



# CHAMBLEY AB, FRANCE REUNION NEWSLETTER

Winter 2010-11

Volume 3, 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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## Your leadership team:

Director: Bob Ferguson  
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Chaplain: Leonard Black

Coordinator, EB-66 Alumni:  
Frank Meier

Director Emeritus & Senior  
Advisor: Bob Sisk

## 2010 Chambley AB Reunion

by Bob Ferguson

For all our Chambley Air Base Reunion Alumni and family, this newsletter highlights a summary of our 10<sup>th</sup> Reunion at Colorado Springs, Colorado, 16-20 September 2010 as evidenced by the Chambley Reunion Welcome Flag at the right that adorned the entrance of our hotel! More than fifty Chambleyites participated in this biennial event that brings together all of us who fondly remember our Chambley experience during the 1950's and 60's. This was our chance once again to reminisce, tell war stories, and catch up on each other's family and activities. For those who served with the 21<sup>st</sup> Fighter Bomber Wing, this Reunion re-established our connection with our legacy by meeting with Airmen of the 21<sup>st</sup> Space Wing at Peterson AFB, where we conducted our Reunion banquet on the night of 18 Sep.



We had the opportunity for several Alumni to be interviewed by video and audio by the 21<sup>st</sup> historian (Dr David Bullock) and the public affairs office. They ("Cowboy" Lee Harris, Leonard Black, George Stokes, Joyce Watkins, and Gene Waxman) provided first source historical information about their 21<sup>st</sup> FBW experiences and the challenges of establishing Chambley Air Base. It is many times difficult for historians to access first sources. We had our chance and the history office took advantage of it.

The Reunion included a tour of the Air Force Academy, a historic tour of Colorado Springs and shopping, and a trek to the top of 14,000+ foot Pike's Peak. We had our welcoming barbeque dinner highlighted by several door prizes (Remember those elegant golf putters?), gifts, and three awards recognizing the service of Bob Sisk (Director Emeritus), Joe McClain (Webmaster, Public Affairs, and Media), and George Stokes (Two tours with both the 21<sup>st</sup> Group and Wing).



During our Reunion Banquet at the Peterson AFB Club, we enjoyed a social, remembered our POWs and MIAs, enjoyed an excellent dinner, and were greeted by Col Jim Jennings, Vice Commander, 21<sup>st</sup> Space Wing. Col Jennings saluted our 21<sup>st</sup> FBW Alumni, stating, *"The persistency to strive for excellence does not just happen. It takes years to build and it is built on the shoulders of giants, and those giants are you."*



Our Reunion held two business meetings. The **First Business Meeting** was for the purpose of bringing Alumni up to date on our current status and to ask all to consider issues that the Leadership Team needed their guidance on. In particular, at this Kickoff and Welcoming

Senior Advisor: George Stokes

Advisor: Collene Duhamel

Advisor: Joan Morris

Arizona 2012 Coordinator: Jim Kirkpatrick

Website

[www.Chambleyab.com](http://www.Chambleyab.com)



meeting we recognized our Leadership Team, covered the schedule for the next 3 days, reviewed our Reunion's financial status (your Reunion is solvent – See the **Financial Report** at: <http://chambleyab.com>), discussed our newsletters and activities leading up to this Reunion, reviewed the sign project to provide the Chambley AB Museum unit insignia signs for major combat flying units assigned there during 1954-67 and the new Reunion Banner, and requested Alumni guidance on the need for formal organization by-laws that describe the organization, responsibilities, etc. and possible locations for the 2012 Reunion. These latter two points were planned for discussion at the second business meeting on Sunday. No decisions were made at this first business meeting.



On Sunday morning, Leonard Black, our Reunion Chaplain, conducted a Memorial Service to recognize our fallen Alumni and spouses in the past five years.

We honored:

- A1C Larry Clark, 531 FBS, Oct 2006
- Ed Galloway, wife Alta Galloway, 21 Sup Sq, Aug 2010
- Christine Githers, wife of George Githers, 21 Hosp, Jul 2009
- Clyde Kelley, wife Donna Kelley, ANG, Aug 2010
- Gordon Rabanus, wife Mary Rabanus, May 2006
- Maxine Stokes, husband George Stokes, Advance Units Chambley, 2007
- Betty Black, husband Leonard Black, 21 ABGp, Apr 2007

(See the website for a list of our fallen Alumni and spouses). Leonard, also, led us in a Prayer Service.

The **Second Business Meeting** followed. The purpose of this meeting was to obtain guidance from Alumni on three items:

1. Should the Reunion establish formal organization by-laws that describe the organization, responsibilities, etc.?
2. Where do the Alumni present prefer to hold the next Reunion in 2012, and, what are the best months to consider?
3. Other issue discussed – In consideration of Reunion longevity, should the Reunion initiate action to affiliate with the present 21<sup>st</sup> Space Wing? (this issue was proffered by a 21<sup>st</sup> Space Wing Col (a 21<sup>st</sup> FBW granddaughter)

Discussion follows:

1. Establish formal by-laws – The Reunion voted favorably for the Leadership Team to develop simple organization by-laws that considers appropriate description of organization, responsibilities, and means of succession of leadership, among others. The draft by-laws will be completed in advance of the next Reunion for a formal Alumni vote at that time.
2. 2012 Reunion and timing – Several cities were recommended. After two rounds of votes, Tucson was selected by majority vote. Jim Kirkpatrick, who lives in the Phoenix area, volunteered to support our local arrangements for Tucson. Recommended months were the Fall of 2012 (Leadership Team will work the dates as one of its tasks).
3. Reunion longevity – Reunion voted favorably for the Leadership Team to engage the 21<sup>st</sup> Space Wing with the proposal for our Reunion to form an affiliation with them through some means to be determined. The Director (Bob Ferguson) will initiate this effort. The newly appointed Coordinator, Public Affairs (Joe McClain) will represent us should the Wing indicate interest to do so. (As of this newsletter, the Director formally requested the Wing Commander to consider our proposal; no action to date).

### **Chambley AB (*Chambley Planet'Air*) Status Report:**

Aline Dufour, our guest from Chambley and Lorraine, France, and wife of Philippe Duron de Rozier, both organizers of the effort to establish Chambley into a modern aeronautical city, spoke next of activities in the past two years. Aline described improvements to facilities and provided pictures and video of plans. She highlighted plans for the next **Lorraine Mondial Air Ballons Festival** that will be held **22-31 July 2011** at what is now called **Chambley Planet'Air**. The Pilâtre de Rozier Organization will be leading this 12<sup>th</sup> edition of the festival with the theme of **"ON TOP OF THE**



**WORLD.”** There will be new dedicated hangars and car parks with the philosophy of ballooning and fraternity. Anticipate everyday at dawn and in the evening, hundreds of giant multicolored bubbles take-off at once for a breathtaking show. Exhibitions, restaurants, first flights, the public enjoys a rich program: merry go rounds, shows, workshops, craft shops. This will truly be a magical moment, in the heart of Lorraine’s Nature Park. Aline invited our Alumni to attend. She noted plans for a one-day **Media and Veterans** event and offered support of lodging, meals, and local transportation for two nights during our stay, for those Chambley AB Reunion Alumni who can attend. (As of this newsletter details on dates, etc., are pending)



Finally, comments about how very proud I was of our leadership team and their many contributions and teamwork displayed in support of this Reunion are in order. Starting with Collene Duhamel and Joanie Morris, who provided sound advice and orchestrated gifts for the Welcoming BBQ and nametags (the gifts were extremely popular this year). Two other ladies, Barbara McClain and Joyce Watkins, orchestrated purchasing all the adult beverages and snacks to outfit the hospitality suite and set up and maintained the food and drinks. Joe McClain, orchestrated developing a new registration tool that was of immense planning help, provided our technology support, supervised public affairs and historical documentation of the 21<sup>st</sup> and Chambley activities making sure we had video recording and sound capability at all our venues, and conducting registration welcoming, putting “Master” into his Master of Ceremonies service during our Banquet, and providing melodious singing that entertained us all. We thank Leonard Black for his skillful leadership as our Chaplain during the POW/IMA White Table ceremony and the interdenominational church service and memorial for our fallen Chambley brothers and sisters, and for his service welcoming our Alumni at the final registration. We thank Frank Meier for his sage advice and advertisement of our Reunion with several military and veterans organizations’ publications; his service involved considerable research and developing an inviting call for Alumni to join us. We recognize and thank George Stokes for his seasoned advice, constant support and encouragement, positive attitude that always sees the good in all we do, and his providing us the display of model aircraft that remind us of the importance and “why” the 21<sup>st</sup> and Chambley even existed. (A note on George, I can tell you that his serving the 21<sup>st</sup> twice, once at Iwo Jima in WWII and then at Chambley, was the impetus for Dr David Bullock’s orchestration of PA support and interviews of a few of our Alumni. David and Joe facilitated this effort). Then, there was our senior advice and support from Bob Sisk, who was ever present providing us with guidance all along the way. Finally, I want to thank Marilyn Grafe for her guidance on Colorado and assistance during Reunion activities. I trust that I missed no one, for they each played significant roles in making this Reunion such a success.



So, now, we are off to the next challenge of our **11<sup>th</sup> Chambley Air Base Reunion in Tuscon, Arizona!** As soon as we have firm details, we will post them on the Reunion website: <http://www.chambleyab.com/index.htm> . Stay tuned.....

## Public Relations & Webmasters Report *by Joe McClain*

I’m sorry to say that our website went dormant during and after the 2010 Reunion due to my family commitments and the holiday season. However, since the first of the year we started updates with vigor. Let me share with you what we've done thus far.

1. The saddest part, as always, was updating our deceased list on the website. But, at our age we know that this is inevitable.
2. We added to our **“Whatever Happen To”** section with a couple of updates.
3. We placed the 2010 reunion photographs on the web.

Another recent accomplishment is placing our movies on **“YouTube”!** We changed the “Pictures” banner location to read **“Movies and Pictures”** and linked our new “YouTube” movies to this portion of the website. The following is a list of the current “YouTube” URL’s:

- Chambley 2010 Reunion Part 1: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fUWA3vnWUfs>
- Chambley 2010 Reunion Part 2: [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d\\_If6uw3qBM&feature=related](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d_If6uw3qBM&feature=related)
- Wyatt Fuller: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UDrLjn-OJAU>
- Chambley Slide Show # 1 1954 -1957: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IRV590jFgy4>
- Chambley Slide Show # 2 1954 -1957: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bmXwiswiWHU>
- Chambley France Before & After: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZSDOn0EKJFI>
- Chambley AB France 54 to 57 English: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xS4DW0j9oHA>





- Chambley AB France 54 to 57 French: [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x58FjE7Xs\\_E](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x58FjE7Xs_E)
- A Sergeants Story Part 1 History: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2Pn7m8-3nUM>
- A Sergeants Story Part 2 History: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A2UVkP2IjZQ>
- Chambley 2010 Banquet Part 1: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n-NdpabiMr0>
- Chambley 2010 Conclusion: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B8DTjsptY4Q>

We will be adding several more YouTube links to our web page that will include interviews with several of our members, Part 3 of the Reunion that will be segments from the banquet, and a Reunion slide show from the 2010 Reunion ,and hopefully, from all the past reunions. Please comment when you visit our movies on the YouTube Site. Your feedback is always very important.



As we prepare for the Tucson 2012 reunion, we started contacting companies requesting tote bags. The following is an extract of the letter that we are sending to the companies:

*The purpose of this letter is to ask the support of the ----- Co. in the Chambley Air Base France Alumni by contributing "Tote Bags" for our 2012 Reunion scheduled to be held in Tucson, AZ in September of 2012. The organization will gladly take bags with any of your membership logos and do not need to identify our alumni. They will be given to our registered attendees and will be used to package agendas, reunion information and memorabilia for the 2012 reunion.*

*The Chambley Air Base France Alumni is a nonprofit organization consisting of airmen, government civilians and dependents that were stationed in France with the US Air Force from 1954 to 1967. Most of its membership consists of military personnel who served in World War II, Korea and during the Cold War. We only need about 100 bags because our organization is small and unfortunately becomes smaller at each of our reunions due to attrition. More information on our organization can be found by going to [www.chambleyab.com](http://www.chambleyab.com). Please send the Tote Bags to Chambley Alumni; c/o CW0 (R) Joseph P. McClain 3521 East Santa Fe Lane Gilbert, AZ 85297-7411.*

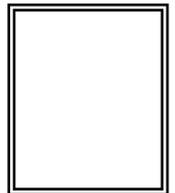
*Thank you in advance for your time and courtesy.*

If you have an idea of someone that we should send this letter to, please let me know; we have plenty of time until the Fall of 2012. Jim Kirkpatrick is attempting to have the 2012 reunion possibly in late October due to weather in the area. He will be checking on hotels during the late winter and early spring time of this year and I will be helping Jim in establishing the military connection in Tucson. Also, if you have any additional ideas that you would like to see added to our website, please let me know. Remember, [www.chambleyab.com](http://www.chambleyab.com) is YOUR website!

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Bob Ferguson, our Director, on the outstanding job he did on the 2010 reunion. Without his unstinting support the Reunion would not have been as successful as it was. We also thank him for his guidance and leadership in keeping the Chambley Alumni as a viable organization.



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See all pictures at:  
<http://www.chambleyab.com>