

CNAC ASSOCIATION



CANNON BALL

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Was it *really* the best reunion ever?

In a phone conversation on Veteran's Day, President Bill Maher (pictured above) said he and a number of others thought this year's reunion was "one of the best, if not THE BEST." Hard to argue with a man whose tenure as CNAC president has spanned 26 years. We had a number of new presentations, and it was great to welcome so many new people. Something was going on all the time, and all of it was interesting. Moon Chin outdid himself again with dinner on Friday, and the banquet for 70 people at the hotel on Saturday night was elegant, exciting and delicious. The hotel can't be beat, with the beautiful bay views, proximity to the airport, the incredible breakfast buffet AND open bar for before-dinner drinks, all for a great price (which will be in effect next year too!).

Bill said, "Sometimes I feel like I'm in the entertainment business."

Possibly the most moving and wonderful development this year was the attendance of many people who had never been to a CNAC reunion before and others for whom it had been a while. Bill orchestrated a wonderful moment one afternoon, by first inviting all the pilots to come to the front of our meeting room (major photo op ensued). He then asked that newcomers and relatives introduce themselves, tell who they were related to and ask any questions they might have. It opened up a number of opportunities for pilots and relatives alike, many of whom spent more time afterwards sitting together and sharing stories.



Nancy Ryba, Jeff Greene, Peter Goutiere, Tom Moore, Diego Kusak, and Carey Bowles

Among those who came forward were the three daughters and a granddaughter of Bob Heilig (having a mini-reunion of their own!), John Parish, brother of Len Parish, Elise Cunningham (the “first associate”), and Nancy Ryba, daughter of James Ruff, attending with her sister Janet Ruff, Carol Sharp Slade, daughter of Chuck Sharp, Peter Stannick, Nancy Alison Wright, Royal Leonard, and Ted Elms (if the notes taken were clearer and the memory better, this would be a more complete report). Suffice to say, it was a chance to connect with people and rekindle memories and emotions from an important time.

Wouldn't you like to be a part of the fun next year? It's not too soon to begin making plans to attend the next reunion! We will return to Embassy Suites in Burlingame, CA, right after Labor Day, Wednesday, September 3 through Saturday, September 6, 2008. Same hotel, same great suite rate of \$109 per night, breakfast and happy hour included. Call 650-342-4600 to make reservations and be sure to mention CNAC Association.

VISIT THE CNAC WEBSITE TODAY

Can't wait until the next reunion? Do not let trepidations about the internet, computers, or modern technology keep you from this wonderful repository of information, developed by Tom Moore. You simply won't believe what you will find there! All are welcome to contribute new information and photos. The website address is www.cnac.org. If you are not sure what to do, get your daughter, son, grandchild or teenage next-door neighbor involved (they will learn something too!). If you have flown the Hump, you can travel the World Wide Web.