

# ROADRUNNERS INTERNATIONAL MONTHLY HOUSE SIX NEWS AND GOSSIP

(Not to be confused with the Stars and Stripes)

1 July 2008 - 21st Edition



## FINAL FLIGHT

6-1-2008 COL. JIM COONEY. - USAF YF-12 Project

6-14-2008 RAY YOUNG. -NASA Flight Engineer for YF-12 & SR-71

6-14-2008 ALLEN MESSER. - A-12 ECM jammers at Area 51 & Kadena

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## NEW MEMBERS

Welcome aboard SMSgt Don Jenkins of Area 51 YF-12 fame. [See Bio:](#)

Also welcome associate members:

Bill Tunnell, Executive Director, USS Alabama Battleship Commission

Owen Miller, USS Alabama Battleship Memorial Park

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Thanks Tony Bevacqua for sharing this with us.

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NOTICE

Those planning to attend Roadrunner Bill Fox's induction into the 2008 Iowa Aviation Hall of Fame Banquet on Saturday, September 27<sup>th</sup> are encouraged to book their flight now as everyone is booking ahead to avoid the anticipated price increases. Lodging is also going to be scarce so that too should be booked well in advance. We are investigating available lodging and when we find something we'd recommend we will post it on the web site under Member Activities.

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AIR FORCE NEWS\*

During the past year, the Air Force has made it clear that the primary focus of the new Cyber Command will be the ability to attack an enemy's networks. The command's mission is to "provide robust, survivable access to cyberspace, with offensive and defensive capabilities by staffing its cyber warriors in a cyber career field with venerable specialties in the communications and electronics field under the new cyber brand. On the short



list for the new slogan for the Cyber Command is: "Transforming Warfare . . . Byte By Byte." The cyber operator badge has what looks like four satellite orbits spaced evenly around the globe on what is the original Air Force badge:

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F-101 Tail Numbers

We've received a couple request for the F-101 tail numbers at the Area and Kadena so if any of you can help us out it will be appreciated.

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This is one of the Requests for Voodoo Information

I am an F-101 Voodoo fanatic and am researching all aspects of the F-101 Voodoo. I am trying to locate any information / photos on the F-101s in service under Project Oxcart with the A-12 program. Can you please help put me in touch with any members that may have flown the F-101s or have info on the service of the F-101 Voodoo under the A-12 program? I had the honor of flying with Ray Schrecengost some 12 years ago, when I checked him out in a Cessna 172 at the local flight school in Chandler as a young CFI. I had no idea of his accomplishments in the A-12 program until I came across this website! What a quiet, modest man - he was shocked that I knew who he was when we met (How could a Voodoo fan not know who the men were that set the coast-to-coast records in the RF-101 during Operation Sun Run). Aric Aldrich [Voodoos4ever@gmail.com](mailto:Voodoos4ever@gmail.com)  
480-254-8040 cell Phoenix AZ

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KUDOS TO OUR ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

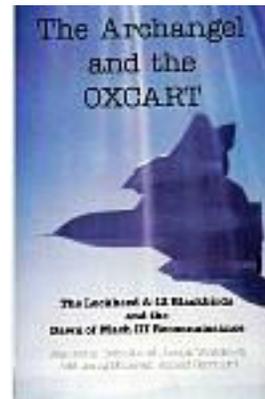
Kudos this month go to Debbie Vandembros who visited Jack Layton on Fathers Day. For those of you who don't know, Debbie's dad, MGen Mele Vojvodich and Jack were avid hunting and fishing buddies. Mike Schmitz receives our pat on the back for his successfully restoring and enhancing the poor quality of the only photo we have of Jack Weeks in his flight suit. Mike provided the Weeks family with copies of the enhanced photo in addition to providing framed copies to the USS Alabama

Battleship Memorial Park Museum for display with Article 132. He also provided CIA with a framed copy for display at CIA headquarters. Ron Girouard likewise deserves recognition for a beautiful photo display that he donated to the USS Alabama Battleship Memorial Park Museum to supplement the Roadrunner display prepared by museum staff from the images and material provided by the Roadrunners. Aerospace writer Connie Pardew made the four-day trip with the rest of the Roadrunners from Nevada to cover the events for various air and space publications. We also thank Mike and Connie for a large portion of the photos taken to record the events. Recovering from recent surgery, author Jeannette Remak was unable to make the trip, however she and Joe Ventolo did ship a supply of their latest book, *The Archangel and the Oxcart*, to the event for distribution to the Weeks family, museum staff, and the CIA personnel supporting the events. Most of all we must credit our associate members at the USS Alabama Battleship Memorial Park Museum, Bill Tunnell, Owen Miller, and Mike Thompson for the countless hours they donated to make the 2-day event a major success.

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**THE ARCHANGEL AND THE OXCART** By: Jeannette Remak

Kudos also go to Jeannette Remak, Joe Ventolo, and Ron Girouard who unveiled the 2d book on the A-12 during the Jack Weeks tribute in Mobile this past month. This book provides a most interesting account of the recently declassified history of the Oxcart Program run by the CIA in the 1960's, including the recently declassified Black Ops Program and the magnificent aircraft built to service it. This is a must read for all you Oxcart ranch hands. Title: *The Archangel and the OXCART* ISBN: 1-4120-2224-x price: US\$25.00 The book is available on Amazon.com or one can order it by clicking here: You can also order by calling In USA & CANADA toll-free: 1-888-232-4444 9am - 5pm PST. In EUROPE please call: +44 (0) 1865 722 113 All OTHER COUNTRIES call: 1-250-383-6864 Offices are open 9am - 5pm PST Ordering information will also be available in the Author's section of the Roadrunner web site.



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**THE USS ALABAMA BATTLESHIP MEMORIAL PARK**

Mobile, Alabama 4-5 June 2008

Formerly classified TOP SECRET-OXCART, Central Intelligence Agency, Washington, D.C., Project OXCART and Operation Black Shield were declassified 14 December 1998 and September 2007. The September 2007 declassification coincided with the dedication of A-12 Article 128 at CIA Headquarters during the 60th anniversary of the Central Intelligence Agency. Various participants in the project were brought to CIA Headquarters where for the first time ever the names of the Oxcart participants were declassified and released. This represented to the Roadrunners as being the first official acknowledgment of their individual participation in the CIA's Cold War Project OXCART.

Complimenting the Roadrunners' association Roadrunners Internationale's mission of establishing and recording their Cold War legacy through a web site and participation in the UNLV Cold War Oral

History Project, the association's officers sought to organize the first public event in conjunction with the association's 20th reunion where the public could at long last be informed of the Roadrunners' participation in winning the Cold War.

Considering that Area 51, Nevada was where the project and operation were based, and where many of the Roadrunners returned to retire, the state of Nevada was felt to be the logical venue of the first ever public Roadrunner event. Arrangements were made with the Atomic Museum in Las Vegas where the museum would organize and publicize a Roadrunner day where the 335 Roadrunners and guests attending the Roadrunner reunion would spend a day conducting symposium panels and otherwise interfacing with the home town public for the first time ever. At the last moment the museum decided to not invite the public, which aborted the Welcome Home Roadrunners tribute. Nevada's decision to not support the Roadrunner event was a wasted opportunity of the highest magnitude, both for the museum and the local populous, especially considering that the Central Intelligence Agency was supporting with the Archangel publication and participating in the event via the EAA CIA Store.

Thus it was with great appreciation that the Roadrunners accepted the opportunity tendered by the USS Alabama Battleship Commission to pay



tribute to Jack Weeks in his home state on 4-5 June 2008 at the pristine USS Alabama Battleship Memorial Park in Mobile, Alabama. Hosted by the Commission, on Wednesday, June 4, 2008 a ceremony was held at the park beside A-12 Article 132 that included speeches, proclamations, a KC-135 flyover, etc. The following day was dedicated to welcoming home the Roadrunners from the Cold War.



Famous artist Dru Blair unveiled another of his exceptional paintings, this one depicting Jack Weeks' A-12 mission over North Korea during the USS Pueblo seizure by North Korean naval forces. Cythnia Stull and the EAA store introduced a newly designed Roadrunner coin and the EAA CIA store unveiled its new line of Roadrunner memorabilia in support of the 2-day event that included the first public

ceremony honoring the Roadrunners of Project Oxcart and Operation Black Shield and welcoming them home from the Cold War. Renown A-12 author, Jeannette Remak unveiled her latest book, The Archangel and the Oxcart coauthored by Joseph Ventolo Jr. with special material by Ronald Girouard. Complimentary copies were distributed to the Weeks family, the CIA participants, and various museum dignitaries organizing and supporting the event. That evening the museum hosted a dinner for the Roadrunners and invited VIPs among the planes in the the hanger.



For Roadrunner president, TD Barnes, and former presidents Roger Andersen and Frank Murray as well as the other Roadrunners attending the ceremony, the tribute climaxed years of effort to establish, record, and maintain the legacy of one of the Cold War icons of Area 51. Only a week



prior to the event in Mobile the Roadrunners learned that Jack Weeks was being considered for induction into the National Aviation Hall of Fame, meeting another milestone of the Roadrunner association. The appreciation of the Weeks family, the Roadrunners, and the USS ALABAMA Battleship Commission for the support provided by the Central Intelligence Agency was immeasurable. A-12 Article 132 on display at Battleship Park in Mobile was dedicated to Jack

Weeks by the USS ALABAMA Battleship Commission. The mention of Jack's University of Alabama ties drew a "Roll Tide" from many Alabamians in the audience. Battleship Commission Executive director Bill Tunnel read a commendation from Gov. Bob Riley that called Weeks 'an Alabamian of distinction and an American of heroic proportions.' Chief CIA historian David Robarge credited Weeks with obtaining the first photographs of the USS Pueblo after the



intelligence gathering ship was captured by the North Koreans in 1968. Doctor Robarge further credited the Weeks mission with the alleviation of conflict with North Korea. Tunnell closed the ceremony by reading Governor Riley's commendation followed with the words, "Long live the spirit of Jack Weeks.'



Falling far short of the number that could have participated at the last reunion in Las Vegas, members of Roadrunners Internationale attending were, President T.D. Barnes, former president Roger Andersen, historian and



former president Frank Murray, Sam Pizzo, Sharlene Weeks, Jim Janowski, Charlie O'Quin, Sal Lucio, Jack Dupuis, Mike Schmitz, Connie Pardew, Dick Wilson, Ron Girouard, Torrey Larsen, and Mike Thompson.



Weeks family attending were Sharlene, her and Jack's sons, Steve and Tim, daughter Tana, Tim's wife Aymna and youngest daughter Kyla. Family members unable to attend due to school, work and other obligations were daughter Susan

Weeks Barry, Steve's wife Linda, Tana's husband Don Prodan, and Susan's husband, Mark Barry. Besides Kyla, who attended, there were eight other grandchildren and two great-grandchildren who could not: Steve and Linda: 3, Tana and Don: 1, Tim and Aymna: 4 grand kids and 2 great-grands, and Susan and Mark: 1.

Representing the Central Intelligence Agency at the Weeks tribute were Dr. David Robarge, Mark Wiggins, Cheryl Moore, and



Jennifer Martin. Affiliated with the CIA EAA store was Cynthia Stull who designed the Roadrunner coin unveiled at the event. More of the CIA community would have attended but for a scheduling conflict with an Air America association event occurring that same week in Oregon.



A highlight of the 2d day was the impromptu raising of the canopy of the A-12 and allowing the Weeks family, the CIA personnel, Battleship Commission members and museum personnel to sit



for photos in the cockpit of the A-12 and have their photo taken with the Roadrunners. Roadrunners on the symposium panel fielded a diverse group of panelists that included a project pilot, command post ops, maintenance, Honeywell, Pratt & Whitney, Lockheed flight engineer, and EG&G Special Projects. The



symposium panel addressed the questions of approximately 135 members of the audience for 2 hours. The remainder of the day was spent meeting the public to answer individual questions and sign autographs. Considerable media was present for the symposium portion of the day. Photos and more on this 2-day event are posted on the Roadrunner web site at: [http://roadrunnersinternationale.com/weeks\\_tribute.html](http://roadrunnersinternationale.com/weeks_tribute.html)  
[http://roadrunnersinternationale.com/mobile\\_welcome.html](http://roadrunnersinternationale.com/mobile_welcome.html)

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**A MESSAGE FROM SHARLENE WEEKS**

As the widow of Jack Weeks, the man we honored in Mobile, AL on June 4, 2008, I wish to express our family's gratitude to the museum, especially to Owen Miller, Mike Thompson, and Bill Tunnell for hosting this event. I, also, want to share a few words regarding Jack. He was born during the heart of the depression years, grew up during World War II. Thus he was mentored by the Greatest Generation. His formative years were steeped in patriotism. After completing flying school and weapons



training, he was stationed in Germany. That was immediately after the Hungarian Revolt, and during the Berlin Corridor conflict. He flew the border between East and West Germany. Later, he sat in a revampment on base with an F-100 and an atomic bomb to deliver, if need arose to defend his country. His love was flying and for the men who shared that love. When approached to fly the A-12, he well knew the price that might need to be paid but he

believed what he was asked to do was worth the price. When he was deployed to Okinawa he went because his dearest friend was a MIA in North Vietnam. He felt doing the missions in Asia was the least he could do. His legacy is his commitment to his God, his country and his family. He has children he would have been proud of and grandchildren and great grand children he would have loved and enjoyed. Again, my children and I thank the museum as well as the Roadrunners for making this possible on the 40th anniversary of Jack's last flight. I wish to close with High Flight by John Gillespie Magee, Jr.

Oh, I have slipped the surly bonds of earth  
And danced the skies on laughter silvered wings;  
Sunward I've climbed, and joined the tumbling mirth  
Of sun-split clouds-and done a hundred things  
You have not dreamed of-wheeled and soared and swung  
High in the sunlit silence. Hov'ring there,  
I've chased the shouting wind along, and flung  
My eager craft through footless halls of air.  
Up, up the long, delirious, burning blue  
I've topped the windswept heights with easy grace  
Where never lark, or even eagle flew.  
And, while with silent, lifting mind I've trod  
The high untrespassed sanctity of space,  
Put out my hand, and touched the face of God

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#### THE AMUNDSON LEGACY CONTINUES

Colonel Maynard "AM" Amundson, Oxcart Detachment Deputy Commander and founder of our Roadrunners Internationale association would be very

proud that his legacy has continued not only with his children, but his grandchildren as well. Am's daughter, Suzi, has shared with us the news that her son, Jason Dramise, a.k.a. "Bones" has advanced from USAF basic training

and is attending a tech school at Sheppard AFB. The Roadrunners are proud to see by the photo that Jason has



high and fast flying career aspirations as did his grandfather. We're here to support you "Bones." Clear skies and safe harbors.

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CONNIE PARDEW'S SON GOES NAVY

Michael Linscott took his Oath of Enlistment and signed a 4 year contract in the U.S. Navy last month in Seattle and headed for the Naval Training Center in Illinois to begin his basic training. He is expected to graduate the 18<sup>th</sup> of July and begin his career as an Aviation Boatswain Mate - Aircraft Handler. Michael is no stranger to aviation as he's been hitting the tarmacs with his mom, Connie, an aviation feature writer, ever since he learned to walk. A lot of us have watched Michael grow into a fine young man and share the pride his mom must be feeling as he starts his own life adventures. Clear skies and safe harbors for you as well, Michael.



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"THROW IN"

Recommended by Owen Miller at the USS Alabama Battleship Memorial Park



two car loads of us parked in front of the rustic building and drawn by the aroma of the sea, hurried inside for a luncheon of seafood. Snuggly seated at a round



table were Roadrunners Frank Murray, T.D. Barnes, Mike Schmitz, Connie Pardew, Ron Girouard, and Dr. David Robarge of the CIA. The place was a full house, the menu rich with a vast selection of anything that swims or crawls in the ocean. Wisely peering at the menu Dr. Robarge announces he wants the Shrimp & Crab Au Gratin. The waiter, a nice young man from Denmark says, "Ya - that's a good choice. I can throw in the Shrimp Constantine" as he points to The Launch section of the menu. "This is an original recipe from the old Constantine's Family Restaurant in Mobile.

Many have compared it to the famous New Orleans Shrimp Arnaud. I can also throw in our One - One - One. That's One Demi-Cup of each soup: Gumbo, Crab and Turtle." Though later we all confessed that none of us hardly understood a word our Danish waiter said, Robarge smiled wisely, nodded his head in an affirmative motion and handed his menu to the waiter. Frank Murray was next and said he would have the same. The waiter smiled and said, "Good choice. I can throw in a Caesar Salad. It's Fresh



Romaine lettuce, Caesar dressing, imported Parmesan cheese and croutons." Murray mimics Robarge with his smile as he too handed his menu to the waiter with no hint of uncertainty. The waiter looks at Robarge and asks if he wants the salad thrown in as well. "Sure," says

Robarge. The waiter turns to Connie Pardew who doesn't hesitate to knowingly say she will have the same as Robarge and Murray as she hands her menu to the waiter with no hesitation whatsoever. Her steadfast confidence didn't go unnoticed with the rest of us now thinking only we didn't have a clue as to what the waiter was saying. The only English words we had understood thus far were "I can throw in." "Good choice, mama," he says. "I can throw in some Cole Slaw. It's the Causeway's Third Best Cole Slaw." "Sure, throw it in," she said. Next came Mike Schmitz who followed suit in having the same as the others. Ron Girouard and Barnes followed suit, except Barnes accepted the waiter's offer to throw in a Moon Pie A La Mode, which Danish Boy claimed was caught In Bienville Square Next To An Azalea Bush on Mardi Gras Day. All the other agreed to have this and Pardew's choice of Cole Slaw thrown in with their order as well. Forty five minutes later the table is piled high with empty dishes and the six of us all full as ticks, all the while praising Owen Miller for recommending the place and appreciating the obviously well traveled Doctor Robarge for his language skills in dealing with the Danish waiter. And then came the bill that Robarge quickly grabbed like a rich Texas oil man trying to impress a bunch of Okies. The rest didn't even have to fumble.

The price of the six meals: \$62.00  
 The price of the "throw ins": \$206.00  
 The shock and surprise on everyone's face: Priceless

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NEWS FROM THE USS ALABAMA BATTLESHIP MEMORIAL PARK MUSEUM

Home of A-12 Article 132

ALABAMA'S TRIBUTE TO JACK WEEKS/WELCOME HOME ROADRUNNERS

By: Bill Tunnell, Executive Director, USS ALABAMA Battleship Commission

The USS Alabama Battleship Memorial Park in Mobile, Alabama was the setting of a special ceremony honoring fallen CIA pilot Jack Weeks. June 4<sup>th</sup> marked the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Week's disappearance over the South China Sea while flying the A-12, Lockheed's high altitude, Mach 3+ reconnaissance plane during the CIA's "Operation Black Shield" missions out of Kadena Air Force Base, Okinawa. Weeks was the first to overfly North Korea during the USS Pueblo incident in January 1968. The program (code named Oxcart) was just declassified in September 2007.



Aviation artist Dru Blair unveiled his painting symbolizing Week's North Korean over flight timed to the overflight of a KC-135 symbolizing the lifeline of Weeks and the other A-12 pilots. On a normal mission the A-12 required 5 or more of these tankers for inflight refueling. The painting will hang at CIA Headquarters in Langley, Virginia.

Members of the Roadrunners, personnel who worked on the program at Groom Lake, Nev. In the 1960's joined the Week's family as Museum Director Tunnell read a

declaration from Alabama Governor, Bob Riley commending Jack Weeks for his service to the nation followed by the dedication of the A-12.

"On behalf of the USS Alabama Battleship Commission I dedicate A-12 Article #132 to Jack Weeks and his legacy, the legacy of the Roadrunners and their pioneering work to keep our country secure," The A-12 in Mobile is one of only nine (three in Alabama) displayed at various museums across the United States. Museum restorer, Mike Thompson and his team beautifully repaired the A-12 after it sustained extensive damage during Hurricane Katrina in 2005. The second day was devoted to the Roadrunners who fielded their first ever symposium panel open to the public.

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NEWS FROM THE SOUTHERN MUSEUM OF FLIGHT  
Home of A-12 Article 131

It was intended for Article 131, but our intel source inside the Southern Museum of Flight reports the joystick sent to the museum's Executive Director Dr. James Griffin by Frank Murray has yet to leave his hands. The control stick is obviously living up to its name of bringing joy. On a serious note, Dr. Griffin traveled to Mobile to participate in the Jack Weeks tribute and welcome home ceremony for the Roadrunners. Both Barnes and Murray visited with Dr. Griffin and learned that Article 131 was lacking both the control stick and seat. At the last Roadrunner reunion Bob Murphy had given Barnes an A-12 control stick head to mount for display. Murray mentioned having the stick with no head so Barnes and Murray combined the two for Murray to send to Birmingham for Article 131. Griffin is working now to get the seat out of one of the A-12s mounted on a pylon. Don't be surprised in the future to see Article 131 sitting indoors with a Roadrunner display around it as Bill Tunnell and crew did at the USS Alabama Memorial Park in Mobile. Just say the word Jim and the Roadrunners will be there to support you.



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NEWS FROM THE USS INTREPID SEA, AIR & SPACE MUSEUM

Roadrunner associate member Eric Boehm reports that sanding commenced on A-12 Article 122 yesterday in preparation for a new paint job. He advised that he would be contacting the Roadrunners if he had any doubts as to location of decals and markings. He also advised that the plane has been strategically placed for excellent viewing on the ship's web cams. <http://www.intrepidmuseum.org/pages/webcams> The Intrepid is still on schedule to return to New York, NY on October 2nd, 2008 and for the grand re-opening on November 8th, 2008.

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If we post something in error, we would like to know. We depend on you to help us get it right.

TIRED OF THE SAME FACES EACH EDITION? - SEND US YOUR STORIES AND GOSSIP.

