



**“Cleared Hot”**

by Lon Holtz

Here we are at the near beginning of 2025, and the reunion planning committee is up to its elbows to ensure that this final reunion will be remembered long after we say good bye after having shared many years of great get-togethers. We’ve travelled to some really great places for those reunions and carried away fond memories. We also left our mark for those that never heard of the A-37 and what we did fifty-eight-odd years ago by placing artifacts in USAF facilities, gave speeches, and published our book, and always did it together.

We now are faced with one problem, the aging situation, that everyone is facing. In the past, time has permitted us to do whatever we wanted to do, but those days have passed and only memories remain. For this reason, our planning team has constructed a program that has limited our group’s events time together to two major functions: an air show by the A-37 and our final dinner. Personal time has been planned for you to enjoy as much of Las Vegas as you wish. Be it shows, gambling, tours, shopping, sporting events, or just sitting around and tell that same old war story one more time. If you want to do that, you probably can here in Vegas, and the memory will last a long, long time. Jerry will tell you more as you read on.

My only wish above all is to see some of the old cadre that happened to make the last few reunions. Please take one last chance to make this one because there aren’t going to be anymore.

**Following up on plans for Vegas 25**

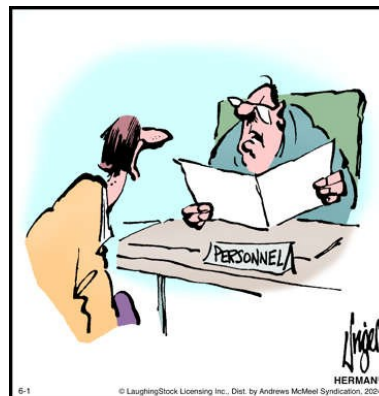
Now that the initial flurry of signing contracts has set us underway to make this gathering a success, we’re working on developing all the supporting actions, such as getting information out to you.

On page 4 of this newsletter is a tentative schedule of events that allows plenty of free time to explore Vegas. The Tuscany Suites and Casino is only a block and a half off the Strip, but there are attractions on the property, including a Broadway show (which is waaay off Broadway) and a casino. So you may not have to go anywhere near the Strip. However, should you want, Barbara Holtz’s article on page 3 elaborates on some of the options of things to do and places to visit in the area.

One of the scheduled items is a Ladies Event being put together by Kathie Serlet, wife of Board member John Serlet. She’ll be asking the ladies for their interest in making a tour or shopping foray or perhaps a show that has the prospects of an enjoyable day’s outing.

Two other events are the core of our get-together: the outing to St. George and the closing banquet. The Western Sky Aviation Warbird Museum at St. George is home to a MiG-15 and -17 as well as some vintage British and American aircraft. The A-37 will be on display and then show off during an airborne demonstration.

The dinner banquet will close out our Vegas reunion with a salute to all who flew, maintained, serviced, and admired the little aircraft that could and did a bang-up job doing it...Jerry Sailors



“Your resume says you spent fore years at collej.”

*“The A-37 Association is for those who flew, worked on/with, were saved by, or have high admiration for the great little fighter.”*

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**...the smallest fighter... the fastest gun**

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*The Dragonfly is published quarterly (except when within two months of a reunion, then monthly), as a service to the membership, new contacts, and other interested parties.*

*The views expressed herein are those of the editors/ authors and do not necessarily reflect any official position of the A-37 Association. The editors reserve the right to print any article/letter/email/photo deemed to be of interest to members.*

*We also reserve the right to edit any article to fit space available and to reject any material considered inappropriate. We invite and encourage members/ contacts to submit articles/letters/emails/photos.*

**Member Update**

**Gone West**

**John McAlister**, 6 Aug 2024, Mesa, AZ - [Obituary](#)

**L.A. Bienvenu**, 18 Jan 2025, Austin, TX - [Obituary](#)

**Updated Address**

**Ollie Maier**: Esplanade Gardens, 10790 Toepperwein Road, Room 215, Converse, TX 78109 (*He would enjoy a greeting card.*)

**George Courington**: 3535 Kirby Parkway, Apt I-222, Memphis, TN 38115

**Calendar of Events**

**A-37 Association Fini Reunion**, Las Vegas, NV, 23-26 Oct 2025.

**Rustics Fini Reunion**, Ft Walton Beach, FL, 6-9 Nov 2025.

**Emails**

*(From Gene Bywater, 17 Oct 2024)*

We had just returned from two months of travel when your message arrived and I set your message aside to respond after we did all our catch up tasks. Well, I basically forgot this task while dealing with a couple issues that rather exploded after our return. So, I apologize and here is my response.

Yes, we are interested in attending but we do have commitments on every 2nd weekend in October. We would travel by RV.

I was able to touch the A-37B on the ramp at the EAA Airventure in July. I just missed by a couple hours the Warbirds talk given by Hank Hoffman as I was not aware that was occurring.

Thanks for all you are doing on our behalf.

.....

*(From Donna Loosley, 2 Dec 2024)*

Thank you for the nice tribute to Don (in the October newsletter).

.....

*(From Erik Goldstein, 15 Feb 2025)*

I hope this finds you well. I've recently spent some time studying images of 604<sup>th</sup> ACS patches and have noticed a few interesting things. I believe there were likely a number of patch variations in use during the war, not including the post-war knock offs which can be bought any day of the week for a few bucks.

Do you think it would be worthwhile to put out a call to the membership for images & details of the patches they acquired and/or wore during their time with the 604<sup>th</sup>? It might be useful to future generations to have some sort of guide to these, one which would document unquestionably genuine patches, record their stories and provenance, and enable those interested in the history of the 604<sup>th</sup> to be able to sort the genuine from the reproduction crap. When assembled, it could be run in *The Dragonfly* if you like.

*(Reply to Erik Goldstein, 18 Feb 2025)*

Erik, I like your idea. I would expand the concept beyond the 604<sup>th</sup> ACS as there were several other squadrons (including the 604<sup>th</sup> SOS) that flew the bird before closing operations in 1972, each having their own distinctive patch. I'll round up those patches I have on file to send you. (*See article on page 3.*)







...the smallest fighter...the fastest gun

## Schedule of Events

The A-37 Association Reunion  
Tuscany Suites and Casino  
Las Vegas, NV  
23-26 October 2025

	(PDT) <sup>1</sup>	
23 October (Thur)	1500 - ?	Arrival Hospitality Room open
24 October (Fri)	0700 - ? 0900 - 1000 0900 - ?	Hospitality Room open Board of Directors Meeting Ladies Event <sup>2</sup> Lunch & Dinner on your own
25 October (Sat)	0700 (PDT) 1000 (MDT) 1500 (MDT) 1600 (PDT) 1630 - ?	Bus departs for St. George, Utah Arrive St. George <sup>2</sup> Depart St. George Arrive Tuscany Suites Hospitality Room open Dinner on your own
26 October (Sun)	0700 - 1730 0900 - 1000 1000 - 1700 1800 - 1900 1900 - 2100 2100 - ?	Hospitality Room open Membership Meeting Free time Reception/Photos (Dress: Smart Casual) Dinner (Tuscany Room) Hospitality Room open
27 October (Mon)	0800 - 1100	Pack up and leave

### Notes:

1. Event times may be altered as we get closer to October.
2. Separate schedule.

# Memorabilia Order Form

(Use this form to print and fill out by hand.)

(Except for plate holders, all prices include shipping.)

50 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Patch	\$6	<del>Sold Out</del>	@	\$6
SEA Decal			— @	\$5
Koozie	<b>How Many?</b>		— @	\$2
Lapel Pin			— @	\$8
Cap			— @	\$15

Clear Form

T-shirts

Gray M     XL     @ \$21  
(3) (1)

Galveston Black M     L     XL     @ \$21  
(2) (3) (2)

"Combat Veteran" License Plate Holder How many     @ \$8

**\$ Total Amount Due**

## **Shipping Address:**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Street or PO Box: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State     Zip    

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email    

## **Method of Payment:**

- Check:**
1. Make payable to "The A-37 Association."
  2. Write "Memorabilia" in the Memo space.
  3. Mail check and completed form to: The A-37 Association  
7078 Mid Pines Drive  
Montgomery, AL 36117

## **PayPal:**

1. Complete form, save to hard drive, and send by email to [dragonfly67.72@gmail.com](mailto:dragonfly67.72@gmail.com).
2. Go to [www.paypal.com](http://www.paypal.com) and send payment to [dragonfly67.72@gmail.com](mailto:dragonfly67.72@gmail.com).

Clear Form

Questions? Email [dragonfly67.72@gmail.com](mailto:dragonfly67.72@gmail.com) or call Jerry Sailors (334) 328-7575.  
All proceeds go to the A-37 Association.

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Circle choice:

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The A-37 Association  
7078 Mid Pines Drive  
Montgomery, AL 36117

## Memorabilia

..... T-shirts, koozies, pins, decals, patches, caps, license plate holders

..... Advertise the A-37 Association

For ordering information, see Memorabilia Order Page inside.

