



# FAC Association Newsletter

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A publication of the Forward Air Controller's Association



## **In this edition**

***President's Corner***  
***Treasurer's Report***  
***In Memoriam***  
***Final Reunion***

## **President's Corner July Newsletter**

Halfway through 2024 already and rapidly approaching the final FACA Reunion this October in Fort Walton Beach. Our reunion crew under the guidance of Claude Newland is diligently at work putting together the activities for this gathering. It promises to be another great get together at the 'Ole Schoolhouse'.

The Board has been actively finalizing the contingency plan which will be presented to all in attendance at the reunion. This plan will allocate the Association's assets, both monetary and otherwise, to ensure that our legacy will be preserved and available to those who follow us. This will include memorabilia, books, photos, and other such items that will continue to tell our story. My thanks to Darrel Whitcomb for his diligent and thoughtful leadership in this very important endeavor.

Through the grapevine, I have heard that we will get to see some faces at this gathering that have, in some cases, not been seen in a very long time. I am really looking forward to seeing some folks that I haven't seen in many a year! If you need more information about the reunion, visit our website ([fac-assoc.org](http://fac-assoc.org)) for that info and how to make hotel reservations. The registration process has not yet begun; however, I know that Claude and his gang will make sure that both the website and the FACNET will have that information available as soon as it is completed. So, stay alert and continue to check both the website and the FACNET for info.

I'll close this by hoping that this finds you all well. I am looking forward to seeing as many of you as possible, at FWB in October.

Brad Wright

Covey 251

## TREASURER'S REPORT - July 2024

As of the end of May 2024, our financial worth was \$103,538, a decrease from January. We have closed our Historian account at the State Bank of Southern Utah and our Savings, Reunion and Brokerage accounts at Wells Fargo. All money was transferred to our Primary account. Checking Balance - \$34,560 and CD Balance - \$68,552. We did this as we prepared for shutdown at the end of year.

So far in 2024, we have made our three approved annual contributions of \$2,000 to the FAC Museum, \$1,000 to the Homes For Our Troops Foundation and \$1,000 to the Fisher House Foundation. We filed the annual Florida business registration and IRS tax report in January.

Here are some interesting approximate numbers of our membership. We have 23 paid annual members, 777 life members, 746 non-current members, 3044 non-members and 1060 deceased FACs. Our first objective still needs to be to get the non-current members back in the fold. If you know some, work on them. If they are unsure of their status, have them contact me or Fred Pumroy.

We still have new FACA challenge coins. Since our historian, Al Matheson, is back on active duty, I am handling their sales: \$5 each (\$10 for non-members), plus shipping of \$5 regardless of the number of items purchased. I also have "Hit My Smoke" key chains and decals at two for \$5.

Since we are tentatively planning to close operations at the end of 2024, with the approval of the membership at the October 2024 reunion, recently enrolled life members (within the last three years) will have the opportunity for a refund of a portion of their dues. This affects about 25 members. If this affects you, you'll get an email soon asking what you want us to do with your refund.

I occasionally send emails inquiring about duplicate membership payments, most commonly from someone who has forgotten their LIFE MEMBER status. Unfortunately, I received few answers back. I like to think it is because the email ended up in your junk folder. To help avoid this happening, please make sure the two addresses I use, [factres@live.com](mailto:factres@live.com) and [nail13zg@centurytel.net](mailto:nail13zg@centurytel.net), are on your acceptable list.

Trey Moran, Nail 13

### In Memoriam A tribute to those who have flown west since January 2024

Links to some obituaries are located at <https://www.fac-assoc.org/flew-west/flew-west2024.html>. Please send additional information of a brother-in arms who has passed and not yet recognized by the association, to Bob Cohen [bobcohenx@aol.com](mailto:bobcohenx@aol.com) or Trey Moran <[nail13@fac-assoc.org](mailto:nail13@fac-assoc.org)> or Harry Pearce <[helix35@fac-assoc.org](mailto:helix35@fac-assoc.org)>

**Note:** Although the title to this section calls attention to those who have passed since the last newsletter, we have listed some outside that window because we have just learned of his passing.

French	Craig S	Cutie	13-Jul-23	
Hilbun	William H. III	Dixie	8-Sep-23	
Krone	Norris J. Jr	Bird Dog 43	28-Jun-19	
Loggins	Aaron B	Bird Dog 81	10-Feb-23	
Muller	Albert	Nail 10	16-Nov-23	Life Member

**Slow hand salute to these brothers-in- arms, American patriots all.**

## News about 2024 Reunion -- the "FINI" Reunion

Submitted: by Claude Newland, 2024 Reunion Coordinator  
rustic19@cox.net, 850-582-1074

**THE FAC ASSOCIATION'S 2024 REUNION THE LAST REUNION. THIS WILL BE A HISTORIC EVENT. THE DATES ARE 24-27 OCTOBER 2024. (THURSDAY-SUNDAY).** All guests are invited. The reunion will be at The Island Hotel on Okaloosa Island, Ft Walton Beach, FL. This is the former Ramada Plaza Beach Resort where we held our 2000 and 2014 FAC reunions. This property is under new ownership and has undergone several upgrades and remains, by far, the best hotel in town for a large reunion group. If you have questions about the reunion, contact **Claude Newland**, [rustic19@cox.net](mailto:rustic19@cox.net) or 850-582-1074.

This reunion information will also be posted on the FAC Association's website, [www.fac-assoc.org](http://www.fac-assoc.org). A list of reunion attendees will be posted approximately 15 August.



**The Island Resort Hotel.  
The FAC Hooch is the blue roofed building in the lower left corner.**

**HOTEL RESERVATIONS.** The Island Hotel ([www.theislandfl.com](http://www.theislandfl.com)) has 329 well-appointed rooms. Most have two Queen beds. King beds are available upon request.

Each person must make their own reservation by calling 800-874-8962 or 850-243-9161. Tell them you are part of the Forward Air Controller Reunion group. If you have any difficulties, call the group housing coordinator, Vanessa Blackmon, at 850-337-9194 or email [vblackmon@theislandfl.com](mailto:vblackmon@theislandfl.com).

Reservations after the cutoff date of Tuesday, 24 September 2024, must be booked with Vanessa.

Reservations may be cancelled 48 hours before your check-in date at no charge.

**Hotel Room Rates** are good 3 days before and 3 days after the reunion.

Standard Guest Room	\$179 + tax
Pool View (Tower bldg.)	\$199+ tax
Beach View (Tower bldg.)	\$249 + tax

The hotel has waived their resort fee and parking fee for all attendees.

### **RV RESERVATIONS.**

The beautiful Destin West RV Resort ([www.DestinWestRVResort.com](http://www.DestinWestRVResort.com)) is across the street from the Hotel. Contact them at 850-200-4533. They get booked up early so make a reservation now.

**SCHEDULE OF EVENTS.** Early Arrivals can register at the FAC Hooch, poolside, after 1500 on Wed., 23 Oct. There will be a Pre-party and BBQ dinner at 6 PM at the Hooch for attendees who have signed up.

**Thursday's** events include Registration (starting at noon in the lobby), an optional 2-hour morning visit to the nearby Destin History and Fishing Museum, an optional visit to the Destin Executive Airport to view the FAC fly-in aircraft with possible courtesy flights. Two Marine OV-10s, two O-2s and several O-1/L-19s plan to attend. An 1800 Meet & Greet Welcome, and dinner at a nearby seafood restaurant follows in the evening. Order from the menu.

**Friday's** events include a tour of the Eglin's Armament Museum with a briefing on Eglin's mission, sunset sailing from the beautiful Destin harbor, and dining afterwards at Destin's seafood restaurants. The lunch and dinner meals will be at recommended restaurants with possible discounts. Order from the menu.

**Saturday's** main events include a tour of Hurlburt Field, mission briefings, a FAC Memorial Service at the Air Park, and a buffet lunch at the Hurlburt Club. An afternoon membership meeting will be followed by the Big Finale – **A FAREWELL BANQUET.**

Come help us celebrate our association's many accomplishments and legacy.

**AIRPORT AND RENTAL CAR INFORMATION.** The Destin-Ft Walton Beach (VPS) airport terminal is co-located at Eglin AFB, 11 miles north of The Island Hotel. Six companies provide rental cars. Taxis are available. We will try to marry those who need a ride to the airport on Sunday with others headed that way.

**REUNION TRANSPORTATION.** We will be carpooling to the various reunion events. There are sufficient local FACs and others who are driving to the reunion, as well as those who plan to rent a car, so we will have sufficient transportation for all attendees for each reunion event. Additional instructions will be in your Reunion Welcome Packet. We did this in 2000 and 2014 and it worked well!

**WEATHER.** Daytime temperatures in the 70s to low 80s. Night lows will be in the low 60s.

**“WITNESS TO WAR” FOUNDATION INTERVIEWS ([www.witnesstowar.org](http://www.witnesstowar.org)).**

A representative from the Witness to War Foundation will attend our reunion to conduct interviews about your experiences in Southeast Asia. The Foundation's goal is to “Preserve & Share the Oral Histories of Combat Veterans.”

Due to time constraints only a limited number of interviews are available, on Wednesday afternoon, Thursday, and possibly Friday. We will fill the available interview schedule with some of those who have already responded to our Jan 2024 newsletter notice. We will contact you NLT 1 Oct to coordinate an interview date/time. In preparation, come prepared with your important event facts and dates, etc.

**FAC TRIBUTE.** Our Association Chaplain, **Dale Hill**, plans to bring a limited number of copies of “The FAC Tribute” which is sent to the family members of the FACs who have taken their “final flight.” Many of you may want a copy once you see it, so bring a thumb drive and Dale will help you upload it.



# SCHEDULE of EVENTS

The Island Resort Hotel  
 Ft Walton Beach, FL  
 Thurs, Oct 24-Sunday, Oct 27, 2024  
 (Revised 7/8/24)

TIME	ACTIVITY	LOCATION or COMMENTS
<b>WEDNESDAY, 23 Oct 2024</b>		
0900-1800	ARRIVAL OF FAC FLY-IN AIRCRAFT	Destin Executive Airport
1500-2000	EARLY ARRIVAL REGISTRATION	FAC Hooch, Grotto Poolside
1800-2100	EARLY ARRIVAL PRE-PARTY & DINNER	Meet at the FAC Hooch
<b>THURSDAY, 24 OCT 2024</b>		
0630-1030	BREAKFAST (pay-as-you-go)	Hotel's Coastal Kitchen
0800-2300	FAC HOOCH OPEN --Refreshments & display memorabilia	Grotto, poolside
0900-1700	ARRIVAL OF FAC FLY-IN AIRCRAFT. -- Possible O-1, O-2, & OV-10 courtesy flights -- Possible lunch truck at Destin Airport	Destin Executive Airport
0900-1130	DESTIN FISHING & HISTORY MUSEUM TOUR 0900, Meet in hotel lobby to confirm carpools 0915, Depart hotel for museum	Destin
1200-2000	REGISTRATION OPEN	Hotel Lobby (After 2000, go to FAC Hooch)
1600-1730	EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING	Bali Board Room (West of Hotel Lobby)
1800-1830	<b>REUNION WELCOME</b>	Maui Room (Tower Bldg., Top Floor) Welcome/Announcements
1830-2000	DINNER-Crab Trap Restaurant (15% meal discount) -- Order from menu, Pay-as-you-go.	Easy walking distance west of Hotel
2000-2300	FAC HOOCH OPEN; Evening at Leisure	Grotto Poolside
<b>FRIDAY, 25 Oct 2024</b>		
0630-1030	BREAKFAST (pay-as-you-go)	Hotel's Coastal Kitchen
0800-1500	FAC HOOCH OPEN	Grotto Poolside
0830-1200	TOUR OF EGLIN ARMANDENT MUSEUM 0830 - Meet in hotel lobby to Carpool. 0840 - Depart hotel 0900 - Eglin AFB mission briefing and displays	(See Event Sheet)
1215-1415	LUNCH -- Aegean Greek Restaurant or Peppers Mexican -- Grill & Cantina. Order from Menu, Pay-as-you-go*	Shalimar, FL, 2 miles South of Museum
1515-1815	DOLPHIN/SUNSET CRUISE 1515 - Meet at Hooch to arrange/confirm carpools 1530 - Depart hotel for Destin harbor & vessel. 1615 Vessels depart dock	Scenic Destin Harbor (4 miles east of hotel) (See Event Sheet) Your Cruise Ticket will specify which vessel

1830-2030	DINNER (Optional activity, FAC reserved seating area) -- Margaritaville or A.J. Seafood and Oyster Bar, -- 10% discount with reunion nametag -- Order from Menu, Pay-as-you-go	Destin Harbor (4 miles east of Hotel)
2000-2300	FAC HOOCH OPEN - EVENING AT LEISURE --Moonlight walks on the beach	Grotto Poolside

**SATURDAY, 26 Oct 2024**

0630-1030	BREAKFAST (pay as you go)	Hotel's Coastal Kitchen
0745-1345	HURLBURT FIELD VISIT	(See instructions in Registration Packet: <u>Your ticket has your Group #</u> )
	0745 - Meet in hotel lobby to confirm carpools to Hurlburt	(To offer or get a ride).
	0800- Depart hotel via carpool	(Follow Event instructions for your assigned group, GRP 1 or 2)
	0830-1100, Base Tour and Briefings	
	1110, Arrive Hurlburt Air Park	Hurlburt Air Park
	1130, FAC MEMORIAL SERVICE	Hurlburt Air Park
	1230, Group photos with FAC Aircraft	Hurlburt Soundside Club
	1245-1345, LUNCH Buffet	
1345	DEPART SOUNDSTIDE CLUB FOR HOTEL	
1430-1630	FAC BUSINESS MEETING (ALL FACS)	Capri Ballroom (Tower Bldg, top floor)
1630	BANQUET SET-UP	Maui Ballroom (Tower Bldg, top floor)
1800-1900	BANQUET HAPPY HOUR—CASH BAR	Maui & Capri Rooms (Tower Bldg)
1900-TILL	<b>BANQUET DINNER</b> (Dress: business casual, no tie) --Group photos after banquet as desired - Flight suits encouraged.	Maui & Capri Rooms (Tower Bldg)
2100-2400	FAC HOOCH OPEN	Grotto Poolside

**SUNDAY, 27 Oct 2024**

0630-1030	FAREWELL BREAKFAST (Pay as you go)	Hotel's Coastal Kitchen
0800-1200	FAC HOOCH OPEN --Remove memorabilia --Farewells	Grotto Poolside
1100	<b>HOTEL ROOM CHECKOUT TIME</b>	
1200	<b>FAC HOOCH CLOSES</b>	

**Reunion Notes:**

**Hotel Parking Pass.** Every vehicle that attends reunion events at the Island Hotel must have a hotel parking pass displayed in their vehicle. Those staying at the hotel will be provided with a parking pass when they check in at the hotel desk. Be sure you receive this!

Those not staying at the hotel will receive a parking pass in their FAC Reunion Welcome Packet when they register for the reunion at the hotel.

Parking is available about the hotel and in their 5-story Parking Garage just east of the hotel.

**Complimentary Breakfast Voucher.** The hotel will provide one complimentary breakfast voucher for each person staying at the hotel when you check in at the hotel desk (max. of two vouchers per room.)

**FAC Callsign Meeting.** If you would like to set up a FAC group callsign meeting sometime during the reunion, contact Claude Newland, 850-582-1074 to see what is doable.



**Elgin AFB Armament Museum  
Aircraft are both inside and outside**



**Dolphin & Sunset Cruising,  
at the beautiful Destin Harbor**



**Destin History and Fishing Museum**



**Lettering for the baseball cap**

2024 FAC REUNION REGISTRATION FORM

Oct 24-27, 2024

Revised: 6/17/24

Please print all information legibly and return (with payment) NLT 15 Sep. 2024.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Nickname (for name tag): \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

E Mail \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse/Guest Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Nickname (for name tag) \_\_\_\_\_

What day will you arrive at the reunion? Mon \_\_\_\_ Tues. \_\_\_\_ Wed. \_\_\_\_ Thurs. \_\_\_\_ Fri. \_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_

Approx. time of day: \_\_\_\_\_ Coming by: Car \_\_\_\_ Air \_\_\_\_ Rental Car \_\_\_\_ Will have no car \_\_\_\_

I'm arriving at Destin-Ft Walton Beach Airport. Time: \_\_\_\_\_ Airline \_\_\_\_\_ Flight Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Do you or your guest(s) require any special assistance while at the reunion? Please Specify: \_\_\_\_\_

I/we will attend the Early Arrival Pre-party and BBQ Dinner on Wed, 23 Oct, 6 PM. Yes \_\_\_\_\_

I/we do not have a U.S. military ID (We will need to be on the Base Access List) Yes \_\_\_\_\_

I/we will not be staying at the reunion hotel. We will need a hotel parking pass. Yes \_\_\_\_\_

I am traveling solo & would consider sharing a room at the reunion hotel with another FAC Yes \_\_\_\_\_

REGISTRATION FEES

Table with 4 columns: Item, Cost, Number, Sub-total. Rows include Registration Fee per attendee, Early Arrival Pre-party & BBQ Dinner, Destin Fishing & History Museum Tour, Eglin Armament Museum Visit & Briefings, Dolphin/Sunset Cruise, Destin Harbor, Hurlburt Memorial Service & Lunch, Banquet Entree - Pork Tenderloin, Banquet Entree - Mahi Mahi (Fish), Banquet - Vegetarian Meal.

Reunion Memorabilia Items:

Collared white polyester golf shirt w/reunion logo on the front. All shirts are available in unisex only.

Golf Shirt: SM \_\_\_\_ Med \_\_\_\_ LG \_\_\_\_ XL \_\_\_\_ XXL \_\_\_\_ XXXL \_\_\_\_ \$32.00 x \_\_\_\_\_ = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Structured Navy-blue Baseball Cap w/reunion lettering, fits all sizes. \$23.00 x \_\_\_\_\_ = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL TO REMIT: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

IMPORTANT – HURLBURT FIELD BASE ACCESS LIST PROCEDURES: EVERY ATTENDEE WHO DOES NOT HAVE A U.S. MILITARY ID CARD MUST PROVIDE THE BELOW INFORMATION IN ORDER TO BE PLACED ON THE BASE ACCESS LIST TO GAIN BASE ACCESS ON SAT., 26 OCT.

Last name, first name, middle initial, driver's license number & state issued, social security number, and date of birth. (If you don't have a driver's license, provide your passport number or social security number.)

Please provide this information in the space below for each attendee who has no U. S. Military ID card:

Please make a copy of this completed form for your record.

Mail this Registration Form and check (payable to "FACA Reunion 2024") NLT 15 Sep 2024 to: Lester Dean, 26 Mariner Lane, Mary Esther, FL 32569 (Questions? Text Lester at 850-240-4811)