Total 43

Paul & Betty Ketchum
Bob & Polly Justus
Bob Oberst
Herb & Elsa Koss
Hector & Jennifer O'Campo
Michael & Janell Day
Jim & Donna Chambers
Harlee & Connie Gurganious
David & Carole Surles
Jim & Carol Macefield
Ed & Willa Olivas
Frances A. Whitney
Bruce & Dorothy Hatcher
William Red Miller
James & Kathy Loan
Ralph & Lou Hanna
Bill & Sandy Pierce
Donald & Kathleen Deroche
Nick & Lula Shearin
Al & Janet Roberts
Paul & Judith Phillips
Dennis Colette
Dick Cotton
W.J. Doc George & Susan

NO Total 14

Jim & Sheri Arnold
Larry Worsham
Steve Keesey & Sandy Tom
Bill & Nan Hoover
Jim Bunich
Joe Alviso
Minor Nelson
Harvey Huntman
Jerry & Ann Robinette
Glen Connally

From Page 1 - Tyler Museum honors former 456th Pilot William A. Curnutte

Troy Curnutte lost his father to cancer May 7, 2002. They were very close. Troy found a letter in dad's brief case that changed his life. Here is that letter from Jim Fegan post marked March 25th 1969:

My penmanship is a bit unsteady, still fortunately, I'm left handed and my left arm will soon be completely recovered.

Thank you for your letter, it is great to hear from my friends at Danang and particularly you. When Joe McMahon came over to Korat he told me of your hair-raising mission in support of my rescue. I saw and heard the guns. I was among them. When I heard that you and Col. Simons were going after the big guns with in country ordnance, I was really overwhelmed. I got through 20 hours of exposure with heavy injuries, a rescue, another plane trip and surgery fairly calmly.

Hearing your story just overwhelmed me. I guess that the true definition of a fighter pilot is when one throws away the odds and lets it all hang out for one of his fellows. I was very humbled, impressed and amazed by the efforts of all involved in my rescue but your efforts made a particular impression and I thank you for a job well done and am glad that no harm came to you when you dared the guns with in country ordnance.

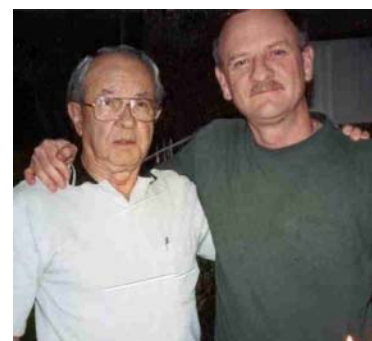
The news here in the states is not complete but the coverage improves, so I can make a few educated guesses as to what is going on over there and I wish I was back to finish my year up. The lying in bed is driving me nuts. My left leg is in traction so I've been flat on my back since I landed in the weeds on 17 January. Another half month I'll be upgrade to wheelchair status. The big worry now is my right arm, which has a lot of nerve damage. I imagine I'll be around the hospital for quite awhile so if you happen by San Antonio please stop by and see me.

Again I thank you and Col. Simons for your particularly daring efforts and hope that you will be rewarded accordingly. As for me, I am humbled by the lengths the people of the rescue effort went to. Thank you for your letter – as I said its great to hear from you. I hope the remainder of your tour goes well and that we will meet again someday.

*Lt. James R. Fegan, Wilford Hall Hospital Ward T-7 Room 7
Lackland AFB San Antonio, Texas*

Troy began a journey that resulted in his father receiving a posthumous Distinguished Flying Cross. He then set out to find any remaining F-4 Phantoms that his dad had flown in combat. He found 66-8812.

The Phantom was located and brought to the Historical Aviation Memorial Museum in Tyler, TX where it was restored and prepared for display. It will be dedicated on March 25, 2006 with Troy Curnutte in attendance to do the honors. Troy plans to be at our reunion to honor his dad's memory as a pilot for the 456th FIS. Bill Curnutte, Everett Dencklau, Rex Howerton and CO Lt. Col. Jim Price were on the 456th team that won William Tell in 1961. Troy and pilot Jack Sherrill sent me the articles about this amazing story.



More on the 2006 reunion - All you members of CAM who receive extra Museum passes each year may bring them to the reunion. We can use them as door prizes to enable non-members to get in for free.

OK, here's the way it works. We are planning on about 100 attendees but would not be surprised to have 125+. We take the quoted price for reception snacks and banquet dinner and add a small sum to build a cash reserve. We use the reserve to buy dinners for our special guests and to pay for postage, nametags and any other incidental costs that always come up. If anything is left over we usually donate it to the museum. We'll provide a full accounting in the post reunion newsletter. After the 2005 reunion at Dayton, OH we were able to give the museum \$1000 towards the F-102 restoration. That was primarily due to several people who had already paid and who could not attend due to last minute conflicts. These folks generously said for us to keep their money and use it as needed. If anyone pays their deposits and can't attend we will always refund it if that's what they wish.

This is the last newsletter we'll send out before the reunion so please call or email Al Mueller or Pat Perry if you have any questions or suggestions. If you plan to attend, be sure and fill out the form on the back of this page and mail it to Al as soon as possible so he can have a known headcount. While Al would like to receive your deposit check at the same time as the form, we realize that some may need to wait until a later date – no problem! Just make sure you get the check to Al by May 1, 2006 or you'll be paying the higher price at the door.

By the way.... If you received this newsletter in the US mail it means that I do not have an email address for you or the one I have does not work. If you would rather receive this in full color, please send me your email address at popperry@hotmail.com. Otherwise you'll continue to receive it in black and white via snail mail!

Pat heard from former 456er Gen. Ken Bell USAF Ret. He is recovering from his motorcycle accident. We wish the best to him and Rosemary and hope they might be able to attend the 2006 reunion. Ken's book 100 Missions North is still available at Amazon and Barnes & Nobles web sites.

Karl Bossi former 456er has been touring his new book Just Call Me Moose and getting good reviews at Amazon and Barnes and Nobles web sites. Karl says hi to everyone and hopes he will be able to attend the reunion.

The Tyler Historic Aviation Memorial Museum in Tyler, TX has been offered one of the last two remaining F-106 aircraft at AMARC. They are waiting for final pricing from AMARC. Visit their web site at www.tylerhamm.org

Thanks from your 456th FIS Alumni Committee
Jim Arnold - Bruce Gookin - Bob Justus - Paul Ketchum - John Marcotte - Al Mueller - Pat Perry - Lou Pizzarello.

CAM Update... Feb 4, 2005 - Joe Pruzzo, Castle Air Museum Board Member and member of the Aircraft Committee just called to update us on the happenings at CAM. Seems they have also managed to get an A-4 aircraft. It will be trucked from Florida to Castle in the near future.

The F-102 is about 75% prepped for paint and is looking great. The cockpit is 100% done! The missile bay doors will be air operated and replicas of missiles will be on the racks. The crew will soon begin restoring the TF-102 and is looking for an IR head and a control yoke. Pima Air Museum is building a radome for it.

The 456th originally flew the F-86D at Castle. Joe has located one at Battle Mountain, NV and checking into whether it might be available for CAM.

To augment the SR-71 display, CAM is looking into acquiring a J-58 engine and start cart for display.

Joe Pruzzo is crazy about CAM and aircraft acquisitions to make it the best air museum on the west coast. His goals include someday getting an A-10, F-16, B-1B, B-52H and a C-130. He says it's too bad that so many C-5A aircraft are getting scrapped at AMARC (bone yard) in Tucson. He'd love to get one. In fact, those things are so darn big they could even put a gift shop and restaurant in the cargo bay!

Since Jean Astorino retired as CAM's Executive Director, Cliff James has agreed to be the interim CEO until a replacement is named. Cliff has been a part of the museum since it began serving in many capacities to keep CAM alive and growing. We in the 456th will certainly miss Jean and all she did for CAM and the 456th FIS. We also understand that Joe Pruzzo and several others are being considered to replace Jean and we'd like to wish Joe the best of luck in getting chosen as Executive Director. Of course we are a bit biased and feel that Joe would make a super leader and fund raiser.

Here's the A-4M that's coming to CAM soon from The Navel Aviation Museum at Pensacola, FL



See you at the reunion!

456th FIS Reunion Dinner Selection & Deposit Form

due not later than May 1, 2006

Dress: casual for all events

My Name _____ Spouse/Guest Name _____

My phone number _____

Thursday June 1 - Meet your friends at the Ramada Inn , 2000 Childs Ave. Merced, CA 95340

Contact: Pepa-Sandra Sandalski 209-723-3121. Make reservation by April 30 for the best rates!

Friday June 2 - 7:00 PM at the Ramada Inn Eagles Nest

YES, I/we will be at the Ramada Eagles Nest for light hors d'oeuvres and cash bar cocktails.

Number attending _____ x **\$6.50** each = Total \$ _____

Saturday June 3 – 6:00 PM at the BRANDING IRON

6:00 pm cash bar cocktails, name tags & pictures

7:00 pm dinner

Please indicate your choice for each member in your party.

Quantity

_____ 8 oz. Filet

_____ Chicken Cordon Bleu with Sherry Sauce

_____ Salmon Filet with Bernaise Sauce

_____ Special diet meal needed, please describe _____

Number of meals selected _____ x **\$31.00** = Total \$ _____

Friday & Saturday Night Grand Total \$ _____

NOTE: Unregistered/unpaid arrivals at the door will be charged \$10.00 per head for Friday night and \$36.00 per meal on Saturday night.

Please mail your dinner deposit check and this page to Al Mueller between now and May 1, 2006. If you prefer, you may mail the form **ASAP** so we can confirm a headcount, then mail your check before May 1 which is the final deadline for registration.

Please make your check payable to **Al Mueller 456th FIS Reunion**

Please enclose this page and your check in an envelope and mail to:

**Al Mueller 456th FIS Reunion
2923 Bedford Drive
Merced, CA 95340-2725**

209-383-1701

jaqnal@inreach.com