

656TH RADAR SQUADRON NEWSLETTER

2021 REUNION EDITION

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



The fifth reunion of the 656th Radar Squadron was held in Tucson, AZ from September 27 thru 30. **Monday, the 27th was check-in day.** Attendees met in the hospitality suite to renew old friendships and make new ones. That evening, we all met for a dinner in the hotel. **John Tienen** was **Master of Ceremonies** for the event. **Chaplain Chip Norton** offered a prayer before the meal. A drawing for valuable prizes was held after dinner. In recognition of his efforts to develop and maintain our website, a plaque was presented to our webmaster **Michael "Doc" Dougherty** to recognize that accomplishment. All reunion attendees were presented with a very nice **656th Radar Squadron Challenge Coin** courtesy of Saratoga veteran **Gerald H. "Skip" Mootz Jr.** Thank you for your generosity Skip. We were also honored to have former 656th Commanding Officer **James Head** and his wife **Betty** in attendance. This is our first reunion to have a former Commander in attendance.



Doc Dougherty receiving his plaque from John Tienen

Tuesday September 28 - Attendees were transported to **The Pima Air & Space Museum** where they viewed a variety of military and civilian aircraft. After a lunch stop, attendees went to scenic **Sabino Canyon** where they took a trip into the depths of this amazing canyon.



Arriving at the Pima Air & Space Museum



Sabino Canyon Electric-powered Shuttle

Wednesday September 29 – After breakfast, attendees were transported to **The Arizona Sonora Desert Museum** where they viewed desert plants and animals in their natural settings.



Mexican Gray Wolf at the Desert Museum

After a lunch stop at **Casino del Sol**, attendees were transported to the historic **San Xavier Mission**. This church was built by Spanish missionaries in the 1700s and is considered by many as one of the finest examples of Spanish Colonial architecture in the United States.



San Xavier Mission

Thursday September 30 - The group made an all-day visit to historic **Tombstone, AZ**, location of the infamous **Gunfight at the OK Corral**. Attendees spent the day on their own visiting the many attractions that Tombstone has to offer.



Boot Hill Cemetery



Downtown Tombstone



Veterans Attending the 2021 Reunion

Standing L to R –Bill Yoos, John Crumb, John Tianen, Jim Crytser, Steve Cradic, Frank Wharton, Bill Sparks, Al Schuh, Chip Norton, Skip Mootz

Sitting L to R – Jerry Nelson, James Head, Clayton Brennan, Doc Dougherty, Dan Donohue, Jim Micucci, Ron Opello

Many more reunion photos are available on our website <http://saratogaradar.org/> To view the photos, click on the “REUNIONS” link at the bottom of the page to see the “PHOTOS” link. If you have additional reunion photos you would like posted, send them to Doc. Also, help us keep in touch with you by sending your e-mail address to Doc doc@saratogaradar.org Also follow us on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/groups/256662934155/>

We Need Your Help

There are many costs associated with conducting our reunions, maintaining our website, and doing the printings and mailings that maintain contact with you. Our volunteer reunion team and generous donations from our members have allowed us to continue and to maintain our operation. To continue serving you, we are asking for voluntary donations. Any and all amounts are welcome and appreciated. Make checks payable to SARATOGA REUNION and mail them to SARATOGA REUNION, 7041 E. Calle Tabara, Tucson, AZ 85750. No personal gain is derived from this fund by any member of the reunion team. To those who have donated in the past, thank you for your generosity.