



Jerry Mangas - Secretary

hofreunion@ptd.net

Ein Bayerischer Sibirien-Überlebender 1965-1968

Update # 790

1. This is a quick and informal update following the Fredericksburg Reunion to let you know about some changes coming down the pike.

During the Board election process, Jerry Mangas and Mel Hamill changed positions, Jerry as Secretary and Mel as Webmeister. As part of that process we are also going to migrate the Hofreunion.com site to a new host. Our contract with Yahoo/AABCO will expire in November and there are better and cheaper alternatives now available and hopefully less complicated and far less prone to failure. The bureaucratic falderal just with the transfer of authority from myself to Mel within Yahoo has been amazing with literally hours spent on the phone between Mel and myself and at one point Mel and I both on a conference call with Yahoo and Mel with additional hours on the phone with Yahoo and then Weebly, eventually our new website host .

Another part of the process is involved with E-mailing the updates and the newsletter. In the past I was able - with my old and slow provider - to send out emails to a large number (close to 900 at one point) but my current high speed provider has a cap on bulk mailings -to prevent spamming- and we would be forced into an expensive business account to do bulk emails. The solution Mel came up with is to continue to use his old mailing system (with G-mail) and just add me to that account which has no apparent limits. Updates will continue to come in PDF format. I am sure there will be bugs and wrinkles to be worked out as we both adapt to new systems and procedures, but with time and more experience for both of us, problems should be few! We are still working on the mailing process as of 10/12/20

2. Re Fredericksburg: The whole event came off smoothly and with no problems and no complaints about staff or the hotel at all. The staff were great, hot buffet breakfast daily, no A/C problems even though the temperature hit 90+ on two different days and in the 70's/80's in between and with no rain at all. There was some very minor confusion early one morning because somebody smoking a cigar in the lobby vestibule instead of in the designation smoking area well away from the doors set off the smoke and fire alarm at 5:30 AM!

Our tours were great, no traffic problems with I-95 to the Air Museum (where we could have spent days instead of just hours) although I-95 was a nightmare on Saturday before the reunion started. Everything ran at a relaxed pace, the Hospitality Room was in almost constant use and Steve Murphrey did an admirable job in supplying the liquid refreshments including a great group of craft beers (It was the end of Oktoberfest so we had to have the good stuff) and if you were very lucky and got there early, tastings of some of Steve's home brews including a 14 year old mead were supplied!

3. Changes in the Board of Directors included, as mentioned, Mel Hamill and I are changing positions, Phil Murray was elected to 2nd VP, John Lamb moved to Executive Advisor and Walt Murch to 1st VP and Jim Riggin to President. Rosie Queen remains as Treasurer and Steve Murphrey as Adjutant.

4. Attached to this mailing should be the August roster with all known information as of that date. Using the tabs at the bottom of the first page, go to the "summary" pages of deceased members that we have on record. Originally, we kept nothing but the names of Final Flyby members, but Steve started adding additional information as he knew it, to include date/year of death, unit assigned to and the flight or section they worked in. I am asking each of you to scan down the summary pages and if you have any additional information or corrections to contribute, no matter how minor, please send it in to Steve, HRA Adjutant [<hofreunion@nc.rr.com>](mailto:hofreunion@nc.rr.com) or myself Jerry Mangas [<hofreunion@ptd.net>](mailto:hofreunion@ptd.net) for updating the roster.

5. In the near future I will send out a zip code sort for all our current members. The last time I did that, I discovered that Gene Yockey and Claude Niebuhr were both living in the same small town in Alaska and only a couple blocks apart! Use it locally or on your travels to see who is near where you happen to be. If you need the roster in a different format for your system, I might be able to supply that as well.

6. A possible correction.... there are several dates for the Volksfest 2020 in Hof floating around the internet. The correct dates for the fest are July 24th to August 2nd, 2020 and the correct dates for the Reunion are 7/21/20-7/29/20. So far there are 85 people hoping/planning to make the trip back to Hof, probably based on our aging membership, our last group effort! Remember that Euro dates are often written day/month/year...

Go to https://www.hof.de/hof/hof_deu/leben/hofer-volksfest.html for more Volksfest details

7. A happy note and two sad ones... Jim and Traudl Riggin's daughter, Tanya, continues to make good progress after her liver transplant. Stents may have to be replaced and another added but that is almost a minor detail compared to what she has been through. Jim and Traudl continue to be her caretakers

On his way home from the Reunion and having lost his best friend of many years the weekend before, Mike Shanahan was informed that his mother-in-law who had been on Hospice care for several years, had passed away.

Phil Ruth called me on Monday to tell me that his long term Significant Other, Sharon Roberts, had been critically injured in a car accident. Somehow her car had driven over her, crushing her chest and she had been found by a neighbor. On Friday her family took her off life support and she died shortly afterward. Sharon had attended the 2012 and 2013 reunions with Phil.



Sharon Roberts 1941-2019