



the WIRE BENDER

Volume 7 Issue 2

July through December 2015

FROM THE AMTA PRESIDENT

2015 has been a busy and really quite an eventful year for a lot of different AMTs. I for one bought a house in Granbury, Texas in January 2015 just to start the year off with a bang. Sold our house in North Las Vegas in August 2015 and arrived at our new home in Granbury, Texas August 20, 2015. The timing was perfect to unpack a few things and head to San Antonio for the 10th AMTA Reunion at the Marriott, less than 200 miles away (not the 1300 from Vegas).

We had 42 AMTs show up at the 10th AMTA reunion and some were first time attendees; however, quite a few regular attendees from the past failed to make this reunion due mostly to illness either of them self or a family member. As we grow older all of us are going through these trying times of trying to stay upright or helping a family member or friend and trust me nothing is fun about the whole thing. Some of the guys have come up with the idea of another informal reunion in Tucson, Arizona next fall and I think it is a wonderful idea. If you have never attended an informal reunion you need to give it a try as they are a ton of fun. No meetings, no voting, no schedules just plain old fun and having a few beers and seeing who can tell the biggest lie. John Hurst sponsored an informal reunion in Omaha (Council Bluffs, Iowa) in 2012 and it was outstanding. Someone ask me what was next on the schedule and I said you



Watch Out When They Get Together!

FROM THE AMTA SECRETARY

Another year is coming to a close. I hope it was a good year for all. The AMTA had another successful reunion at the San Antonio Marriott NW in September. The hotel staff without exception was very helpful with all aspects of the reunion. We discounted some items of memorabilia such as t-shirts, hats, and coffee mugs to clear them from the inventory as they had been around for a long time and sales were stagnant. I solicit your inputs for items we might consider adding to our memorabilia. Our stock t-shirt was pretty plain; white with the AMTA logo on the left chest. Any design you might come up with would be considered as a replacement. Also, are there any new items you would like to see added? One item that comes to mind is a mouse pad. Again, all suggestions would be considered. During the 2015 general membership meeting, members voted to have an informal 2016 reunion in Tucson. Joe

FROM THE AMTA VICE PRESIDENT

It is with a sad heart I have to inform the members of the AMT Association of the passing of Marge Martin, wife of AMT Ray Martin. Marge fought a short battle with cancer and succumbed to it in April 2015. She and Ray celebrated Fifty years of marriage in February 2015. Our friendship and prayers go out to Ray and his family in this time of sorrow. The AMT Association stands ready to assist Ray in any way possible. God bless Ray and his family.

*Mervin "Whitey" Gross
Vice President*

Live Simply. Love Generously.
Care Deeply. Speak Kindly.
Leave the Rest to God.

Joshua 1:9

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may ask John but I don't think we have a schedule. Sure enough, no schedule. In 2014 Johnnie and Betty Jo Estes sponsored the AMTA informal reunion in Las Vegas, Nevada and it was another good one. The Sunset Station Hotel and Casino was the host for the 2014 reunion.

We elected four board members during 2015 and every one elected had already been serving on the AMTA board. Officers remained the same; Estes, president; Gross, vice-president; McLaughlin, secretary; White, treasurer; Jim Hargrove, Larry Meade, Randy Holt board members. Another wonderful thing happened at the 2015 AMTA reunion, we have an AMTA Chaplain. The Chaplain was not drafted or coerced into the job, Mr. William F. Jordan (better known as Frank Jordan) stepped up and volunteered and was elected by unanimous vote by the AMTA members. Then for icing on the cake another AMTA member stepped forward and volunteered to be the Assistant AMTA Chaplain. . Randy C. Holt is the AMTA Assistant Chaplain as he was voted in unanimously by the AMTA members. Take a minute to congratulate and thank these fine gentlemen for their service to the AMTA and the AMTA members.

The 2015 reunion was excellent. Mike and Bob, as always did a great job in preparing things for the reunion and after his arrival Whitey jumped right in to help with everything and ensuring another reunion to remember. Start making plans to head to Tucson next fall for another great time.

Thanks to all those who donated to the USO for Christmas for the troops in 2015

*Johnnie. Estes
President*

BEER – SCIENTIFIC FACT?

"Sometimes when I reflect on all the beer I drink, I feel ashamed. Then I look into the glass and think about the workers in the brewery and all of their hopes and dreams. If I didn't drink this beer, they might be out of work and their dreams would be shattered. I think, "It is better to drink this beer and let their dreams come true than be selfish and worry about my liver."

Babe Ruth

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and Monica Jesty volunteered to put it together. Time frame will likely be September or October. I urge all AMTs to seriously consider attending. I realize that travel distance may be an issue, but visiting old and making new friends is well worth it. I will forward copies of some of our past hotel contracts to Joe and Monica to assist them in planning and hotel negotiations.

I wish all a Merry Christmas and a happy new year

*Michael McLaughlin
Secretary*

INFORMATION ON THE AMTA FACEBOOK

The AMT Facebook Group is a social communications and media group where people have a central location to discuss things that are common to their background. As many of you know members of the group have found and passed along information concerning people that are friends to many of us as well as information concerning our military heritage. Thanks to those that belong to other social media sites and have passed along information that applies to us. Many of us have close friends from the Operation side of the house. Once in a while you may see mention of those friends especially if they have passed away or are very ill and need our prayers.

The AMT Facebook Group continues to grow. We have 119 members of the AMT, ASE, and IMT variety. Some come from Compass Call but most have Rivet Joint background. I try to introduce them on Facebook when they are approved. We also have some 40 people that have requested to join but have not provided the necessary information to validate their background.

The AMT Facebook Group verifies each request to join as having flown a PARPRO (Peace Time Aerial Reconnaissance Operations Mission). We do this by asking verifiable pertinent

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FROM THE AMTA TREASURER

Overall 2015 was a typical year for the AMTA. Memberships are still a major concern. The bulk of our funds come from membership drives, donations, silent auctions and memorabilia. The AMTA financial status remains well enough to meet present financial commitments such as the Air Force Enlisted Village. For 2015 we had a total of 15 renewal/life time memberships. Two were for "1" year, seven were for "3" years and six were Life memberships. Tom Joines and John Brown have the never-ending job of constantly trying to locate past and new AMTs as well as updating the AMTA database. Thanks to everyone that has tried to boost AMTA membership and spread the word what we are all about.

The 2015 AMTA Reunion was held in San Antonio TX at the Marriott Hotel NW, 23-25 September. We had right at 90 attendees. Funds raised from snacks/donations, Silent Auction and from the memorabilia were a success. No negative loss from the snacks and beverages fund for the reunion. Thanks to all that joined in and participated.

This year was no exception and the AMTA elected to donate to the "USO" Christmas effort that constantly supports our service men and women throughout the world. Members in our organization donated a generous amount of \$2300 to the USO. Thanks to all of our members that supported this effort.

I trust everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving and a very Merry Christmas. I truly appreciated the support and hard work of the entire AMTA membership, thank you! Have a great 2016.

*Robert J. White
Treasurer*



**the WIREBENDER
Staff:**

Editor: Whitey Gross

Publisher: Whitey Gross

*"It's your newsletter for use to
communicate with other members."*

**AIRBORNE MAINTENANCE TECHICIANS,
1017 NAMES! WHERE ARE THEY???**



**AMTA MEMBERSHIP
CHAIRMAN**

Those that choose to be supportive of the AMTA as an active member has just about come to a total halt. Out of 1037 known Airborne Electronic Maintenance people, there are only 160 active members. A lot of us are in our 70's and 80's, so we need new young supporters for the AMTA to survive. I talked to a younger AMT recently and he wanted to know how the AMTA would benefit him, or what it would do for him. We have had this question asked before. The AMTA was established in 2004 to bring together a database of all AMTs and have a place to locate, or get contact information of old friends and other Airborne Maintenance personnel. During its creation, it was decided that a small amount of dues would be required of all members, (\$10.00 a year, \$25.00 for 3 years or a life time membership on a sliding scale dependent on age.) Those dues are used to help others and you. The AMTA is a 501C19(a) organization and no one takes a dime for their effort. From those small dues and member contributions, the AMTA has been able to contribute to known needs of individuals and organizations which includes: Air Force Enlisted Widows Home, USO (for those still serving), emergencies like Katrina victims, etc. These are only a few examples. All donations are tax deductible. As a member of the AMTA, you

are making our country a little better for others and yourself. I am thankful for and to the AMTA organization and its members. What does the AMTA do? We are trying to make a few things a little better for others.

I am still searching for approximately 550 AMTs that might not know about the AMTA. They may be a friend of yours and wondering what has happened to you. Information may include their full name, age, where they live, where they are from or where they might have gone, family members names, where you knew them or if you know for a fact that they flew as an AMT or not. There may be 5000 people with the same name so we need more than just their name. Without your help these people may never be found and made aware of the AMTA. I need your help and thank you for efforts in advance.

*Thomas Joines
Membership Chairman*

Of all tyrannies, a tyranny sincerely exercised for the good of its victims may be the most oppressive.
C.S. Lewis

Airborne Maintenance

11615 Old Hills Lane
SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS 78251

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information. We then add this information to the AMTA database. We treat it the same as any AMTA information: It is not released to anyone without prior permission. Some do not wish to have their information released, but most do. We respect their right to not give us the information. If they can still be verified as a qualified AMT, IMT, or ASE they may be approved to join the Facebook Group. Those that belong to the AMT Facebook Group may or may not be members of the AMTA.

Any AMTA information concerning reunions or non-private information concerning members will appear on the AMT Facebook Group site. We will ensure the information is releasable to everyone. If you have a question concerning the release of information please let me know.

*John Brown
Facebook Coordinator*



In our age there is no such thing as 'keeping out of politics.' All issues are political issues, and politics itself is a mass of lies, evasions, folly, hatred and schizophrenia.
George Orwell

AMTA Board of Directors:
 Johnnie Estes - President, Director
 Mervin Gross - Vice-Pres, Dir, Newsletter
 Mike McLaughlin - Secretary and Director
 Robert White - Treasurer, Director
 Jim Hargrove - Director
 Randy Holt - Director
 Larry Meade - Director
 Bill Wilson - Director (Permanent)
 Del Jolly - Director (Permanent)

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

AMTA Website:
www.amtassociation.org



AMTA EDITOR'S NOTE

Apparently some of us do not know how to add or view the pictures on the AMT Facebook site. Look above the intro pictures and click on photos. Then select albums and view to your heart's desire. Adding a picture via an entry will not add it to the site. If you want to add pictures, add them to the photos area. You can create an album and add that as well. This is your history site too. Just remember..... **pictures added here become "public" to members of this site and can be copied.** Enjoy

*Mervin "Whitey" Gross
 Editor*

"I learned a long time ago that 'minor surgery' is when they do the operation on someone else, not you."
 -

Portland Trail Blazers

Bill Walton,
 Blazers

You Should Have Been There!!



(L-R) Steve Conway, Ray Scott, John Brown, Bob White, Joe Brickley, Marv Lokken, Hank Gebbia,



Ben (Claude) & Brenda Bennett Talking to David Leslie



Guest Speaker Gabe Marshall Talking with AMTA Secretary Mike McLaughlin. Kudos to Gabe for an excellent presentation.



Hurst's and Shaffer's Dining at the Marriott