

## 556 SMS ASSOCIATION SPRING 2007 NEWSLETTER



Greetings fellow members of the 556 SMS Association.

Two quick notes to start things off. Colonel Beck thanks all who sent cards etc. after Elsie's passing last year.

Colonel Kretzschmar sends his thanks to all who sent him a card this past November on his 94<sup>th</sup> birthday. He claims to have received quite a few. I wonder how so many knew?

For all those who have not sent in their 2007 dues now would be a good time. There are only 10 months or so left to do so and it is only \$6.00.

I received a note from Joy Hallof that her husband Charles passed away February 12, 2005. She did say he enjoyed being a member of the association and enjoyed receiving all the correspondence. I am not sure but I believe he worked in maintenance.

After the last newsletter the following were returned to me for various reasons. If you know their correct address please let me know. As of now they are off the mailing list.

Major William Bernstein  
Billie Boyd, Jr.  
LTC Ted Burzenski  
Juston S. Clinton  
James R. Fedie  
Gordon Ellersick  
Marvin Martz  
Ralph Paugh  
Robert Patink

**GOOD DEEDS BY OUR 556-MATES.**

For those of you who were at the reunion in San Antonio back in 2004, you will remember the presentation by Dan Gornell about his and his wife, Barbara's, Good Samaritan volunteer activities in Baku, Azerbaijan. I have since learned of another "good deed" couple, Kent Van Meter and his wife, Carol, of McKinney, TX. Their efforts will be highlighted in our next newsletter.

The worthy efforts of these volunteers should be recognized and encouraged. Hopefully they might inspire others of us to do some good deeds. That is our intent for putting these exploits in our newsletters.

I am sure there are other's in our group that are doing good-citizen work. I encourage those of you in Good Samaritan work to please write up your exploits in Microsoft Word format and send it to me at [dgser@earthlink.net](mailto:dgser@earthlink.net). Bruce Raleigh will include it in a future newsletter.

**God Bless America, Our Troops and our CINC.**

Thanks.  
Melvin Driskill.  
President

**DAN AND BARBARA GORNELL'S "GOOD DEEDS" WORK**  
**IN BAKU, AZERBAIJAN**

Dan Gornell was a Deputy Missile Combat Crew Commander on Crew R-29 and I-35 (instructor crew) while in the 556<sup>th</sup> at Plattsburgh AFB. After retiring from the Air Force, as a meteorologist, he got into the banking and investment business in New Hampshire. After retiring again, this time to Colorado Springs, CO, he and his wife Barbara became involved with the Rotary International's children's dental project in Baku, Azerbaijan. Since 2001, Dan and Barbara have been logging hundreds of thousands of airline miles rotating to and from Baku every three months.

In a soon to be completed new medical facility, the dental clinic will share offices with an optical clinic there that has been operating for about five years. (The optical clinic is a humanitarian effort and the facility is funded by Medical Ministries International out of Texas). When completed, the dual dental/optical clinic will be the most modern medical facility in Azerbaijan!

Two Azeri dentists are now in training to begin operating the dental clinic in February, prior to the grand opening in April, 2007. The Rotary provided dental equipment will be installed in the new facility in a few weeks. Another effort of the dental clinic is to invite volunteer US dentists to visit Baku and help train Azeri intern dentists on the modern equipment and advanced techniques. Upon residency graduation these former interns will have advanced training and begin to fill the need for more qualified dentists in the country. Dan is hopeful that the graduates will agree to volunteer a half day a week to his clinic treating the poor, in return for their training.

Recently, Dan was elected to the Board of Directors of the Caspian Compassion Project, the local Baku organization directing the optical clinic operation. This will allow him to continue oversight of the dental clinic as well as promote the optical clinic to a new group. The goals of the two organizations are the same, helping the poor people of Azerbaijan with their medical care.

Future plans are to add a much needed gynecology clinic for the poor women of Baku. This effort was initiated by the president of the Baku International Rotary Club.

While Dan is busy on his Rotary projects, Barbara teaches English to university students and professionals at the International Learning Center in Baku. Plus she manages an English language program sponsored by the Baku International Women's Club in two local orphanages.

Dan and Barbara are to be thanked and congratulated for their tireless efforts on behalf of the people in Azerbaijan. Thanks also to Rotary International for its sponsorship of these worthy projects.

If you know any dentists or eye doctors and spouses that would be interested in helping Dan and Barbara in Baku, please have them get in touch at [dgornellsr@hotmail.com](mailto:dgornellsr@hotmail.com).

Also, if you want to donate any funds to this worthy work, a fully tax-deductible donation, please make your check out to the Colorado Springs Rotary Community Service Fund, mark for "AZ Dental Clinic", and mail to: Rotary Club of Colorado Springs, CO 80903.

Bruce Raleigh  
Retired as of 30 November 2006

Since retiring Bruce has devoted much time to the 556 SMS Association. (Thought I would throw that in first)

Since the mid 1980's I have been a big Old Time Radio fan. Over the years I have collected over 3000 radio shows. At last year's convention in Cincinnati one of the dealers spoke and said one of the things he had been doing is going to a nursing home and playing shows for the residents. So I thought to my self that would be some thing for me to do after retirement. So, since retiring, I have been trying to locate places where I could do this. So far I have been going to one nursing home and next month I am scheduled for four trips to a senior citizen residence. My experience at the nursing home has been positive. Because of the condition of some of the residents it is hard to tell how much they are grasping. But the times I have been there, there has always been a few that really get into it and come up and chat after my hour is up. Actually I think I enjoy it as much as they do.

Bruce Raleigh  
Secretary/Treasurer  
556 SMS Association

**Below is a picture of our attendees at the Cheyenne reunion.**



**Standing left to right: Kent Van Meter, Al Matzat, Ron Zigli, Fred Crytzer, Jim Burba, Melvin Driskill, Dick Somerset, Dana Murton, Paul April, Jim Terrell, Drexel Biddle, Bob Thompson, Jim Rosskoff and Lee Powell.**

**Sitting: Charlie Kaczor, Elmer Kretzschmar, John Leber, Bruce Raleigh, Barry Bernstein and Dave Evans**

Also, next reunion with the AAFM will be at the Hyatt Dulles Hotel, Herndon, VA. October 9-13, 2008. Mark your calendar now!!