



# THE RED SHIRT



PEACE THROUGH POWER - WE ARE THE "ARMS" OF THE FLEET

Newsletter No. 39

December 1990

## From The President

Things are moving right along for the convention. Beverly and myself made a visit to John Ascuga's Nugget in Sparks, NV and we think everyone will enjoy the facilities. The reunion book was put together by Beverly in September and mailed to the publisher. If you ordered one they should be out soon.

Our guest speaker for the 1991 AAO Convention is going to be Captain Michael L. Bowman, Commander Carrier Air Wing One, stationed at NAS Oceana, VA. He is an attack aviator who has spent most of his time on the west coast. He contributed articles to "The Red Shirt" several years ago and is a true friend and supporter of Aviation Ordnancemen. He would like to be an AO but doesn't meet any of our requirements. I think everyone will enjoy meeting him and his wife, Sally.

If your need to make reservations for travel or rooms at the convention contact: The Travel and Tour Company of San Diego, Inc. Phone (619) 463-3030 or 1-800-628-8487, state that you are with the Association of Aviation Ordnancemen and they will take care of you. One call does it all. Jim Thomas will have additional information in this newsletter.

I will be retiring 1 February 1991, 1400 at the Strike Fighter Weapons School, NAS Lemoore, CA, you are all welcome to attend. I will be leaving the Navy after 31 years, but I will never forget it or the great people that make-up this great Navy. I will always be an "AO" and I will

never forget all of you great men. **YOU ARE THE BEST!**

Hope to see you in February, if not, Beverly and I will see you at the "NUGGET" in June 1991.

LCDR Charles R. Onken  
President

## From the ROCKING CHAIR of the Secretary/Treasurer

I relieved Gerald Gannon on 7/8 September 1990 in Panama City, FL. It took two days to pick up on everything because I'm rather slow on adding and subtracting. But, in general the passdown went well and I have all the records, files, office supplies and equipment.

I have been very busy these short three months taking care of many details that require close scrutiny. BUT, the one thing that you can do to help me is: SEND ME YOUR CHANGE OF ADDRESS, when you move and relocate. I know that you active duty people move more than us retired folks, but it would be nice if the AAO was put on the things to do list when you relocate. This tidbit of information also applies to the retired folks when they relocate.....

As most of us already know, the AAO 1991 convention will be held in SPARKS, NV in June. Plan ahead and get ready to have a great time at the convention. Elaine and I will see you there.

To the Chapters: Keep up the good work on recruiting and sending in the applications. It is

*(See ROCKING CHAIR Page 2)*

### ASSOCIATION OF AVIATION ORDNANCEN NEWSLETTER

#### Editor:

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CDR Robert A. ASworth USN/RET 133 - H.L. Sudduth DR Panama City, FL 32404 (904) 871-1943

## ROCKING CHAIR . . .

(Continued from Page 1)

rewarding to see the AAO grow and just as much rewarding to see the young AO's sign up and see what the association is all about.

SEND THOSE CHANGES OF ADDRESS TO:  
**Association of Aviation Ordnancemen**  
**R.A. Ashworth Sec/Tres**  
**133 - H.L. Sudduth Drive**  
**Panama City, FL 32404**  
**Home (703) 871-1943**  
**FAX (904) 871-0888**

That's it. I hope this letter finds you all in good health.

Robert A. Ashworth  
Secretary/Treasurer



## SCHOLARSHIP NEWS



It is getting closer to convention time and even closer to when applications for the Robert L. Crow Scholarship Award **MUST** be submitted. Applications must be submitted no later than 1 June 1991 for this next year's convention.

Applications are available through your local chapter Secretary/Treasurer or from the National Secretary/Treasurer, Robert A. Ashworth 133 H.L. Sudduth Dr, Panama City, FL 32404.

A reminder of who's eligible:

1. Dependents or immediate family (brother/sister) of a member of associate member of the Association of Aviation Ordnancemen.
2. Dependents of a deceased Aviation Ordnanceman of the U.S. Navy or U.S. Marine Corps.

**DON'T WAIT UNTIL THE LAST MINUTE TO WORK UP YOUR APPLICATION.** Get one now and start filling it out and "FOLLOW THE INSTRUCTIONS.

Bob Underwood  
Scholarship Committee Co-Chairman



## The Latest Information for 1991 Convention and Travel Dollar Sense

**Delta Airlines** and **America West Airlines** are the Co-Official Carriers selected to support the 1991 Convention. Both airlines provide an excellent selection of flights into Reno, Nevada and are enthusiastic about supporting the association.

Negotiations are in their final stages with Rental Car Companies. The company selected will be announced in the February Newsletter.

Start making your plans NOW to attend the **1991 ORDIE CONVENTION** at John Ascuaga's **NUGGET, June 12 -16, 1991**. How many times have you heard me say this? I CAN NOT EMPHASIZE THIS ENOUGH! The room rates are set (\$48 - Roof Garden, \$58 - Courtyard Lodge, or \$78 - Hotel Tower) and will not change. The only change we are all faced with is Air Fares.

There are only two people who know what the air fares will be tomorrow ...God and the airline! If you are interested in purchasing the lowest possible air fare, Do Not Wait Until The Last Minute. The "Last Minute" is anytime within 45 days of your travel date. Just because a low fare is advertised "if purchased 21 days in advance"....You have no guarantee there will be any cheap seats left 21 days in advance! THE CHEAP SEATS SELL OUT AS MUCH AS 360 DAYS IN ADVANCE!!!!

Once you have purchased an airline ticket, you are in a "Win-Win" situation. If the air fare increases....you are protected at the fare already paid; if the air fare decreases....you simply take your ticket to the airline and have them re-issue it at the lower fare, and refund you the difference. The airline is the only one who can reissue a restricted ticket.

Hopefully the above information was helpful. Should you have any questions, Please call me on my **New Personal 800 Number, Monday thru Friday, 0900 - 1730 (PST)**.

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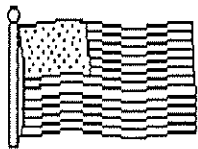
Remember, the Co-Official air lines are offering discounted fares into Reno, through The Travel and Tour Company of San Diego.

## ONE CALL DOES IT ALL!!

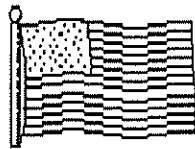
Jim Thomas

(800) 627-8487

(619) 463-3030 (San Diego County)



# TAPS



## AOCM DONALD R. CLARK USN, RET

One of the original members of the Association of Aviation Ordnancemen passed away on September 30, 1990.

Our condolences to Dan Vinson whose wife Nancy passed away on November 13, 1990 and to Dave Michel whose wife Helen passed away on December 3, 1990.



## Chapter 1

Due to transfers Chapter One has a new roster of officers.

President:.....AOC Mark Sawyer

Vice President:..... LTJg Wayne Stanley

Treasurer:.....AOCs Ron Thomas

Secretary:.....Phil Kershnik

Parliamentarian:..... LTJg John Wheat

We bid farewell to the following members and strong supporters of the Association and Chapter One:

LT Mike Taylor - transferred to VFA-125 Det Fallon, NV

Bob Underwood - transferred to PMTC Det Fallon, NV

Bill Overby - transferred to NWC China Lake, CA

Through the efforts of the Strike Fighter Weapons School, Pacific the Commander Light Attack Wing Pacific has instituted a new award to recognize and promote ordnance handling proficiency, professionalism and safety in LATWING-PAC squadrons. The new award is titled the Scott F. Kirby Ordnance Proficiency Award and is named after a Chief Ordnanceman who retired from the navy in February 1950.

Things have been a little slow for Chapter One, mostly due to members schedules. We are sure

the same things are affecting the rest of the chapters.

Til next time. Happy Holidays and smooth sailing to all.

Mark Sawyer

President

Chapter One

## Chapter 3

Chapter Three is going strong, presently involved in collecting food and cash for Thanksgiving and Christmas food baskets. We are also organizing an all Ordnanceman Basketball Team for competition in the Captains Cup Tournament schedule for this winter.

Our annual picnic at Rocky Point was a big hit, with David "SNUFFY" Smith tying the knot during the festivities. This wedding has to be a first for the Association. Congratulations to Snuffy and Mary and thank you for allowing us to share this day with you, it certainly added color, enjoyment, and even a few tears to the occasion.

Ron Ferguson, son of Dick and Betty Ferguson was awarded Chapters Three's Scholarship Award for \$250.00. Ron is presently attending Skagit Valley College.

The picnic also looked like a family reunion for Dave and Helen Michel with their kids and grand kids showing up by the carloads.

The Seventh Annual Christmas Party will be held on 20 December 1990 at the Northgate Terrace Club House, at 1800, with a special visit from Santa Clause who promises to be in town.

Our annual business meeting for the election of officers to president, secretary and treasurer was held in September. Chapter officers are now:

President:.....Doug Fyfe

Vice-President:..... Dave Michel

Secretary:.....Scott Palumbo

Treasurer:.....Ed Hanniffan

From all of us at Chapter Three in the Pacific Northwest, have a safe and enjoyable holiday season, and a very Merry Christmas and a prosperous and happy New Year to all of you AO's and families wherever you may be.

Doug Fyfe

President

Chapter Three

## Chapter 8

Greetings from San Diego!

After Surviving another convention we pressed on with our chapter plans for the summer. Prior to the convention Chapter Eight put on beer and dogs for the AO Product Improvement Program and a great time was had by all that came. Thanks again to CVW-11 Ordnancemen and all the PIP attendees.

We had a night at the ball park in August when Philly was in town and went to cheer our Padres to victory, but it was not to be, we had a good time anyway.

Our shipmate Tomas Rangle has transferred to Hawaii (poor baby) and AOCS (AW) J.J. Lamatrie from NAMTRAGRU 4033 NAS North Island was nominated and elected to the open position. We will miss Tom and Magie.

For all you Nimitz class Elevator operators and repair types, Mr. Steve Collier or Newport News shipbuilding was at the convention. He is the reliability and maintainability engineer for the Nimitz class carriers and is interested in getting input from the fleet on any aspect of improvement or recommendations for the weapons elevators and handling systems for the Nimitz class. His mailing address is:

Newport News Shipbuilding  
4101 Washington Ave  
Newport News, VA 23607  
Attn: Steve Collier  
Dept E64T, BLD 6, Deck 2

or you can call him at (804) 380-2657 between 0700 - 1600 EST, His FAX is (804) 380-2374.

Stop by if you are in the area, as always, we enjoy meeting with our shipmates. Our meetings are held on the first thursday of the month at FRA branch 61, 288 - 3rd AVE in Chula Vista, 1900 sharp!

Brian D. Leach  
President

## Chapter 13

Hello from Chapter 13 at NAF El Centro. Let me take a moment to introduce our officers:

President:.....AO1 Barb  
Vice-President:..... AO1 Cox

Secretary/Treasurer:.....AO3 Burgess

This is a new chapter with officers and members who have never been a part of the association before. We are winging it the best we can, and learning day by day. I would like to thank everyone for your patience.

Despite the fact that we have neglected in writing the red shirt, we have been busy in other areas. On 7 July 90 we held a car wash that raised over \$150 for our chapter.

AO1 Cox attended the convention in las vegas, representing Chapter 13. Though he went with little preparation, he returned with much new information which he shared with all members at our next chapter meeting.

NAF El Centro held a POW/MIA week the 17-23 of September activities included a 1.5k run, a memorial service held at the base chapel, and a missing man fly over. Chapter 13 actively participated in the memorial service. A wreath was presented by AO2 Shaw and AO3 Burgess, as well as reading of names of POW/MIA's by AOC Knight, AOC Horn and AO3 Burgess. The speaker for the event was AO1 (ret) Jess McElroy, a POW from the korean war.

On Halloween night members of chapter 13 rigged a "haunted garage" for the trick-or-treaters, at AO1 Barb's house. Rumor has it that the ghouls scared both children and adults. Fun was had by all. Who has or will be transferring: AOC Knight, AO1 Thill, AO2 Shaw. We wish you the best. Until next time.....

AO3 Kelly Burgess  
Sec/Treas  
Chapter 13

## Chapter 41

MUSHI-MOSHI from the USS MIDWAY "SHO-GUNS" CHAPTER 41.

Since the last News Letter a lot has changed within our Chapter. We have had elections of new officers which are:

President:..... Ens Kris B. Hancock  
Vice President:..... Ens Marcus Culver  
Secretary:.....AOC James Burks  
Treasurer:.....AOC Terry Wilkison  
Safety:.....AO1 Daniel Snyder.

I would like to take this opportunity to say

"THANK YOU for a JOB WELL DONE" to all the out going OFFICERS. Currently we are Deployed to OPERATION DESERT SHIELD" to operate in the North Arabian Sea, Gulf of Oman and Persian Gulf areas. The tempo of operations right now are high and we are ready for any type of resolution to the world crisis. The key out here is to remember all the years of training, to train the "New Ordies", and SAFETY IS FIRST, FOREMOST AND ALWAYS.

On the other end of the deployment we plan to have a "ORDIE BASH 91" and some fund raising projects.

"KEEP IT SAFE 'CAUSE WE CAN ROCK THE WORLD!"

SAYONARA,  
"THE SHOGUNS"  
Ens Kris B. Hancock  
President  
Chapter 41

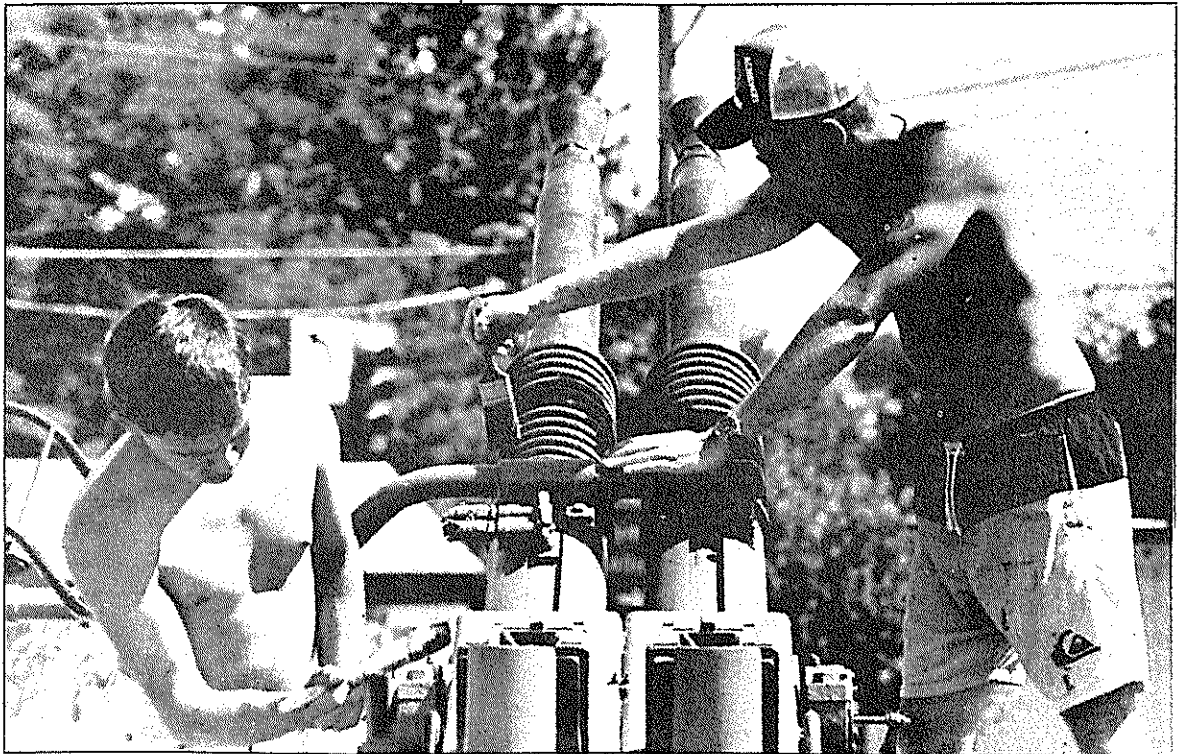
## Chapter 68

Greetings from USS Nimitz. We are currently finishing all our inspections/certifications and getting ready for WESTPAC, which may happen earlier than expected due to Operation Desert Shield intensifying. We are ready, willing and able to go today if called upon to do so. On a lighter note, the chapter has stayed busy with community involvement in the Bremerton, WA area. We spent a couple of days refurbishing and painting the guns that came off the USS Missouri, which are located on the main stream of traffic in West Bremerton. We also held a

fund drive/raffle for Navy Relief. We raffled off a new Winchester 12 gauge shotgun, and was able to raise \$200. for Navy Relief. Chuck Norris was just out here and received the grand tour of Nimitz, of course that tour consisted of touring forward assembly area. Needless to say he was quite impressed with how we do things onboard Nimitz. AO1 Lynch, Chapter President, presented him with an Association of Aviancemen patch and made him an honorary member of Chapter 68. We also thanked Mr. Norris for his support of a cause that Chapter 68 supports wholeheartedly, the MIA/POW issue. Recently a few members got involved in purchasing and wearing MIA/POW bracelets, keeping the issue alive until all MIA/POW's are accounted for or home.

We are presently at sea with our old friends in Airwing Nine. We continue to look for new ways to improve relationships between the civilian and military communities in Bremerton, WA and wherever Nimitz goes. Looking forward to our reunion with Chapter 12 in the P.I. Happy Holidays to all our other chapters.

AO1 Timothy J. Lynch  
President  
Chapter 68



*Steve Wilkowske photo*

A pair of volunteers from the ordnancemen association give a fresh coat of paint to the retired Navy guns that are mounted at Roosevelt Park. Members of the association say it's their way of paying back the city of Bremerton for hosting them.

## Chapter 70

AO1 (AW) Tom Lane is now the chapter President, with elections soon to follow. We have vacancies in every position so Carl Vinson is in the midst of restructuring. We have made a homeport change, bringing us to the brilliant skies of Bremerton, Washington. The ship is high and dry and overhaul is in full swing. The men of Weapons Department find themselves scattered throughout the ship in the various billets required for COH. Many faces have come and gone, when the dust settles we will put forth a membership drive and challenge our neighbor to the west of our pier (when she's here) USS Nimitz to some cheerful competition in whatever their good at losing in. We returned home from WestPac 90 July 31, and just know that Saddam made his move based on our timely (or untimely, depending upon the individual frame of mind) return to CONUS.

To our shipmates in harms way, our prayers and thoughts are with you. Should Carl Vinson be of any help to you we will give with a smile. I personally plan to spearhead a drive to encourage correspondence to the Aviation Ordnancemen on the front. I can and will speak for this chapter that we are extremely proud of all our men and their families who sacrifice so much so that there may be peace throughout. To you, we

send a heartfelt Happy Thanksgiving and a Merry Christmas.

Stephen J. Cotta



## EDITOR'S NOTE



I'd like to thank everyone for their patience with August's newsletter. Barring anymore third world nation take-overs, I should have the newsletter out on schedule from now on. The next scheduled newsletter is February, deadline for input is January 25, 1991. The last newsletter before the convention will be the May edition. It is my intention to have May's edition in the mail by May 3 because it will contain important convention information so the input deadline for it will be April 15, 1991.

This newsletter is here to serve you, the membership, so if you have any ideas on things you'd like to see please drop me a line or give me a call now that I'm home. Constructive criticism always accepted.

Start making you convention plans now! It's never too early!

Hoping your Holidays were joyous and wishing you the best of luck in the coming year.

Jeff Sassone  
Editor



Chapter 12 bids a fond farewell to CDR Del Oakes

ASSOCIATION OF AVIATION ORDNANCEMEN  
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Membership \$10.00 Per Year

MAIL TO:

Robert A. Ashworth  
133 H.L. Sudduth DR  
Panama City, FL 32404

Name \_\_\_\_\_ SSAN \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: Home/Work \_\_\_\_\_ Duty Station \_\_\_\_\_

Type Membership Desired:  Member  Associate Member

Member: Check Three

Associate Member: (Optional for member)

USN \_\_\_\_\_ ACTIVE \_\_\_\_\_ Employer \_\_\_\_\_

USNR \_\_\_\_\_ RETIRED \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_

USMC \_\_\_\_\_ EX-AO \_\_\_\_\_

USMCR \_\_\_\_\_ RANK \_\_\_\_\_ Occupation \_\_\_\_\_

RATE \_\_\_\_\_ Position \_\_\_\_\_

Dates Served: \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_

**Under the Freedom of Information Act:** I do / do not authorize release of my name, address and telephone number to other members or prospective members of the Association of Aviation Ordnancemen.

(Sponsor)

(Signed)

TEMPORARY RECEIPT

Member/Associate Member

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\$10.00 Received BY: \_\_\_\_\_

MAIL TO:

Robert A. Ashworth  
133 H.L. Sudduth DR  
Panama City, FL 32404

ASSOCIATION OF AVIATION ORDNANCEMEN

APPLICATION FOR LIFE MEMBERSHIP

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ SSAN \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP CODE \_\_\_\_\_

DATE OF BIRTH \_\_\_\_\_ MEMBER NO. \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed is my check for \$ \_\_\_\_\_ representing one-tenth of the total fee for my age group, as the first installment toward Life Membership in The Association of Aviation Ordnancemen. Please bill me for the remaining installments on a monthly basis.

Enclosed is my check for \$ \_\_\_\_\_ in full payment for Life Membership in The Association of Aviation Ordnancemen.

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_

MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO: ASSOCIATION OF AVIATION ORDNANCEMEN

Return this form with your first payment.

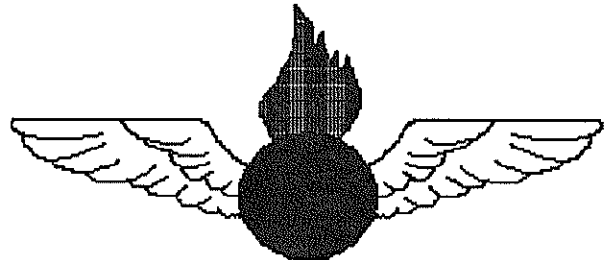
ASSOCIATION OF AVIATION ORDNANCEMEN  
APPLICATION FOR LIFE MEMBERSHIP

LIFE MEMBERSHIP costs are based on your age and are:

29 and Below	\$295	55 - 59 inc.	\$140
30 - 34 inc.	\$265	60 - 64 inc.	\$120
35 - 39 inc.	\$235	65 - 69 inc.	\$105
40 - 44 inc.	\$210	70 - 74 inc.	\$ 80
45 - 49 inc.	\$180	75 and Above	\$ 20
50 - 54 inc.	\$160		

You may pay the full LIFE MEMBERSHIP fee in one payment or in ten (10) equal monthly installments. If you prefer to pay monthly, you should send an initial installment of one-tenth of the total cost for your age group with this application. We will enter your LIFE MEMBERSHIP, send your Life Member card and bill you each month until the full fee is paid. You will then be a member of The ASSOCIATION OF AVIATION ORDNANCEMEN for life at no further cost.

In the event a member paying on the installment plan finds that for some reason he is unable to complete full payment within the time allowed, all monies paid will be credited toward paid up annual membership at the standard annual rate. (Presently \$10.00)



ASSOCIATION OF AVIATION ORDNANCEMEN  
ROBERT A. ASHWORTH SECRETARY/TREASURER  
133 H. L. SUDDUTH DR  
PANAMA CITY, FL 32404

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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

