I hope this is the only time that it’s practical for the names of all the attendees at the Radomes Annual Reunion to appear in the recap article. The turnout was very small. So, this year you’ll find the attendees names with the photos. And for the rest of the membership who couldn’t make it to Tampa, you missed a great party! The hotel and meeting facilities were first rate, albeit a bit expensive.

We conducted a little business, but it’s really a good thing that there wasn’t more business that needed attention. When you get a bunch of old radar guys together, you conduct serious business around bursts of usually raucous war stories. It may be the same in all career fields (and all branches of service.) But, somehow, I think we hold the records. It’s likely a plus that we didn’t have a bunch of business that was really necessary to get done, along with ten times as many attendees. Because of the very low turnout, we did not elect a board of directors, staying with the interim board for the coming year.

By the way, even though all the attendees this year were technical types, either operations or radar/comm maintenance, there is no requirement for this to be so for membership and participation. Everybody who served on a AC&W radar station is “one of us,” whether technical, administrative, cook, AP or otherwise. (We radar maintenance pukes may have called everybody else “soft core.” But hey, they were there, too and we couldn’t have gotten along without them.) So, if anybody happens to ask, let’em know they’re more than welcome to join Radomes.

We did get a little real business done. We had a bit of discussion of the by-laws, getting most of the questions I’ve had since the beginning of the organization answered. There are still a few loose ends that will have to wait until we get all the information necessary for IRS 501(C)3 tax-exempt filing. The by-laws will then have to be made to conform to these. The preparation for tax-exempt status filing also got a little discussion. Robert “Buz” Sawyer has assisted with this for a charitable foundation and will be connecting us with a person to give us a hand. Coincidentally, this person is fairly near our Ohio office. So, we should be able to meet face-to-face, when it becomes necessary.

Our becoming a fully compliant 501(C)3 organization gives us a number of benefits: tax-exempt postage (about ½ the cost of regular first class is one); the ability to solicit donations for our projects; giving tax write-offs to contributors is another. Some of our projects, such as the preservation and conservation of the Montauk AFS AN/FPS-35 (now on the National Register of Historic Landmarks) will become very expensive and we’ll need considerable financial support to assist with this. It will also become a colossal pain in the backside, from a legal and accounting perspective. To that end, it’s apparent to me that we’re going to need a legal officer (to keep us out of tax jail) and an accountant (to be sure we’re keeping records in a way that is compliant with the IRS and auditable.) So far, this hasn’t been much of an issue and a copy of QuickBooks on our office computers has been “good enough.” When the IRS and potentially large amounts of money gets involved, this will have to change, however. Volunteers are kindly requested to take one step forward...

Recruiting was another topic of discussion. So far, almost all of our membership found out about the organization by searching the web (for a radar station or radar equipment) and happened to come across

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2002 Reunion Recap
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our web site, usually the Online Radar Museum site. This has been a "bootstrap" operation from the beginning. We've posted reunion notices for unit reunions and they all have been cooperative with us by putting out some Radomes brochures. But, we're going to get a bit more aggressive with this and see if we can't get our ranks expanded a lot. We have a few ideas, so far. But, would be happy if we could have a recruiting officer and public affairs officer to start getting us recognized more widely. There isn't much money to buy advertising, but we believe that there are lots of free or very inexpensive ways to get our message out to other radar station veterans. Again, volunteers take one step forward...

Another topic of discussion was the high and rising cost of postage. Probably our largest single expense is postage. We will begin sending membership renewal notices and newsletters, by e-mail to those who have e-mail addresses on record, in order to save some money. Actually, the newsletter won't be sent by e-mail. Rather a notice that the latest issue is available and you can download a copy, which you can print with Adobe Acrobat (a piece of free software.) However, many e-mail addresses are no longer valid and need to be updated. By the time you read this, there should be a "Check My Record" link on the Members Only page, where you can check and make corrections to your membership record online. This will immediately update your entry in the membership roster and send us a change to update the Headquarters records. Keep an eye out for this feature. We need to have as many current e-mail addresses as we can.

While there were lots of ways this first annual meeting could have been made better, mostly by having many more attendees, one thing that couldn't get much better was the camaraderie. There's something about an AC&W/RADS bull session, which never changes over the years. It’s raucous, noisy at times, irreverent and profane, lots of laughter and story after story. This meeting was no exception. It was great fun and the small group of guys had an enjoyable time, no question. You all need to make plans to attend the next one, about mid-June next year, in Dayton, Ohio. Among the attractions will be a tour of the USAF Museum at Wright-Patterson (maybe with a behind-the-scenes tour) and perhaps an update on the new Cold War Exhibit there by a USAF Museum official. Planning for this is now underway. If there is a member or members who wish to work on the planning, we definitely want to hear from you. Some of this will need to be done in Dayton. So, being relatively nearby is probably necessary. But, some planning work can be done remotely and coordinated either by Headquarters or whomever is "local" to the Dayton area.

Oh, yes, the title of this article. The difference between a fairy tale and a radarmen's bull session is that a fairy tale begins "Once upon a time...", a radarmen's bull session begins "You ain't gonna believe this sh*t!"

--Gene McManus served with the U.S. Air Force as a radar maintenance technician, during the late 1950's. He now is the webmaster for Radomes, Inc. and its Online Air-Defense Radar Museum web sites. Mr. McManus and Tom Page co-founded Radomes, Inc. in 1997. -Editor

On-line News...
The next time you're surfing the Internet, make a visit to the Radomes web site: http://www.radomes.org/

Once there, you'll find a very handy new feature. It's now possible for members to update their membership information while on-line and in real time. Simply click on "Members Only" and then on "Update Your Radomes Data Online." With just a few clicks, you'll have updated your membership records. It's easy to

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On-line News...
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ensure your e-mail address is current, as well as other vital information.

You may also want to visit the Radomes BX. Among the growing list of interesting items there: Radomes Museum Ball Caps, Radomes Museum and Library CDs, Radomes Golf Shirts and Jackets, Radomes Member Decals and Embroidered Museum Patches.

You'll find past issues of Echoes available, too. They're in a "PDF" format, which requires Adobe Acrobat Reader. This reader is downloadable at no charge, from http://www.adobe.com. If you're a new member, these old issues will help you get current.

Looking Forward

Echoes continues in an evolutionary state. Some changes have already appeared, while others will become visible in the next and subsequent issues. The purpose continues to be bringing our readers (the Radomes membership) articles and illustrations which support the organization's purpose and benefit its membership.

As always, your newsletter is hungry for stories, drawings, photographs, etc. which meet our needs. It's fairly safe to say that every cold war era radar veteran has one or more items to share: personal experience, historical fact, photographs, etc.

Writers, photographers and artists may submit material either by the U. S. mail or electronically. Prior to sending them, contributors should inquire as to suitability, obtain necessary permission from appropriate persons or organizations and make/keep a back-up copy. (Do not send original documents.) All submissions are non-returnable, subject to editing and accepted without monitory compensation.

Text articles should be brief, a typed hard copy or in an appropriate electronic file format and must be accurate and verifiable, with respect to facts. Keep in mind our publication is small and quarterly. Electronic text files should be in a compatible format: MS Publisher, MS Works or MS WordPad compatible files.

Illustrations may be either in color or black & white and electronic files in either a JPEG or GIF format. Photographic transparencies (slides) are unsuitable at this time.

The Echoes for-publication-library has been purged and revamped. Unfortunately, some of the articles, photographs and contributor data were irretrievably lost. Individuals who have previously submitted items, prior to September 1, 2002, are requested to re-submit them. (I.E.: Items which have not appeared in the newsletter.)

Suggestions and comments are always welcomed. They may be sent either electronically or by the U. S. mail. (See page 2, lower left corner, for addresses.)

Reunions and Upcoming Events

All Reunions/Events: Generally all previously assigned or currently assigned military/civilian personnel or members are invited. Check with appropriate contact person (or visit their web site) concerning spouses/dependents, latest updates and other details. Data is subject to change without notice.

All Units Not Listed - Check with these on-line sources:
http://www.radomes.org
http://www.vets.org/AirForce.htm
http://www.thewall-usa.com/reunion/
http://www.usaf.com/reunions.htm

601st/615th AC&W Sq., Germany - Date: September 5~8, 2002. Location: The Wyndham Motel and Resort, Colorado Springs, CO. Contact: Todd Appleton. E-mail: todd601st@earthlink.net

655th Radar Sq., Watertown AFS, NY - Date: June 28 -29, 2003. Contact: Robert J. Korzuch. Mail: 822 Emmett St., Watertown, NY 13601. Telephone: 315 782-7848. E-mail: rjk822@msn.com

707th Radar Sq., Grand Rapids AFS, MN - Date: June 18-22, 2003. Location: Sawmill Inn, Grand Rapids, MN. Contact: Barney Fisher. Mail: ffisher@cinci.rr.com

735th AC&W Sq., Mechra Bel Ksiri, Morocco - Date: October 18~21, 2002. Location: Tampa, FL. Contact: John Taylor. E-mail: john25811@prodigy.net

763rd AC&W Sq., Lockport AFS, NY - Location: Lockport, NY. Contact: Leo Phelps. Mail: 146 Sunset Court, Cicero, IN 46034. E-mail: ljpm@indy.net

874th AC&W Sq., Inoges AS Spain - (Continued on page 4)
Reunions and Upcoming Events

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877th AC&W Sq., Elizondo AS, Spain -
Date: October 7~10, 2002.
Location: Imperial Palace Hotel, Las Vegas, NV.
Contact: Greg Denny.
Mail: 3785 Shady Run Rd., Melbourne, FL, 32934.
E-mail: gregd19@juno.com
URL: http://www.877acw.org

552nd & 551st AEW&C Wg. & 553rd Recon Wg. -
Date: May 8~11, 2003.
Location: San Antonio, TX.
Contact: Bruce Shymanski.
Mail: 22 Klingens Gate Ln, Castle Rock, CO 80108.
Telephone: 303 663-8620.
E-mail: Inoges@Earthlink.Net

552nd & 551st AEW&C Wg. & 553rd Recon Wg. -
Date: May 18~21, 2003.
Location: Silver Legacy Resort-Casino, Reno, NV.
Contact: 1) Tony Praxel. 2) Dean Boys.
Mail: 1) 3005 El Prado Way, Sacramento, CA. 95825. 2) RR 3 Box 193, Shelbyville, IL 62565.
Telephone: 1) 916 487-1975. 2) 217 774-4998, (toll free) 866 760-2143 or (fax) 217 774-4227.
E-mail: 1) tpraxel@aol.com 2) dboys@dean-boys.com

All Great Lakes Radar Sites and Associated SAGE Centers -
Date: March 28 to April 2, 2004.
Location: Keesler AFB, Biloxi, MS.
Contact: Lowell "Woody" Woodworth.
Mail: 6172 Chambore Court, Jacksonville FL 32256.
Telephone: 904-620-9635.
E-mail: kathylowell@earthlink.net
URL: http://groups.yahoo.com/group/GREATLAKESRADARSITES

Gold Digger/966 AWE&C Sq./Det. 1 552nd AWE&C Wg -
Date: October 18~20, 2002.
Location: Travelodge Main Gate East, U.S. Hwy 192, Kissimmee, FL 34746.
Contact: 1) Jim Skelton, 2) Phil Szymkowicz.
Telephone: 1) 903 723-5008, 2) 503 645-3917.
E-mail: 1) trustme5@juno.com, 2) philszy@europa.com.
URL: http://www.551and552-aewc.org/966/966th_reunion.htm

Texas Tower Veterans Org. -
Date: October 3~5, 2002.
Location: Branson, MO.
Contact: Glen L. Kimble.
E-mail: ki7kr@centurytel.net

Radomes, Inc.
The Air Defense Radar Veterans' Association
9976 Stoudertown Road
Baltimore, OH 43105

URL: http://www.551and552-aewc.org/552/reunion/joint-reunion.htm

Which site is this?
(Search inside for answer.)