

the Hof Connection newsletter

July 2016

Hof- Where it all began



Here's the Kingsley Kaserne circa 1967, fairly late in its configuration: built up with all the necessary facilities and freshly painted. In earlier configurations it looked a bit more spartan; somewhat dingy with a dirt parking lot half-filled with jeeps, tanks and APC's, but nonetheless, serviceable. And let's not forget this serene mountain top retreat either.



Generally our first actual memories were of the Hauptbahnhof, where we were dumped off with a warning the next stop was in the East Zone. Then waiting hours (it seems) in a strange land for a lift to the Kaserne (What's a Kaserne?). It's funny, I don't remember what the Bahnhof looked like then – it's all a blur.

Later, as we began to adventure about, our “home” expanded and some of it looked like this in the early 60's. It's Ludwigstraße, looking toward Marienkirche, with the Kaufhof on the right.



Ludwigstraße has changed. No longer is it “downtown,” you don't see the vehicles busily running up and down the street – I mean “straße” - now it's “die Altstadt,” converted to a fußgängerzone with red cobble stones, fountains, artworks, trees, sidewalk cafes and the like. That's the Kaufhof on the left with the nice red and green banners. The buildings all have modern signage and are tastefully painted, giving us a pleasant, comfortable feeling, yet we'd feel lost if it wasn't for a couple of “anchors” remaining, like the Kaufhof, the Schmidt Bank, Finck, the Rathaus, and a few others, and of course, the Wärschdlamänner – just when you feel you're hopelessly lost, you stumble upon one of these anchors and you can regain your bearings.



And if you stumble upon a Wärschdlamo, then you know for sure you're in the right place.



But then again, if you stumble upon the Freiheitshalle you might have a problem because it looks quite a bit different from what you may remember; it might say Freiheitshalle on the front but it sure doesn't look like it. In fact the current one is the third version since I was stationed there. There are other buildings that have undergone similar updates, such as the Library, but this is the one everyone notices – everyone goes to the Freiheitshalle but not that many go to the Bibliothek. It's a cultural thing.

Things just aren't the same – or are they? Most of the city has the same good bones with minor updates and fresh paint, but the heart is still there. A few minutes walking about and you feel like you've been there before.



SCHEDULE FOR REUNION IN HOF

Sunday 4 Sep	14:00 – 17:30	HRA Registration	Quality Hotel
	17:30 - ????	Executive Board Meeting	Quality Hotel
Monday 5 Sep	11:00 – 13:00	Visit Rathaus and Oberbürgermeister (No buses)	Stadt Hof Rathaus
	13:30 -	Fernwehpark – bring signs to post Visit New Fernweh Diner (new owner)	Stadt Hof
Tuesday 6 Sep	07:00 - 1600	Tour to Rothenburg o.d. Tauber Departs Quality Hotel 07:00, Returns 16:00	
Wednesday 7 Sep	08:15 -	Tour to Döbraberg, Kaserne, Hof Site	
	12:30 – 13:30	Mittagessen (Lunch) in der Kaserne	
	14:00 – 16:00	Visit Mödlareuth Museum, or Museum in Hof	
	17:00 – 18:00	General Membership Meeting	Quality Hotel
	18:00 - ????	Group Buffet Dinner	Metzgerei Herpich or Quality Hotel
Thursday 8 Sep	07:45 – 16:00	Tour to Bayreuth/Fränkische Schweiz	
Friday 9 Sep	18:00 - ????	Banquet Bus departs Quality Hotel 17:30	Eventhalle Strobel in Dörnthal
Saturday 10 Sep		Aufwiedersehen Breakfast	Quality Hotel

JIM RIGGIN – PRESIDENT



The Hof Reunion Association is returning to Hof which may be the last time as a group. I'm not sure I could make it to another reunion in Hof in 2020 and our World is changing rapidly. Age is catching up faster than we like to think, would love to make another reunion in Hof but our numbers are declining and some are no longer able to make that trip. If you are able to travel, this is the time to get your passport and ticket and get back to Hof in September.

We will start off Monday morning with a meeting and a Willkommen from the Hofer Oberbürgermeister, Dr. Harald Fichtner. We will be presenting him with a beautiful handmade quilt, made by one of our own, Hilde Middendorf. Please be at this welcoming ceremony on Monday Morning.

After this Ceremony, we will go to Fernweh Park, so bring a City sign from your town to present to Herr Biere (Klaus Beer).

Robert and Hanna have put together another great reunion for you; with tours in the Hof area and a great tour to Rothenberg ob der Tauber. If you have never been to Rothenberg, you are in for a treat. Rothenberg is a Medieval City, still has the Medieval Décor, absolutely beautiful. This city is unlike anything you have ever seen in Germany. They are now famous for Christmas Decorations. I was

there a couple of times, but it was more than 55 years ago, looking forward to seeing this town again some 50 years later.

Wednesday is a tour of the Barracks and a drive by of the old Security Site, we no longer have a need to know, so we cannot get in. From there we go to Döbraberg for a site visit and then to Little Berlin (Mödlereuth), they have a new Museum. Germany put several million Euros into this Museum so it should be very interesting. Also Wednesday Evening is the Group Dinners, I am working on a surprise for this. How many remember the accordion player four years ago at the Brewery in Naila? That is all I can say for now, stay tuned for further news.

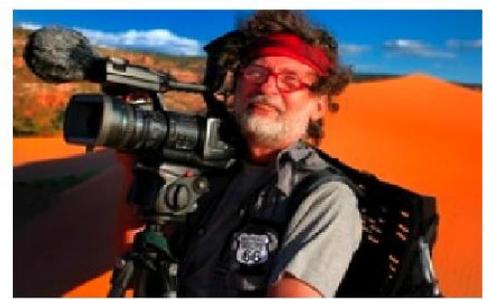
We also have a great tour of Bayreuth planned for Thursday; some of you may have lived in Bayreuth while you were stationed in Hof. I'm sure this city has changed a lot over the years. Let's go back to visit some old and treasured times of our lives. How many knew that Bayreuth also has a Medieval History and it was right next door, some of you may have even lived there. Thursday night and most of Friday is free time, until the Banquet on Friday night.

According to the June 7th weekly update, we have 68 registered and I will be signing up with 4 of us, making the total 72. I would encourage all of you if your health will allow, to register and lets go visit our old Home away from home one more time. Don't let the threat of the refugees stop you, there are a few refugees in the Hof area, but no problems reported. All the problems with refugees have been in the large cities toward the north.

We will be staying at the Quality Hotel in Hof. The price for a double room is €75 per night with a great breakfast included. At the current exchange rate, that is about \$83 per night. We hope to see you this September in Hof.

ROBERT HÖRATH – GERMAN AFFAIRS REPRESENTATIVE

Robert, the guy that put this whole reunion together (with a little help from Hanna), sends us this greeting from Klaus Beer of Fernwehpark.



Dear Hof Reunion Members,

We will enjoy seeing you again this year on September 4 in Hof, in the tourist attraction Fernwehpark.

We hope and be very glad if you bring many signs (City signs and Street signs in green color with white letters or others) from your home city. We make a picture with your home signs and put the signs on a pole in the sign post forest Germany.

The Fernwehpark "Signs of Fame" in Hof/Bavaria, Germany is a multicultural peace project bringing people from all around the world together with signposts (town, city, street signs, personal greetings) that one can emotionally or in thoughts travel the world in a few steps.

Television, news organizations, stars, and visitors from all over the world visit Fernwehpark. As this is an excellent opportunity for your city to be seen among signposts from all over the world, cities have made themselves better known by the display of their signposts at the park. We ask you therefore to allow us to present your City sign, with the name of your City, at Fernwehpark.

You will receive a digital picture and press release for your local paper after your signpost is received. (Over 2000 press releases have been publicized since the opening of the project.) You will also further receive a picture story over the signpost presentation at the much visited homepage <www.fernweh-park.de> under the column "The special signpost". There are other stars and events also listed at <www.fernweh-park.de>.

We look forward to your Signs - thank you very much and have a good trip to Hof, Germany

Yours

Klaus Beer

Initiator Fernwehpark "Signs of Fame"

MONEY EXCHANGE AND TRANSFER TIPS - There are many ways to transfer money to a foreign country - some are better than others.

Here is a tip from one of our members for those of you that have relatives or friends in the Hof area. "It's a great way to transfer dollars and change them into Euros (€). We have used 'TransferWise', a service provided by the people that created 'Skype,' and it works great. You can transfer dollars and exchange them for Euros at the official exchange rate without commission and they charge about 1/8 of the transfer rate charged by most banks - you keep 5-6% more on the average transfer."

The "catch" is you need a relative or trusted friend in the Hof area with a local bank account. You will have to contact the receiver to obtain their bank routing number and get permission to make the deposit into their bank account. You can make a test transfer and cancel without a problem, and the first transfer is free. Go to the TransferWise secure website <<https://transferwise.com/ef/86356b>> and check it out.

A similar service is recommended by Margit Norwood, our future Secretary, and works well when dealing with a business; she successfully uses "Xoom" <www.xoom.com>. PayPal is the parent company of Xoom and they offer low price transfers which work well with businesses that have IBAN and BIC numbers; these are used instead of bank routing numbers.

If you are apprehensive about trying something new, check into the wire transfer and exchange policy of your local credit union. Typically they have friendlier policies and prices than the normal banks and they know you.

A tip for having Euros (€) for pocket money when you hit the airport in Deutschland. The bank I use has a currency exchange service. I can exchange almost any amount (that I can afford) without the bank charging any commission and they can have the Euros in my hand within two business days. This policy will change from one bank to another, and the type of account(s) you have, but check it out, it just might be convenient for you. There's nothing worse than getting to the airport in München, when after you pick up your baggage you need a Weißwurst real bad and you don't have the Euros to pay for it. Maybe they still accept dollars, but why take a chance?

We have also used the Auto Club (AAA) for getting foreign

currency in the past with good results, but recently they are using a "third party" to handle this service and there is a sizable "packaging" fee, but it does come in a nice envelope. I'm not sure if you can still get American Express Traveler Cheques, but even if you get them in Euros, I hear that hardly any business, or even banks, will accept them anymore.

I didn't check into Western Union transfers, but the last time I checked I felt they had their hand deep in my pocket.

Regardless, don't be afraid to check around the various local money handlers, you just might find a good deal. And make sure your credit card(s) or debit card(s) aren't going to expire.

A word or two on financial security. Before leaving, confirm with your credit card or debit card company what their policy is on foreign ATM withdrawals and charges, and your PIN. Be sure to let them know that you are going to be out of the country and give them the dates and general location of your visit. It's a real bummer if they cancel your credit card on your second or third day in Hof because they think it's been stolen.

Oh, is your passport current? Don't forget that either.

PLANES, TRAINS AND AUTOMOBILES

We're all looking for good deals on airfare, rentacars and transportation in general. The deals are out there but you do have to go after them, they probably won't come looking for you. For those of you that haven't made reservations yet, here are some tips.

Airlines. If you're cashing in travel points of some type, you are more or less locked in to who you're dealing with, but even then there is a good chance the amount of "points" they charge will vary from day to day. If you can check that online it could be easier, but usually the booking agent you talk to can give you a headsup. If you're dealing with the online travel apps, such as Expedia, Travelocity, etc., get their best price then go directly to the airline itself before you place your reservation; often you will be able to beat it, and/or you may have better seating possibilities. One more site that is helpful is a price tracking website Air Fare Watchdog <www.airfarewatchdog.com>. They are pretty much on top of the latest in air fare deals and can spot them right off - but you got to be on top of it as some of these deals only last for hours.

Some of you may have a good travel agency you use. Typically they take good care of you, but once again, don't be afraid to compare the prices online. Our ex-Treasurer, Jerry Middendorf, recommends Atlantic Fellowship, 403 Pennlyn Place, Peachtree City, GA 30269, Phone: 202 232 6990, FAX: 678 519 2841. They charge \$20 per reservation and have been very helpful in the past when things don't go right.

Car rental. Many of our members have used and are very happy with the Europcar Rental in Hof. The man to contact is Henry Turowski; he speaks very good English and he can arrange pickup and returns at Europcar at Frankfurt, Nürnberg, and München airports. He has taken very good care of HRA members in the past with good service and good prices which we have all appreciated. Contact Henry Turowski, Europcar, Osseckerstr. 79, 95030 Hof, Bayern Phone: 011 49 9281 64041, FAX: 011 49 9281 61166, email <de.st.hof@mail.europcar.com>.

Additional tips.

Margit Norwood has these travel tips. Trying to figure out the easiest way to get from Nürnberg to Hof for the September reunion, she came across this website: <<http://www.taxi3033.de/kontakt/flughafentransfer.html>>.

Marco Herrmann runs a multi-pronged business in the Hof area, including shuttle services. Here are the rates he proposed:

175 Euros, one way, Nürnberg to Hof, for up to 4 persons

225 Euros, one way, minibus, for up to 8 persons

Payment due NLT 7 days before pickup

No credit card or pay pal payment

This may end up cheaper than a train ticket if you can share the cost with others, and it's convenient because there is a direct pickup from the airport.

If you want to buy train tickets to and from Hof, here is the link for it:

<<http://www.bahn.de/i/view/GBR/en/prices/onlineticket/onlineticket.shtml>>

Margit used this on-line booking service in 2012, taking the train from Frankfurt to Hof. You can save yourself the postage costs and conveniently print your online ticket out at home at <www.bahn.com>.

Now if you plan for more travel on DB, check out their main website at <https://www.bahn.de/p_en/view/>. They list special offers, various regional trips, bookings and timetables, the prices and how you can book online.

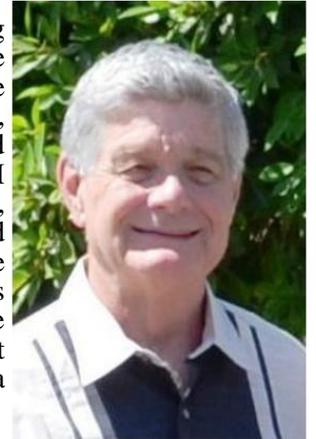
WALT MURCH – 1ST VICE PRESIDENT

Albuquerque, here we come - The membership voted, by a wide margin, to have the reunion in Albuquerque in 2017.

The true Southwest awaits you in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Come immerse yourself in the rich culture and heritage, rooted in centuries of history. Soak in the blue skies and sun that shines 310 days a year-perfect for outdoor activities. Breathe in the high desert air scented with sage and piñon, and you'll understand why Albuquerque, NM is a destination like no other. Whether you want to shop for

authentic Native American jewelry, try hot air ballooning, explore living history museums, enjoy Albuquerque events and festivals, sample local cuisines or hit the golf courses and spas, Albuquerque has you covered.

We have begun the planning process through the Albuquerque Convention Bureau, and have received offers from five hotels, all appearing attractive and affordable. These include MCM Elegante, Albuquerque Marriott, Crowne Plaze, Marriott Pyramid North, and the Albuquerque Airport Hotel. Conversations have begun with each of these hotels and we'll make a site visit in early July, 2016 to lead to a contract with one of them.



This visit will include a couple field trips which are being worked on now. One trip will likely be a day trip via the Turquoise Trail to Santa Fe, with plenty of time for shopping and sight seeing. Other possibilities include an Albuquerque tour to include perhaps the Atomic Museum, the Cultural Center, and Old Town. And a third would be a trip to Acoma, the oldest living village in the U.S, continuously occupied for 1000 years.

There will be ample time to enjoy the museum and cultural centers in the town, to shop in the many art galleries and jewelry shops, and to visit the local casinos.

We anticipate this reunion will be in 10 – 17 September 2017. Please save these dates and plan to join us at the 2017 Hof Reunion.

BILL WARD – 2ND VICE PRESIDENT



One of the major chores of the 2nd VP is determining the location of the “next” reunion. The 2018 Reunion will be held in the fine city of ? I don't know where, but I do believe that it will take place in the eastern states somewhere. Although I have a few ideas going around in my head, it's a little early, as we still have to get our reunion site selection committee established, which will be done as soon as possible, hopefully before the reunion in Hof. I am looking for volunteers to help with the site

selection process; suggestions of places that have attractions we would enjoy, hotels that can handle a group of our size, and at a price we can afford. So, if you think you would like to be part of this, email me <bward4@cflrr.com>. The choices for the reunion site selection will be published in the January 2017 newsletter along with the ballot.

ARTICLE VIII of the Bylaws - DISSOLUTION

The Association will survive until the membership has been reduced to 5, at which time the entire assets of the

Association, together with all accumulations thereto, shall be distributed to such charitable institutions as are described and approved by the Internal Revenue Code.

We all hope that this article will not have to be enacted for quite a while, however to prevent this, the Association needs an active Board of Directors. Another chore of the 2nd VP is to present a list of nominees to the Executive Board for approval, which will then be presented to the general membership for vote. It has been a major challenge to find members that are willing to be nominated for a position on the board. It would be difficult, if not impossible, to manage the Association without a Board of Directors. All of those that have served on the board in the past have served the Association well, however not all will want to serve on the Board forever, and are "retiring." This is my third term on the Board, and when this term is over, I will have served 12 years, and after that I shall not seek or accept the nomination of the Association for another term as President. WOW, does that sound familiar or what.

A funny story - I received an E-mail from Walt Murch just prior to the 2015 Reunion in Traverse City, as he was having a tough time finding nominees for the position of 2nd VP. He asked if I had any ideas. I gave him a few names and he responded back, "already asked them." He was having a difficult time, so jokingly I said that I would throw my hat in the ring, thinking that he would surely find someone to nominate or there would be a nomination from the floor. Well after the reunion Walt's E-mail stated, "congrats Mr. 2nd VP." Edie immediately informed me that I was crazy. What really bothers me is that she is usually right, oh well.

DON RIVERKAMP - HRA SECRETARY



I would like to thank each and every one of our HRA members and spouses for keeping me informed whenever there was a change of address, phone number, email address, and/or sending me information, photos and stories to share with our members in the Hof Weekly Updates. You have done a great job keeping me informed of any changes to your data for the HRA Master Roster and Hof Weekly Updates.

I email around 380 Hof Weekly Updates to our current active members with Internet Service every other week. Having the proper email addresses enables the Hof Reunion Association to keep our members/spouses informed on a timely basis. Starting with this July issue of the Hof Connection Newsletter, they will be emailed instead of mailed via US Post Office to save on the cost of printing and mailing. I have been emailing the weekly update to groups of around 30-35 every couple of hours on every other Mondays in order that the internet provider does not think I am a Spammer. We mail the Hof Connection Newsletters First Class Mail, and that has greatly improved our delivery to our members in a more timely fashion. Please keep up the excellent notifications when moving, changing for summer/winter home addresses, and email address changes.

I would also like to encourage all members and spouses that wish to share stories with our members to please continue to email them to me. Thanks for making my secretarial job a little easier, and the Hof Reunion Association the best military association in existence.

HRA'S ONLINE ELECTRONIC MASTER ROSTER - Our HRA Master Roster is updated every two weeks on Sunday, and whenever you wish the latest electronic copy, all you have to do is email me, <don.hofsecretary@sbcglobal.net> and I will email it to you immediately. Some people renew for future years, and therefore do not get an electronic copy unless they ask me, since I might just have forgotten. For those renewing yearly, I email you a copy during the week following your membership renewal form reaching the adjutant's office in Dover, Delaware.

THANKS FOR ALL THE MEMORIES - In October 2004, Ken Putman nominated me for 2nd Vice President in Biloxi, Mississippi. I accepted, and was elected by the members in attendance at the reunion at the Imperial Palace. Since that day, I have been a member of the Executive Board of the Hof Reunion Association serving as 2nd VP, 1st VP, President, Executive Board Advisor, and Secretary (12 years in September 2016).....

I love the Hof Reunion Association and have had a wonderful, and fantastic time helping with the reunions, association constitution/bylaws, board decisions, and putting the news and information out to our fellow members and Hofers. However, after much thought and discussion, I have decided to step aside from the Executive Board after the Hof Reunion, and let another fellow Hofer enjoy the job. I have been working with Margit Norwood who volunteered to run for my secretarial position and I am sure that Margit will do an excellent job when elected in September in Hof. I would like to thank one and all that have assisted in making our Hof Reunion Association the BEST Military Reunion Association in the World. I will continue to make the yearly reunions when possible, and assist any member or fellow Hofer that has a question and/or concern about the association. I will not be at the 2016 Hof Reunion. Thanks a million again and God bless you all!

Sincerely, Don Riverkamp, 6915th, Hof '65-68, Austin, Texas

ROSE QUEEN - TREASURER REPORT



Where is Spring? This is what many of us are asking ourselves in the Delmarva (Delaware, Maryland and Virginia) area. We have had a couple of nice days, but mostly cool and the past two weeks, rain and more rain.

My husband, Gary, suggested we build an ark for ourselves and the animals; he was sure Noah's arc would be floating past our house soon, for sure. But alas,

today we have sunshine and the weather is improving. Glad I put my foot down on that arc project of his.

We have only two months before many of us will start our journey back to Hof for our yearly Reunion. We already have 68 people signed up and there are a few more that I know of, who haven't signed up yet, but are definitely going.

Robert and Hanna Hörath have already solidified most aspects of our "last time in Hof," Hof Reunion. Personally, I don't like to think this is our last time going to Hof, but, none of us are getting younger, so who knows for sure.

As far as the financial aspects are concerned for this year's Hof Reunion, we found an inexpensive way to transfer funds to Robert Hörath's HRA account at the Raiffeisenbank in Naila. In April, I transferred through the Pentagon Federal Credit Union a total of \$15,000.00 to Robert's account at the great rate of only \$30.00 for the whole transaction and Robert confirmed less than 24 hrs. later, his Bank indeed had received the funds.

We are pretty sure that this will cover most expenses that Robert has, or at least give him a good head start with deposits he has to make to secure certain ventures for us.

Besides the monies having been paid to Robert's account for the Reunion, we haven't had too many checks to write for expenses thus far this year. The beginning of the year we paid for printing and mailing of the semi annual newsletter and other than some refunds for overpayment for the Hof Banquet, there were few other expenses. Jerry Middendorf, former treasurer, finally got around to submitting a list of his expenses for repayment and that was paid as well.

The HRA Executive Board is being kept abreast of all financial activities for each month via a Financial Statement.

Although Reunion activities have been very quiet the past few months, I believe it won't stay that way the next couple of months as many of you decide to register for the Reunion.

Gary and I made our airline reservations a few months ago and I recommend everyone going to Hof, do the same as soon as possible, to still get a decent airfare.

As far as transportation is concerned once you arrive in Germany, from personal experience, I highly recommend Mr. Henry Turowski from Europcar in Hof. Henry has always supported the Hof Reunion Association by giving us Hofer's a special rate each time we met in Hof. Even when I have gone to Germany on personal business, all I had to do, was mention to Henry that I am an HRA member and he has provided me with great rental rates. Should you need a car in Frankfurt or Nürnberg, Henry will make sure you have a car available at either airport and he will give you the best price possible. Also to be noted, Henry speaks excellent English for those of you that might worry about a language problem. His contact information: Telephone: 011 49 9281 64041; Email: <henry.turowski@gmail.com>.

And here is another reminder, don't forget to call the Quality Hotel in Hof to make your room reservations at 011 49 9281 820640 once you registered for the Reunion.

Here is wishing you all a enjoyable Summer and we will see you in Hof.

MEL HAMILL - ADJUTANT



It is hard to believe seven years has passed since I was elected as your HRA Treasurer. I look back with significant pride and a sense of accomplishment. First and foremost, I am grateful for the confidence you place in me to serve you. My first year was unlike the rest. It was a learning curve, as I learned and waded through the 2010 operating expenses. Shortly after the start of the year, our beloved Adjutant, Joe Kessler took sick and was unable to perform his duties. I volunteered to take on duties as Adjutant and the knowledge and rewards of a quick start as an HRA board member, Treasurer and Adjutant, has been rewarded by my close association with you. Throughout the years I received all the HRA mail. Many added notes to their membership renewals. Your notes were most welcome. I was lucky to have highly motivated mentors to help. After the 2010 year I was elected as your Adjutant. Throughout these years, I have worked hand and hand with our Secretary, Don Riverkamp. We were blessed to have had Don on the HRA Board, a true friend and a perfectionist. I would be remiss if I did not acknowledge active board members and past board members who have moved on that played a critical role in making the HRA a great success. And to my wife Ilse who was always there to encourage, to support and to inspire. Many a times she was on the phone discussing and translating German. Thank you.

My heart is heavy at leaving the HRA Board, but at the same time up-lifting. It is time to evolve. The Adjutant position is projected to be filled by a highly motivated and qualified member. His name is Stephen Murphery. Stephen has been an HRA member since day one. He and Donna, have attended all the HRA Reunions and will do an outstanding job. Join me in welcoming Steven and his lovely wife Donna to the Adjutant position. With changing of Adjutants, it will also change the HRA mailing address. All future HRA correspondence will be mailed to a new address starting October 1, 2016. The address will be published in the HRA Weekly Update.

We are fast approaching the 2016 Reunion, Hof/Saale, September 4-10, 2016. A fitting motto for the Hof Reunion this year is "Hof, Where It All Began". It is always exciting to return to Hof, perhaps for the last time. The cutoff date to register for the 2016 Reunion is August 8. A registration form is attached to this HCNL. All the information about the reunion is located on the web at <<http://www.melvinhamill.com/2016-hof-germany.html>>. The tours are super. We will visit Rothenburg ob der Tauber, it is known for its well-preserved medieval old town. Also, a must is to return to our duty locations, Döbraberg and the Hof Site and of course our home, the Hof Kaserne and Mödlareuth, "Little Berlin." Bayreuth has a history for being the Opera Capital of the World. You will also find the Schedule for the reunion on the web. The web site includes a page with Travel Tips. Again we will be staying at the Quality Hotel Hof. If you haven't eaten

breakfast at the Quality Hotel, you have missed out on a great treat. If staying with relative's while in Hof, please join us and experience true German food and German hospitality.

I am honored to have been your Adjutant. I pledge my continued support to the HRA.

JERRY MANGAS – WEBMEISTER



Your webmeister is currently imprisoned in near dial up speeds by his local phone company who normally provides him with pretty speedy connections, but for the last month plus there has been a temp phone line hanging in the trees from the street to the house connection. They promised to have it repaired four weeks ago but the line is still there. BUT! At the moment all yearly and biyearly newsletters are posted thru 2015 and all available daily/weekly updates from the original #1

to #275 are posted here:

<<http://www.hofreunion.com/Newsletters.html>> - scroll down for the entire list. If you find that you have one or more of the missing updates buried in your files, send them on to me <hofreunion@dejazzd.com> and I will include them with thanks and due credit!

On the Memorial page, in spite of the header, the list is current through mid May. Be sure to have your sound turned on.

Most of you are probably not aware but Yahoo!, where our Hof Reunion website was previously located (behind the domain Hofreunion.com), sold out their "small business accounts" to Aabaco, and initially all of the Yahoo! problems we had in the past were ported over to Aabaco. Most of them have seemingly been corrected at this point (including MUCH quicker customer service by phone and email) and once I have some realistic connection speeds higher than 150K/30K, the rest of the updates will be posted along with other historical material. The guest book which logged over 200 spam emails in the single day that I reopened it and then closed it the next day, might be replaced by something with much more access security. But that is work in progress as I have time.

And to break from the boredom of business topics, lets enter the realm of intellectual pursuits, here are a couple of small bits of Bier Trivia: (there are many more in the old updates!)

Building on a list first supplied by Jerry Middendorf and then researched and dated by our own Helga Haese, here is a long list of Hofer Brauerei, past and present:

The first list from Jerry.

Bavaria Brauerei
Bürger Brauerei

Deiningner Brauerei
Falter Brauerei
Gambrinus Brauerei
Löwenbräu
Kronenbräu
Meinel Brauerei
Scherdel Brauerei
Zeltbräu

The second list from Helga, with dates going way way back!

Bürgerbräu 1864-2007
Scherdelbräu 1831-now
Meinelbräu 1731-now
Zeltbräu 1592-2011
Falterbräu 1734-2008
Deiningnerbräu 1854-1996
Schmidt's Heiner Bräu 1840-1972
Brauerei Weidner 1867-1975
Löwenbräu 1847-1985
Bavaria Bräu 1995
Weizenbier Brauerei Schuster 1863-1912

"Kronenbräu" listed above was the "Deiningner Kronenbräu" and not a separate brewery.

Gambrinusbräu was a brewery in Naila and they also sold their beer in Hof. Several other breweries in Bavaria are named Gambrinus.

And a nice bit of Bier History in Germany and Oberfranken originally sent in by Tom Bryson (D) and published in weekly update #165, Nov 23, 2004.

For the Ancient Romans, beer was considered a barbarian drink. The oldest proof that beer was brewed on German soil, comes from around 800 B.C. in the early Hallstatt Period, where beer amphora found near the present day city of Kulmbach have been dated back to this time. (The Roman) Tacitus, who first wrote about the ancient Germans or Teutons, put it like this: "To drink, the Teutons have a horrible brew fermented from barley or wheat, a brew which has only a very far removed similarity to wine." However the ancient Germans regarded beer not only a sacrifice to the gods but they, as in Egypt, also brewed beer for their own enjoyment. Further, in the Finnish poetic saga Kalewala, 400 verses are devoted to beer but only 200 were needed for the creation of the earth. And according to the Edda, the great Nordic epic, wine was reserved for the gods, beer belonged to mortals and mead to inhabitants of the realm of the dead.

MEMBERSHIP

Our Membership Chairman, Phil Ruth, has retired after many very successful years, but we haven't been successful in finding a replacement for him yet, so the current default is our Adjutant.

Membership is the lifeblood of the HRA. Surely you have reviewed the Master Roster at one time or another and seen names of some old buddies you served with. If they are active members, you may have noticed that you haven't seen them at any of the reunions, or you may have even noticed they aren't active members. Nonetheless, here's the challenge: if their listing has contact information, get a hold

of them and say "Howdy," yack (or BS) with them and renew that old friendship, rehash the war stories, fill in the years of unknown poop, let them know the reunions are fun, perhaps suggest they meet you in Hof for the 2016 reunion and a Bier, or two. Also, pick their minds about other possible buddies they might know of that are listed as "missing," maybe they can be there too. If they aren't an active member, then all they have to do is join (or rejoin) the association, and you know just the guy that can arrange this - our Adjutant. You can give them the contact information, or give their contact information to our Adjutant. And maybe you'll be able to see ole Bubba again - after all, he still owes you \$5.00.

Now, if you are the one that isn't attending the reunions - that's a different problem - one that needs to be worked on too. It's nice if we get your dues every year, but we want to see you too - we need your version of the stories of the good ole days. And if you don't attend because you owe someone \$5.00, then tough-up and buy them a beer when you get there.

Although we have mentioned this over and over in the past, its still an important source of info for tracking down missing people - old orders. Yep, they have the correct spelling of names and sometimes hints on their possible location. If you come across some old orders that you haven't submitted before, this is a good time to send a copy of them to our Adjutant.

If the \$15.00 annual membership fee will create a financial hardship for any person meeting HRA membership criteria,

they only need to provide the Adjutant with a brief summation of their situation with their renewal form, the Executive Board will review it and may grant a free confidential membership based on the individual's request.

MEMBERS PASSING

We close this newsletter on a somber note as we acknowledge those that have passed from our midst. This is a list of "Hofers" whose loss we have been informed of just since this last reunion in October of 2015, in Traverse City. Our sympathies and condolences to all of the family members and friends.

FLYBY LIST:

Cleon 'Bert' Berthelson, Shelby 'Dean' Brock, Doyle F. Dean, Seguin 'Skip' Derosse, William A. 'Speedy' Dever, Robert M. 'Bob' Eppersoin, George A. Fahrback, Dr. Daniel Frederickson, Denny A. Gaines, Thomas Kamm, Peter Romo Jr., William 'Bill' Stephens, Ronald P. Suriano, James 'Jim' Yarbrough.

LADIES SERVING IN HEAVEN:

Zella Anderson, Hazel Barton, Sue C. Churchill, Dixie Faith, Inge P. Gaither, Hanni Harrigan, Lois Kapsh, Regina Kietzer, Jean Lacerenza, Roberta Landers, Beatrice Miller, Irene Sallinger, Helga 'Hager' Stephens, Mildred Stevenson, Barbara Varley.



CURRENT BOARD MEMBERS AND STAFF:

Executive Board Members:

Jim Riggin - President - jmriffin@yahoo.com
Walt Murch - 1st Vice President - murchw@aol.com
Bill Ward - 2nd Vice President - bward4@cfl.rr.com
Mel Hamill - Adjutant - melvinhamill@yahoo.com
Don Riverkamp - Secretary - don.hofsecretary@sbcglobal.net
Rosie Queen - Treasurer - leimitzer22@yahoo.com
Jerry Mangas - Webmaster - hofreunion@dejazzd.com
Phil Murray - Newsletter Editor - hra.philm@wildblue.net
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Dave Natalie - Exec Board Advisor - davenatalie@chartermi.net

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Roger Gentilini - Sergeant at Arms - rjgentilini@live.com
Greg Krcma - Sergeant at Arms - santam@tm.net

Members in Training:

Adjutant Position - Steve Murphrey - smurprey@nc.rr.com
Secretary Position - Margit Norwood - norwoodmi@aol.com