



WHISPERING SANDS PIONEER GAZETTE

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE WSPG

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LETTER 2

OCTOBER 2001

New Officers and Ghosts Towns on the Next Meeting Agenda

The Pioneer Group's next meeting will be Wednesday, Nov. 14 at 7 p.m. at the Best Western Mission Inn in Las Cruces.

The evening will include a short business meeting to elect and install the new officers.

The nominees for the election are:

President - Al Gonzalez

First Vice-President - Dolores Archuleta

Second Vice-President - Ron Hayslett

Secretary/Treasurer - Pat Quinlan

Past president Bob Lipinski will be on hand to install the new officers.

After the business, Jim Eckles will show slides and talk about ghost towns found on White Sands Missile Range. He will focus on Estey City, an old copper mining town from

1905, and Red Canyon Range Camp, an Army training community from the 1950s. Some of the Pioneers may actually remember Red Canyon and Jim will explain why the soldiers who served there loved it.

The dinner will be private buffet for the group and will feature a choice of prime rib, ham, chicken marsala and lemon pepper fish. The cost is \$13 per person.

Reservations should be made before Nov. 9 by calling Joe Marlin at 382-7991 or Jim Eckles at the White Sands Public Affairs Office at 678-1134.

At the motel, you should use the south parking lot entrance. There will be signs directing the way.

Terrorism Threat has Impact on Everyday Operations at WSMR

The recent terrorism activities in the United States have prompted some changes at White Sands Missile Range.

The most obvious change is at the main gates. You can no longer drive straight through on entering or exiting. Barricades have been erected and all vehicles must zigzag through them to get through the gate area. Also, all personnel entering must show a valid photo identification.

At one point, immediately following the attacks on Sept. 11, all vehicles entering the post were searched. As you stopped at the gate you were asked to pop the trunk and hood and get out of your vehicle. Military

police then went through the vehicle. This included a mirror search of the undercarriage.

Another obvious precaution being taken at White Sands is that no vehicles can be parked any closer than 75 meters from any building. This means some parking lots are not being used anymore which means more employees are walking a few blocks to get to their offices.

Many activities scheduled for this fall were canceled because of the heightened security levels. The Oct. 6 Trinity Site open house, the Oktoberfest celebration, the Rhodes Canyon bicycle ride and several other events were eliminated.

Note from the President

Greetings to the Pioneers.

We have an important dinner meeting scheduled for Nov. 14 in Las Cruces. At the meeting we will present the slate of new officers for the White Sands Pioneer Group. You will be voting on these individuals:

President - Al Gonzalez
 First Vice-President - Dolores Archuleta
 Second Vice-President - Ron Haysieft
 Secretary/Treasurer - Pat Quinlan

With this mix of new and old officers I think our organization will be in very capable hands for another two years.

I would like to thank those who served with me the last two years. You have provided good and faithful service.

I hope we have a large turnout for this meeting. In addition to the business of electing new officers, Jim Eckles, from the WSMR Public Affairs Office, will present his talk and slide show on ghost towns on White Sands. Maybe some of us oldtimers will learn something.

Pat Quinlan is really serious about using email to communicate with fellow pioneers. In addition to communicating at the speed of light, it could save us a lot of money. For instance, if just half of you have email accounts, we can cut our printing and postage costs in half. We could email the text of the newsletters to those with accounts and mail hardcopy to the rest.

Think about this. If you have an email account, drop Pat an email at:

quinlanps@zianet.com

I hope to see you on the 14th. Make your reservation by Nov. 9. If you need to reach me, my phone number, in Las Cruces, is 3827991 and my email address is:

jmarlin@juno.com



Joe

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE AND MEMBERSHIP

The White Sands Pioneer Group (WSPG) is a nonprofit association of present and former employees of White Sands Missile Range (nee White Sands Proving Ground). Our purpose is to recognize and preserve the pioneering efforts and significant achievements in science and national defense that have occurred at the installation. The WSPG conducts periodic meetings for members to renew acquaintances and hear topics of common interest; publishes a newsletter for members unable to attend meetings as well as to share items of interest with the entire membership; and promotes activities and events related to the

overall objectives of the W5P&. Membership is open to all civil service, contractor and military personnel who worked at White Sands (or Holloman Air Force Base during or before the time it was the Air Force Missile Development Center) and to anyone who shares in the objectives of the organization. For details, write the White Sands Pioneer Group, P.O. Box 318, White Sands Missile Range, New Mexico 88002.

The WSPG is the self-proclaimed booster club and chamber of commerce for White Sands Missile Range.

“Keep the history alive.”

Pioneer Dan Duggan Briefed JFK Back in 1963

Recently WSMR Public Affairs made Dan Duggan famous with an article in the local papers about his encounter with JFK. The story follows.

On June 5, 1963 President John F. Kennedy visited White Sands Missile Range to watch a series of missile firings. The event was called Project MEWS which stood for "Missile Exercise White Sands."

One of the briefers that day was a young Army captain named Dan Duggan. He came back to White Sands as the deputy commander and retired to Las Cruces.

Duggan donated his copy of the operations order for MEWS to the missile range back in 1996.

For Kennedy's visit the range launched seven missiles against a variety of targets including another missile, a hillside and several remotely controlled jet aircraft.

To do this, the Army moved the president from Holloman to the White Sands main post and to two different launch complexes before flying him via helicopter to El Paso. You might expect such a happening to take most of a day. Not so.

According to the official itinerary, from the point where Kennedy touched down on the main post to the time he flew away from the missile range it was only 139 minutes less than 2 1/2 hours.

Duggan said that the range went through 90 days of preparation for those 139 minutes. He personally was responsible for two of the briefings Kennedy received as well as helping to coordinate some of the shots.

Kennedy, along with Vice President Lyndon Johnson, was scheduled to be seated at the parade field at 2:45 p.m. The range's workforce attended this portion and Kennedy talked to them for about 10 minutes.

The official party then went to LC-32 by car to begin the exercise. The first firing was

an Honest John. According to the schedule the briefer had two minutes to explain the system's capabilities and what the soldiers were doing to fire it. The missile was fired against a hillside north of U.S. Highway 70.

After that the Littlejohn and Sergeant ground-to-ground missiles were fired from the same place. Finally, a HAWK air defense missile shot down an F-80 jet fighter.

The group next moved to LC-37 where they witnessed a Nike Hercules launch against another Nike Hercules missile, a Navy Talos firing against another F-80 jet and a Nike Zeus launch.

After the demonstrations, representative soldiers from the various missile crews presented JFK with a Sergeant missile model.

The last thing on the agenda was a 20-minute briefing for just the presidential party on the Nike Zeus system. Dan was the briefer for the Nike Zeus firing and then participated in the longer classified briefing.

About the day, Duggan said, "As a young project officer, I can tell you I was impressed." He added, "Having never had the opportunity before to speak directly to a president in person not to mention a detailed technical conversation, I was very impressed how disarming President Kennedy was. He put you at ease and after only a few words you felt that you had known him for years and talked with him every day."

Latest WSPG Treasurer's Report

Many thanks, to those who sent in donations and membership dues in the past three months. That totaled just over \$150. We now have \$33 in petty cash, \$51 in stamps and \$1,312.61 in the bank (as of Sept. 30). We are spending about \$400 to print and mail this newsletter.

The membership mailing list is currently at 738 members.

Upcoming Events

What: Dinner Meeting (New officers & ghost towns on WSMR presentation)

When: Nov 14, 2001

Where: Best Western Mission Inn, 1765 S. Main, Las Cruces

Time: 7 p.m.

Menu: Buffet — prime rib or ham or chicken marsala or lemon pepper fish (\$13)

Reservations: By November 9

Joe Marlin (505) 382-7991

Jim Eckles (505) 678-1134

White Sands Pioneer Group

P.O. Box 318

WSMR, NM 88002