



#### REUNION UPDATE

Folks, as you know work on the 50<sup>th</sup> Aggressor Anniversary Reunion is well under way. As a reminder the dates are 3-6 November in Las Vegas, basing out of the Sahara Hotel and Casino. Rooms can be reserved at this website for the Sahara:  
<https://book.passkey.com/e/50211879>

We are planning a hospitality suite open from Thursday, 3 Nov to Sunday morning, 6 Nov. This will be our area for casual conversation and visiting with old and new friends alike. Friday we are planning to spend most of the day at Nellis AFB attending the Aviation Nation Airshow celebrating the Air Force's 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and the Aggressor's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. They are planning to have static displays, an Air Power Demo with the Aggressors flying, the Thunderbirds (BTW, they have a new show and it is awesome), and we are working on a Show Line Chalet for everyone to take in the excitement. That evening we will continue with a gathering at the Sahara for an Aggressor Roll Call and then roll over to the hospitality suite. Saturday events are TBD, but of course the Grand Banquet that evening celebrating 50 years of Aggressor Tradition and History.

Your VP, Paul "Biff" Huffman is tasked with securing donations for our event. So far Industry is really stepping up to help defray some of the expenses for our gathering, and this will help us have a First Class Reunion and help keep your cost to a minimum. However, it's not like the Vegas of old, everything has gotten a lot pricier and Union rules and wages rule the day. So while this may not be a "cheap" Vegas weekend, we are working very hard to keep it manageable for everyone. Our goal is three-fold; 1) have a great reunion, 2) keep it affordable and 3) keep enough \$\$ in the Association account to provide a good balance sheet for the next

Board of Directors. Biff has requested that if any Aggressors have business contacts that we could offer our Sponsorship Package to please provide him a POC and contact info. Biff's contact info is listed at the end of this newsletter. THANKS!!

Our goal is to send out official invitations via email the first of May. This will be a 6 month lead time for the reunion. So, hope your plans are made and stand by for more details as we go through the process.

We are open to your comments and desires for this reunion. You can send any comments, suggestions or questions to [gomersrule@gmail.com](mailto:gomersrule@gmail.com) We will respond!

### REUNION HISTORY

The other thing that is unique about this reunion, it is the first time the Aggressor Association is involved in the process. In the past, all the reunion activity has been planned by the Aggressor Squadron(s). At the 45<sup>th</sup>, as you may remember, Pink Williams was instrumental in getting everything going and coordinated. He laid out his own \$\$\$\$ to reserve space and rooms and worked with the 64<sup>th</sup> POC's tirelessly. For those reasons, your Association was formed. It has been a challenge, and frankly a pleasure as well, to figure out how best to integrate the Association with the Squadron. Obviously, we hope the Association will be a constant in the on going evolution of the Aggressors, whereas the squadrons are always changing personnel. In the past the main issue was continuity. Seems the notes between reunions would get lost in the shuffle. Every 5 years it was a new learning curve for the "lucky" POC that got tasked with the job of putting on a reunion. Fortunately, we have a "Truck", Dan "Truck" Futryk, has been involved in almost every reunion since the first 5 year reunion. He is our main guy. The squadrons are involved and the 64<sup>th</sup> POC is Capt. Cal "Moose" Boerwinkle. He is an energetic young Capt and will do a great job. (Funny sidestory about Moose. When I first met him, he introduced himself as Moose Boerwinkle. I kinda grinned and said, "well, I understand how you got your Call Sign, Moose"! He said, yep I got Moose, but then had to go look up the Rocky and Bullwinkle cartoons to figure out why "Moose" made sense. Damn young kids....LOL)

The Bottom line is your membership dues in the Association has allowed us to secure a venue and date, have the initial funds to upfront much of the cost and get the process rolling based on our collective experiences. We are now working to integrate the squadrons and the Association into the final planning and execution of the reunion. Much to do, but, thanks to you, we have a solid foundation to work on.

### AGGRESSOR HISTORY

One of the main themes for our 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary is to have a solid history of the Aggressors. Squadrons, commanders, dates open and close etc. We hope to present much of this in a presentation at the main banquet. To this end, Reina Pennington and Yogi O'Neil have once again stepped up to help with our history presentation. Yogi has collected and has on-file

almost every piece of Aggressor history imaginable. Is a pretty cool collection! Here is Yogi's request:

"In a newsletter, I suggest you ask for aggressor updates of videos, photos, documents, etc. from 2018 to present. My collection of aggressor files is pretty complete and up to date as of Oct 2017.

I am willing to collect new files and then use and distribute them as appropriate. I only have free Dropbox (2gb limit) and email (25mb limit).

You are much more up to date on how to transfer large files than me. Other suggestions?

I am also willing to share my 150gb aggressor data with anyone who wants any part or all of it. Main Folders (with organized subfolders) include:

Aggressor Photos 1972-2017 (21gb)

Aggressor history documents 1972-2017 (232mb)

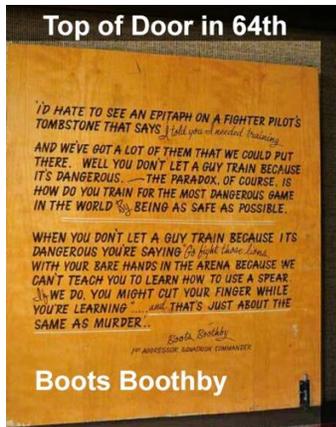
Aggressor Videos 1972-2017 (129gb) such as Red Flag (TUG) movie, making of aces, no points for second place, Real People TV, Prime Time TV, Know Your Enemy ABC TV, Aggressor 30th 35th 40th 45th Reunion videos, etc."

So, basically we are looking for pictures, data, history anything Aggressor related from 2018 on. Especially noteworthy will be info from the 18<sup>th</sup> AS, 26<sup>th</sup> SAS, 527 SAS, 57<sup>th</sup> IAS, 507<sup>th</sup> ADAS, and the 177<sup>th</sup> IAS, and of course from the 64<sup>th</sup> and 65<sup>th</sup> AS. We know a lot has happened in the last 5 years. Also, any old pictures etc. would be appreciated as well.

Folks, this is important, please pass along your photos etc. We want to include the whole Aggressor Nation in our history.

Information, pictures, video etc should be sent to Yogi O'Neil: [yogidad@yahoo.com](mailto:yogidad@yahoo.com) or Reina Pennington at [rjpvt@icloud.com](mailto:rjpvt@icloud.com)

Anyone Remember this? Some of Yogi's collection!



### Adversary Support in the News

Thanks to Biff Huffman who found this article in the “War Zone” magazine. Former 64<sup>th</sup> AS/CC Kevin “Shaggy” Wilson is an officer with Top Aces and instrumental in their acquisition of Israeli F-16s. Hope you enjoy the article, I did! Pretty much like our F-5s.....LOL

You can view it here: <https://www.thedrive.com/the-war-zone/44227/inside-the-worlds-only-privately-owned-f-16s-that-are-flying-as-advanced-aggressors>

### IN MEMORY

From Mike “Scotty” Scott:

Aggressors and Red Eagles: Gerry 'Huffer' Huff passed on 28 December 2021. Huffer was a Clark Aggressor during '76-'77. Then, following a short period as a Nellis Aggressor, in late'77, he was selected as an initial cadre member, Bandit 6, of the 4477th Red Eagles. For the past few years, Huffer had been living in a home in North Las Vegas while dealing with the effects of Alzheimer's.

We haven't seen an update of Huffer's funeral or Celebration of Life. If we get any details we will pass them along.

Bryan “Gerbil” Funke informed us that Roger Wells passed away recently. The following is a link to his Obit and information: [Roger Wells Obituary - Visitation & Funeral Information \(davis-smith.com\)](https://www.davis-smith.com/roger-wells-2021)

Roger was a key player in the forming of the Aggressors and most likely without his influence we would not be the organization that has lasted 50 years.

Nickel on the Grass to Gerry and Roger! Rest in Peace gentlemen!

Courtesy of Yogi O'Neil

.With the Passing of Roger Wells, I thought it would be nice to show a picture taken at the 45<sup>th</sup>



Reunion. This is a picture of many of the Charter Members of the Aggressors. Wish I had all the names but, unfortunately, I do not.

Also from Yogi is the recollection of Joe Burns of the 64<sup>th</sup> Charter Memory History:

Oct '72 to Nov '74 - USAF 64th Fighter Weapons Squadron

AGGRESSORS (T-38A, camouflaged for air-to-air) Nellis AFB, Nevada

Trips to DIA/CIA/FTD for intelligence research .

Wrote first Aggressor academics package briefings for 'Man & Training'/'Soviet Air Tactics'/'Soviet Aircraft'.

Charter Pilots and GCI: Earl Henderson, Ron Iverson, Jose Oberle, Tim Mikita, Mike Press, Chuck Johnston, Carmen Luisi, Ed Clements, Bud Hall, DL Smith, Kobe Mayo, Gene Jackson, Marty Cavato, Joe Gorecki, Rich Hardy, Nick Hobby, Roy Stuckey, Lt Skip Rosso, then Rick Jaep and POWs Tom Browning , Mike Brazelton  
GCI boss "Big Smitty" Smith.

414th Ftr Wpns School F-4 guys: **Roger Wells**, Moody Suter, Joe Hurd, Dick Myers, Gail Peck .

Squadron Commanders Boots Boothby, Jerry Nabors, Ted Laudice - 3 great commanders

Randy O'Neil was a GREAT Ops Officer!

The Aggressor mission was to fly like Soviet fighter pilots. One thing we learned was that often fighting the enemy airplane was easier than fighting the enemy pilot, i.e. a good pilot is more dangerous than a poorly flown high tech fighter.

This is a recap of a sample of the TDY trips I made.

Jan 1973 - T-38 Checkout at Columbus AFB, Mississippi, an Air Training Command base (Pilot Training). Ron Iverson, DL Smith, Joe Oberle and I went to Columbus for our checkout. All previous checkouts had been at Vance AFB, OK. We had a good time. We bought a bell for the stag bar, so the young pilots/student pilots could better learn the rule about being "covered" in the bar ,

Mar 1973 - Numerous TDYs – The Aggressor Road Show is born. Homestead AFB F-4 RTU

Jun 1973 - Numerous TDYs to MacDill AFB and Eglin AFB, FL . Both RTU and operational F-4 squadrons.

Jul 1973 - Edwards AFB, CA. Briefed US F-4 aircrews on Aggressor activities.

Aug 1973 - Early RED FLAG exercises supported by Aggressors flown in the areas north of Nellis . Flew several exercises against precursors of full-blown RED FLAG exercises against Navy, FWS, Israeli, US jets - A-7s, B-52s, F-8s, C-130s, F-4s, etc.

Aug '73 - First REAL River Rats Reunion at LV Convention Center – what an emotional and spectacular celebration to welcome our POW brothers back home.

The ringing of the Freedom Bell; all 3000 attendees play "deceased insect", 2500 yellow table napkins tied together while Patti Page sings "Tie a Yellow Ribbon 'Round the Old Oak Tree."

Sep 1973 - Seymour-Johnson AFB, NC . Operational F-4 squadrons.

Oct 1973 - Luke AFB, AZ Flew against the F-4 Instructor Pilot (IP) School (for RTU IPs).

73-'74 - Academics briefings (no flying) – Hill AFB, UT (F-4s); England AFB, LA (A-7s); Navy New Orleans (A-4s); Offutt AFB, NE (Guard A-7s); Terre Haute, IN/Sioux City, IA (Guard A-7s); the Pentagon and HQ Tac Air Command, Langley AFB.

Burns, Joe L

A pretty cool recount of what the early days were like. Except for the TDY's, I do believe the men and women of the Aggressors stay just as busy with training the TAF.---Dula

## AGGRESSOR ASSOCIATION NEWS

As you know we will be conducting elections for new Officers to take over the Association. Open positions are President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer. We also need to add positions of Website Manager and Newsletter Editor. Our elections will take place at the Business Meeting at the reunion, time to be announced. We need volunteers to take this Association to the next level. Please consider putting your name in the hat to help. I will be departing the President's Position in November and Dida Clifton will vacate the Treasurer's position. With her corporate knowledge, Dida has been instrumental in the development of the Association, but now she needs to get back to being a full time CEO. We will also lose Truck as he is retiring from reunion Chair. If we do not have volunteers by May we will then form a committee IAW our Charter to find the next leaders of the Association.

Additionally, we are studying the possibility of forming the Association as a 501(c) (3) or a 501(c)(19) nonprofit corporation. A c3 would provide us tax exempt status and allow individuals to make tax deductible donations. A c19 is a nonprofit corporation for Veteran's groups which will allow tax exempt status, however the requirements for taxable deductions becomes very specific and possibly labor intensive. If anyone has a working knowledge of these 2 types of 501(c) entities, I would appreciate hearing from you as there are pros and cons each way.

#### AGGRESSOR ASSOCIATION LEADERSHIP

PRESIDENT	Mark "Dula" DuLaney	<a href="mailto:dula737@aol.com">dula737@aol.com</a>
VICE PRESIDENT	Paul "Biff" Huffman	<a href="mailto:paul.e.huffman@gmail.com">paul.e.huffman@gmail.com</a>
SECRETARY	Sam "Frog" Clemens	<a href="mailto:froggi@gmail.com">froggi@gmail.com</a>
TREASURER	Dida Clifton	<a href="mailto:dida@theofficesquad.com">dida@theofficesquad.com</a>
MEMBERSHIP	Mark "Derelict" Stephens	<a href="mailto:sstefp@yahoo.com">sstefp@yahoo.com</a>
HISTORIAN	Reina Pennington	<a href="mailto:rjpvt@icloud.com">rjpvt@icloud.com</a>
REUNION CHAIR	Dan "Truck" Futryk	<a href="mailto:five2njoy@cox.net">five2njoy@cox.net</a>

Feel free to contact any of us with comments or questions.