



MMA TIMES

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MMA President's Report

Bruce Meredith

The MMA Board of Directors continues to work with the AMU Commander and his staff on the planning of activities and the formulating of the schedule for the 50th Reunion to be held 18 -21 October 2006. Since the AMU is limited by regulations on the spending of government funds, the MMA Board has voted to contribute not less than ten thousand dollars toward making the event a success and keeping the cost to the member at a very reasonable limit. The thought, right now, is that the cost per individual will be \$30 or less. That will be for the BBQ on Friday, the banquet on Saturday and all beverages during the week at the official functions. There will be anniversary coins, pins, caps, etc., Not all at of those will be free. The planning continues. The official reunion registration packet will be mailed out this Summer – plenty of time for you to respond.

The membership continues to grow, as expected, which is displayed in this issue. It continues to surprise me to talk to members who do not know about the reunion dates. We keep changing the format of the MMA Times and our web site in hopes people will read them. Continue to help us get the word out. Our biggest problem is the poor renewal rate for members. The renewal notice is set aside and then forgotten. Becoming a Life Member will solve that problem for you. Those that have become life members are helping defray the financial load of the reunion. Don't try to guess how many more years you have to live x ten dollars. Just support your professional organization and the reunion with a check for \$300. Friends of Frank Conway's pistol league in Las Cruces, NM, not all MMA members, have bestowed a life membership on him. Thank you, folks from the "Land of Enchantment". Great State. I was an oil field Roustabout in Buckeye, NM in 1957. Find that on the map! The high altitude training for the 1968 Olympics in Mexico City took place in Santa Fe, NM, with prisoners from the state penitentiary pulling 300 meter targets. I couldn't convince one of them to hurt one of the USA Olympic team members, so, as the alternate, I had to return to Ft. Benning, rather than go on to Mexico. There are other good stories about that month – another time.

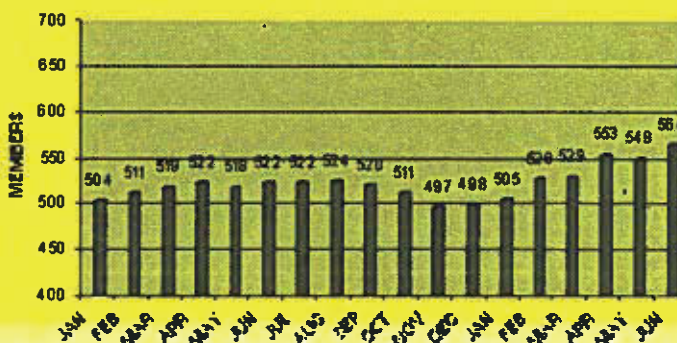
Lots of activity underway for the nominations of Hall of Fame for the individual AMU sections and the unit HOF Ballots are enclosures to this issue. I saw the preliminary layout for the 50th Anniversary Book and it looks FANTASTIC! The guys working on that project have produced a product way better than our expectations. You need to buy several. They will be super gifts for all occasions. Tell your spouse you want one for Christmas. If you have not bought a book or sent your bio and photo to Turner Publishing, best you get with it. See our web site for details. Hold center.

USAMU 50th Anniversary Reunion

OCT 18-21, '06

Rooms are booking fast,
make your reservations
today!

MEMBERSHIP 2005-2006



USAMU Commander's Report

LTC David J. Liwanig

We are in fine shape, despite the fiscal constraints all Army units are under to show worth and justify missions, and we will continue to grow in worth to the Warfighter.

The AMU's road to 2016 looks great. The United States Olympic Shooting Teams are signed up for six medals in Beijing – and the Army is signed up to bring home three.

Our rifles, pistols, shotguns, and ammo are recognized as the finest, most accurate, and dependable competition arms in the world, bar none. The spotlight can be focused on human performance.

Warfighters will continue to get the best possible support from the AMU as we spin lessons learned from combat into competitive drive and accomplishment, and back to the Warfighter, completing the cycle.

I would be remiss in my duties if I didn't mention some notable National Living Treasures in Soldiers, gunsmiths, and staff at the top of their game, who work in the background, often unrecognized. President Eisenhower wrote, "You'll be amazed at what you can get accomplished if you don't care who gets the credit."

Outstanding Americans whose quiet mission execution out of the spotlight isn't appreciated enough, but have proved vital to our mission success:

Custom Firearms Shop: Mr. Kidd, Mr. Clark, Mr. Throlson, SFC Waller, SFC McMahon, SFC Harless, SSG Haidu, SFC Mitten, SSG Grieve, SSG Davis, SGT Nelson and SGT Adams, Mr. Sulzer, Mr. Blackwell, Mr. Reiber, Mr. Corcoran, Mr. Feamster, Mr. Writer, Mr. Crider, and Mr. Rodriguez;

S1: Mr. Silva and Ms. Bagby;

S3: SFC Hocking, SSG Sokolowski, and Ms. Pool;

S4: Mr. Harris, Mr. Grey, Ms. Escribano, and SGT Devlin;

Mr. Carbone (who has secured tens of thousands of dollars in equipment for us from NASA, yet has to continue to polish our cinder-block band-width);

SFC Dement, for Re-enlistment NCO;

Ms. Pagan, who tirelessly writes and forwards the articles capturing the scores and essence of what you all do best. If no one sees it, reads about it, or hears about it, it didn't happen and we've wasted our time, energy, and resources.

Ms. Dixon, who has ensured we've always had money to execute mission and get our gear, guns, and bullets;

and Ms. Roggeman, our Secretary, S2/AT-FP, and DTS representative.

I wish to thank Sergeant Major Ybarra for being our standard-bearer, and the Team Noncommissioned Officers-in-Charge (SFC Ward, SFC Coffey, SFC Pinkston, SSG Moore, SFC Hampton, SFC Merrill, and SFC Young) for bearing the weight and challenges of leadership.

At Brigade I especially wish to thank Mr. Wray, the XO; Ms. Perry and Ms. Alder, the RM money ladies; Ms. Jones and Ms. Russell in the S4; and Ms. Angus.

I thank you all for the most rewarding command I could have ever imagined, the opportunity to mix with Olympic medalists and world shooting champions, and some of the finest Soldiers in the United States Army. I am proud to have been a part of you, your accomplishments and wins, and your contributions to our nation. Your drive to become winners spreads to everyone you meet. You made me and my family a part of "The Home of Champions," and I will cherish that the rest of my life.

Thank you, God bless you, and good luck. Hit the center.

You've Gotta Keep On Keeping On

Samuel W. Hunter

One of the original members of the USAMU in 1956 and the AMUA/MMA in 1994 has suffered a mild stroke. MAJ Alfred D. Dunn, 85, was on the 9th hole of one of the Fort Benning Golf Courses Friday, the 17th of March, when his wife, Mozelle (also an MMA member in her own right), noticed that he was walking erratically and then he became nauseated. She got him back into the golf cart and to the clubhouse as quickly as she could and Martin Army Community Hospital quickly sent an ambulance. Al was then transported directly to St. Francis Hospital. The first diagnosis there was an inner ear problem, for which medication was prescribed.

Mozelle, who received training as a nurse, but got married instead of pursuing that career, soon realized that the symptoms did not match an inner ear problem. The dizziness that accompanies such a malady was not present. After the weekend and up on her insistence, Al underwent a series of tests that revealed that he had indeed suffered a minor stroke. Along about then, he realized that he could not read. He had had nothing but peripheral vision in his left eye due to macular degeneration for about twenty years, and now the center of his field of vision in his good right eye was gone. He could no longer drive, read a newspaper and a host of other things that most of us take for granted – even buttering his toast and corn-on-the-cob.

Al is now fairly well recovered from the effects of the stroke except for some of his stamina and his vision. The macular degeneration that affected his left eye so long ago was the "dry" kind, nothing could be done about it. However, the malady that affected his right eye is the "wet" variety of macular degeneration which is treatable to some degree. He has been receiving treatments at Emory Hospital in Atlanta and there is hope that most of the vision in that eye can be restored. He has seen some improvement as of this writing. We certainly wish him well, especially in that respect.

Not long after his stroke, Al said to Mozelle, "Let's go out and play nine holes." She asked incredulously if he could even see the ball. He said that he could see half of it. So they went golfing. It soon became a regular thing along with two of their friends who have about the same visual acuity as Al. Mozelle says she goes golfing on about a weekly basis with three blind men.

She stands behind them and gets them lined up then watches the ball. She says that they have not lost a ball since they've been doing this. After getting them lined up on approach shots to the green, since they can't see the flag, she goes up and stands behind it.

Now, that is real dedication to the game.

USAMU 50th Anniversary 18–21 October 2006

USAMU Hall of Fame Induction, Shooting
Ranges, Picnic, Story Telling

TIDBITS

Jack McKenzie, AMU XO during the 60s and Support Hall of Fame member, called to offer a donation of historical items to MMA. He also relayed news that he has a new bride. He and Peggy Stone were married May 19, 2006 in Tennessee. Home phone: 423-746-0423, cell: 423-506-4047 in case you want to call and congratulate them.

Coats Brown, A Legacy

Ken Hamill

This series is about the life and times of a shooting legend who became the first Service Rifle Head Coach of USAMU in 1956. If you shot or worked with Coats Brown, please send any memories you have of those times to the Editor so the membership can share or relive those memories.

Fort McClellan, Alabama. Motor vehicles were far less numerous then. Coats does not remember seeing any privately owned vehicle owned by enlisted personnel at Fort McClellan. The First Sergeant or Sergeant Major might have owned a POV but they were never driven to the unit area. There were two light trucks for use by K Company. These trucks had solid rubber tires in 1934 and 1935.

Trucks with pneumatic tires came into use in 1935. Coats drove a vehicle occasionally while working in the Supply Room. There was no drivers test, it was strictly on the job training that allowed a soldier to become a driver. A pre-driving check was performed on a Army vehicle each time it was used. Fuel levels and a few other simple checks were documented on a trip ticket and signed by the military driver prior to using the vehicle. Commercial bus service was available on Post. There were a few bus stops around Fort McClellan. Soldiers, including married men living off Post took the bus to home and work. The price of one bus ride between Anniston and Post was ten cents.

Draft horses and big mules pulled the gun carriages and wagons in 1934 and 1935. One stable served all of the animals on Fort McClellan. The large draft horses and mules were replaced by trucks around 1935. Army owned horses were assigned to some senior officers of every branch at the time. Three Army horses, used primarily by the Regimental Commander, the Regimental Adjutant and the Regimental Supply Officer were stabled at Fort McClellan until 1938, when they were turned in. Enlisted men were assigned to exercise these horses on weekends. Coats and his friend Kirby and a third person would frequently volunteer to ride the three horses. The volunteers would check with their First Sergeant who would coordinate with the Stable Sergeant beforehand. They would ride for three hours after Sunday lunch. The volunteers always cleaned up and curry combed each horse after their ride. The Stable Sergeant would check on the three horses

being played at Fort McClellan. Some Cavalry units kept their horses until the outbreak of World War II.

The elevation of Fort McClellan was higher than most of Alabama. It could get very cold in winter. The elevation of Cheaha Mountain was around 2400 feet and Choccolocco Mountain was also quite high. Winter storms from the north would come over the mountains every year. Heavy snowfalls would cause the Fort to be snowed in. Soldiers with shovels cleared the roads and walkways of Fort McClellan following a snowstorm. Winter work mittens were part of the individual soldiers clothing issue. The Army Marksmanship Association has two photos of PFC Coats Brown during the winter of 1935 at Fort McClellan when the temperature dipped to 3 below zero.

Fort McClellan Post Guard Mount took place daily at 1100. An hour before guard mount, the sergeant of the guard checked the guardhouse and inventoried ammunition, beds, bedding and the like. The sergeant of the guard assigned men to the first, second or third reliefs. A Corporal of the Guard headed each guard relief. The Post Officer of the Day and the Sergeant of the Guard checked all assigned personnel at guard mount. It was a spit and polish formation. Numerous questions were asked. The neatest and most knowledgeable soldier was selected to be Colonels Orderly. The orderly served as a runner at Regimental Headquarters for a 24-hour period. Some guard posts were maintained around the clock and others were guarded only after duty hours until morning and on weekends. Sentinels were posted and relieved by the Corporal of the Guard. A truck was used to post the guard relief. Some guard posts were at the QM warehouse area two miles from garrison.

New MMA Life Members

DeHaviland Glisson	John D. Loomis
Lewis B. Sharp	Alexander D. Marchioli
Francis B. Conway	Michael A. Geffert
William R. Rigby	Scott Poldington

Life Membership is only \$300



Joe Deckert, USAR, Shot Running Deer in the World Championships of 1958 Moscow and 1961 Oslo. Won the Individual Gold medal and Team Silver medal in Moscow.



Harry Lucker - Member of the American Team in the 1965 Mayleigh Cup Match at Camp Perry. Distinguished Pistol and International, President's Hundred. Life Member MMA

John "Rusty" Kingeter - Shot Running Target in 3 International Championships in the 60s, winning 5 medals. Was also multi-time U.S. Champion.



Norm Skarpness - A Distinguished Rifleman and many-year member of AMU. Shown here in 1956 with the 36th Infantry Regimental Rifle Team in Germany.

Vintage

U.S. Army Skeet Team at Ft. Benning (Late 60s). (L-R) Ed Brown, Max Quick, Loyd Oliver, Dan Voorhees, Tom Gillmore-OIC





CPT Donald Adams - 1966 World Championships, Wiesbaden, Germany. Gold Medal winner 50 Meter Standard Rifle.

.22 Cal. Anschutz Standard Rifle: No hook butt plate, no palm rest, no thumbstock. Event is no longer contested.



MAJ Tommy Pool and SSG Martin Gunnarsson, both 1964 Olympic Medal winners in International Rifle, discuss matters with an officer of the Mexican Army in Mexico City 1967, prior to an awards ceremony.

Photos

1963 Interservice Rifle Team, Quantico. (L-R) SSG William Lee, PFC James M. Owen, SFC James McQuien, SSG Carl Pritchett, SGT Clifford Wilson, SFC Raymond Campbell, MSG Jack Teague (Coach), MAJ William Basham (Team Captain).



Margaret Thompson Murdock - 1968 Navy Cup winner, Distinguished Rifle and International. First woman in history to fire on an Olympic Shooting Team (Silver Medal, Montreal 1976), 4 World Championship Teams: 21 Gold, 6 Silver, 2 Bronze medals. Many World and National records. USAMU Hall of Fame.



Trap trophies from 1968 - SGT Edward Leaven-dusky and SGT James Beck



Conway Chronicles

Francis B. Conway

I had another outside project. I had to make a counter-weight for the 8" gun / 240 mm Howitzer mount. It was steel about 5 ½ feet long and about 16" in diameter. I had to turn it to about 12" diameter and leave a 2" thick full diameter at one end, like a big nail. I had it on centers (big centers) and using a forged tool bit I was going in about 1/8" and had a feed of 0.004". I was getting beautiful spirals coming off the lathe and breaking off sections of one to three feet to go into the garbage can. Someone asked how long a "chip" I could make? So we started with a couple of guys trying to keep it straight and rotating! In a short time it went through the big overhead rolling doors out front, across the street, across the parking lot and was headed toward the building across the street. All of our people were holding it. So they called for help from the wheeled vehicle/tank shop next door! It went to the left of the building and out of sight along the shore of Chesapeake Bay. The "chip" finally broke off about 1" from the shoulder, but by this time there were about 15 GI's holding it (the war was over remember). So we got the torch from the welding shop and annealed it as we brought it in and made a coil about 6 feet in diameter. We tied it with lace wire and hung it on an inside wall. When I left in June 1950 it was still there! Oh, How Long? We had a 100 foot steel tape and did measure it, 421 feet 3 inches. How about that? Book of world records?

Editor's Note:

The last edition of Conway Chronicles should have ended with the words "Post Chapel." Somehow the word "Chapel" was lost in cyberspace.

TAPS, PRESENT ARMS

Major (Retired) David M. Emerson, 78, died on Friday April 28, 2005, in Portland, Oregon. David was born on July 10, 1928 in Boston, Massachusetts. He received his Bachelor's degree from Norwich University and his Master's degree from Lewis and Clark College. David served in Vietnam War during the 1968 Tet Offensive and was awarded the Bronze Star Medal and the Purple Heart. David was the Officer-In-Charge of the USAMU Service Pistol Branch in the mid-1960s. He was a "2600" shooter, earned the U S Army Distinguished Pistol Shot Badge in 1966, and was awarded the President's Hundred Tab at the National Pistol Matches, Camp Perry, Ohio. David retired as a Major, after serving his country for 22 years. After his retirement from the Army, David was a history teacher in the Sandy School District, Sandy, Oregon. David was known for his sense of humor, wit, intelligence, and knowledge of history, as well as his generosity to his many friends and family.

Master Sergeant (Retired) Alfred B. "Al" Falcon, 75, died on Thursday, March 30, 2006 in Hendersonville, Tennessee. Al served in Korea and in the Vietnam War from 1967 to 1968 with the 9th Infantry Division Sniper School. Al began shooting with the 505th Airborne team in Mainz, Germany, and shot on the 8th Infantry Division MTU team and the USAREUR team from 1959 to 1961. He was assigned to USAMU from 1964 to 1967 as the Chief Instructor/Shooter of the Service Rifle Section. He earned the U S Army Distinguished Rifleman Badge in 1960, and was awarded the President's Hundred Tab at the National Pistol Matches, Camp Perry, Ohio. Al retired from the U S Army as a Master Sergeant with over 20 years of military service. After his retirement from the Army, he was employed by the U S Postal Service. Al was one of the few left-handed to excel in competition with the M1 Service Rifle and one of the best shooters of his era. Al was also known as a congenial individual--easy to shoot with and easy get along with.

Welcome New Members !

Kyle S Alstatt James A. Baker Ray L. Carpenter
Koo D Davis Joe A. Deckert Kelly A. Dove
Janet Emerson Anne Falcon Jack E. Fielding
Scott M. Grant Greg J. Gustafson William H. Harper
Dolald L. Heuman Warren B. Huffman Wayne G. Lewis
Melvin P. Makn Robert L. Merritt Milton Negrone Sr
George Norris Jr Richard L. Okland George Osborne
Gary E. Panzer Robert S. Park II Jon T. Partin
Robert E. Partridge Gary L. Pnce Calm C. Roberts
Jim R. Schatz Jr Matthew T. Signst Eduardo A. Suarez
William H. Swanter

LIFE
BRUCE A. MEREDITH
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LA GRANGE, GA 30240-9209



MMA, Inc.
P.O. Box 52025
Fort Benning, GA 31995-2025



HALL OF FAME NOMINEES CAREER HIGHLIGHTS

RAYMOND BEHNAY: Master Gunsmith customized the rifles used by countless worldclass shooters to win most of the international rifle medals won by USAMU shooters in the 1960's and 1970's.

GERALD (HOOK) BOUTIN: Distinguished gunsmith. Worked M-1, M14 and XM-21 weapons systems as well as competition firearms for all service rifle teams.

ERICH BULJUNG: International Pistol Shooter won 31 Gold medals, 16 silver medals and 7 bronze medals in international competition; Was 1988 Olympic Silver medalist; Set two individual world records.

DANIEL CARLISLE: Shotgun Shooter won the 1975 Pan American Games Trap Gold medal; 1982 World Skeet Champion; 1983 Pan Am Gold medal (trap); 1984 Olympic Bronze Medal (trap), 1987 Pan American Games trap Gold medal.

JOSEPH CLEMMONS: Shotgun Shooter Earned three gold medals in international competition including a gold medal in the 1977 World Moving Target Championships in skeet.

ROY COMBS: Recognized as the most prolific winning Service Rifle Team Coach. Ended his career as SGM of the USAMU.

MATT DRYKE: Shotgun Shooter was the 1981 World Record Skeet; 1983 Pan American Games and World Moving Target Champion; 1984 Olympic Gold Medal; 1986 World Skeet Champion.

MARTIN EDMONDSON: Service Rifle and Running Target Shooter. A national champion in service rifle competitions, a national champion in running target and a 1976 and 1980 Olympian.

ARPAIL GAPOL: Service Rifle Shooter; 1967 President's match winner, 1973 National Service Rifle Champion and President's match winner, 1974 President's match winner.

BOYD GOLDSBY: International Rifle and Service Rifle Shooter Member of 1980 Olympic Team, set one team World Record, earned 12 gold, 1 silver and 1 bronze medal in international competition. CISM Champion and Wimbledon Cup winner. Won the NTI and Service Rifle Championships in 1976.

MARTIN GUNNARSSON: International Rifle Shooter was a 1964 Olympic Games Bronze Medalist. Earned 2 gold and 2 bronze in international competition. Was a member of one world record setting team.

DONALD HALDEMAN: Shotgun shooter was the 1975 International Clay Pigeon Champion; 1975 Silver medallist at Pan American Games; Olympic Gold medal in 1976.

WILLIAM HARDEN: Competed as a top level Service Rifle shooter. Most know as the Custom Firearms shop NCOIC and later the shop chief for over 30 years.

EMIL HEUGATTER: International and Service Pistol shooter. Earned the International Distinguished Shooters Badge and was the National Trophy Match winner at Camp Perry in 1976.

WANDA JEWELL: 1984 Olympic Bronze medalist in 3X20. Represented the United States at 7 consecutive world championships. A two time world champion in 1978.

FRED KEIFER: 1963 OIC of Pistol Section; 1964 AMU XO; 1965 Chief of Competitive Division; 1966-1990 AMU International Coordinator; Team Manager of 1964 Olympic Team, 1967 Pan American Team; 1982 World Shooting Team 1983 World Air Gun Shooting Team.

JAMES MCNALLY: International Pistol shooter and member of 1968 and 1972 Olympic Team; 1962 Bronze Medallist at World Championships and two time National RF Pistol Champion.

KAREN MONEZ: International Rifle shooter. Won 14 gold, 4 silver and 2 bronze medals in international competition. Set one individual world record. World Champion in 1979 Women's 10m Air Rifle.

WILLIAM MORRIS: Shotgun Shooter 1963 Interservice Skeet Champion; 1964 Interservice Trap Champion. Won a Bronze Medal in Trap at the 1964 Olympic Games.

DANIEL PUCKEL: Charter member of AMU. 1960 Olympic Team. 1958 and 1962 World Championships. 1959 Pan Am Games. Set 2 individual and one world team record in 300 meters 3X40 international rifle. Earned 4 gold, 5 silver, 4 bronze medals in international competitions.

THOMAS SHARPE: Recognized as the staff officer most responsible for organizing and forming the USAAMU. Commander USAMU, Team leader of 1964 Olympic Team and himself a Distinguished Rifle and Distinguished Pistol Shot.

RANDY STEWART: Running Target Shooter Member of the 1980 and 1984 Olympic Team. Earned a Bronze medal in the 1983 World Moving Target Championships.

GREG STROM: Service Rifle Shooter Only Service Rifle Shooter to win all three major matches (U.S. Army, Interservice and National Championships) in the same year. Won the Presidents match twice, two interservice titles, and member of two winning ten-man teams.

MICHAEL THEIMER: Running Target shooter won 6 national championships during his 7-year career. Won ten international medals and has the U.S. highest Running Target finish (8th) in history fired during the 1976 Olympic Games.

EARNEST VANDE ZANDE: International Rifle Shooter Won 9 gold, 2 silver and 1 bronze medal in international competition. Fired a world record 600 English Match in 1981 and earned a bronze medal in 300m prone at the 1982 World Championships.

EARL WATERMAN: Service Rifle Shooter and winner of two Interservice Individual Championships and the 1975 National Service Rifle Championships. On 4 national record teams, two national and 5 interservice Infantry trophy teams, and 6 winning ten man teams.

OSCAR WEINMEISTER: Member of several national records setting pistol teams. Was head coach of USAMU Service Pistol Team from 1958-1966.

VERLE WRIGHT: International Rifle Shooter won 8 gold, 7 silver and 4 bronze medals in international competition. Set 1 individual and 2 team world records.