

RED EAGLES NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 25, 2019
VOLUME 32

FELLOW RED EAGLES:
MERRY CHRISTMAS



Merry Christmas

Red Eagles - I hope the Christmas spirit has captured you, and 2020 brings you all good things. Caveat: Age related issues don't count as 'not good' things - we are all getting a bit older and the infirmities of age are a true reality (at least in my case!). Not always fun, but it is what it is!

This fall brings another REUNION so put your aches and pains aside and get ready to join us at another Red Eagle get-together. Currently, either the weekend before or after Veteran's Day (11 November) is our target date. As details start to firm up, we will blast the info to you and, also, post that info in the calendar section of the website - 4477reaa.com.

As an organization, one of our requirements is to conduct an annual meeting. Since we are not a collocated bunch, this is somewhat problematic, So, we do this two ways: on the years when we have a reunion, we hold a meeting during the reunion; and during the off-years when we don't have a reunion, we conduct an email meeting among the Board. This year is an off-year - correspondingly, an email meeting was held. The next article provides details of that meeting. It sums up the activities for 2019, so I will not go any deeper here.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year - *Scotty*

Annual Meeting. The following provides the results of our 2019 Annual Meeting.

24 November 2019

2019 Meeting - Red Eagle Alumni Association

Due to non-collocated residences of the nine Board Members, the meeting was conducted via email.

The Board consists of nine voting members – three permanent and six elected. They are:

Mike Scott (Elected – President)

Jim Keys (Elected – Vice President)

Larry Mason (Elected – Secretary)



Editor's Christmas Column:

These are my guidelines for Christmas:

- Peace on earth starts with your family. Put aside hard feeling and disagreements on this one special day.
- Spend this day with family and friends and let them know how much they mean to you. Say "I love you" to those special people in your life. Make that phone call on Christmas day.
- Treat each gift you receive as if it cost the giver a fortune. It doesn't matter so much about the gift as the thought behind it.
- Think of your past Christmases and try to make this one the best. This is a time for giving, not just gifts but of yourself.
- You can submit your stories or roster updates by emailing them to: 4477redeagles@gmail.com
- Or, mail to:
Ben Galloway
6591 Petaluma Point
Colorado Springs, CO 80923

Neena Wright (Elected – at large)

Ike Crawley (Elected – at large)

Rob Zettel (Elected – at large)

Ben Galloway (Permanent – Editor)

John Nelson (Permanent – Treasurer)

Jim MacDonald (Permanent – Assist Editor and Technology)

Additionally, two Red Eagles provide non-voting advisory assistance. They are:

Earl Henderson

Gail Peck

1. Significant items from the Minutes of the last meeting, held during the November 2018 Reunion, are:
 - a. Jim MacDonald was appointed to fill the vacant assistant editor/technology position.
 - b. Membership voted to hold a Reunion in 2020 – the committee that orchestrated the 2018 reunion agreed to accept that responsibility for 2020. (Note: the committee will meet in early 2020 to begin the planning – currently, Arizona Charlie's, Decatur, has been reserved for the Veteran's Day weekend – same as 2018).
 - c. Other discussion centered on Gerry Huff's health,
 - d. The need to preserve our treasury due to declining income in the future was discussed: A good number of lifetime dues have been paid; as a result, yearly dues subscriptions are smaller in number. And, our membership is finite – it will only get smaller! The Board is aware and is monitoring. So far, we are in good shape. It will be addressed when/if it appears we are having a problem.
 - e. Membership received reports on both the dedication of the Red Eagle Monument and the establishment of a Red Eagle display at the National Museum of the Air Force.
2. John Nelson provided the current status of our Treasury. Our current balance is \$24,630, up from \$24,255 at the beginning of the year. All expenses (Corporate registration and IRS filing, website and mailbox subscriptions, supply of NVHoF coins for the store) have been paid. Balance growth was due to yearly dues, a contribution, and some sales from the store.
3. Jim MacDonald provided the following: "We now have a Red Eagle 101 Brief which explains our history and tells our story. The briefing is approximately 30MB due to the number of high resolution pictures. You can request a copy from Smack (Jim MacDonald) at jmacdonald@c2at.com. He will send you an email with directions on how to download the brief via file transfer. We will also have copies of the briefing on CDs at the next Reunion. Smack will maintain configuration control of the briefing for any future updates." Note: Through the years, some of our group have been asked to present a talk about their Red Eagle experience; and we've been asked, on occasion, if we had something of this sort that they could draw upon to help them build their presentation. We didn't have anything 'in the can' to help with those requests – thanks to Smack, now we do!
4. Closing. When compared to 2018, 2019 was a relatively quiet year for the REAA. No fund raising required for a monument, no travel required to attend some activities at the NMUSAF in Dayton OH, and no reunion to put on. But, the establishment of the Red Eagle 101 brief is significant. A long-time void has been satisfied.
5. Board Organization for 2020: Subsequent to the meeting mailing, an organization election was held in early December – also by email. The results yielded a unanimous desire to retain the current officers in their current positions.

Store Information. You may have noticed, in paragraph number 2 of the meeting article, reference to our store. As a refresher - we have a limited amount of Red Eagle oriented items for sale. They can be found on our website by clicking the 'items' tab on the menu. The items and inventory represent either that which we have sold at our reunions or, in some cases, requests from you. Our purpose for offering these items is solely to accommodate Red Eagles. Occasionally, we receive a request from someone who was simply surfing the web, found our site and wanted an item. Those requests are politely declined for various reasons. One of those reasons is that our store (we) is/(are) not a public business - we don't want to incur the encumbrances - tax, license, etc. - that might accompany our opening it up. Another reason is administration - it would take a decent inventory investment and someone to manage it in order to do it correctly. Most importantly, it does not fall within the purpose of our organization. We were formed to provide a venue for Red Eagles to maintain contact and to help preserve/inform the public of the Red Eagle legacy. The store is simply part of that mission - it provides stuff for Red Eagles.

Red Eagles 101 Brief. As described in paragraph 3 of the meeting recap, we now have a canned, unclassified brief - Red Eagles 101 - that we can offer to any of you that may have a need. For various reasons such as size, controlling content and validating access, it cannot be accessed through our website. However, the information for gaining access to it will be on the website. It is also located in paragraph 3 of the meeting recap.

Thanks - Scotty



Z-Man's "I love me" hangar wall in Fernandina Beach, FL (KFHB)

Well the hangar's ready and now we're awaiting the arrival of our Air Cam (N477TS) which is slated to be completed in January '20. Following the requisite 40 hour fly-off we expect to have it in the hangar late February and it'll be on display at Sun-N-Fun in Lakeland, FL in April.

Attached are a few photos of the rear wall of the hangar which commemorates the squadrons/ aircraft I flew during my time while in the USAF. See next page.

We get plenty of "drive by's" of people stopping to see and hear all about the aircraft and the stories that go with them. Without fail the set that garners the most attention are naturally the MiGs of the 4477th TES. If you're ever in the area (Amelia Island, FL) please stop on by. The beer is cold and there's plenty of it!

Cheers,

Rob "Z-Man" Zettel

Bandit #39

