

99th BGHS NOTE: Another Year Has Passed!

Another year has passed for the 99th Bomb Group Historical Society (BGHS) and looking back we have a number of accomplishments of which a few are highlighted below:

The 2011 99th BGHS Diamondbacks Historical Calendar – In 2007 for the first time we made a “99th BGHS Diamondbacks Historical Calendar” available to our members at a reduced cost, totally dedicated to the 99th BG using the photos provided to us by our members or through other public sources such as the National Archives. We are now working on the 2011 Calendar and we hope you will send us copies of your 99th BG photos for consideration.

The Diamondbacks – The History of the 99th Bomb Group (H) - We were down to our last 4 copies of “The Diamondbacks – The History of the 99th Bomb Group (H)” but due to the generous donations we received as part of our “Friends of the 99th” fund drive, we are pleased to announce that we were able to have 100 more copies printed. We will continue to fill orders for our membership and provide for future donations to Libraries and other locations where the 99th BG history can be perpetuated. The cost is \$45 which includes shipping. If you would like to donate a copy to your local Library, School, Veterans Post, etc. please contact Gary T. Staffo (GStaffo@verizon.net or call 202-586-9577) for details.

99th BGHS Member Reunions - The 99th BGHS continues to sponsor our major event an Annual Reunion for our Membership. These 99th BGHS events are well received and deeply appreciated by all who were able to attend and leave with not only great memories of good times shared with comrades, but also a greater appreciation and understanding of our 99th BG heritage and contribution to WWII. The last few years we have held our Reunions at sites where major WWII Museums are located, the Mighty 8th Air Force Museum near Savannah GA in 2007, the US Air Force Museum in Dayton OH in 2008, and we are having the 2009 Reunion at the WWII Museum in New Orleans LA November 4-8, 2009. Our sincere “thank you” to Marty Upchurch for stepping up to coordinate the 2009 Reunion.

99th BGHS Member Services – Jerry Buckingham continues his outstanding job of providing services to our members that include the Annual Membership Directory, careful management of our Treasury (including collection of Dues, payment of bills, and providing Quarterly Reports), and working with the outstanding 99th BGHS database compiled by Dick Drain to help provide many members with detailed information on their mission list, and the aircraft and crew’s they flew with. George Hilton, Jr. personally contacts many of our 347th BS Veterans and responds for the 99th BG on each request for information concerning the 347th BS. Credit should also be given to James Peters and Jules Horowitz who monitor the ArmyAirForces.com website for 99th BG questions and steer them to us for more information and possible 99th BGHS membership. Many of you may not realize that from this site alone we average one or two requests per week for detailed information about 99th BG personnel, aircraft, missions and related topics. Requests for 99th BG information from overseas average about one or two requests per month and come primarily from Italy, Poland, Germany and the areas formerly known as Yugoslavia and Hungary.

99th Bomb Group Website – Our 99th BGHS Webmaster has lost her job and can no longer support the website. The future of the 99th BG Website will be discussed at the 2009 Annual Reunion and I hope that we will have a volunteer step up to maintain and continue to improve upon the website. The 99th BG website address is: <http://www.99bombgroup.org>

On behalf of the Officers and the Board of Directors for the 99th BGHS we extend our heartfelt appreciation and gratitude to all our members for your participation and contributions to help us with our mission to preserve and spread the history of the 99th BG.

Announcing Friends of the 99th



Under the umbrella of the 99th Bombardment Group Historical Society (a tax-exempt not-for-profit 501 (c)(3) organization), we are pleased to announce the formation of the **Friends of the 99th** to enable our members and other parties to more easily make financial and material donations to the 99th BGHS. The Friends of the 99th will provide an acknowledgment of your donation, for tax purposes and as a permanent record of your contribution.

The purpose of the **Friends of the 99th** is to support our efforts to further develop, preserve and share the history of the 99th BG with our membership and a wider audience. Of course all ideas to this end are most welcome. Your financial contributions will be used for specific projects *possibly* including:

-  Re-Issue of The Diamondbacks – The History of the 99th Bomb Group (H).
-  Transfer of the NARA II 99th BG motion picture film to DVD.
-  Publication of “The 99th BGHS 2010 Calendar” including 99th BG photos
-  Purchase of memorabilia, other artifacts, books or records of historical significance
-  Publication of a “99th BG Missions Map”, with bases and targets of all 395 missions.
-  Publication of The Diamondbacks – The History of the 99th Bomb Group (H) Volume II.
-  Creation and purchase of “99th BG Memorial Plaques” to be presented to organizations and museums where the 99th BG are honored.
-  Reproduction and printing of commissioned works of art
-  Further development of our web site to share photos and personal narratives and perhaps to sell items of interest to 99th BGHS members.



To make a **tax-deductible donation** to Friends of the 99th, please complete a check or money order to:

99th BG Historical Society
(Notation: **Friends of the 99th**)
c/o Jerry Buckingham, 99th BG Treasurer
20 Flathead Dr.
Cherokee Village, AR 72529
jabuck@centurytel.net

Unless otherwise specified, donations will be placed in an unrestricted fund for the general purposes of developing, preserving and sharing the history of the 99th BG. If you desire to make another kind of financial donation, this can be arranged through our Treasurer. You will receive an acknowledgment receipt of your donation.



If you would like to **make a material donation** of books, photos, articles, memorabilia or other items pertinent to the 99th BG, you can make arrangements through:

David O Hill, 99th BG Curator
5385 Gwynne Road
Memphis, TN 38120
901-345-0847
WW2winqs@att.net

Every effort will be made to place items in the most appropriate and accessible exhibit, venue or museum with written acknowledgment of the donor. We will keep you informed as to progress.

Thank you in advance for your support and commitment to the 99th BG Historical Society.



(Navarin, April '43; Down, Driscoll, Samuelson - Courtesy of ME Carabaris)

2009 99th Bomb Group Historical Society Reunion Registration Form – November 4th to 8th

2009 Reunion November 4- 8, 2009

The 2009 99th BGHS reunion will be held this November from the 4th through the 8th in New Orleans, Louisiana. We will be staying at the **Four Points Sheraton in Metairie**. The hotel is just a few miles from the airport, has free parking and a free airport shuttle. It has a café and a restaurant, and will be providing a hospitality room for the group during the reunion. The cost for the hotel, including taxes is **\$111.62 per night**, and reservations should be made by calling the hotel at **504-885-5700**.

The following is the schedule for the reunion:

Wednesday the 4th – Travel to New Orleans & check in at the hotel. The address is:
Four Points by Sheraton
6401 Veterans Memorial Blvd.
Metairie, LA 70003

Thursday the 5th – Morning visit to the WWII Museum. The cost per person will be **\$37**, which includes transportation from the hotel to the museum and back.

Friday the 6th – Morning steamboat harbor cruise with lunch followed by an afternoon bus tour of New Orleans. The cost per person is **\$60**, which includes transportation from the hotel and back.

Saturday the 7th – Banquet dinner at the hotel. The cost per person is **\$35**.

Sunday the 8th – Check out from the hotel and travel home. ***Please make your reservations with the hotel as soon as possible, as the room rates are only guaranteed until October 22.*** After that, rooms might still be available but likely not at the group rate.

Please make your reservations directly with the hotel, and complete the enclosed form and return it with your check **payable to the 99th BGHS** at the following address:

Marty Upchurch
99th BGHS Reunion Coordinator
10025 Miranda Circle
Fishers, IN 46038

Phone 317-727-8538

Email: MartyHawk@aol.com

Marty_Upchurch@efiglobal.com

I hope to see you all in New Orleans!

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Name _____

Street Address _____

City, State Zip _____

Phone No. _____ Arrival Date: _____

Visit to the WWII Museum on Thursday the 5th (cost includes bus transportation from and back to the hotel)

_____ People @ \$37 per attendee = _____

Steamboat harbor cruise with lunch on the boat, followed by a bus tour of New Orleans on Friday the 6th (cost includes bus transportation from and back to the hotel)

_____ People @ \$60 per attendee = _____

Banquet dinner at the hotel on Saturday the 7th

_____ People @ \$35 per attendee = _____

Total \$ _____

Please return the completed registration form with a check for the total amount to:

Marty Upchurch
10025 Miranda Circle
Fishers, IN 46038

The 99th Bombardment Group Historical Society
Gary T. Staffo, 2nd Vice President
6226 Garden Road
Springfield, VA 22152-1504

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E-mail: Gstaffo@verizon.net

MEMBERSHIP NOTE

SPECIAL EDITION - Membership DIRECTORY ENCLOSED!

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