

THE HOF CONNECTION

NewsLetter

July, 2002

LAS VEGAS REUNION OCTOBER 6-10, 2003

More than 300 Association members have already indicated they will be participating in the 2003 Hof Reunion to be held in Las Vegas. A Hotel-Casino has not yet been selected. The Association will solicit proposals from several Hotel/Casino's with the capacity to host a reunion event for up to 700 participants. The Board of Directors will select a host hotel in November after all proposals have been received and rate bids evaluated. Complete details will be published in the January, Hof Connection Newsletter.

HOF/SAALE REUNION PARTICIPATION

More than 140 Association members will travel to Hof/Saale for the September reunion. We will be joined by approximately 60 German Guest and Association members living in Germany for a Banquet Gala, September 19th, 2002.. Reunion activities will kick off September 16th with the Buergermeisters Reception at the Rathaus followed by a Television-News Media covered ceremony in Fernweh Park. City markers/signs that reunion participants provide will be placed on a pole, dedicated to the Association, in Fernweh Park.

Tuesday will begin with a bus tour to Moedlareuth, Doebraberg, and the Hof Kaserne for a visit and lunch . (Approximately 7 hours) In the evening, Group Dinners will be held at different locations in Hof. Details will be posted at the Quality Hotel. Sponsors and Widows should be prepared to give a 3 to 4 minute talk about their memories and life since departing Hof.

Wednesday is Tour 2 to the Tettau Porcelain Factory and the Hummel Factory and Museum. We will join the Tettau Buergermeister for lunch and tour participants will have a choice of Lasagna, Schnitzel w/Pommesfrites, Cordonbleu w/ 2 side dishes, or Lendchen (pork roast) w/ Champignon & Peppersauce. (Yum) This tour will be approximately 10-12 hours.

We will save the remainder of the reunion program as a surprise for the folks traveling to Hof for this memorable get together. The reunion is truly an opportunity of a lifetime. This may be the last reunion to be held in Hof. The story will be continued in the January, Hof Connection Newsletter.

**MANFRED KOEHLER WILL PUBLISH A REUNION ARTICAL IN PRO HOF MAGAZINE
SEPTEMBER 2, 2002**

278 MEMBERS RETURN BALLOTS

261 Elect Board of Directors while 17 Abstain from Voting

Tom Bryson.....President
Tom Nickerson.....1st V.P.
Jim Patterson.....,2nd V.P.
Dan Scanny.....3rd V.P.
Sam Suber (Deceased)..Treasurer
Chuck Wilson..... Secretary
C.A. RussellMembership Chair

Publicity Chairman.....Ted Bey
Photo Page...Mike Becker

Web Master.....Barry Springsteen
Sgt of Arms... Bob Alekson & Tony Donofrio

A couple of minor procedural changes have been made since selection of our newly elected Board of Directors. The Executive Board voted to raise the FY 2003 annual dues to \$15.00. The increase is necessary to cover rising US Postal rates, printing cost, insurance , people seaches and other operating expenses. Another change is the frequency with which the Master Hof Roster will be mailed to members. The Executive Board voted to provide a hard copy of the Master Hof Roster with initial membership in the Association and anually upon renewal of membership. Email copies may be provided to Association members in good standing upon request.

If the \$15 a year annual membership fee will create a financial hardship for any person meeting Association membership criteria, the Executive Board may grant a FREE membership upon request by the individual.

PRESIDENT: Tom Bryson

"Don't give the Master Hof Roster to non-members."

"We few, we happy few; we band of brothers..." for aren't we all brothers who served in a single place over a period of nervous years facing the strength of the Russian Bear? Or so we thought at the time. That the bear turned out to be a paper tiger does not lessen our contribution or Brotherhood. Therefore, we have engendered and grown the Hof Reunion Association, whose purpose is to maintain those connections so dear to veterans of any conflict at any time.

Every organization must have a source of income and a budget to achieve its goal. Ours is a membership fee to maintain a means of communication and provide information, which is not always free. This publication and the Master Hof Roster are also not free. Not free to the Executive Board, not free to paid members, and should not be free or available to nonpaying former Hof colleagues.

Should not be available to non-members or unpaid colleagues. Please remember that phase. The more people who are able to get the "free copy" from one of us without cost translates to that many more guys that have no reason to join the Association and pay their fair dues. Thus we all suffer. If you know someone who wants to see or have a copy of the Master Hof Roster, please don't give it to him or her. Encourage them to become a member like you did. We offer "Free" membership to those that demonstrate a hardship and submit a request to the Executive Board.

There are many valid reasons for not becoming a paid member of the Association. However, those same arguments must apply to wanting a copy of the Master Hof Roster. Please don't give it out. Daddy DIRNSA is instructing you to treat it as TOP SECRET codeword.

1st V. P.: Tom Nickerson (Article not submitted)

2nd V. P. Jim Patterson

"WHY YOUR DUES WENT TO \$15 A YEAR"

The cost of operating a Reunion Association such as ours seems to rise every year. As an active participant in five such groups, I feel we are fortunate to be operating at only \$15.00 per year. Low operating cost can only be achieved by having dedicated and honest people running things. We have been very fortunate. When you take into consideration the cost of phone calls, searching for the missing, planning, office supplies and administration, US Postal rates, I think you'll agree we have a good deal at only \$15 a year. We have something very special in the "Hof Reunion Association" and should work together for continued growth of a "Great Group of People" that were fortunate enough to have had the Honor of Serving at Hof.

3rd V.P. Dan Scanny (Article not submitted)

TREASURER: Sam Suber As the majority of you know, Sam Suber suddenly passed away this spring. Fortunately, the Constitution and By-laws were in place and worked. Dean Reed initially agreed to assume Sam's duties pending approval of the Executive Board. After a short meeting, Dean & I (Chuck Wilson) agreed it would be better if I performed the duty of Treasurer as the Constitution and By-laws call for until after the Hof Reunion. Dean did not plan to attend the Hof Reunion and the Treasurer must pay the Associations bills. We will also have an Election in Hof.

SECRETARY: Chuck Wilson

An Election of Officer's will be held at the General Membership Meeting in Hof. The Constitution and By-laws require the 1st V.P. move to President unless he is unable to perform the duty for some reason. The same applies to the 2nd V.P and 3rd V.P. There will be an election of a 3rd Vice President, Treasurer, and Secretary. The retiring President becomes a permanent advisor to the Board of Directors. If you wish to be considered for nomination, please send a note saying that you are willing to accept the duty of the position to HofReunion@aol.com.

PUBLICITY CHAIRMAN: Ted Bey

I am in the process of creating a newspaper contact database with the proper email contact for each participating newspaper. Reunions are one of the things newspapers will often report for FREE for organizations such as ours. Publicizing the reunions helps get our name out to "lost" potential members. Any member of our organization, who has not already done so, is encouraged to send me the name and email contact of their local/regional newspaper. Because I have tightened up the access of incoming emails on my subject line of "Hof Reunion Contact" or something similar, so that I can quickly pick it out and distinguish it from the volumes of junk mail that seems to inundate us all. I can be reached at >tedbey@hotmail.com <

Hof Reunion Association Website:

Enter into your browser: [Hof Reunion Association, Home](http://hofreunion.home.att.net/)
> <http://hofreunion.home.att.net/> <

WEBMASTER: Barry Springsteen

The Hof Reunion Association website may be the spark that rekindles an old friendship or it may serve as the medicine to heal an old wound. The website is in its infancy but will eventually serve as a "beacon" to attract former colleagues to membership in the Association and participation in future reunions.

The Internet is filled with programs that look for specific words or phrases. I have registered our website with a number of search engines like Yahoo and Hotbot but it takes a long time to get started and they will not stay registered forever. We, the membership, must get the word out on the Internet.

Here are some things each member can do to help get the word out.

- 1. Place a link to ><http://hofreunion.home.att.net>< on your personal page or personal pages of family members and friends.**
- 2. Sign the guest book or message board of websites you visit and include >
<http://hofreunion.home.att.net> < in your message with an invitation for people to visit our website.**
- 3. Invite friends and relatives to look over our Website.**

PHOTO PAGE: Mike Becker

It's been quite a while since I've changed anything on the Photosite. It was getting stale. I have updated it by displaying the photos of two members who have contributed a number of pictures. Check it out by clicking the [PHOTO](#) portion of the site. I hope to receive enough contributions to periodically put new wets of picts on display. I hope you like this idea.

Many of us who served in Hof took Photos in and around Hof, the Kaserne, site, and of people we served with. You can share your memories by scanning and emailing your favorites to:

> mikeandgabi@attbi.com <

I will periodically change the photos on the HOF PHOTO site and your pictures could end up as the FEATURED PHOTOS to be viewd by all the members. Please send the best quality scan you can. Large files are not a problem.

Website Guest Book Comments:

Jim Beard > jpbcsb@msn.com <

I was in the Air Force AC&W at Dobraberg from 1967 to 1970, living at Lerchenhugel by Swartzenbach Wald. I was a Ground Radio Technician. I still remember the day with about 3 1/2 feet of snow covering the road into the village and my wife was having a miscarriage and I called to get a snow plow to help us get out. Within an hour, two bus loads of troops, an ambulance, and a snow plow arrived, embarrassing my wife and scaring the hell of the the people in the small village. They thought it was the start of WW III.

Stephen Murphrey > swmurph@attglobal.net <

I was in Charlie flight from 1963 to 1965. I was transferred to England (as a clerk/typist - amazing what 20 WPM will get you into) for my final 9 months after the staff reduction in 1965. I'm looking forward to the reunion in September, and I hope to see a few people I remember. Too bad we cannot go to the Erika Bar, any more. I wonder if the Scherdel brewery is still in business? I'm looking forward to sipping a Pilsener, Helles, and Weizenbier with some old friends in September.

CHANGE OF EMAIL ADDRESS?

Help us serve you. Be sure to send the change of email address to Cwilson@aol/com OR HofReunion@aol.com **We want to send you the Association updates.** After updates bounce 3 times, your old email address is removed from the email list.

German Cultural Tourist Tips

1. Never, ever, walk on the grass. Ever.
2. Never cross a pedestrian crossing when the **man is red**, even if nothing is coming. On the other hand, crossing where there is no official crossing place is perfectly acceptable.
3. **Tipping seems strange to many Germans.** The people you expect to tip (lattendants for example) have a fixed price (50cents) but tipping hairdressers and the like may seem akin to starting a revolution. It is OK to round off at 1 Euro or .50 cents.
4. Never tip taxi drivers, since they don't even open the door for you.(Round off OK)
5. If you get caught up in a bar where drinking songs are being sung, **do not** hide behind your beer hoping that nobody will notice you. It is far more acceptable to join in. Of course nobody expects you to know the words, you're a foreigner, so just wave your beer around and make appropriate singing noises during the chorus.

Fernweh Park - Klaus Beer, Fernweh Park Curator, Author, Film Director & Producer is asking all Hof Reunion participants to bring an original City or Town sign from your place of residence for the purpose of placing it in Fernweh Park Hof. (Your county or city roads & grounds people should be able to help). DR Beer wants to have a display dedicated to the Hof Reunion Association. The world-renowned Fernweh Park contains city signs and license plates from all over the world. We urge all reunion attendee's to participate in this televised ceremony which tentatively scheduled for September 16, 1400 hours. You will find the Internet website by typing > <http://www.fernweh-park.de/> < into your browser.

HOF REUNION ASSOCIATION FINANCIAL STATEMENT JULY 2002

		Retained Funds Jan 02	927.56
		Rec Over Est Jan Exp	179.27
		Membership Dues	1070.00
		Membership FY03dues	495.00
		Interest	72.47
		Donations	<u>255.00</u>
		Total	3001.30
<u>Expenses Jan-Jul 02</u>			
Packages/Reunion-New Finds	138	108.32	
Roster& Package-New Members		213.88	
Postage		344.80	
Misc. Supplies & Expense		227.99	
Tekeohone Expense		<u>241.91</u>	
	Sub Total	1136.90	
Expenses July 02 (Est)			
Bulk Printing Newsletter		294.00	
Postage Newsletter		258.00	
Letters & Postage to Expired Mem		<u>75.00</u>	
	Sub Total	627.00	
		Less Expenses	1763.90
	ExpenseTotal	1763.90	Association Retained Funds 1237.74

Note: Expected Reunion surplus should restore about \$1500.00 to Treasury.

HOF PARTICIPATION LIST

The following name Association members have paid their fees and have registered for the reunion to be held in Hof/Saale, September 15-22, 2002. We have provided sufficient notification to all members and former colleagues that pre-registration is required. We will **not** be able to accommodate people that cannot follow the simple rules of organizational etiquette and show up in Hof wanting to participate in reunion activity. (* Prague Tour Only)

PARTICIPANTS

Robert Alekson,
Larry & Jackie August
James & Gertrude Berry
Hanna Bryson
Hilde Calisti
Gary & Sandra Cherpes
William & Marcia Combs
Gerald & Ellen Decker
Christa Devine
Francis-JoAnn Fukumoto
Ralph & JoAn Glover
Norman & Ursula Hines
Paul & Erika Laven
Charles & Renate Mattice
Russel Moyer
Chelle Nyberg- Margit Jensen
Arnold & Mabel Oelke
Bill & Gale Partrich
Kenneth & Kay Putman
Leo & Ilse Root
Phillip & Rosalie Ruth
Bob & Liesolotte Sherwood
Frank & Bonita St. Pierre
Jerry & Cha-hee Stanfield
Francis Thompson-Matt Kaiser
Billy-Irmgard Rose Wicker
Reverty & Jeannie Yarnel

Michael & Ursula Assenmacher
Richard & Jean Barry,
Robert Blanchard
Robert Butler
J. C Campbell & Mary Roth
Donald Chesney
George & Irmgard Coursey
Garrett & Catherine Dempsey
Anthony & Joan Donofrio
Bill & Siegrid Fuller
Milton & Virginia Gibbs
Bennie Hopper & Sophye Pullen
Gerald & Erika Librizzo
Timothy & Ina Meyer
Steve- Donna Murphrey
Dick & Evelyn Obidinski
Bruce & Esther Orr
Jim & Eadie Patterson
Jim & Waldtraud Riggin
Don Ross
Daniel & Carol Scanny
James & Margaret Slothower
*Annemarie Goller
Dean & Shirley Thompson
William & Edie Ward
Col. & Mrs. Wicker
Lorrayne & Ronald Zobrak

* Alfred Hornfisher
James & Susan Beard
Thomas & Denise Bryson
David Byrum
Barbara Chapman
Mark & Peggy Clemons
Eddie Crump & Dot Little
Gregory Dempsey
George Christa Fahrback
Sidney & Gayle Futrell
Martin & Alice Habecker
James & Jay Dell Johnson
Gerald & Patricia Mangas
Bob & Barbara Mollahan
Tom - Monika Nickerson
Joe & Carol Olenik
John & Agnes Pace
*Heidi Pouch
Harold & Helga Robinson
C.A. Russell Danny Noble
Havey & Suzanne Schmidt
John & Eva-Maria Slutz
James & Elfriede Smith
William & Helen Toni
Ollie & Linda White
Chuck & Monika Wilson

ASSOCIATION GUEST

**Robert u. Hanne Hoerath
Klaus & Erika Beer
Hanns Karl u Regina Ritter**

**Erich u. Anna Mueller
Erika Thuemling
Barron Ernst Von Waldenfels**

**Magnolya Kara
Manfred & Frau Koehler
Jim Taylor & Guest**

MEMBERS GUEST

Bernd & Petra Bernhuber
Uwe Bernhuber
Anja Wachter
Karli & Sonja Spahn

Otto & Ella Riedel
Adoph & Jane Schaller
Heinz Rockelmann
Juergen & Petra Wettengel

Adolp- Ursula Bernhuber
Else Breitfelder
Michael Rockelmann

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HOF REUNION ASSOCIATION

P.O. Box 276883

Sacramento, CA 95827- 6883

If the column located between your **Zip Code** and **Telephone Number** on the **Master Hof Roster** contains a **PM1**, your membership dues are paid through **September 30, 2002**. If the column contains a **PM2**, your membership is paid through **September 2003**. A **PM3** would indicate **September 2004**. A **PM** indicates your membership **expired September 30, 2001** and Grace Period ended 31 Dec 2001.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FORM

We have enclosed the membership renewal form for your convenience. (If you have paid advance dues, please disregard the form.) Although your Membership is good through September, paying your dues now will help make operations more efficient and reduce operating cost.

The Association Constitution & By-laws authorizes the Executive Board to waive the \$15 membership fee in hardship cases.

PLEASE COMPLETE AND RETURN THE FOLLOWING FORM

----- cut along line----- cut along line-----

Membership Renewal

Last Name: _____ First _____ SpouseName: _____

Email Address: _____

(You may use the email address of a relative or friend)

Street Address: _____ Tel. No. _____

City: _____ ST _____ Zip. _____
(Nine Number Zip Code Please)

Year at Hof: _____ Organization: _____

PLEASE CHECK ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:

_____ Enclosed is a check for \$15.00 made out to; C. Wilson/Hof Reunion Association. I understand the \$15 Annual Dues is to be used for printing the "Hof Connection Newsletter" that is mailed each January and July and the Master Hof Roster which is mailed to members upon payment of annual dues. The \$15 will also cover postage, envelopes, address labels, insurance and telephone expenses associated with reunion business and the search for missing colleagues.

_____ I am not interested in the "Master Hof Roster" or "Hof Connection Newsletter". Please remove my name from the Email and US Postal listing.