



# *The Stratojet Newsletter*

November 2010 Volume 34

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*For Those Who Designed, Built, Flew, Maintained and Loved the B-47*



*A true highlight of the 2010 Reunion was the opportunity to visit the cockpit of the Strategic Air & Space Museum's B-47. Everyone who was willing and able climbed the ladder and spent as much time as desired. The line was never long and the smiles were big and wide. The Museum restoration team has done a wonderful job on the interior and we are anxious to see the airplane when completely finished. The Association deposited \$5000.00 in the SA&SM's B-47 restoration account after the reunion.*

## ***From A Former President***

*It seems that as we grow older, each reunion becomes more pleasantly poignant as we visit with old friends and discuss old memories. Our reunion at Omaha was a terrific success in large measure due to the terrific work Dick Purdum did in both planning and execution.*

*Sadly, frequent topics of conversation are names of those who have left us since the last reunion. We miss them on a personal basis but their increasing numbers cause us to think about the future of the Association and how we can continue the mission of preservation of the historical heritage of the B-47 after those of us who had a personal experience with the bird are gone. To that end, our board has discussed three goals aimed at perpetuating the association as long as possible.*

*First, Dick Purdum, membership chairman makes an extensive effort each year to keep our membership up and bring in new members. He and the board, however, have concluded that one of the best ways to do this would be to seek out existing Bomb Wing*

*...continued on page 4*



### **B-47 Stratojet Association Officers**

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### **Board of Governors**

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## ***Roll Call of Honor***

**Edwin C. Eggert, Jr.**, St. Petersburg FL, served with the 367th Bomb Squadron.

**Linda Irvine**, the "Reunion Brat", passed away on 5 July 2010 after a long illness. She had assisted with our reunion planning for the last eight years.

**Robert B. Lamb**, Conneaut OH, served with the 367th Bomb Squadron. Bob was a regular at the reunions and his gentle manner and wit will be missed.

**Roger K. Moll**, Naples FL, passed away on 27 June 2010.

**John Quine**, Meriden, CT, passed away on 2 February 2011. He was with 310th BW at Smoky Hill. "Moose," as he was known to his friends in SAC, and wife, Sandy, were regulars at our reunions over the years.

### ***New Directory In The Spring***

A new edition of the Association Directory will be published this spring. Please let Bob Griffiths or Dick Purdum know if you have changed address, email, or telephone number in the past two years.

### ***Special Thanks***

The Association would like to thank Richard Carmer of *Picture Phoenix* for allowing us to use some of his photographs in this issue of the Newsletter. Richard specializes in military reunion photography and provided a wonderful service at our reunion in Omaha.

## ***Important Reminders***

- **Pay your dues for 2011** (the number on your mailing label indicates the year through which you are paid-up).
- Send dues to Bob Griffiths, Treasurer.
- Send address, email, & telephone corrections to Bob Griffiths.
- Send newsletter articles, photos, news about members, etc. to Mike Habermehl, Editor.

The B-47 Stratojet Newsletter is published three times each year. It is intended solely for the enjoyment, camaraderie, and enlightenment of the membership of the B-47 Stratojet Association. Requests to use or reprint any portion of the contents should be directed to the Editor. Contributions of material to the Newsletter should be sent to the Editor, B-47 Stratojet Newsletter, P. O. Box 1144, Brenham, TX 77834-1144, cmhs@sbcglobal.net.

**Association Website - <http://www.b-47.com>**

## Business Meeting Minutes

**B-47 Stratojet Association Board of Governors**  
**Holiday Inn, Omaha Convention Center**  
**Thursday, 23 September 2010, 3:00-5:00 PM**

### I. Reports

**Membership** (Dick Purdum) – The Association currently has 823 members in every state of the Union except Alaska, including one member in Puerto Rico. Of this total 426 are lifetime members. Several new members have been added recently, largely as a result of 2010 Reunion notices being published in several magazines. In 2009 past dues were collected from 40 people for a total of \$1,970, and in 2010 \$1,370 from 22 people. (Every year there are fewer people to contact since most of those contacted opt either for a two-year or lifetime membership.) It is highly probable that these combined amounts – \$3,340 – would not have been collected at all without personal follow-up with each of these members.

*Action: All members must be encouraged to promote The B-47 Stratojet Association so as to renew and replenish its aging membership. This focus is to be supported through on-going articles published in the Newsletter soliciting new members.*

**Financial** (Bob Griffiths) – Bob's report was in consonance with Dick's. The Association's membership decreases about 7% per year on average. One-half of our members are "lifetime" and therefore pay no annual dues. Our yearly income is approximately \$6,200 per year, plus \$200 annually from interest earned on our CD. PX sales generate about \$600 per year, so that the Association has nearly \$7,000 to spend each year. Newsletters and postage combined run about \$6,000 per year, so this means our expenses will equal our income in about 3 years. The Association will then have to start using savings (CD) funds which, in view of diminishing dues income, means the total value of our CD will be consumed in roughly 15 years.

*Action: The Association can take either of two approaches to this financial dilemma: increase income or reduce costs. The Board agreed not to increase dues at this time; therefore, it is costs that must be reduced. While the Newsletter and Directory are very popular and vital to the cohesion of the Association's membership, these are the only areas for significant cost reductions. The best method for accomplishing this is to explore how best to publish these publications through the Association's website. Finally, it was agreed that all future Association activities (i.e., reunions), must be so conducted so as to be at least self-sustaining or, better yet, profitable.*

**Newsletter** (Mike Habermehl) – Three Association Newsletters are being published each year; the next (2010-2011?) Directory is still in preparation. Mike has taken the initiative to solicit quotes from other printers to determine whether a better "product" with significant cost reductions can be accomplished. The Board discussed the economic feasibility of going to a better ("slick") paper for the Newsletter for the sake of better pictures in this publication; however, it was

agreed Mike should be allowed to gather all the quotes he has solicited and to present them to the Board for evaluation. This action will be consistent with Bob Griffith's recommendation that publication costs for the Newsletter be explored for potential savings. Also, the Board asked that Mike and Jim Diamond jointly look into cost savings by publishing the Newsletter through the Association's website.

*Action: Mike to provide his recommendations to the Board after alternate printer quotes have been received; also, to work with Jim Diamond to publish the Newsletter through the Association's website.*

**Website** (Jim Diamond) – Jim is responsible to maintain the Association's website (<http://www.b-47.com/>), and regularly solicits members at large to contribute photos, stories, or anecdotes to keep it fresh and interesting. He related how the website is often accessed by non-members who are attracted to it by its identity with the B-47. This has resulted in some of these visitors joining the Association. Jim expressed enthusiasm and a can-do spirit concerning ways the website can be used to expand our group's outreach to members and the public, especially with regard to publishing the Association's Newsletter.

*Action: As of this writing, Jim has already shown how the Newsletter will appear on everyone's computer (ref. his email dated 09/26/10). He and Mike working together is likely to realize significant savings in "paper" publication costs, as well as to expand the Association's outreach to potential new members. Paper newsletters will still be mailed to members who do not have access to the internet.*

### II. 2012 Reunion

Tucson, Arizona was selected as the site for the 2012 reunion. Bill Clark is the contact for that event. His email is [clark3wl@yahoo.com](mailto:clark3wl@yahoo.com).

### III. Merging with Bomb Wings

Agreement was reached that the Association should once again approach various B-47 Bomb Wing groups about merging with The B-47 Stratojet Association. Advantages would include:

- Building membership.
- The economy of larger numbers.
- Merging could "energize" reunions through interaction with other Bomb Wings.
- Separate identities could still be maintained through the Newsletter.

*Action: Formal and informal contacts should be made with B-47 Bomb Groups to seriously consider all advantages to be gained through a unified identity and membership. Success or failure of this initiative will determine whether Association membership dues must be increased at some point in the future.*

### IV. Designation of SASM as Official Repository for Association Memorabilia

...continued page 10



## B-47 Stratojet Association

Balance Sheet  
17 September 2010Assets

## Current Assets:

Cash	\$13,567.00
Short Term Investments	\$50,995.29

Total Current Assets	\$64,562.44
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Long-Term Assets	\$ 0.00
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Total Assets	\$64,562.44
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Liabilities

## Current Liabilities:

Total current Liabilities	\$ 0.00
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Long-Term Liabilities	\$ 0.00
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Total Liabilities	\$ 0.00
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NET LIABILITIES & ASSETS	\$64,562.44
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Note: Above figures include \$40,900 for 415 prepaid Lifetime Member dues.

## B-47 Stratojet Association

Income Statement  
As of 17 September 2010

## 2009 Year End

Total Assets	\$61,609.73
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## Receipts:

Memberships	\$ 9550.00
Merchandise Sales	\$ 537.00
Donations	\$ 130.00
Reunion	\$ 2,565.00

Total Receipts	\$12,782.50
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## Expenses:

Newsletters	\$ 4,272.76
Reunion Expenses	\$ 2,577.02
Postage	\$ 1,669.47
Restoration Fund	\$ 1,000.00
Internet & Misc.	\$ 310.00

Total Expenses	\$ 9,829.79
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17 September 2010 Balance	\$64,562.44
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Note: Receipts over Expenses were \$2,952.71 thru 17 September. Final Reunion and Newsletter expenses are not included.

Associations and encourage them to join the B-47 Stratojet Association. They, like we, are decreasing in numbers due to attrition, and will soon reach a time when it won't be practical to hold individual reunions. We welcome any such association to join us and to promote that, we will automatically give that association a seat on the Board of Directors and do what we can to accommodate them so they can enjoy forthcoming reunions yet have some type of private formation for their existing group. Thus, we can use your help in two ways: (a) invite your friends to join (b) encourage your own bomb wing association to affiliate with us.

Finances are a second issue to be addressed. Secretary/Treasurer Bob Griffiths did a thorough analysis of our present and future financial position. To put it in a nutshell, we are in good shape now, but as time moves on and more members are lost in about three years, we'll have to begin dipping into our savings (primarily from Lifetime Members dues). Obviously, there is a limit to that. More members would help but there's another possibility that we discussed at the reunion business meeting, and that is a simple matter of voluntary contributions. The B-47 Stratojet Association is a 501-C-3 organization and thus, all contributions are deductible. Your voluntary gift sent to Bob

Griffiths can be very helpful in extending the life and mission of the Association.

Finally, accepting the reality that even a max effort at the above two efforts will not keep us alive forever, the Board has chosen to designate the Strategic Air and Space Museum as our "heir." This means that if, in the future, the association is disbanded, any assets we have will go to the museum which has treated us so well on the occasion of our two reunions in Omaha. They are also the only museum with a real bomber version of the B-47E under cover and it is next for full restoration. In the meantime, if you have memorabilia to leave, we encourage you to think of the museum which we believe is the ideal point of collection for such material and in displaying it, extend our association's mission by preserving the heritage for future generations.

We who worked with and loved the B-47 hope that it will always be remembered for its role in preserving the freedom of our nation. We understood the importance of accomplishing the mission. My three suggestions, more members, more money, and pass things on to the museum will each help us accomplish our mission.

Don Cassidy

## Reunion 2010 Scrapbook





















The Board discussed and agreed that the Strategic Air and Space Museum (SASM) shall be the official repository for all B-47 memorabilia contributed by Association members.

*Action: Dick Purdum is designated the Association's official liaison with SASM. He will negotiate with the museum director and curator to appropriate contacts and procedures to facilitate donations of memorabilia, ensuring that due credit is given the Association for all items to be put on exhibit within the museum. Association support to the museum for this arrangement could be a showcase, signage, archive fees, display handouts, as may be negotiated. The Newsletter can be used to inform the membership of this arrangement.*

#### V. SASM B-47 Restoration Effort

It was agreed the Association's membership should be kept informed of SASM's effort in this project. With Dick Purdum as the official liaison with the museum, progress reports can be published via the Newsletter, informing of . . .

- Funds yet needed.
- Funds donated to date
- Missing B-47 parts
- Schedule of completion of restoration effort

*Action: Dick will monitor SASM's ongoing efforts to restore its B-47, and obtain status reports, funds received/still needed, updates on missing parts, and a current schedule of events leading to completion of this project.*

#### VI. Revision to Constitution By-Laws

Board approval was given to the following revisions to the constitution:

- Revise wording to reference "Secretary/Treasurer" instead of "Secretary" or "Treasurer."
- Revise wording to clarify that telephone (or video) conferencing can be utilized to allow board members unable to attend business meetings to participate in business agenda discussions or to meet quorum requirements. (Present quorum requirements were discussed, but left unchanged.)

#### VII. New Officers

The following were designated as officers of The B-47 Stratojet Association for 2010-2012:

- Sigmund Alexander – President
- David Hitchcock – Vice President
- Bob Griffiths – Secretary/Treasurer
- Dick Purdum – Membership, SASM Liaison
- Mike Habermehl – Newsletter Editor
- Jim Diamond – Website Editor

The foregoing items were presented to the membership at large in the General Business Meeting conducted Saturday, 9-12:00 p.m., September 25, 2010. Concurrence with Board actions was voiced by the membership, and the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,  
David Hitchcock, Vice-President  
B-47 Stratojet Association

## Supply Room

Items are available from George Brierley, 3661 Packard Rd., Niagara Falls, NY 14303. Make checks payable to the B-47 Stratojet Association. **Please ADD \$3.00 for shipping and handling**



Association Pin - \$10.00

2008 Reunion Coin  
\$10.00



Association Coaster (2) - \$2.50

Mug - Association "Horn Button" emblem on reverse side - \$10.00



Association Mouse Pad  
\$3.00

Cap (Blue)  
\$10.00



Tote Bag from 2008 Reunion at Marietta (side pockets, carrying strap, Association logo)

\$10.00



Association T-Shirt With Pocket - \$17.00 (Size -M,L,XL)



Shirt Front



Shirt Back





### The Stratojet Newsletter

The B-47 Memorial Bench sits near the nose of the Stratojet displayed at the Strategic Air & Space Museum. It is very attractive and many members admired and/or sat on it while visiting with old friends and inspecting the work done on the airplane. The Association placed the bench in the museum several years ago and it has served us and B-47 history very well.

## Application For Membership - The B-47 Stratojet Association

- ☐ New Member  
☐ Renewal (Fill in Name only, and address data if changed)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth (for life members): \_\_\_\_\_

Military - Your Position In The Air Force: \_\_\_\_\_

Bomb Wing(s) You Served With:

\_\_\_\_\_ BW from \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ BW from \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ BW from \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_

Civilian - Position/Job \_\_\_\_\_ Company: \_\_\_\_\_  
 From \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

### Dues

One Year: \$15.00

#### Life Memberships

Age	Dues
59 & under	\$300
60-64	\$250
65-69	\$200
70-74	\$150
75-79	\$100
80 & up	\$ 50

**Dues are payable each January.**

Payments and this form should be mailed to:

Bob Griffiths, Treasurer/B-47 Stratojet Assn.  
 303 Double Eagle Road  
 Burgaw, NC 28425-8559

~This form may be copied to avoid cutting newsletter~



B-47 Stratojet Association  
P. O. Box 1144  
Brenham, TX  
77834-1144

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*Pretty from any angle, the lines of the Stratojet are emphasized in this photo over the Kansas countryside. This brand new B-47A, the first one (49-1900) would soon be involved in service testing in **Project Wibac**.*

*Photo: Boeing*

***Pay Your Dues For 2011 Today  
2012 Reunion - Tucson AZ***