



AIR AMERICA FOUNDATION

THE Provider Weekly



Greetings! Hello to everyone once again. This issue of "The Provider Weekly" is going to be a bit of a mash-up of several different things. In case you did not know, I was not around last week as we were on a cruise. I wish I was still on the cruise.

The guys attempted to do some work last Saturday that consisted of replacing a topside panel that we had to remove some time ago to fix a hydraulic line to one of the flaps that was leaking. I guess this got complicated and they were not able to get the cover back on. This will be a project to continue next week.

On another front, we got the forklift fuel pump replaced and it starts and runs, but now, yup, we can't stop it. The brakes failed big time. So we need to tear into the critter again and see what gremlins have re-settled. We need the lift to operate properly as we cannot jeopardize the safety of our crew.

On a more positive note, we were host to a very special honored guest. Prince Panya Souvanna Phouma from the Laos Royal Family came to visit. Archie Hall flew them up to TiCo in his, T-18W and visited 674 and the Valiant Air Command.

I was very sorry that I missed their visit, but they emailed me and both said they enjoyed their visit very much. I have attached photos later in this issue.

Information has been passed to me which originated from Dave Dwiggins so I will include it in this issue.

Dave writes - "We are pleased to inform our friends at Air America that our Udorn Research Group has sparked another Udorn Reunion and we wish to extend a special invitation to you.

The gathering will meet at the Soaring Eagle Casino Resort in Mt. Pleasant, Michigan July 24 thru 26, 2011. Rick O'Hare (USMC, Udorn 1961) will again be host along with Jerry Long (USAF, 1974, 1975).

Some attendees will be from USMC units from which some Air America pilots and crews were initially chosen during the early months of 1961. Our Reunion will present special tribute to the 1961 deployments of 50 years ago."

I have attached their flyer to this issue.

I am enjoying the fact that this issue is contributor written. I am really grateful to everyone who has been sending me information regarding Air America. If you send me something that is not for distribution, please make sure to let me know that, so I can honor your request to not pass things along.

Continued...

January 15, 2011



Mailing Address :

Air America Foundation
P.O. Box 769
Titusville, FL 32781-0796

What's

NEW This

Week

- ◆ Message from the Editor
- ◆ Prince Panya Visit
- ◆ Forklift gremlins
- ◆ Whiskey November article
- ◆ Flickr link
- ◆ Udorn Reunion
- ◆ DoD Program

*The Air America Foundation
is a 501 (c) 3 organization.*



Continued from front.

I received this email from Whiskey November...

Just got back to Rotorua from a trip to Wanganui on the west coast of the north island of New Zealand.

This trip was made to visit a fellow Air America pilot who flew choppers in Vietnam and Laos. After the conflict Doug "Bucky" Rolston moved down to New Zealand and flew choppers here and in Australia until finally coming to roost in Wanganui with his young bride Julie.

Bucky is not one to let grass grow under his feet and engaged his time in community affairs whilst Julie plied her nursing skills. Perhaps the prime target was his desire to restore the old tram system that was the cities transportation at the turn of the century.

Accomplishing this task was a daunting endeavor since most of the trams passenger coach work had been done in wood that had crumbled away. Nevertheless he did persevere and one of the two coaches is ready and primed for a return to service as soon as a track is laid.

As you can see in the picture it is restored in turn of the century glory and much attention to detail was given to insure that it is an accurate restoration.

Whiskey November

Hey Neil, Tell him it is beautiful! - EMk



Picture from left to right Whiskey November, Doug "Bucky" Rolston and Hala Bates, Whiskey November's eldest daughter.

I would like to include a few internet links from time to time that might be of interest.

Naval Air Museum, Pensacola 2008

<http://www.cdsg.org/forums/viewtopic.php?t=337>

Duxford Battle of Britian Air Show - 4 hurricanes and 16 spitfires - Woah!

<http://www.airshows.org.uk/2010/airshows/duxford-battle-of-britain-airshow-review.html>

Cockpit of the Enola Gay.

<http://www.davidpalermo.com/data/slideshow/4/enolagay/index.html>

Monthan Memories

http://www.dhc-2.com/Monthan_Memories.html

Willow Run Ford Motor Plant - B-24 - Liberator Film

http://xa.yimg.com/kq/groups/15654030/1604819366/name/bomber_plantwmv
(Link to wmv download)

National Museum of the US Air Force at Wright-Patterson

<http://www.cdsg.org/forums/viewtopic.php?t=381>

Thanks to everyone who has sent me links!

Saluting the veteran's of Air America - The world's most shot at airline.



Josh Eiting - Archie Hall (I think) - Prince Panya - Brad Byron - Lyle Barney - Paul Hedtke - & Cal Crocker your photo guy (not pictured) . (left to right)



Panya in the T-18W



Prince Panya and Josh Eiting at the VAC



Air America stuff online to check out!
http://www.flickr.com/photos/ed_kindle/sets/72157624712147513/



UDORN REUNION 2011

July 24-26

Soaring Eagle Casino Resort
Mt Pleasant, Michigan

UDORN VETERAN REUNION

Hosted by Udorn Research Group Members

Rick O'Hare & Jerry Long

July 24, 25, 26 - 2011

Soaring Eagle Casino Resort - Mt. Pleasant, Michigan - \$99 per night

**ALL UDORN VETS &
FAMILIES
WELCOME!**

USMC, USAF, USA,
USN, USCG, Civil Air
Transport and Air
America

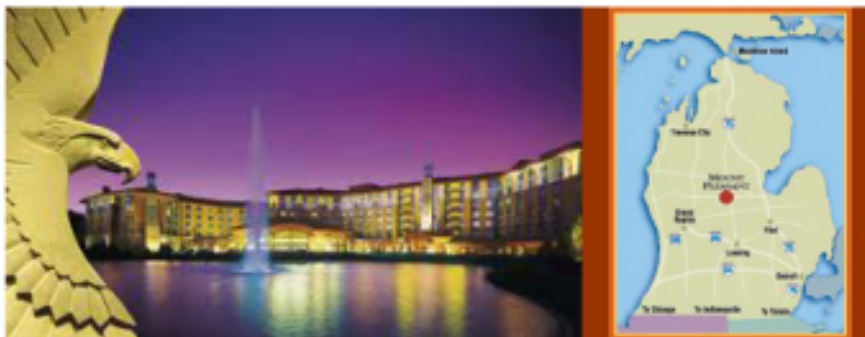


Rekindle memories and events of Udorn 1961 to 1975!

Enjoy luxurious lodging, indulgent dining, exciting casino games and plenty more.

GUEST SPEAKER – Col. Roger Holtzapple, ret., Udorn 1961

Soaring Eagle Casino Resort



Saginaw, Bay City Midland MBS Intl
35 miles – 45 min

Detroit Metro (DTW)
155 miles – 2 hrs 31 min

Capital City Airport, Lansing
74 miles – 1 hr 24 min

Soaring Eagle Resort Website <http://www.soaringeaglecasino.com/>

Attendees have until July 3, 2011 to get the \$99 rate. Anyone making reservations can do so on the resort website or call (989) 775-7777. When making reservations identify yourself as UDORN VETERANS GROUP (Group Code 985437). Mt. Pleasant, Michigan is about one hour north of the Capital Region International Airport, Lansing, Michigan. The nearest airport is MBS (Midland Bay City Saginaw International Airport), 35 miles and 45 minutes driving.

Itinerary

July 24th

1200 hrs to 2400 hrs - Hospitality room will be open.

1800 hrs - Ret USMC Col., Roger Holtzapple, Udon 1961, will be the guest speaker in the Hospitality Room.

Details incomplete at this time.

July 25th

1200 hrs to 2400 hrs - Hospitality room open, Free time enjoy the Resort.

1800 hrs attendees will meet as a group at the Siniikaung Steak House or the Water Lily Lounge for Dinner.

Details incomplete at this time.

July 26th

0800 hrs attendees will meet at the Fire Fly Buffet for a good-bye breakfast

Details incomplete at this time.

Location:

Soaring Eagle Resort & Casino
6800 E. Soaring Eagle Blvd.
Mt. Pleasant, Michigan 48858-8432
Reservations: Tel. (989) 775-7777

Udon Research Group (Yahoo Groups)

Join for free, never pay anything and enjoy loads of fun remembering Udon.

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/UdonResearch/>

For additional details contact Hosts:

Rick O'Hare

Northville, Michigan
Tel. (248) 349-7036

Email rohare@aol.com

Jerry Long

Weatherford, Texas
Tel. (817) 594-4623

Email Long_jerry@sbcglobal.net



DOD Announces Vietnam War 50th Anniversary Commemoration Program

The Department of Defense announced today its program to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Vietnam War. The program will:

- Thank and honor veterans of the Vietnam War, including personnel who were held as prisoners of war or listed as missing in action, for their service and sacrifice on behalf of the United States and to thank and honor the families of these veterans.
- Highlight the service of the armed forces during the Vietnam War and the contributions of federal agencies and governmental and non-governmental organizations that served with, or in support of, the armed forces.
- Pay tribute to the contributions made on the home front by the people of the United States during the Vietnam War.
- Highlight the advances in technology, science, and medicine related to the military research conducted during the Vietnam War.
- Recognize the contributions and sacrifices made by the allies of the United States during the Vietnam War.

DoD representatives will coordinate with other federal agencies, veteran groups, state, local government and non-government organizations for their input in Vietnam War commemoration activities. For more information call 877-387-9951 or visit the official website at <http://www.vietnamwar50th.com/>

Well I guess that is it for this issue. In a few days I will have to start the next installment of "The Provider Weekly"

Cal and I will be picking up the elevator to 674 tomorrow and taking it to our secure storage facility. Sheet metal work on the flight controls is progressing.

We are still trying to work on getting one of the H34's in Everett so if you wish to contribute, please let us know as soon as possible.

This has been quite the issue to put together. I hope everyone finds something interesting within. Thanks for reading and we appreciate the support

If you know of someone who would like to receive our updates, check with them first, (*We don't want to spam anyone*) then send me their email address. We will be happy to add them.

As usual I am sure I have made an error or two, either with someones name or title. I will apologize in advance. If you find an error that needs correcting, let me know. It is not our intention to offend anyone.

That's all for now.
See you soon.

Your Officers & Board Members

President - Josh Eiting
Vice President - George Simon
Secretary - John Plotnicky
Treasurer - Cal Crocker
Lead Mechanic - Rod McIntyre
Air Crew Supervisor - Paul Hedtke
Newsletter / Membership - Ed Kindle

Got a question?
Ask us!



Got an idea?
Let us know!