

# MACS-8 REUNION

## St. Augustine, FL 2011



On September 14-18 MACS-8ers met at the Comfort Suites Inn, 42 San Marcos Avenue, Saint Augustine, Florida. The “oldest city in the United States, St. Augustine is quite an interesting city with a history dating back to when it was founded in 1565 by the Spanish Admiral Pedro Menendez de Aviles.

This reunion was superbly hosted by Pat and Anne Kearney. The weather cooperated with 90 degree sunny, but humid days, with a cooling breeze in the evening. Attendees totaled 43 with a short surprise visit from Mike Bury and wife Louise, who came on Saturday for an hour or so to see Jim (his Operations Crew Three buddy) and Carol Liston. Several folks drove to the reunion, the farthest travelers being Larry and Pam Fellows from Indiana, also Roy McCarley from Oklahoma and Roger Clark from New Hampshire. The Listons flew in from San Francisco.

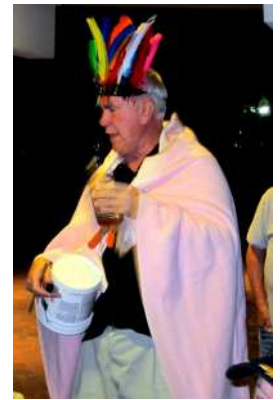
Our mode of travel from the motel to the historic sections of Saint Augustine was the “Old Town Trolley” which, after purchasing a 3 day ticket took us all over the city with a driver/guide telling everyone about the early Spanish influence in the town, the Catholic church, the architecture, the famous people such as explorer Ponce de Leon and his Fountain of Youth search, the millionaire Henry Flagler and his purchase of large parcels of land, where he built the Ponce de Leon Hotel (now the beautiful Flagler College), the Castillo de San Marcos fort, the Lightner Museum, and the many interesting stops and historic downtown shops, restaurants, etc. Also you could catch the “Beach Bus” and go over the Bridge of Lions (a bascule or drawbridge) that spans the intra coastal waterway to Anacostia Island and stops at A Street, where you could walk a block to the beach, sightsee at the Alligator Farm, climb up the 219 step St. Augustine Lighthouse, which some of us did (your editor, as I type this newsletter, still has sore leg muscles).



On Friday night, on the hotels patio we were visited by Chief Squat in the Woods of the local Timucuan tribe. Wearing his finest headdress and blanket and beating his tom tom he gave a speech denouncing his longtime nemesis from that fine city of Crawford, Mississippi Chief Crooked Foot Broken Knee as a phony Indian, a Hollywood Indian and finally worked himself into such a dither that he produced a formidable cork pistol and popped Tom Redus in the old keister!

And who will not remember Gerry Bockowski and his quest to determine if his dream was reality or not and asking if others had the same memory or who was Dave or don't you remember Greenwood from Maintenance?! A highlight for many of us was the attendance of 82 year old Mark Rybus brought to the reunion by his son, Dick. “Gunny” as we remember him was Maintenance Chief, but he retired as a Chief Warrant Officer. He is in good health and is as spry as most of us who are 68 year olds.

The banquet was held at the A1A Ale Works on Saturday night where everyone enjoyed a delicious buffet and chocolate cake or key lime cheesecake. After dinner Tom Redus read a list of 6 MACS-8 Marines who in the past year have gone before us. Tom Eggleston, Tim Enders Sr., Richard Gerling, James H. Fox, George Sloss, and Zed Z. Smith. During the business meeting Len Patchin wondered about the future of the plaques and that a permanent place should be found where those who have passed will be remembered. What will happen when there is one last man standing? Should another wooden plaque be bought? Motions to not continue adding the engraved plates to the memoriam plaques was passed. A more mobile possibility is to list them on the Internet. Mack Thornton stated he will take the plaques to Pensacola where hopefully they will be displayed so MACS-8 members will have a place of honor.



Another issue was the MACS-8.org website, which for over a year has not been updated and is costly. Kent Miller is looking into a future blog site that would be gratis. Bob Jordan and Bob Biles are going to host the 2012 reunion at Hot Springs, Arkansas in September. The fund raising raffle had many nice gifts brought by everyone. To list a couple, Larry Benoit won several gifts namely a leather duffle bag embroidered with the USMC logo and an eagle figurine, Roy McCarley's grandson Hunter won a beautiful painted eagle, globe and anchor turkey feather and a watch, Len Patchin won the large MACS-8 hand knitted afghan by Cindy Burrier, but then donated it back to be won by Kent and Jennifer Miller.

The camaraderie among the attendees and the fun time we had cannot be understated. The interesting conversations and the stories about our MACS-8 experiences bring back memories. Our spouses enjoyed the shopping of course, but the gals had a lot to talk about also. The original goal of Tom and Margie Redus was to get all the men who served together over 45 years ago to annually meet and to see other places in the U.S. and have a good time for a few days with your MACS-8 buddies. It is hoped that next year more of you who have not been to a reunion and those who have been once or twice will, if able, come and share this amazing experience.. *Kent (KA) Miller - Dedicated to the memory of my Gunny Jack (Frosty Morn) Hollis*

## 18th Reunion Photos...





Ray Karvonen and Tom Plantz



Larry Benoit and Tom Redus



Kent Parker and Judy Illich



Mike and Louise Bury



Jennifer Miller, Larry Benoit, Johnny Freeman and Rose Benoit



Historic District - Tom Redus, Gerry Bockowski, Kent Parker, Judy Illich, Anne and Pat Keamey



Gerry Bockowski, Tom Redus and Mark Rybus



St. Augustine Beach, Anacostia Island Kent and Jennifer Miller



Windy! Pam Fellows and Pat Ferguson



St. Augustine Lighthouse and Coast Guard Barracks  
Margie Redus, Judy Illich and Jennifer Miller



Waiting on the Old Town Trolley  
San Marcos Avenue



Margie Redus, Judy Illich, Kent Parker, Roy McCarley, Roger Clark and in the background Sue Jordan



# Banquet Night...



Jim and Carol Liston - John and Pat Ferguson



Edna Karvonen, Bonnie Biles, Roger Clark, Bob Biles



Rose and Larry Benoit, Chick Pendergraft, Joanne Grabowski and Pam Fellows



Mark Rybus and son Dick



Gerry Bockowski, Jennifer Miller, Judy Illich and Kent Parker



Margie and Tom Redus



Sig Stenmark and Len Patchin



Larry Fellows, Pat and Johnny Freeman



Joann and Gene Grabowski



Roy McCarley and grandson Hunter, Tom Plantz, and Mack and Etha Thornton



Pat and John Ferguson



# Those Who Proudly Attended....

Pat and Anne Kearney

Larry and Rose Benoit

Tom and Margie Redus

Mike and Louise Bury

Johnny and Pat Freeman

Kent (K. A.) and Jennifer Miller

Jim and Carol Liston

Chick and Mary Ann Pendergraft

Gene and Joann Grabowski

Sig Stenmark

Len Patchin

Roger Clark

Gerry Bockowski

Tom Plantz

Kent Parker and Judy Illich

Larry and Pam Fellows

Bob and Sue Jordan

Ray and Edna Karvonen

John and Pat Ferguson

Roy McCarley and grandson Hunter

Mack and Etha Thornton

Mark Rybus and son Dick

Bob and Bonnie Biles

*Next year's reunion will be in September at Hot Springs, Arkansas..*



**MARINES**  
**THE FEW. THE PROUD.**

# MACS-8 Memorial

1. Melvin Scott

Ralph M. Pateman

Jack N. Hollis

D. E. Chewning

Wm. (Hank) Henry

J. A. Watson

R. E. McBrayer

Ken Leslie

Jason Warren

10. Ken Mathis

E. A. Parker

Joseph Thornton

Paul E. Shea

Raymond Gentry

Joe Nabors

Donald Schebell

Peter Herera

Pete Baker

David Barton

20. Harold Bartenbach

Al W. Martin

G. L. Tauber

Chauncey Howell

Jim Petcel

Roscoe Johns

Robert T. Glass

E. H. Winchester

Ralph E. Splinter

Allen R. Semb

30. J.R. Steinmiller

W. H. Sbrocco

Bob Pritprock

Bill Wilkison

Frank Johnson

Claudia Ladner

Kenneth Truman

Jim Clark

Bob Petrovicz

Anthony Root

40. Carl Honea

Paul Northcutt

Paul Greenlee

Michael Gozdan

Joe A. Wilfong

Joseph (Joe) Moat

Richard Struble

Bruce Clinton

Jerry Moe

Rich Boggiano

50. Cliff Kato

Robert Carlisle

Karl Lichtenberger

Joseph Goddard

Henry Rutledge

Herbert C. Hale

Ron Bragdon

David Brissey

Bert Lancaster

Ray Frady

60. W. D. Virgin

A. A. Stracener

George Turner

William Mangum

Olin Duckett

E. L. Barker

Tom Asbjornsen

Gary Burrier

Thomas Sterling

John Etherington

70. Ron Pereira

Bob Gruber

Paul D. Liston

Tim Enders, Sr.

Richard Gerling

Tom Eggleston

James H. Fox

George Sloss

Zed Z. Smith

