



## **556 SMS ASSOCIATION OCTOBER 2009 NEWSLETTER**

**Greetings once again to members of the greatest Strategic Missile Squadron there ever will be. Bar none. This is our after reunion newsletter as is our custom.**

**The 2009 Plattsburgh Reunion was one huge success. Dick Somerset did a great job putting things together under not so favorable conditions. Here is a summary of what took place:**

**On Thursday day the 13<sup>th</sup> we set up starting about noon in the hospitality room at the Holiday Inn and people started arriving around one o'clock. It was our first time back to Plattsburgh since our first reunion in 1988. Another nice thing about the reunion was there were a lot of first timers there. That day most just stayed around and talked with others. The squadron purchased some munchies and the HI had us use their bar per their requirements. We (Edie and I) had dinner with a few others at the Holiday Inn that evening and it was a fairly good meal. (On the morning of the 13th Edie and I went there for breakfast and after sitting down were ignored for about 15 or 20 minutes so we got up and went down the road for breakfast.)**

**Friday afternoon we were on our own since we could not arrange any group activity due to the small size of Plattsburgh. By that I mean they did not have any touring service we could have used to take us around to the various points of interest. Edie and I and my old shop buddy Dave Evans drove out to where the base used to be and saw what was there. They have 2 of the planes that were there, B-47 and the FB-111 and we and took some photos of them. We also went to a little museum and saw some of the history. I bought a book about what has taken place since the base closed. I haven't got around to reading it yet but hope to soon. The hospitality**

room was open most of the afternoon and evening and many gathered there for more fellowship.

I have attached the Treasurer's report and the minutes from the meeting as well as the latest membership list. If you would like a copy of the dues report let me know.

At the reunion all SQUADRON MEMBERS were given a coffee mug with the squadron patch on one side and the date and place of the reunion written on the other side. ALL ATTENDEES were given a blue tote bag with the date and place embroidered in red on the bags. Because of the minimum required order we have 28 mugs and 93 tote bags left over. So, if you would like one and you did not attend the reunion we are offering them at the price of \$10.00 for a coffee mug and \$3.80 for a tote bag. The prices include shipping costs. These prices may not be exact but are what I have now. I will not know the exact mailing costs until I take one to the post office for mailing. If there is a significant change I will let you know when I mail the items and you can then reimburse the association. These will be available on a first come first served basis. But, because about half of our members do not have email addresses I will set aside 12 mugs and 45 tote bags for those with snail mail only. If after about two weeks there are some left they will go to those who first requested them.

I have also been asked if a copy of the crew list could be made available. I received an XCEL file from Dave Evans of the crew list. If you would like a copy of it let me know and I will email it to you or USPS it to you. I will also try to have it put on our web site.

For those with email addresses this is being sent via email to save postage costs to the organization. If you have received this via USPS and do have an email address let me know ASAP.

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PS Nov 18 is Col Kretzschmar's 97<sup>th</sup> birthday. Let's flood him with cards once again. I know he loves to get them.