

# RED EAGLES NEWSLETTER



September 30, 2014  
Issue 22

## FELLOW RED EAGLES:

### Life at the Site Imitates M\*A\*S\*H

The Red Eagles had been up and running for little over a year at the site up north. With a limited amount of alcohol and entertainment, some of our members provided their own source of entertainment and amusement.

One of our members, the late Roy (Weird Harold) Miller liked to perform his own version of Klinger from the TV series "M\*A\*S\*H". However, Roy's rendition of Klinger went way beyond anything ever shown on the TV series. In his trailer, Roy kept several complete women's outfits to include; wigs, dresses, undergarments, stockings, shoes and make up.

For those of us that had been subjected to Roy's shenanigans, we had learned to put him on disregard. When Roy discovered that his shock affect had worn off on the older guys, he saved his female shenanigans for the new guys. Our pilots were not known to spend the night at the site very often. So when Roy discovered he had a fresh audience he would go into his routine for the pilots. On the off chance that I might offend some sheltered minds, I will not provide you with a vivid description of the things that he did. I will however, provide you with a brief description of his most notorious act.

Roy had a small box, about the size of



a pack of cigarettes and twice as thick with a lid on it. On one end of the box he had cut a hole about the size of a half a dollar. This is the part where you need to use your imagination. After some prep work on his behalf, he would display the box up against himself and in the crotch area. He would then proceed to ask his victim "would you like to see my baby chicken"? The victim, not knowing what to expect, would say "sure". At which point Roy would remove the lid to the box exposing himself much to the victim's surprise.

It was on one such occasion that Roy had played this little trick on a new guy who was sitting at a table in the Eagles Nest. The new guy was eating some kind of Mexican food. Roy went into his act, the new guy fell for it, Roy exposed himself, and the new guy grabbed a bottle of hot sauce and proceeded to douse Roy's baby chicken. Everyone in the Eagles Nest almost died laughing as the hot sauce took effect on Roy and he started jumping and screaming, hiked his dress up around his waist and headed for the washroom. There are a lot more stories about "Weird Harold" but some things are best left unsaid. The story on page 2 was submitted to me by Gary Navel about his encounters with Roy.

*Ben Galloway*



9-11, Thirteen Years Later.

Never Forget!

#### Editor's Column:

Fall has arrived and it's time to prepare for Winter weather ahead.

- We're not getting any younger so make a to-do list before the first freeze. Don't forget to fertilize the lawn, put the Summer patio items in the shed or garage and drain and put away the garden hose.
- Make sure the temperature rating of your antifreeze meets the low temps for your area, put the snow tires on and if your battery is over 5 years old, you might want to think about replacing it.
- Break out your Winter coats and take them to the cleaners or wash them if needed.
- You can submit your stories or roster updates by emailing them to:
- [bgalloway5@elpasotel.net](mailto:bgalloway5@elpasotel.net) or
- [boobro@bresnan.net](mailto:boobro@bresnan.net)
- or mail to:  
Ben Galloway  
3732 Bar 10 Road  
Calhan, CO 80808

## My First Week on the Range

Finally, after a month of waiting my security clearance had went through and I was now able to go up north to be with the Red Eagles Squadron. Not that I was complaining, it was a good gig. Go to Admin once a week to check on my status and then frequent the 21 Club or Hitching post Saloon.

When I arrived at the Test Range under a hail of security checks, I was assigned a trailer to stow my belongings. The newbie's with me at the trailer were Herb Leighton and Mike "Punky" Bruster. Wayne Johnson was already assigned to our new living quarters. I knew Herb from the Thunderbirds and had met Punky at the Hitching Post and had seen Wayne in all his glory at the 21 Club so it was an easy transition for us new guys. We all settled in and Wayne was on his fourth or fifth rum and coke. He had just opened his dinner consisting of cold spaghetti out of the can.

Then came the knock on the door, it was Buster Helms and Bill Wright followed by some guy in a trench coat with combat boots on carrying a shoe box. Mind you this was NOT a welcome to the squadron visit, this was purely let's see what kind of reaction we can get from these guys visit. Now I had heard of a fellow everyone referred to as Weird Harold. I knew he liked flowers and animals... how bad could he be? After the introductions Roy ask me if I wanted to see the little bird he had in the box. So being polite I said sure. By this time Wayne was laughing so hard he was spitting strands of spaghetti from his nose. I probably don't have to tell you what was in the box. It definitely wasn't a bird, but it was small. I remember Punky mumbling something about you're a crazy son of a bitch as he wandered off to his bedroom. Herb said something to the effect like isn't that cute. Herb was unflappable. I on the other hand didn't know what to say. This is exactly the reaction they were looking for. As they all departed, Wayne recovered from his near death choking experience and I went to bed. I knew it was going to be a long week.

The next morning I was assigned to my new aircraft. I was fascinated by the simplistic ruggedness of the MiG-21. I was introduced to my fellow crew chiefs and soon found out we all had something in common, we loved working on new and different aircraft. It always amazed me how they could put so many type "A" personalities together and make it all work. I don't recall any fist fights but I was witness to many, many yelling contests. One of my first experiences with "Sweet 16" my new old MiG was to get en-

gine run qualified. You would think it would be a couple hours classroom and some hands on and endless check-lists before lighting a fire in one of these beasts. But before I knew it I was in the cockpit and Todd Flannery was instructing me to throw this gang switch, turn this on, push this button, watch your RPM, put the throttle over the horn, watch your oil pressure and EGT. It was running, I had started my first MiG. After shut down I ask Todd if we could go over it again, he looked at me like I had two heads. Some persuasion later he did go over it again with me. Then he picked his nose and told me never to touch the switch in the far left corner.... Hmmm a crew chief not touching a switch. It was a simple switch, safety wired with steel wire. Not your typical copper break away wire. Under the switch was a single word "THRUST". Now I don't know exactly what the switch was for but I was told it activated a solenoid that dumped fuel into the engine. Fast forward to the run pad. Sweet 16 was fresh out of Phase Dock and needed an engine run...but that's another story.

During my time with the Red Eagles I had met so many good people from the Admin folks to the Pilots and Commanders to all the Maintainers and Logistics personnel. For everyone involved in making Constant Peg into a reality I look forward to seeing my good friends at the Reunion. God's speed.

*SMSgt Gary Navel  
Crew Chief  
Jan 1983 - Oct 1988*



**Submitted by Richard Smith:** He ran across this Thunderbird aircraft at Pima Air & Space Museum in Tucson, AZ on a recent visit. If my memory serves me, Chief Hardy was a member of the Thunderbirds at some point in his career. He is not sure if this was his aircraft or not. The only way to know for sure is to verify that with him or someone else that was with the team.



He also ran across the farewell party announcement when he was going through some of his stuff. He remembered the Red Eagles Alumni Association was collecting memorabilia from the squadron and might be interested in this.

## RED EAGLE REUNION 2014 ITINERARY UPDATE

### Itinerary:

**Friday, Oct 17<sup>th</sup>, 1600 HRS** – Beer Call at the 57<sup>th</sup> Adversary Tactics Support Sq, Red Eagle Bar, located in building 1770 at 3721 Freedom Circle Nellis AFB, near Freedom Park by the aircraft on pedestals.

**Friday Oct 17<sup>th</sup>, 1800 HRS** – A gathering of Red Eagles, (Reunion Sign In), at the Nellis Golf course Club House located at 2841 Kinley Drive, Nellis AFB. Heavy finger food and drinks, cost - \$25.00 per person, we had to raise it from \$15.00 at the first reunion as we ran short then.

**Saturday, Oct 18<sup>th</sup>, 0900 HRS** – Golf Event – Details forthcoming, but you may sign up now.

**Saturday, Oct 18<sup>th</sup>, 1600 HRS** – Red Eagle Alumni Association meeting at the Boulder Station Hotel, Chardonnay Room, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor.

**Saturday, Oct 18<sup>th</sup>, 1800 HRS** – Evening Banquet at the Boulder Station Hotel, Railhead Room, Buffet and social event, cost

is \$40.00 per person.

**Sunday, Oct 19<sup>th</sup>** – Please return home safely.

Please send your check or money order made out to "REAA" for the reunion Friday and Saturday events, to:

**JOHN NELSON**

**4016 Spring Crest Lane**

**Las Vegas, NV 89129**

### Hotel Reservations –

The Reunion Hotel is the Boulder Station Hotel and Casino, located at 4111 Boulder Highway, Las Vegas, NV 89121. There are two ways to make your reservations:

1. You may call the hotel direct at 1-800-683-7777 and identify yourself as an attendee of the Red Eagle Reunion, group code BCIREDE.
2. You may go to the Red Eagle Web site, ([4477reaa.com](http://4477reaa.com)), and click on the calendar box, then click on the hotel link and make your own reservations.
3. Hotel reservations must be made by Oct. 1, 2014.

Also, you may come early before Oct 17<sup>th</sup> or you may stay longer than Oct 19<sup>th</sup>, when you make your reservation include these extra days and you will get the Red Eagle rate, which is \$39.00 weekdays and \$59.00 on Fri and Sat.

We will provide a list of things to do and see in the Las Vegas area during your visit in a future email to all Red Eagles, additionally, an incentive will be provided to REAA members. We will have Red Eagle items for sale at the reunion, Ben Galloway will have a mini-store set up at the golf course for the Friday night event and at the Railhead Lounge for the Saturday night event. Items will include lapel pins, challenge coins, MiG pins, and maybe some other items as well.

We look forward to all Red Eagles and their guests attending the reunion, we can tell stories all night long, but the main thing is to rekindle our relationships and have a good time.

Call or email me with any questions,

**Jim (Bluto) Keys**

Cell Phone [702-303-8341](tel:702-303-8341)

[jkeys@keysearch.net](mailto:jkeys@keysearch.net)



## Reminder-Alumni Dues

### The Red Eagles Store



We now have the Red Eagle Lapel Pins available and ready for sale. Seen above when compared to a dime. Price will be \$6.00 each, plus \$1.00 for shipping and handling.



There are three different lapel/hat pins available. The MiG-17, MiG-21 and the MiG-23. The cost is \$5.00 each and \$1.00 for shipping and handling



The Red Eagles Farkle Game, pictured in the left column, is available for \$6.00 plus \$1.00 for shipping and handling.

Please send check or money order made out to the Red Eagles Alumni Association or REAA and enclose a note with the name of the item you want and where to send it. Send to:

**Ben Galloway**  
3732 Bar 10 Road  
Calhan, CO 80808

Red Eagle Alumni Association (REAA) dues are due the first part of January each year. Just a friendly reminder that the year is now half over for those that have not paid their dues. For those of you paying annually, the cost is \$25 per year.

Lifetime membership dues may be broken up in five payments of \$50 over five years and are also due the first part of January as well. Or if you prefer, you can make a one time payment of \$250.

If you have not joined or paid your dues yet, please send your checks or money orders made out to "REAA" (Red Eagles Alumni Association) and send to:

**John Nelson**  
4016 Spring Crest Lane  
Las Vegas, NV 89129

### Red Eagles Web Site

Just a reminder that the Red Eagles have their own web site now. You can view a brief history, view our photos and read all the past newsletters. Visit us at:

<http://www.4477reaa.com/>

## In Memoriam

**Ralph B. Payne Jr.**, MSgt, USAF Ret., the Red Eagles first Fire Chief, died in the early morning hours on September 1, 2014, due to complications of cancer at King Veterans Home in King, Wisconsin. Ralph was cremated and did not want a service but instead a celebration of life gathering. Ralph's request. On a personal note, Ralph and I shared the same birthday, the 1st of December. His son, Gregory, can be reached at (920) 277-2536 or by email at [tealmad@gmail.com](mailto:tealmad@gmail.com) for further information.

**Robert "Kobe" Mayo**, September 20, 2014, one of our earliest MiG pilots, "Bandit 1", was killed in a single car accident near his home in Ohio. His daughter said that he was driving alone in an old vehicle. He had left his home to go check mail, the brakes failed during the drive and he hit a tree. He died instantly. Services are pending and additional information will be forthcoming. In lieu of flowers the family asked that donations be made to Wounded Warrior.