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# 162d Wing Retiree News

May 2014

This newsletter is published by the 162nd Wing Retirees Office for the sole purpose of providing information relevant to retirees. Photos in this publication are from Retirees Office files or public domain, unless otherwise noted. Questions or comments regarding this publication should be forwarded to the address listed in the upper left-hand corner of this page.



## Did you know?



The Douglas C-47 "Gooney Bird" (civilian version was the DC-3) support aircraft served the 162nd from 1956 to 1967.

## New 162nd Wing Commander shares lunch with retirees

Col. Phil Purcell, the new 162nd Wing Commander, accompanied by Command CMSgt Shane Clark, attended the monthly retirees luncheon on April 8th. Colonel Purcell gave the retirees an update briefing followed by questions from the audience. Retirees learned about current unit functions and received some perspective on what the future holds. In the 58 years since the Tucson Air Guard was born, countless changes have taken place. The unit remains on a strong path supported by dedicated, qualified personnel who continue to maintain a quality-oriented, can-do organization.



## Retiree Events

May - September 2014

**Monthly Retirees Luncheon**  
Held the second Tuesday of each month at the Golden Corral Buffet, 6865 N Thornydale Rd., 11:00 a.m. Scheduled dates are:

May 13  
June 10  
July 8  
Aug 12  
Sept 9



**Monthly Flightline Luncheon**  
Held the last Monday of each month at the Skybox Restaurant, NE corner of River and Craycroft, 12 noon. Scheduled dates are:

May 26  
June 30  
July 28  
Aug 25  
Sept 29



**Seasonal Monthly White Mountain Retirees Breakfast**  
Held the second Wednesday of each month from May to September. Location is Jalapeño Poppers, 1624 W. White Mountain Blvd, Lakeside, AZ, 7:30 a.m. Scheduled 2014 dates are:

May 14  
June 11  
July 9  
Aug 13  
Sept 10



**Annual White Mountain Picnic**  
June 19. See article at left. 

## Retirees Remembered



The following former 162nd members recently passed away:

**C.L. Coward** - C.L. was one of the original 152nd members who served many years in Aircraft Maintenance.

**Willie Wilson** - Willie was a long-time instructor pilot with the unit who served in Operations.

**Carlos Lopez** - Carlos was one of the early unit members who served the 162nd in Base Supply.

**Jon Nelson** - Jon was a long-time member of the unit who served with us in Aircraft Maintenance.

## 10th Annual White Mountain Retirees Picnic scheduled for June 19, 2014

Believe it or not! This year will mark the 10th anniversary of the Arizona ANG White Mountain Retirees Picnic.

Started in 2005 as an idea for a small retirees gathering at Woodland Lake Park in Pinetop, AZ, the first year's attendance exceeded expectations. A larger venue was required for the second year so the picnic was moved to Fool Hollow Lake State Park in Show Low.

Fool Hollow served the picnic requirements nicely for the following eight years. Yearly attendance remained steady with about 90 to 120 retirees and family members. Each year retirees gathered to see old friends and share stories about their military careers.

Over time some comments were made about a different location; consequently, in 2013 the picnic was moved to Charlie Clark's Steakhouse in Pinetop. The new venue was well received and a vote to continue the annual event at the new location was taken. The year's won out, so here we are again at Charlie Clark's for 2014. Picnic information is as follows:

**Where:** In the Orchard behind Charlie Clark's Steakhouse, 1701 E. White Mountain Blvd., Pinetop, AZ 85935.

**When:** Thursday, June 19, 2014. Start time is 3:00 p.m.

**Food, Drink and Parking:** Meal included with attendance fee. Drinks available for purchase at the picnic. Vehicle parking is free.

**Cost:** \$20.00 per person. Please RSVP by 7 June. Include the first and last names of each person who will attend. Forward names and a check addressed to:

162nd Retirees Office  
1650 E. Perimeter Way  
Tucson, AZ 85706-6052



Call the Retirees Office at (520) 295-6663 for information.

## New Retirees Office location

The Retirees Office at the Guard is now back in the O&T (building 1). We are in the first room on the right as you enter the north (main) entrance. This is the most visible location we have ever had. We plan on the office being open for business from 0900 to 1300 on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month. Come out for a visit and see what's new at the Air Guard.

## Do we have your Email address?

If you have an email address and haven't shared it with us, we would like to hear from you. Our email is safe, timely and informative. No spam or junk mail will be sent. Phone, write or send your name and email to us by one of the methods listed in the upper LH corner of this page.

You'll be doing us both a favor as every email address we get is one less paper copy we have to print and mail. There is a reason they call the letters that arrive in your mailbox "snail mail"; it's slow by modern standards. Sending mail through the post office today is more costly, more work, and takes much longer than email.

All that said, if you don't have a computer and don't want one, we understand. For those without email we will continue to send out paper copies of the newsletter to your home for as long as we can. However, you need to do your part by ensuring we have your current mailing address. If you move, we need to know!



## History Revisited

*This article appeared in the 162nd Fighter Group NEWS BULLETIN for 18 - 19 Oct 1958 Unit Training Assembly*

### OPEN HOUSE AND AIR SHOW:

The 18 October drill will consist mainly of preparations for the Open House, Dedication Ceremonies, and Air Show to be sponsored by this Group on the 19th. This event as planned will be the most elaborate and interesting affair of its kind ever to be presented in the great Southwest. It will include mass flyby of F-100's, static display of late model military jet aircraft, and aerial demonstrations by Bob Hoover of North American Aviation and by "The Minutemen".

### ATTENDANCE:

Maximum attendance is especially important this drill. Not only will everyone be needed to make this event go smoothly, but we as a unit will also be on display, not only to the viewing public, but to some of the big brass and high paid help from many front offices. Your cooperation and enthusiastic participation will be expected and appreciated.

**Editor's note:** "The Minute Men" identified in the **History Revisited** article at left were an Air National Guard aerial aerobatics team in the 1950's. Stationed at Buckley ANG Base in Denver, Colorado, The Minute Men first flew F-80C's, then transitioned to North American F-86F Sabre Jets. The F-86's performed at the 162nd open house in October 1958.



Many felt the routines performed by the Minute Men rivaled those of the Thunderbirds and Blue Angels.

## Tucson Air Guard 1956 - 2014



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