



# AMTA SEMI-ANNUAL NEWS

Volume 1 Issue 8

January thru June 2008

## FROM THE AMTA PRESIDENT ...

**S**ince the outstanding AMTA reunion in Dallas, Texas this past October 2007 time has continued to fly by. This will be our first year since the AMTA was founded that we have not had a reunion. I know many of us are going to miss getting together this fall but we still have the FTVA, EC-47, AND PWG to fall back on should you want to attend. These are all excellent organizations and we have many friends in each of them. They may be mostly operators but they too know how to share good times and have fellowship and drink beer. The dates for each of these functions can be obtained from the AMTA website. Just select the "What and When" tab for information on these reunions. The link is <http://www.amtassociation.org/Events.htm>. If you plan to attend any of these you may want to go to the website and get more information so you can get signed up. Hopefully, anyone wanting to attend one of these reunions this fall will not be left out. The AMTA Board of Directors, based upon the money the AMTA has on hand, voted to share \$1000 with the Air Force Enlisted Village this year. Little did we know the Air Force Enlisted Village is having a gold brick made for the Bob Hope Garden that will have the Airborne Maintenance Technician Association inscribed on it. This is

## SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS...



THE SITE OF THE 2009 AMTA REUNION

quite an honor and the brick will remain in the garden forever.

The Airborne Maintenance Technician Association continues to progress and as always our goal is to help those in need, and so far the AMTA has done very well with meeting their goals. While this is an election year we will stress once again the AMTA does not promote or support any type political party or organization or candidate and the AMTA does not support or promote any type religious programs. The AMTA is a charitable organization but it's website and the AMTA Semi-Annual Newsletter are for the sole purpose of promoting and supporting the AMTA and ensuring the AMTA members are informed on things concerning the Association.

The AMTA membership continues to grow (135 members) even though we have lost four members who chose not to renew their membership. Someone asked what the benefits of being an AMTA member are and my only response is if you do not like fellowship with old friends and AMTs, it is probably not for you. But, if you enjoy old friends from the past the value is far more than a \$10 membership fee. As the MasterCard commercial says, seeing old friends at AMTA reunions is...PRICELESS!!

*Johnnie Estes  
President AMTA*

## AMTA MEMBERSHIP..

**A**s the AMTA membership chairman I set a goal to fill in as many blanks in the AMTA database as possible by the 2009 AMTA Reunion. I tried to add AMTs that have not been identified to that same AMTA database. I challenged each of you to take each short list that is sent out each month and make a special effort to help with that goal. The response has been outstanding. Some have gone through old orders; others have helped by just remembering a name, middle initial, or maybe a state the person may live in. Every little bit has helped. I extend my sincere thanks to each of you. Thanks!

I have asked each AMT to update your personal data. We find that on some we have only the name and email address, but we need more information as we change email addresses a lot more than we do our phone numbers or home addresses. We need all contact information to be able to keep up with AMTs. The AMTA database is made up of the following information: Full name including middle initial, spouse's first name, mailing address including zip code, home phone number, email address if on line, and an AMT reference if we do not know you. **This is important** - Can we release this personal data to other AMTs (Only AMTs)?

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## AIRBORNE MAINTENANCE TECHICIANS, 936 NAMES! WHERE ARE THEY???



### AMTA IN THE FUTURE

**W**hen you visit the AMTA website ([www.amtassociation.org](http://www.amtassociation.org)) or talk with the AMTs, the AMTA continues to grow and is a very strong organization and can get stronger and become even better, but it is going to take some help from everyone. We have many young ASEs and some much younger AMTs and we need your help. AMTs presently managing the AMTA are in their 60s and 70s and we are asking others to step up. We presently have two board members that have served on the AMTA Board of Directors since inception in June 2004. One is committed to serve until 2009 and the other is committed to serve until 2011. While no one is going to desert the AMTA, we are asking others to help so this outstanding organization does not die at a young age. The AMTA has seven active board members and four do not plan to run for a board position in the future due to health, age or just plain tired. The organization is set up and everything is in place and just needs some extremely caring people to take over and continue to manage the AMTA while helping it continue to grow. Go to the AMTA website today, click on "Email the Board of Directors" and give us your comments and suggestions on how to handle this situation in the future. We appreciate each and everyone's strong support for the AMTA and hope that many younger maintenance guys will come forward to ensure the

continued success of this wonderful organization that means so much to so many.

*Whitey Gross*  
AMTA Semi-Annual News Editor

### FROM THE AMTA SECRETARY...

**G**reetings from the AMTA Secretary. I sincerely hope all is well with our AMTA members and former AMTs who have not become members. Along those lines, if you know of AMTs you feel may want to join, tell them about the website [www.amtassociation.org](http://www.amtassociation.org). Our membership is the highest it has been (135), but it decreased some the latter part of 2007 and we all should have an interest in growing it to ensure it doesn't die off before it's time. A key point is we have yet to arouse the interest of the younger generation in a different specialty (AFSC) that is doing the job we once did and are not called AMTs. Your suggestions on how to spark their interest would certainly be appreciated.

The AMTA has memorabilia on hand and some of it is listed on the AMTA website with pictures. Our stock of T-shirts is down, but will be replenished in the upcoming months. Suggestions on new memorabilia items as well as memento items are welcome and I assure you each suggestion will be considered. Some key considerations

are the cost of acquisition, a reasonable margin, and anticipated popularity. Planning for the 2009 AMTA Reunion will begin in earnest this fall. The Reunion Committee consisting of Noe C. Guerra, Robert White, and I welcome input on companion activities and interests.

My closing note: Life is terminal—Live it to the fullest while you can.

*Mike McLaughlin*  
AMTA Secretary

### (Continued from page 1) AMTA MEMBERSHIP...

We have yet to find and identify a lot of the younger AMTs (ASEs). It is important that we continue this process and get their input into The Association. Without younger ASEs coming on board the AMT Association will die as the rest of us grow older or slow down. The future of The Association will dwindle to nothing. I encourage those around the Offutt AFB area to help in identifying the upcoming younger generation.

I am happy to report that although we have had a few that have chosen to drop their membership, we have had some that have joined the AMT Association, and have become Lifetime Members; presently the AMTA has 135 members, the most so far. We have some old friends that haven't been to a reunion; hopefully they will make a special effort to come to San Antonio in 2009. Contact a friend, tell him or her about the AMT Association, and ask them to join us. They do not have to be a member of the AMTA to attend the reunion. Noe C., Mike and Bob are working hard to ensure we have an outstanding and memorable reunion just as the others have been in the past.

God bless each of you.

*Tom Joines*  
AMTA Membership Chairman



**Airborne Maintenance  
Technician Association**  
11615 Old Hills Lane  
SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS 78251

**CHAPLAIN CORNER...**

**W**e live in a world where many isms are being presented as gospel. I believe there is only one true gospel and I have had the blessing and privilege to hear, believe, and share the gospel of Jesus Christ for many years. In the book of John, Jesus said "I am the way, the truth, the life, and no one comes to the Father but through me." (John 14:6) There are those in this generation who would have you believe there are many ways, but this contradicts the teaching of the Bible and the life that Jesus lived here on this earth more than 2000 years ago. As our nation drifts away from the teachings of the Bible, I pray that we who are believers would reflect on our lives and the blessings we have had in knowing Jesus as Lord. I am now past seventy years of age and I hope and pray that I and many of you who read this, will stand firm and finish well. I believe that in order to finish well there are some things I must remember.

1. I was made by HIM...(HOLY GOD)....Psalms 100: 3
2. I was made for HIM....Colossians 1: 16
3. I belong to HIM. 1 Corinthians 6: 19-20
4. I am placed on this earth for HIS purpose....Matthew 28: 18-20
5. I am going back to HIM....John 14: 1-4  
I have been so privileged to have known Jesus for many years now. My Bible tells me that knowing HIM and the Father who sent HIM is eternal life. (John 17: 3) Does this mean that I will live a perfect life...not a chance. We all have sinned and continue to fail in doing HIS will, but when I have violated HIS law He has forgiven me every time I have asked HIM. He, as He promised, has never forsaken me. In my greatest hour of need He has always been there with HIS unsurpassed peace, and comfort. My prayer for



**Waiting on bus for Greenville Tour**

all who might read these words is that as a believer you would be firm and steadfast in your faith and for those who might not be believers I pray you would consider this faith called Christianity. For many of us it is more than a belief, it is a lifestyle. It is the faith of our fathers and it is the principles on which this great nation is built. Those of us who have exercised this faith for many years should be very grateful for the way we were raised and we should see that our children and grand children are raised to know HIM and to live this lifestyle also.

May God bless each of you and I hope your summer is a blessed one.

*IN HIS LOVE*  
*Jeff Knisley*  
*AMTA Chaplain*

**FROM THE BOD.....**

**A** quick note from the Board of Directors (BOD) concerning the AMTA membership card. We issue a new card only when something changes on your membership card such as going from one status of membership to another. The three types are CURRENT, CHARTER OR LIFETIME MEMBER. Your card has the date you became a member, and your membership number which directly links in our data base to when you joined the AMTA and the expiration date, if any. We purposely did not put an expiration date on the cards so we would not have to re-issue them when the expiration date changed. If anyone has a card with an expiration date on it (i.e. 2004—2005) please contact Mike McLaughlin the AMTA Secretary, at [mbmc@amtassociation.org](mailto:mbmc@amtassociation.org) and he will see that you get a new card. If you have further questions, please

- AMTA Board of Directors:**  
 Johnnie Estes - President and Director  
 Del Jolly - Vice-Pres and Director  
 Mike McLaughlin - Secretary and Director  
 Robert White - Treasurer and Director  
 Bill Wilson - Director  
 Mervin Gross - Newsletter and Director  
 Jim Hargrove - Director

feel free to contact any of the Board of Directors through the AMTA website ([www.amtassociation.org](http://www.amtassociation.org)) and click on Email the **BOARD OF DIRECTORS** link on the left side of the Home page.

See you all in San Antonio in 2009.



**Taylor & Dolores Green...**

**JUST FOR THE FUN OF IT ..**

M B E P E Y E R U E N H C B M O C  
 O M T E Y E E T D A C U S I E U T  
 B A I T L L A Y O A N O S G B T S  
 L C P L W W A A R O B K O I N S  
 B K D O D K I N N M M I N H O E A  
 G B F A L E A A I B B N H A C P R  
 O E Y O V S N E E O I A A A E I B  
 O I A N A I G H M W G W T E H T S  
 D E V N N O S R A O E W A R B L S A  
 F R B M R A W A O L E T A C U H P  
 E O I U C H K N G V L A N R E U G  
 L H Y R L L H H I A E S G S N M N  
 L O A O N A A A O N I D A N A N G  
 O F M F O N H U A N S G B L S U O  
 W O S F G O U E R G W P H O L T B N  
 Y N U U L R N J D H N H A L L A I  
 E I C T A O O L R I L I N F O S O  
 R C R T S I L R T B I F F O M I I  
 Y D N L N V L H E E M E N B M E C  
 G S E E C T U H N N O S N A T R R  
 X I S R P L E I K U S O N M R A D  
 E L F F Y L N E K W U R B I E W Z

1. DaNang
2. Eielson
3. Goodfellow
4. Mildenhall
5. Nakhon Phanom
6. Nha Trang
7. Offutt
8. Okinawa
9. Phu Cat
10. Pleiku
11. Tan Son Nhut
12. Ubon
13. Udorn

See Answers on Page 4.



Official AMTA Yahoo Group:  
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/AMTAssociation/>

AMTA Website:  
[www.amtassociation.org](http://www.amtassociation.org)

**VSO REPORT...**

**A**MTs, using the online application system described below may help some of you to get going if you have put off applying for earned benefits because you didn't want to visit with a VSO, work by phone or through the mail. It is still better to visit with a veterans advocate, like their County VSO, but the method below is better than not applying at all. **John Hurst, AMTA VSO.**

**VA announces online claims applications**

WASHINGTON (AFRNS) -- The Department of Veterans Affairs will now accept online applications from veterans, survivors and other claimants for various benefits without the additional requirement of submitting a signed paper copy of the application. People can now file initial applications for disability compensation, pension, education, and vocational rehabilitation and employment benefits online. VA will process applications received through its online application Web site, VONAPP, without the claimant's signature. The electronic application will be sufficient authentication of the claimant's application for benefits. Normal development procedures and rules of evidence will still apply to all VONAPP applications. VONAPP, found at [www.va.gov/onlineapps.htm](http://www.va.gov/onlineapps.htm), is a Web-based system that benefits both internal and external users. Veterans, survivors and other claimants seeking compensation, pension, education, or vocational rehabilitation benefits can apply electronically without the constraints of location, postage cost, and time delays in mail delivery.

Officials announced that VONAPP reduces the number of incomplete applications received by VA, decreasing the need for additional development by VA claims processors. The online application also provides a link to apply for VA health care benefits and much more. More than 3.7 million veterans and beneficiaries receive compensation and pension benefits from VA, and approximately 523,000 students receive education benefits. Approximately 90,000 disabled veterans participate in VA's Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment program.

*Article furnished by  
John Hurst, AMTA VSO*

**TREASURER REPORT...**

**T**he AMTA was excited in January 2008 to be in the position to donate \$1,000 to the Air Force Enlisted Widow's Home in Shalimar, Florida. While the AMTA may not always be financially able to provide this amount, we will strive to donate \$500. The AMTA as an organization is committed to \$500 each year as long as funds permit. The AF Enlisted Widow's Home is the charity selected for our donations. In return the AMTA received a nice thank you card from the Air Force Enlisted Widow's Home.

*"To All AMTA members: On behalf of the Air Force Enlisted Village, I'd like to express my sincere appreciation to all members of the Airborne Maintenance Technician Association for the contribution of \$1,000. We're deeply grateful for your support and generosity. As a token of our thanks, we will order a brick engraved with your organizations name to be placed in our Garden of Hope on the Bob Hope Village Campus. Again, thank you for helping make our mission a reality. James C. Binnmcker, President and CEO"*

In addition the AMTA was noted in Air Force Enlisted Village, May 08 news letter.

The AMTA membership chairman with

the help of others has been trying to locate AMTs that are listed in the AMTA database with no data. We encourage AMTA members to ensure their dues are always current. With 133 members this is the most we have ever had and our association just gets stronger each year. Huge thanks to every member and especially to those helping to locate missing AMTs in an effort to boost the AMTA membership. Since the first of 2008, we have had six Lifetime memberships and eight three year memberships. Let us all help spread what the AMTA is all about.

The AMTA financial status is sound and we can meet present financial commitments. The bulk of funds come from memberships, donations and memorabilia. However, in the future we may need to come up with other ways to raise money. Please feel free to contact the AMTA Board of Directors with practical inputs. The 2009 AMTA Reunion is over a year away. However, it is not too early to think about what "you" as members would like to see introduced/presented at the reunion.

I truly appreciated the support of the AMTA members, thank you!

*Robert J. White  
AMTA Treasurer*

**JUST FOR THE FUN OF IT .....**

Answers to Puzzle

Puzzle Something About the AMTA

M B E P E Y E R U E N H C B M O C  
O M T E Y E E T D A C U S I E U T  
B A I T L L A Y O A N O S G B T S  
L C P L W W A A R O B K O O I N S  
B K D O D K I N N M M I N H O E A  
G B F A L E A A I B B N H A C P R  
O E Y O V S N E E O I A A A E I B  
O I A N A I G H M W G W T E H T S  
D E V N N O S R A E W A R B L S A  
F R B M R A W A O L E T A C U H P  
E O I U C H K N G V L A N R E U G  
L H Y R L L H H I A E S G S N M N  
L O A O N A A A O N I D A N A N G  
O F M F O N H U A N S G B L S U O  
W O S F G O E R G W P H O L T B N  
Y N U U L R N J D H N H A L L A I  
E I C T A O O L R I L I N F O S O  
R C R T S I L R T B I F F O M I I  
Y D N L N V L H E E M E N B M E C  
G S E E C T U H N N O S N A T R R  
X I S R P L E I K U S O N M R A D  
E L F F Y L N E K W U R B I E W Z



**AMTA Semi-Annual  
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*"It's your newsletter for use to  
communicate with other members."*