

Chambley AB, France Reunion Newsletter



Fall 2008

Volume 1, Number 1



Chambley AB Reunion is a group of Cold War veterans, civilians, and family members who unselfishly served our nation and were stationed at Chambley Air Base, France during the period 1953-67. We are a not for profit, social organization dedicated to sustaining relationships and lasting memories, and continuing ties with French organizations dedicated to future development of the base.

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Contact your leadership team:

Director:
Bob Ferguson
Chambley_AB_Reunion@Yahoo.Com

Recording Secretary:
Amy Cunningham

Webmaster:
Joe McClain
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2008 Reunion: Dayton, Ohio

Chambley Air Base veterans and family members gathered at Dayton, Ohio for our 9th biennial reunion, 11-14 September 2008. Eighty-five people were in attendance. This was our opportunity to renew friendships, reminisce about past operations, catch up on each other's family, and tell "war stories" of Chambley's build up and sustainment from 1953 through 1967. Pilots, maintainers, and support personnel, along with their wives shared memories of their experiences as Cold War warriors at the pointed end of the spear representing United States interests in support of NATO.



Reunion activities included touring the Orville and Wilbur Wright's Museum (Dayton Aviation Heritage) and their original Bicycle Shop, a welcoming barbeque dinner, and touring the National



Museum of the US Air Force at Wright Patterson AFB. We celebrated our 9th meeting at our Reunion Banquet at Wright Pat's O'Club that included the POW-MIA White Table memorial ceremony, attended the Air Force Band concert at the USAF Aerospace Museum, memorialized our fallen Chambley AB warriors, and conducted our biennial business meeting.

Noteworthy, during the business meeting four important events occurred: 1) We recognized Bob Sisk for his six years service as our Director and recognized George Stokes for his sixteen years of Reunion service and leadership; 2) We selected the site of the 2010 Reunion: Colorado Springs, CO; 3) We selected Bob Ferguson as the new Reunion Director; and, 4) We raised our Reunion dues to \$35 per year to cover increased cost of supporting the Reunion. We urge you to read summary minutes of the business meeting on page 7).



Several Reunion members coordinated and executed our 9th Reunion in Dayton: Bob Sisk, George Stokes, Collene Duhamel, Joan Morris, Joe McClain, Joyce Watkins, Leonard Black, and Bob Ferguson, among others who made this Reunion such a success. Without their many hours of selfless leadership and service this Reunion would not have happened, and we thank them for all they did. Beginning on page 2, you will see the 2008 Chambley AB Reunion Gallery. The full complement of photos can be viewed at our Reunion website: http://www.chambleyab.com/BIENNIAL%20REUNION_files/2008%20Dayton%20Reunion/index.htm

Chaplain:
Leonard Black
lblack1927@aol.com

Website
www.Chambleyab.com

Director Emeritus &
Senior Advisor:
Bob Sisk

Senior Advisor: George
Stokes

Advisor:
Collene Duhamel

Advisor:
Joan Morris

Coordinator, EB-66
Alumni: Frank Meier

2008 Chambley AB Reunion
Gallery (a sample)



Future Planning - 2010 Reunion



2010 Reunion bound for Colorado Springs!

Get ready for Colorado Springs! Your leadership team is beginning planning for 2010!

We've taken your suggestions on what you'd like to see and activities you want at our 10th Reunion. You can anticipate sight seeing, tours (home of the Air Force Academy, Peterson AFB's 21st Space Wing, NORAD, USNORTHCOM, and USSPACECOM), a welcoming social, Reunion banquet, business meeting, and more.....



No dates have been set – If you are aware of dates we should stay clear of, please let us know immediately. We want the highest possible attendance. You can help by contacting current members who have not attended a Reunion is some time or others potential Chambley Alumni who should attend. Word of mouth is always the best advertising. In the meantime, stay in touch via the 10th Reunion web page, which will be updated as more develops....

Director's Report



It is my honor to serve our Chambley Air Base Reunion as its 3rd director, following many years of superb leadership by Chuck Timms (dec'd) and Bob Sisk. When asked to serve I did so in honor of all of you who said, "Yes!", in serving our nation during the Cold War. All of you stepped forward without hesitation, both members and spouses and families, during the challenges our nation faced at that time. And, I do so in recognition of my Dad and Mom, Chief Master Sergeant Bob "Fergie" Ferguson (dec'd), and Ellie, who served alongside you at Chambley, 1956-58. I represent them each time I attend a reunion or act in your behalf. The decision was easy...I know what is of value in our lives of service. And, I will do all I can to retain your trust and confidence in carrying out my duties.

Fellow Chambley Alumni,

Happy holidays to each of you! I trust all of you returned from Dayton to your homes safely following our 9th Chambley Air Base Reunion. I want to commend the outstanding job Bob and his team (George Stokes, Collene Duhamel, Joan Morris, Joe McClain, Leonard Black, and Joyce Watkins) did, sans Bob on-site, during this Reunion. It was an awesome task to step up to carry out this huge effort for our alumni. Most of us can only guess at the tremendous amount of behind the scenes labor of love they provided us in making sure the Reunion's expectations were met. Their leadership and contribution made everything the success it was.

I thank you for your leadership and support to encourage me to accept the Chambley AB Reunion's directorship. I accept your offer to serve in this way. I appreciate your confidence to carry on the superb leadership we witnessed in Chuck Timms and Bob Sisk, our first two directors.

Your leadership team will target at least two newsletters a year. We will continue to mail them, plus, they will be posted at the Reunion website. This newsletter has a new format. It contains photos of our recent Reunion and information on how to contact us. We urge you to read it cover to cover to stay abreast of planned activities as we approach the 2010 Reunion in Colorado Springs.

We are beginning the planning of our 2010 Reunion. As information develops we will post it on the website, plus will provide details in the next newsletter. We had our 9th Reunion in September. If you believe another month is better, please let us know soon. Also, if you are aware of special activities or sight seeing while in Colorado Springs, tell us of your interests. You can email me directly or call 703.609.2093.



I have asked our leadership team to continue serving in this way:

- Bob Ferguson, Director
 - Bob Sisk, Director Emeritus and Senior Advisor
 - George Stokes, Financial Secretary and Senior Advisor
 - Collene Duhamel, Advisor
 - Joan Morris, Advisor
 - Amy Cunningham, Recording Secretary
 - Joe McClain, Webmaster and Advisor
 - Leonard Black, Chaplain
 - Frank Meier, Coordinator, EB-66 Alumni
- (If any of our Alumni wish to step forward and serve in any capacity, we will accept all volunteers – Just let me know)*

Your leadership team will be crafting goals to guide us for the next two years. If there is something you'd like to contribute to making our efforts a success, please send potential goals to me via email or by calling at the number above. Our next newsletter will have more details.



Finally, we urge each of you to continue your contributions of photos, memorabilia, and information to support the "Whatever Happened To?" web page. Your and your family's histories are important to those who served with you at Chambley. Joe McClain is aggressively adding biographies as they come in (those of you who know him realize that he leaves no stone unturned while he assists you in creatively telling your story). **And, we urge you to keep your dues current – They are very important – Dues fund the extra support such as this newsletter, which costs well over \$600 to produce and mail. And, dues pay for Reunion incidentals when we convene each two years. Our Reunion can not be accomplished without dedicated funds to sustain our efforts.**



Webmaster's Report



Joe on the Web A report from the Webmaster www.Chambleyab.com

Hello folks, and welcome to the first edition of "Joe on the Web". During the 2008 reunion I had the opportunity to interview several of our alumni Brothers, who were stationed with us in France back in the 1950s and 1960s. Although it's a slow process I am happy to say that many of those stories are now online. And I only have a few left to transcribe, and will have them online as soon as possible. I think the, "What Ever Happened To" page on our website is one of the pages that I enjoy more than any other because it tells stories about you the airmen and the soldiers. You are the heroes of World War II, Korea and Vietnam. I wish that I could get more of you to become more involved and share your stories with us. So in order to do this I plan to put together an interactive questionnaire in a PDF format that you will be able to fill in and then mail to me via the web site. I am now working on the design of this particular page, and hope to have it online before Christmas.



For those of you who were at the reunion with us you may recall that we took a panoramic picture of the group both with their significant others and alone. I intend to scan this and photo and hopefully haven't on the web under our "Pictures Page" also prior to Christmas.

Of course, now is the time to start planning for our next big occasion, which will be our 2010 reunion in Colorado Springs. I will be working closely with the reunion planning committee. In keeping you informed as the two years narrow down to the actual time of the event. Two thousand ten will be here before we know it.

I receive photographs from many of you of photos from the past, of significant objects and trips when

About Bob ~
2nd generation
retired Air Force
~ Eldest son
(9 children) of
CMSgt Bob & Ellie
Ferguson
~ Lived at Chambley
AB 1956-58 as a dependent
(3rd-4th grades) in two
connected trailers near Wing
HQs ~ Married 38 years to
Pauline ~ recent Grandparents
~ father of 2 daughters ~
Consultant to AF Surgeon
General ~ Resides in Northern
VA





you visit France. I will attempt to start putting these photos on our Picture Page headed by your name. Also, if you have a relative who was stationed in France and he or she passes away send us an old photograph of them as well as a current photo along with their obituary and we can also put that on the What Ever Happened To page.



I am also interested any suggestions that any of you may have to improve our website. Just click the contact button on the web and send me an e-mail.

Yours truly,
Joseph P. McClain
Chambley Air Base France Webmaster



Finances



*New since 14 September:
Beginning in 2009, dues are \$35.00 per year*

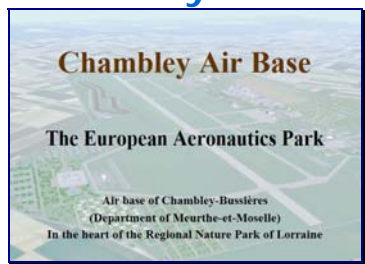


For this newsletter, our financial report is simple:

- All 9th Reunion bills are paid
- Bob Sisk transferred \$5000 to Bob Ferguson, the new Director; this amount was deposited in an account at the BB&T Bank in Springfield, VA
- There remains approximately \$1000 to pay a few incidental bills due to transferring items from Bob to Bob; once those are paid, we will deposit the remaining funds into the new account
- We will arrange for two other signatories in the event something happens to the Director, as has been the custom in the past
- Anticipate a full accounting of use of the funds in our next newsletter
- As you recall during our 9th Reunion business meeting, Alumni agreed to raise annual membership dues to \$35.00 per annum, except for those who already paid in advance (See the minutes for details)



Chambley's Future



Philippe Buron de Rozier and Aline Dufour presented a superb briefing on future Chambley Air Base development plans

These exciting plans have been in the making since the mid-1980s when the vision began. They envision a large European Aeronautics Park where all sorts of international aerial activities will be conducted including balloon festivals (as happens every two years now), small aircraft are built and maintained, airshows of various descriptions occur, and people who love flight will live with their aircraft sheltered outside their homes, among other activities.



This effort involves their organization partnering with regional and local government agencies to build





this future aeronautical capability that will add jobs and opportunities to the region.

Project developers will begin the effort by destroying older buildings such as barracks that are too costly to refurbish. They will retain and upgrade the three hangars, the tower/base ops building, and the chapel (to be used as a museum of the history of aeronautical activities in the region and Chambley's USAF contributions to NATO).



Philippe invited the Reunion Alumni to join them 29 July – 2 August 2009 for the 11th International



Balloon Festival at Chambley. Contact him or Aline early if you'd like assistance with a place to stay. They will work accommodations with local French families, if you like.



We urge you to view to their website for a complete description of the Chambley Air Base European Aeronautical Park: <http://www.chambleyab.com/Future%20of%20Chambley%20Air%20Base.htm>

You may contact Philippe and Aline at this address, telephone, and email:

DEPARTMENT OF MEURTHE-et-MOSELLE
In the heart of the Regional Nature Park of Lorraine
Philippe Buron-Pilat de Rozier
Director of the Mondial Air Balloons – Lorraine
Tel: 011-33-387-64-0808
email: pbp@pilatre-de-rozier.com
adu@pilatre-de-rozier.com



2008 Chambley AB Reunion Business Meeting Minutes

14 September 2008

A Business Meeting was held following a memorial honoring our fallen Chambley Air Base, France veterans and spouses. May they all rest in peace.



A discussion and vote for the location of the 2010 Reunion were held. Colorado Springs received the most votes.



A trip to France was discussed. Philippe stated they could help in finding accommodations. Ralph Carabin stated that another group went last year and it cost \$8000-9000. We will reconsider for 2011, during the Balloon Festival.



An excellent presentation by Philippe and Aline on the future of Chambley was presented.

George Stokes moved and John DeMarais seconded to have the business meeting on Friday (or day after arrival); passed. This will ensure maximum participation.

Lee Harris moved and Marion Graffe seconded to add a day to the meetings, passed.





Bob Sisk has completed four-plus years as Director and is quite busy as a County Commissioner. He would like to pass the baton to a new director. Joe McClain made the motion that Bob Ferguson be selected the new Director. Leonard Black seconded; passed by acclamation.



A motion to increase dues by \$10.00 to \$35.00 per year, effective 2009 was made by Jim Kirkpatrick, seconded by Leonard Black; passed. Members that have paid their dues in advance are exempt until their next payment due. They do not have to pay the difference. (Life membership for \$200.00 is still available)



George Stokes discussed the financial situation of the organization.

Amy Cunningham volunteered to be the Secretary. *(A special "Thank you" to Collene Duhamel for your many years of devoted service).*

Motion to adjourn made by Joan Morris, seconded Collene Duhamel.

We urge you to keep your dues current ~ Dues are \$35.00 per year beginning 1 Jan 2009 ~ Thank you!

**Chambley Air Base Reunion
 % Bob Ferguson, Director
 6905 View Park Drive
 Burke, Virginia 22015
 U.S.A.**



**Alumni Name
 Street Address
 City, ST ZIP Code**