

# ROADRUNNERS INTERNATIONALE



## 1 February 2011 Newsletter 51st Edition

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Yo, Roadrunners. So you know, we delayed publishing the newsletter so we could include the latest poop from the Roadrunner officers who met today to plan the reunion this October. Another reason for it not getting out on schedule was our president having other things on his mind as you will see below. He says it is a rough job, but someone has to do it.

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### FEEDBACK TO LAST MONTH'S ARTICLE ABOUT HAM RADIO OPERATORS

I didn't realize you were Ham too Frank. I'm K4UHM. I did have a KWM-2 years ago. Started with a DX-40. I'm not active. Got too many other irons in the fire. Jim Griffin

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In an earlier era long, long ago and at a place far, far away, I did two tours assigned to AFCS crypto / ADC systems doing upgrades, fielding and on-site O&M. On those deployments, my AF MARS call-signs were OX4AK (2004 Comm) and OX5BK (1983rd Comm) --- my current call-sign is K3JGB. Ed Miller

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Today I presented the RRI program for the Sons of the American Revolution to a crowd of 35. We had a big screen hanging from the ceiling to hook the computer to. I also did 20 minutes of filling in some other info for the two projects, the ranch my bio and some current data on the U-2S and UAVs. Lots of compliments and may do it next for the local EAA group out at the airport.  
Charles Christian - Santa Rosa, CA



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For quite some time various authors and historians have been inquiring about a secret CIA Project Turkey Trotter. The famous Roadrunner I-team with the assistance of our esteemed former CIA member Charles Christian located Bob Sullenberger, formerly CIA Commo at Incirlik circa 1960 who not only solved the mystery, but also donated the depicted mug to us for future display along with our other Roadrunner mementos.

Incirlik AB Overview & A Beer Stein of the Era that made the base famous. The installation was used extensively to conduct reconnaissance missions over the Soviet Union employed the use of the Lockheed U-2.

In 1960, I was assigned to "Det. 10-10" of U-2 fame, in its Communications Squadron as a CTC. This was in the era when Gary Powell was assigned to the Detachment and overflights were not uncommon.

If my memory serves me correctly after a lapse of some 50+years, a group within the communications squadron wanted to have a memento of their assignment while at the same time taking special care to give due consideration to the classified environment. Because Wiesbaden, Germany was the normal R & R destination of most of us, the thought of a specially designed beer stein came into the conversation. Some one came up with the bright idea of getting a stein with a "out house" with the Turkey Trotter notation (after all we were in Turkey). That wasn't good enough to satisfy the majority so someone suggested, and all agreed the Stein should have a lid attached and have a airplane decorate the top of lid to represent the U-2, in our minds at least.

Thus the Turkey Trotter beer mug, stein came into being. Each member of commo got a stein, can't remember if others in DET 10-10 got one or not. So you see the Turkey Trotters was no secret operation or group, merely some beer mugs made to bring back memories. Robert (Bob) Sullenberger

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Dear Friends and Colleagues,



I hope this finds you all well after the Holidays and enjoying the New Year. With the New Year, I've decided it's time for me to retire from my day job, which began in 1961 when I joined the Air Force and continued at David Clark Company, beginning in 1965. Throughout the intervening years, I have been most fortunate to meet and work with the likes of each of you, providing me with treasured experiences and friendships, which mean more to me than you could know. I was unusually lucky to have the opportunity to "volunteer" for my chosen career field, as were many of you no doubt, nearly 50 years ago. As I reflect back on that decision, I believe it was the human aspect of aerospace crew protective equipment that attracted me to this career choice (not to speak of the extra hazardous duty pay) and I must say I've been privileged to know many extraordinary and most accomplished individuals, both "customers" and colleagues like yourselves. Thanks to David Clark Company's generosity, I will maintain an office at the Company and will continue to come in occasionally, to

complete some special projects and provide any desired assistance at David Clark and Air-Lock. Susan and I are looking forward to having more time to enjoy leisurely pursuits, including traveling to visit friends like you, so be fairly forewarned that we may show up at any time. My emails and phone numbers remain the same, so keep in touch. The attached photos were taken on my first day of retirement (just after midnight New Years Eve). Why didn't you long retired folks tell me it was going to be like this long before now. Happy Trails, Jack Bassick

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Dear Friends and Supporters of The Cold War Museum, I am writing to inform you that I have accepted a position as Museum Director of the Military Aviation Museum ([www.militaryaviationmuseum.org](http://www.militaryaviationmuseum.org)) in Virginia Beach, VA effective January 18 (see press release below). This was a very tough decision to make but in the end a leadership position with one of Virginia's newest aviation museums with the largest private collection of vintage warbirds that fly was such an opportunity to advance in the museum industry that I could not turn it down. This will allow me to break out from the Cold War genre that I am associated with and expand into museum management as opposed to being limited to just Cold War history.

I will remain on the board of directors of The Cold War Museum for the time being until a new Chairman is identified to succeed me, will always be recognized as the Founder, and continue to assist with policy decisions going forward for the time being. However, my new obligations with the Military Aviation Museum will prevent me from handling the many day-to-day tasks I have managed over the past 15 years. The February 1 issue of The Cold War Times will be the last issue I will be able to oversee the production of and I am looking for a volunteer newsletter editor. Should you have an interest in assisting with this publication or know some that would, please email John Welch at [john.welch@coldwar.org](mailto:john.welch@coldwar.org).

The Cold War Museum Board of Director's is very happy for me and my family and are working diligently to designate amongst themselves my duties and responsibilities until a volunteer Operations Manager is appointed. The Museum's board is also working on a transition plan, which includes searching for volunteers to manage these tasks and help us keep the ball moving forward. The museum continues to work with Vint Hill EDA and is looking forward to opening the museum building later this year. If any of you are able to help on a volunteer basis, please contact CWM Co-Founder John Welch at [john.welch@coldwar.org](mailto:john.welch@coldwar.org).

Thank you for your continued interest in The Cold War Times and support of The Cold War Museum. It has been an honor and privilege for me to move the museum forward over these past 15 years. I want to thank everyone who has supported this effort from the time of its inception on July 16, 1996 till now. I could not have moved the museum forward to this point without the assistance of the board of directors, financial supporters, artifact donors, oral history providers, and the numerous volunteers that have helped us. I am excited about the museum's new home at Vint Hill and I am sure that the board of directors and our soon to be appointed Operations Manager will continue to build upon the solid foundation that has been established.

Thank you for all of the help and support you have provided over the years.

Very truly yours, Francis Gary Powers, Jr. Founder The Cold War Museum [www.coldwar.org](http://www.coldwar.org)

PRESS RELEASE

GARY POWERS TO ACCEPT POSITION AS MUSEUM DIRECTOR OF MILITARY AVIATION MUSEUM IN VIRGINIA BEACH

Gerald Yagen, Founder and CEO of the Military Aviation Museum (MAM) ([www.militaryaviationmuseum.org](http://www.militaryaviationmuseum.org)), announced on January 16 that Gary Powers has been hired as the Museum Director effective January 18, 2011. "This is a wonderful addition to our

museum staff and Gary will bring extensive experience to our organization," said Yagen. "He will be an active member of our team and will provide valuable guidance, direction, and advice as we enter our next phase of planning."

Born June 5, 1965, in Burbank, California, Gary is the son of Francis Gary and Claudia E. "Sue" Powers. Gary holds a Bachelors' of Arts Degree in Philosophy from California State University, Los Angeles, and a Master's Degree in Public Administration / Certification in Non-profit Management from George Mason University (GMU), Fairfax, Virginia.

During his career Powers has held a variety of positions including Assistant Registrar for the City of Fairfax, Executive Director of a small nonprofit dedicated to the historical revitalization of Old Town Fairfax, marketing representative for home inspection company US Inspect, and President/CEO for The Vienna Tysons Regional Chamber of Commerce.

In 1996, Gary founded The Cold War Museum ([www.coldwar.org](http://www.coldwar.org)) to honor Cold War veterans and preserve Cold War history. Over the past fifteen years he led that museum forward as founding chairman, which recently located at Vint Hill Farms, a former Army communication base in Fauquier County, VA. Because of his efforts to establish the museum between 1996 and 2001, the Junior Chamber of Commerce selected him as one of the "Ten Outstanding Young Americans" for 2002. Gary lectures internationally and appears regularly on the History, Discovery, and A&E Channels. He is married and has one son.

Plans are underway to expand the Military Aviation Museum and grow membership. The MAM possesses an impressive collection of vintage War Bird airplanes from WWI and WWII and a large variety of artifacts pertaining to the era. "Chuckie", a vintage fully restored B-17 bomber arrive at the MAM on Saturday, January 22.



Rumor has it that the economic situation in Las Vegas improved drastically this past week with the arrival of Roadrunner member Alan Johnson and lovely Lorraine from the UK. Alan, you just thought Lorraine was shopping all that time she was had your American Express Card. The Johnson's and Barnes' enjoyed a very pleasant dinner at Ricardo's Mexican Restaurant. Alan, also a Webmaster, is the moderator of the Roadrunner Facebook. For those who haven't visited our Facebook, you're missing a great opportunity to socialize with your fellow Roadrunners and our friends worldwide.

### **THE 2011 ROADRUNNER REUNION**

**[http://roadrunnersinternationale.com/2011\\_ri\\_reunion.html](http://roadrunnersinternationale.com/2011_ri_reunion.html)**



As indicated earlier, this month's newsletter is running late because our RI president was busy checking out entertainment for our reunion. He takes his work very seriously and will probably continue looking for suitable entertainment up to the night of the banquet. He says this comes with the job of being president and that past presidents Bill Fox, Hank Mierdierck, Frank Murray, and Roger Andersen did the same thing. The present slate of officers have appointed Frank Murray as chairman of the 2011 nominating committee, so if any of you want to relieve Barnes of this chore, submit your name to Frank Murray and start campaigning. They won't admit it, but Andersen has gone undercover as a Walmart greeter and Martin, and Prucnal have been hanging out at their local Costco store scouting out possible entertainment as well, so their jobs are hot and exciting, and worth seeking as well.

Today, 2 February, Reunion chairman Harry Martin and his committee of Andersen, Barnes, and Prucnal met to discuss the reunion. Martin reports the Gold Coast Hotel and Casino has lowered our room rates to \$36 per night with a little bit more for weekends. At the end of July we have to make a financial commitment with the Gold Coast, so we are going to need a head count of those planning to attend the reunion prior to that time. You may do this by e-mail or in writing. Some of you have already inquired as to costs, activities, etc., however it is impossible for us to provide that until we hear from the membership to determine the number attending and suggested activities they would like to be included in the options. This information is also important to the CIA EAA store as well so they can plan to support us again this reunion.

We realize that it is difficult to plan this far ahead, and that health issues or other situations may change your plans. Nonetheless, we need to know now your intentions for planning purposes and accept them with the understanding your plans may change. We fear this may well be our last major reunion and encourage all who can attend to do so. Those who have not provided us with a yea or nay by sometime in April will receive a final reminder by email or by regular mail for those not having email. All you have to do is hit the reply button and let us know now so Harry can sleep at night. If you already know you won't be able to attend, please let us know now so we can scratch your name off the list to call and/or mail registration forms and such.