



the WIRE BENDER

Volume 3 Issue 2

June though December 2011



Guest speaker, BGen (Ret) Charles Bishop and his lovely wife Earla .

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FROM THE AMTA PRESIDENT ...

Number six reunion is in the books and what a great one it was. You cannot say enough for what Mike McLaughlin, Dan Sloan and Bob White accomplished. Everything was great except for one small bump and that happened just three weeks prior to the reunion when the Hilton Director of Sales and Marketing yanked our Hospitality Room from the AMTA and gave it to someone else. The Reunion Committee did not have time to renegotiate or even to try to find another hotel. The Hilton gave the AMTA a \$500 refund but that was pennies compared to what they had done to the AMTA. The Hilton has received a letter stating our dissatisfaction and future reunions in

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FROM THE AMTA SECRETARY...

Thanks to the AMTs and associates that have supported the AMTA over the years, whether as a member, contributing to our charitable fund raising efforts, or attending reunions. The highlight of the past year was another successful reunion in San Antonio, Texas. A couple of glitches such as having the hospitality room taken away three short weeks before the reunion was one. As a result half way through the reunion we were forced to move from two small rooms on the second floor to the original Hospitality Room. Reunion attendees made it easy. In about thirty minutes, they had everything downstairs and set up in the Hospitality Room. The t-shirt designs offered for the 2011 reunion were well received and approximately 110 were given out for donations. We

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



FROM THE MEMBER- SHIP CHAIRMAN . . .

The reunion is over and it was another great year. I saw a lot of friends from the last reunion, and even a few new faces. Webster's 1828 Dictionary says, "reun'ion: a second union, union formed anew after separation or discard; a reunion of parties or sects; Reunited. Did we reunite? I know I did! I was with two friends from my first duty assignments in the Air Force, one of them was my OJT trainer from 53 years ago. The AMT reunions have been a source of blessings. Being able to see old Air Force friends I have not seen in many years is truly meaningful and I hope meaningful to you as well. I hope you too encountered many friends -old and new.

Have you wondered what has happened to old friends and/or acquaintances of years gone by? We continue searching for those that flew as Airborne Maintenance Technicians on a daily basis. With help, we have obtained data on about half of the AMTs in the database. We still have a long way to go. Review the monthly list. Let me know if you can recall information about the individuals that are not presently available. Any information is appreciated. As we find more AMTs, our database information grows, and that means more contacts to assist in our search. The monthly list will continue even though we have published it numerous times. A lot of the 6994th AMTs left active duty after Vietnam and

have been difficult to find. The information that has been shared with me regarding the 6994th has been helpful in finding more AMTs.

We have run out of free search engines to find AMTs. The yellow and white pages are about all we have. If you know a helpful search engine that can assist, please let me know. The one that I joined required a monthly fee and was a total waste. I do not belong to Facebook or other social networks. What I do takes a majority of my computer time. If you belong to these social networks, and find something that can be of assistance, please give me a hand in this search. Helpful information would be name, address, phone numbers and/or email.

The AMTA is an outstanding organization. I do not make this statement solely on the fact I am a chairperson on this committee, but I say it because I truly believe it is outstanding and I have personally benefited from being a member of the AMTA. I have seen the benefits reaped by other members of the AMTA, by helping others to receive benefits they are now aware of



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but deserve and are entitled to. The AMTA is:

- Assisting others with lost documentation needed to receive benefits
- Supporting our active members and troops out of the country
- Supporting the Enlisted Widows' home at Eglin Air Force Base in Florida.

I encourage you to consider joining the AMTA. None of those working to ensure the success of the AMTA are rewarded in any way; money is spent only in the support of the above mentioned.

On a personal note, as we start this New Year, I hope you will be truly blessed in all you do. I hope the Lord holds you in His loving arms and that we will see and hear from each other very soon.

*Tom Joines
Membership Chairman*

My wife and I were sitting at a table after high school reunion, and she kept staring at a drunken man swigging his drink as he sat alone at a nearby table. I asked her, "Do you know him?"

"Yes", she sighed, "He's my old boy friend. I understand he took to drinking right after we split up those many years ago, and I hear he hasn't been sober since."

"My God!" I said, "Who would think a person could go on celebrating that long?"

..and then the fight started...

That the sky is brighter than the earth means little unless the earth itself is appreciated and enjoyed.

-Helen Keller

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
Joe Jesty - Director
Stan Aarhus - Director
Bill Wilson - Director (Permanent)
Del Jolly - Director (Permanent)

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San Antonio may or may not be held at the Hilton Hotel at the Airport. If we do have another reunion at the Hilton a very strong bargain will be met or we will go elsewhere. The world only has one AMTA and lots of hotels needing the business.

This will sound repetitive since everyone has heard it, but the AMTA elected four board members to serve on the AMTA board for another four years. The incumbents were re-elected which tells me we are either doing our jobs satisfactorily or at least you hope we are at this time. The officers remain as they were before, I was elected president again, while Whitey was elected vice-president and Mike and Bob were elected secretary and treasurer. In other words nothing changed since the last board member election. Each of us sincerely thanks the membership for having the confidence in us to do a good job for the AMTA. Each of us enjoy what we do and as long as our health holds out we will continue to work hard in our support for a great organization. Thanks to everyone. Mike has sent out an email asking about an AMTA reunion in 2012, possibly in the Omaha area. This is up to the AMTA membership and they will decide when and where to have the reunion. We tried this in 2010 and the membership's interest was not there for a reunion. We have AMTA members in the Omaha area that are willing to handle everything if the members decide to have a reunion in that area. Other places other than San Antonio it becomes a bit more difficult to find people ready to step up and take on the job of organizing a reunion. Mike will share the results of the poll shortly after it is complete. The poll will run for a maximum of two weeks to give everyone a chance to respond.

Thanks to the 165 AMTA members that do an outstanding job of always providing strong support to our outstanding organization.

*Johnnie Estes
President*

Intelligence is God given; Wisdom is the sum of our mistakes!

Unknown

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have about twenty shirts remaining in the memorabilia stock. If you are interested in obtaining one contact me at amtsec@amtassociation.org for sizes and colors that are available. We will have a new design for the next reunion. If you have ideas please share them. In the future, shirts will be printed on one side only to keep the cost down. During the 2011 AMTA general membership meeting the topic of possibly having a 2012 reunion was discussed. A show of hands from those with a preference was evenly split between yes or no and some did not offer an input. Subsequently, responses to a poll of AMTA members showed interest for a 2012 reunion is not sufficient to warrant pursuing it. This is further supported by the fact that approximately fifty percent of AMTA members did not respond at all. Another topic from the general membership meeting was the possibility of establishing an ongoing program and companion fund within the current AMTA structure. Candidates for the focus of this possible effort included educational assistance to AMT families and financial assistance to AMTs in need. Bill Wilson and I will investigate this issue to determine if enough interest warrants establishing this type program. We will focus on how it could be implemented and administered. I sincerely hope next year is kind to you and hope to see you at the next reunion. For those that have not been to an AMTA reunion, you have missed out on some great times, visits with old comrades, and old stories (some of which seem to get more embellished as time goes by).

*Michael B. McLaughlin
Secretary*

A veteran - whether active duty, retired, National Guard or Reserve - is someone who, at one point in his or her life, wrote a blank check made payable to "The United States of America" for an amount of "up to and including my life." That is Honor, and there are way too many people in this country who no longer understand it. -

Author Unknown

FROM THE AMTA VSO ...

Gentlemen, I would like to reach out to all AMTs and their families about a very, very important medical examination that we all need to have....I recently lost a veteran that I had with a disability claim several years ago. He died of Colon Cancer. According to his family, his doctor indicated that it was very likely that he would be alive today, if only he had not skipped having his Colon checked for cancers polyps at the recommended time. I've had three over the years and on the first one the doctor found three polyps and removed them during the examination. Who knows, he may have saved my life, since one was what they call pre-cancerous. The follow-on examinations all been clear. A doctor informed me that the state of Nebraska is 44th out of the 50 States and Washington, DC in percentage of people having a Colonoscopy, not very good. The examination is painless, but, yes the prep is not fun, but is also painless. Below is some information on what a Colonoscopy is. If you should have had one by now and haven't, do yourself and family a favor by scheduling one soon!

The following information is taken from the Veterans Affairs web site www.va.gov.

Colonoscopy is the endoscopic examination of the large bowel and the distal part of the small bowel with a CCD camera or a fiber optic camera on a flexible tube passed through the anus. It may provide a visual diagnosis (e.g. ulceration, polyps) and grants the opportunity for biopsy or removal of suspected lesions. Colonoscopy can remove polyps as small as one millimeter or less. Once polyps are removed, they can be studied with the

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**the WIREBENDER
Staff:**

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

AMTA Yahoo Group:

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/AMTAssociation/>

AMTA Website:

www.amtassociation.org*(Continued from page 3)*

aid of a microscope to determine if they are precancerous or not. Colonoscopy is similar to, but not the same as, sigmoidoscopy—the difference being related to which parts of the colon each can examine. A colonoscopy allows an examination of the entire colon (measuring four to five feet in length). A sigmoidoscopy allows an examination of the distal portion (final two feet) of the colon, which may be sufficient because benefits to colonoscopy (cancer survival) have been limited to the distal portion of the colon. The American Cancer Society “Guidelines for the Early Detection of Cancer” recommend, beginning at age 50, both men and women follow one of these testing schedules for screening to find colon polyps and cancer: 1. Flexible sigmoidoscopy every 5 years, or 2. Colonoscopy every 10 years, or 3. Double-contrast barium enema every 5 years, or 4. CT colonography (virtual colonoscopy) every 5 years. Virtual colonoscopy, which uses 2D and 3D imagery reconstructed from computed tomography (CT) scans or from nuclear magnetic resonance (MR) scans, is also possible, as a totally non-invasive medical test, although it is not standard and still under investigation regarding its diagnostic abilities. Furthermore, virtual colonoscopy does not allow for therapeutic maneuvers such as polyp/tumor removal or biopsy nor visualization of lesions smaller than 5 millimeters. If a growth or polyp is detected using CT colonography, a standard colonoscopy would still need to be performed. Colonoscopy is not recommended for patients having an active flare of ulcerative colitis or Crohn's disease to avoid a perforation of the colon. Additionally, surgeons have lately been using the term pouchoscopy to refer to a colonoscopy of the ileo-anal pouch. Please, get it done.

*John Hurst
Veterans Service Officer*

AMTA CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Friends, while thinking about what to write for this issue my thoughts are on the news and the world situation, particularly as it relates to the Jews in the nation of Israel. I believe that the doings of our God are centered on this people which Scripture tells us are His chosen people.

I believe that what our leaders do to that nation and those people will bring about a similar judgment from God on our nation. We need to ask God to give our leaders wisdom in their dealings with His chosen people.

Then another concern comes to mind. This has to do with the relationship we have with the God of the Bible. How does a person get another to look at or listen to what That Book has to tell us about a need for us to have this relationship? I remember telling guys where they could go with their stories about Jesus. I wasn't usually very nice.

But that God is the real one. When no other way was open He spoke to me Himself. That got my attention. I can't do that for you. All I can do is ask God to work in your hearts and maybe He'll get your attention like He got mine. He directed my attention to His Son Christ Jesus. I hope He'll do that for you too. So I'd just like to share some Scripture with you.

Romans 3:23 reads: "...for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,"

Romans 6:23 reads: "For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."

Romans 5:8 reads: "But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ [Jesus] died for us."

John 3:16 reads: "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life."

John 14:6 reads: "Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life, no one comes to the Father, but through Me."

1 Timothy 2: 3-6 reads: "This is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. For there is one God, *and* one mediator also between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave Himself as a ransom for all, the testimony *borne* at the proper time."

Hebrews 11:6 reads: "And without faith it is impossible to please God, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and *that* He is a rewarder of those who seek Him."

Ephesians 2:8-9 reads: "For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is a gift of God; not as a result of works, that no one should boast."

Romans 10: 9-10 reads: "...if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you shall be saved; for with the heart man believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses resulting in salvation."

Please be a reader of Scripture. Be a Berean in this; check out the Scriptures I've given you and read the text that goes with those Scriptures. The Bereans in Acts 17:11 checked what Paul shared and taught them to be sure the Scriptures actually said what Paul claimed they did. All of the Scripture I've shared with you comes from the New American Standard Bible.

It is my hope that this Scripture will result in all of you coming to know Christ Jesus as your Savior and Lord. May this also be an encouragement for you all to come to know more of the Scripture.

For more information please see: <http://carm.org/Christian-doctrine>

May you be blessed,

*Henry Leupp
Chaplain*

"I would remind you that extremism in the defense of liberty is no vice. "

"And let me remind you also that moderation in the pursuit of justice is no virtue."

Barry Goldwater

**FROM THE AMTA
TREASURER...**

Thanks to all of our AMTA members for your constant support that made 2011 a great year. The AMTA financial status is excellent. The bulk of our funds come from memberships, donations, silent auction and memorabilia. We normally make a small amount on the reunion banquet, but try to strike a good balance between the cost and what members are charged. The AMTA made its annual contribution to the Enlisted Widows Home in Shalimar, Florida in Feb 2011.

It was decided this year by the AMTA board members to support the "USO" in lieu of "Christmas for the Troops". Individuals within our membership donated \$1050.00 and a check will shortly be sent to the USO. The USO is definitely a worthy cause and by donating to the USO we are still supporting our servicemen and women of the military. Once again a huge thank you to all of our members that were able to donate to this cause.

Locating AMTs that are not present members of the AMTA is tough and time consuming process. We owe Tom Joines a special thank you in his never ending research for past AMTs. In 2011, we had 21 new/renewed memberships and 2 Life memberships. In addition to memberships, keeping the AMTA data base updated is an enormous task. Thanks to Johnnie Estes, Mike McLaughlin and Tom Joines in their tireless effort in updating our data base.

I trust everyone had a fantastic Thanksgiving and a very Merry Christmas in 2011. Although there is no AMTA reunion in 2012, I hope everyone will plan for the 2013 reunion. I encourage all of our AMTA members to try and join us. Our reunions are a great place to meet past friends, make new ones and likely bring back many memories for a lot of people. I appreciate the support of our entire membership, thank you! Have a great 2012.

*Robert J. White
Treasurer*

**FROM THE AMTA
VICE PRESIDENT...**

I hope all of you had a great summer and fall since our June newsletter. I was quite fortunate to spend three weeks (includes one week traveling) on a fishing trip to Canada with my two sisters (sisters are now cool) brother and brother-in-law. It was a terrific time with family! I can say we now have a freezer with Bass, Perch, Northern Pike and Walleye. Needless to say, some of it is now missing. As military members, we all know of the many family events, good and bad, that we missed while stationed at far flung posts around the world. This trip would more than likely not been able to happen before retirement. I urge you all, if you haven't already, to make sure you get together with family members and friends whenever possible and cherish the moments. It is also not unmanly or unwomanly to tell your family members you love them. One day you may not be able to.

I attended the AMTA Reunion in San Antonio in September and boy was that a hoot! I will once again encourage all of those that haven't been able to attend a reunion, to do so. You would be amazed at how the stories have expanded over the years. They are even better now. Another reason, are the great speakers we have had. This year's speaker, BGen (Ret) Charles Bishop, gave an excellent speech and was the highlight of the banquet. There is no doubt in my mind he would have been a good man to work for.

I wish the best to all of you in this brand new year.

*Mervin A. (Whitey) Gross
Vice President*

SPECIAL AMTA TIP

Special reporter Jim Hargrove sent in the following tip.

"For all you Seniors, Retired Military, Active Duty, Reserve and family members. Go to www.bradsdeals.com and you will find a list of businesses that offer discounts. At present there are

over 200 for military and 106 for seniors. It's well worth your time to check it out."

Editor's note. Just printed a coupon for \$10.00 off a \$25.00 purchase at Dick's Sporting Goods. Not bad.



I'm getting hungry just looking at this.



Keep all body parts inside the boat.



I was going to make this picture better, but Charlie's wife Lula told me to leave Charlie and Johnnie in it anyway.

Always remember to forget the troubles that pass your way;
BUT NEVER forget the blessings that come each day.

Unknown



You ordered what??



Silent Auction Item



Wonder how this thing works!?



A round up of the usual suspects.



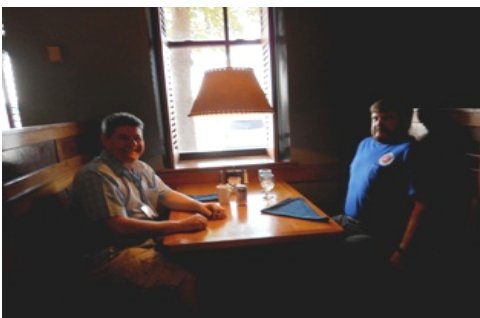
That's really a double Martini in that hot cup.



I have no idea what I said to her.



Sly grins means there is something extra in the glasses.



The darkest booth they could find.....

Life isn't about waiting for the storm to pass. It's about learning to dance in the rain .



No robberies when they were on duty.

What's to say about this trio?

I told you we would have fun.