656ᵀᴴ RADAR SQUADRON NEWSLETTER

Produced by and for veterans of Saratoga Springs Air Force Station.

2014 REUNION EDITION

The second reunion of the 656th Radar Squadron was held in Saratoga Springs, NY from September 26 thru 29. There were 70 paid attendees including veterans, their spouses, and guests. ***Friday, the 26th was check-in day***. Attendees picked up their nametags and met in the hospitality suite to renew old friendships and make new ones. That evening, attendees met for a reception in the Holiday Inn. An open bar and hot hors d'oeuvres were available.

A Welcome Breakfast buffet was held Saturday morning in the Holiday Inn. John Tianen was the master of ceremonies. After the Pledge of Allegiance, Chip Norton, 656th Chaplain, delivered the invocation. Mike "Doc" Dougherty discussed the 656th website. John Tianen informed the group of Dave Hawk's successful battle with cancer. Our hope is that Dave's cancer stays in remission and that he is able to attend future reunions. John Tianen presented the treasurer's report and asked for a show of hands of those willing to make voluntary annual contributions to help sustain the group. The response was positive. A mechanism will be put in place so that contributions can be made and contributors recognized. Another show of hands indicated a willingness to continue holding reunions. Location and dates of a 2016 reunion will be announced in 2015. John Tianen then introduced William Hauf, current owner of the radar site. He discussed his plans for developing the old site and described his problems dealing with government agencies as he attempts to implement his plan. The owner opened the gate to the old site on Saturday afternoon and allowed us to tour the site. We are all grateful for this gesture by the site owner. The breakfast concluded with a drawing. Dave Fiedler then took a ***group photo*** of all veterans present.

Top row standing (read all left to right) John Crumb, Chip Norton, Alan Ullring, Bob Terry, Bill Fritz, Bill Collins, John Tianen, Jim Crytser

Middle row standing Ed Boudreau, Skip Mootz, Brian Herrick, Sammy Pereira, Rudy Zantopp, Don Zorichak, Bob Starks, Frank Bretthauer

Seated behind front row Frank Wharton, Ed Simon, Bob Delaney, Mike Dougherty, Dwight Pardee, Jim Vaupel, Dan Donohue, Bob Etchells, Dave Fiedler

Front row Bob Ernewein, Bob Wilsea, Bob Baumbach, Jim Micucci, Chuck Gillum, John Forshey
Not in photo Jerry Nelson, Charles Sargent

Saturday evening was spent at the casino/raceway where a delicious prime rib dinner buffet was enjoyed. All attendees received a $10.00 complimentary gaming coupon. The third race was named for the 656th Radar Squadron. Eight (8) members of the reunion group presented the trophy to the winning horse in the winner's circle.

WINNER'S CIRCLE PHOTO
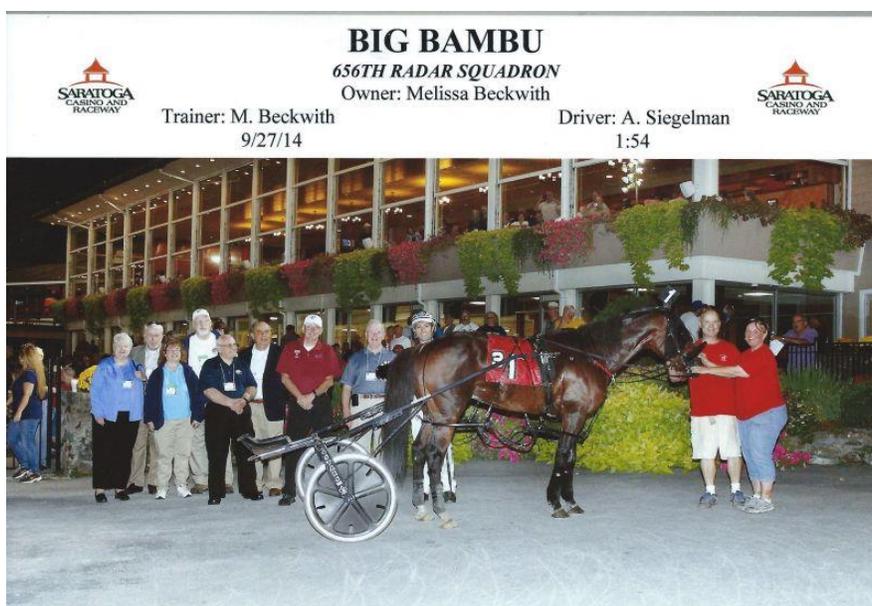
Trophy Presenters (left to right) - Bob & Bonnie Ernewein, Bob & Denise Terry, Ed Boudreau, Dwight Pardee, Frank Bretthauer, Dave Fiedler

Sunday afternoon, attendees enjoyed an all-day picnic/clambake at Krause's Grove located on the Mohawk River. Weather was perfect with sunny skies and warm temperatures. Starting at noon, attendees ate a variety of picnic foods at their leisure. Draft beer and other beverages were available. At around 5:00 PM, dinner was served. And what a dinner it was. Attendees had a choice of steak or chicken served at the table. Side dishes included baked potato, steamed clams, and corn-on-the-cob. The food was delicious and portions were huge.

CLAMBAKE PHOTOS

Bill and Carol Collins, Bill Fritz and Skip Mootz

Frank Wharton says check out the size of these steaks!!!!

Monday morning, the hospitality suite was open until noon so attendees could say their goodbyes. Special thanks to Skip Mootz who provided complimentary peel-and-stick 656th squadron emblem decals for all. Thanks to all the reunion vendors and caterers. Special thanks to the Holiday Inn and Sales Manager Vickie Brown for their hospitality.

More photos of the reunion can be found on the website http://saratogaradar.org/ Click on the link titled "2014 Reunion"