



# THE 6TH DIMENSION

## WILLING & ABLE

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APRIL 2021 - ATTN ALL 6WSAA STATIONS

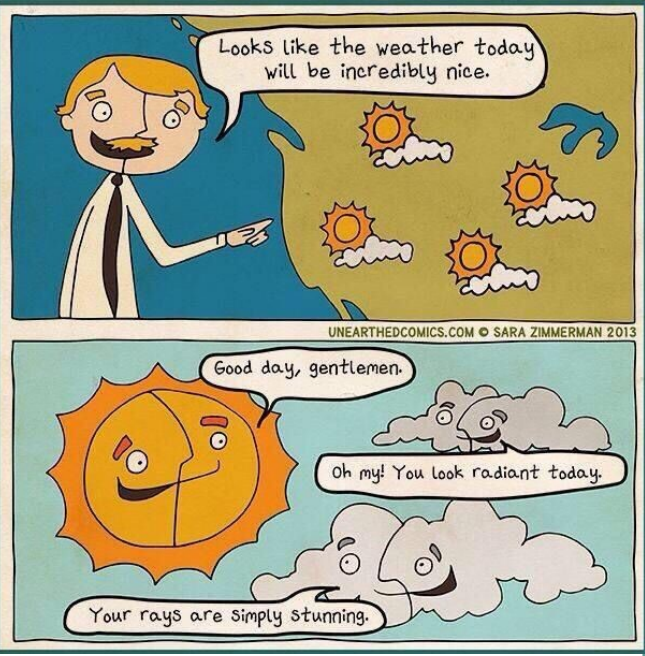


→→→ HOWDY TO ALL YOU GOOD FOLKS IN 6TH WEATHER LAND. WE DONT HAVE TO TAKE ANY RUNS OR LAUNCH ANY BALLOONS TODAY, SO JUST SIT BACK AND READ OUR NEWSLETTER. I HOPE EVERYONE HAS MADE IT THROUGH THIS COVID PANDEMIC IN GOOD HEALTH AND I ASSUME MOST EVERYONE HAS RECEIVED THEIR VACCINE BY NOW. I RECEIVED MY 2ND SHOT ON FEBRUARY 9TH HERE IN SALT LAKE VALLEY AND IT WAS A RELIEF TO GET 'ER DONE. I FEEL SAFE GOING TO THE SUPERMARKET NOW. SO MUCH HAS HAPPENED SINCE THE LAST NEWSLETTER, MOST IMPORTANT IS VACCINES ARE PLENTIFUL AND THE LEVELS OF CASES ARE DECREASING QUICKLY. ELECTIONS AND CAMPAIGNING ARE OVER. NO MORE POLITICAL SURVEYS AND REQUESTS FOR DONATIONS, JUST THE USUAL JUNK MAIL AND CHARITABLE REQUESTS FILLING THE MAILBOX. TAX FILING TIME AND TIME TO PAY THE FEDS AND STATES WHAT THEY DEMAND. SO THEY SEND YOU A CHECK WITH ONE HAND AND TAKE IT BACK PLUS SOME WITH THE OTHER. NOTHING CHANGES. WINTER HERE WAS MILD AND FAIRLY DRY, BUT NOW LOOKING FORWARD TO SPRING AND SHORT SLEEVE SHIRTS OUTSIDE. KEEPING A POSITIVE OUTLOOK AND HOPE YOU ENJOY THIS NEWSLETTER.

STILL WILLING AND ABLE. WARMEST REGARDS, GERRY GUAY - 6WSAA WEBMASTER/NL PUBLISHER

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**Update:** In October after mailing & emailing the Newsletter and seeing some returns I decided to clean up the member roster. After extensive online searches and no communication in years with some members, I found many Members & Honorary Members had passed on, one as far back as 2007, 14 years ago. Our roster now counts 152 total members, including 26 honorary members. The Final Launch on pages 7 & 8 and the Honorary Members on page 5 lists their names. The following could not be found, please let me know of their whereabouts: Cheryl Biggs -Canton NC; Gerri Hayes -Del City OK; Robert Hill -Eureka CA; Nancy Jones -Anchorage AK; Johnnie Mae Larson -Del City OK; Hazel Morrow - Ft Walton Beach FL; Janet White - Malta OH; Roger Tuttle -Canton NC.



**Veterans** can claim a free America the Beautiful Pass with access to America's national parks, wildlife refuges and other public federal lands by presenting a valid Department of Defense Identification Card, Veteran Health Identification Card, Veteran ID card or a Veteran-designated state ID.

**New pics on our website by Irv Watson from '66 to '70 at:**  
[http://6thweathermobile.org/irv\\_watson\\_66-70.htm..](http://6thweathermobile.org/irv_watson_66-70.htm..)

**This newsletter** is e-mailed to each member who has an e-mail address and helps us save the labor and cost of publishing and mailing a paper copy. So if you are receiving a paper copy and you have an e-mail address or no longer want to receive the newsletter, please e-mail us at: [webmaster@6thweathermobile.org](mailto:webmaster@6thweathermobile.org) or write us at: 6WSAA c/o Buck Bucklin, 8 Sherwood Lane, East Hampton, NY 11937

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6TH WEATHER SQUADRON  
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## THE 6TH DIMENSION

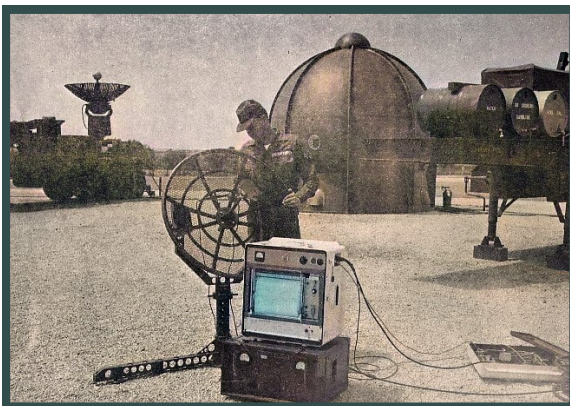
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This 6th Dimension Newsletter is published for the exclusive use of our 6WSAA members. Information is included as reported without vetting and is edited for space. If you discover an error or items that need a correction, please notify Gerry Guay Editor, Email: [webmaster@6thweathermobile.org](mailto:webmaster@6thweathermobile.org) Members are encouraged to submit articles, information or stories that would be of interest to the general membership.

### My Notes from 6th Weather Squadron ~ January to December 1968

*6th Weather Sq History for 1968 (written by Gerry Guay, Webmaster and Newsletter Publisher obtained from archives of 6th Weather Squadron history of 1968 as recorded by 6WS historian TSgt Tom Rivers. I am impressed by TSgt Rivers' detailed historical writings and documentation which makes this recount of 6th Wx Sq history possible.)*

**It's 1968** and another very busy year for 6th Weather Squadron Mobile and our Commander is Col Frank Kamer Jr and Lt Col Robert Vincent is the Operations Officer until May when Cpt David Douglas takes over as Operations Officer. In June our strength is 5 Officers, 56 NCOs, 123 Airmen and 1 Civilian for a total of 185 personnel, decreasing to 176 in December with 6 Officers, 111 NCOs, 56 Airmen and 1 Civilian. 6th Weather Mobile provided weather support for 28 projects and 24 personnel augmentations in Viet Nam, Thailand, Panama Canal Zone, Liberia, Puerto Rico, Alaska, Hawaii and 20 states and DC and classified sites worldwide. **Projects included...** **AF Project 67-4 Liberian Photomapping** in Liberia, 6th Wx Sq supported the 1370th Photo Mapping Wing's AST-2 in this West African country with



SSgt Don Nissen preparing and testing UMQ-9 sub-system for field use.

three mobile weather teams. From January through March, the teams utilized the UMQ-9 sub system, a SHIRAN system component that receives meteorological parameters from radiosonde instruments. Team locations at Sanokole, Greenville and Monrovia, Liberia consisted of an NCO, a weather observer and a maintenance technician. Project headquarters at Camp Ramrod hosted the weather NCOIC at that location. The project was extended because of adverse weather conditions. With 41% completion, the aerial photography continued with Phase 2 in November with scheduled termination in February '69. Two 6th Wx Teams with an NCOIC, 4 rawinsonde operators and 2 maintenance technicians provided the weather support for this phase. **Project Cold Ash** in support of Det 31, 6th Wx Wg high altitude balloon air sampling operations for the

Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) operated Jan-Apr with one 6th Wx Sq technician and a GMD-1A Rawin unit in Balboa, Canal Zone and Albrook AFB, CZ in September. Another technician and GMD was deployed to Sioux Falls, South Dakota in Apr-May, in Jul and Sep-Oct, and another to Eilson AFB, Alaska for Jun. The GMD was used to track the air sampling balloons and provide upper air weather data. **RS-135A/USQ-28** conducted by Aerospace Cartographic and Geodetic Service (ACGS) of AFSC, was a continuation from 1967 and provided the Air Force with global capability with mapping and surveying functions with increased speed and accuracy. Specially instrumented RC-135A aircraft and SHIRAN distance measuring equipment were used for accurate positioning. Testing began in October '66. In January 6th Wx Sq deployed four 3 man teams to the Georgia-Florida area for upper air soundings as needed by the tests director, completing 310 observations. In April the teams returned to Tinker and one team deployed to Luke AFB, Arizona for Phase 2 & 3 tests, returning in August and completing 27 runs. **Project Cold Cowl, Elmendorf AFB, Alaska** was a project continuation from '67 thru February '68 and again in November '68 to February '69. 6th Wx provided support with one weather observer providing surface weather observations under the Alaskan Air Command working with the Scientific Services Division, 11th Wx Squadron. It evaluated the effectiveness of dispersing super-cooled fog by means of airborne seeding with dry ice particles and liquid CO2 particles from light planes in attempting to modify the weather. **TAC Test 67-230 Parachute Ballistics Tests, Pope AFB, NC** 6th Wx Sq supported a 30 day test period in January and February because of new material and design for parachutes and development of new aerial delivery

(Continued on Page 3)



### *My Notes from 6th Weather Squadron ~ January to December 1968 (Continued from Page 2)*

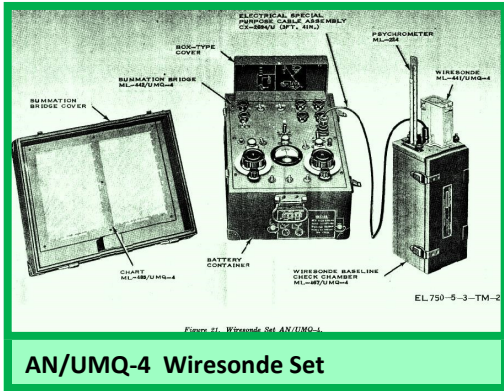
methods. A four man team provided winds, temperature and pressure from surface to 3,000 feet prior to the air drops with 26 rawinsonde and 52 pibal releases and required surface observations. **Radar Evaluation Tests, Vietnam & Thailand (SEA)** with 6<sup>th</sup> Wx Sq teams supporting the Air Force Communications Service's radar evaluation tests in SEA. Weather support was provided for rawinsonde data to 30,000 feet determining index of refraction for radar evaluation studies for mobile GCA and RAPCON units in SEA. A four man weather team departed for Saigon, then on to Tan Son Nhut, Viet Nam in February and an equipment shipping delay resulted in missed two site tests with the 1964<sup>th</sup> Comm Sq. They were then flown to Cam Ranh Bay where they joined the tests. By the end of June they had run tests in eight different locations in Viet Nam and Thailand. In July, a three man team was deployed to Phan Rang Airbase in Vietnam with the same weather requirements for the 1882<sup>nd</sup> Comm Sq who aided the 6<sup>th</sup> Wx team in setting up the wx site. All returned in September. Another tough job well done by the Willing and Able. **USAF Project 4691 Haven Barter – Vega Baja, Puerto Rico** in May tasked a 5 man 6<sup>th</sup> Wx team with providing 41 multiple surface wind speed and direction, observations and pibal double theodolite winds to 5,000 ft. The AFCRL Aeronautical Kinematics Program Element ran an experimental study where rocket-borne chemical payloads released a visible barium cloud in the ionosphere and detected by radar from Arecibo, PR. **SAC Project Short Trip XII & XIV Hill AFB, UT HQ SAC** requested weather support to evaluate high altitude non-nuclear releases of high drag munitions to accurately determine the wind effect on these bombs. 6<sup>th</sup> Wx team provided wind speed and direction from surface to 35,000 feet at 1,000 foot intervals and temperature and pressure. The rawinsonde team with GMD-1A conducted 20 rawinsonde and 20 pibal runs in the 10 day test period in March. **NSSL Mesoscale Rawinsonde Network, Oklahoma** National Severe Storms Laboratory conducted their observational program for their spring season of severe thunderstorms and requested 6<sup>th</sup> Wx Sq support for April and May with 9 rawinsonde sites at Anadarko, Apache, Dibble, Hinton, Minco, Newcastle, 2 in Oklahoma City, and Rush Springs, one observer at the NSSL rawinsonde station at Chickasha and 2 observers for data reduction at NSSL in Norman. Two more rawinsonde sites were at Fort Sill, OK, manned by US Army personnel to complete the network which provided the temperature, moisture and wind fields associated by thunderstorms. This required 31 personnel and 9 GMD-1As for the nine sites. A total of 555 observations completed of 608 attempts due to uncooperative thunderstorms chewing them up. **Project 6682-6685 Atmospheric Refraction Effects, Upolu Point, Hawaii** is a study by the Electronics System Division of AF Systems Command of a microwave radiometer which is used to measure water vapor distribution in the atmosphere. This data is used to correct missile tracking data for atmospheric refraction. 6<sup>th</sup> Wx Sq support in consisted of a 9 man team utilizing a UMQ-9 sub system to provide the radiosonde data of temperature, humidity and pressure from surface to 27,000 feet and had to be provided every 3 hours round-the-clock for a 15 day period for a total of 75 radiosonde observations in April-May and 106 observations in July-August. **NASA Stratoscope Project, Palestine, TX** requested 6<sup>th</sup> Wx support for their project conducted by Princeton University in cooperation with the National Science Foundation (NSF), the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) and the Office of Naval Research (ONR). A multi-ton telescope was lifted by balloon to an elevation of 80,000 feet from the launch facility at the National Center for Atmospheric Research (NCAR) at Palestine, Texas to conduct stellar and planetary astronomy observations at high altitudes where refraction and distortion effects of the atmosphere were negated. The flight system was reliant on accurate weather forecasts and required a 5 man 6<sup>th</sup> Wx team and GMD-1A for upper air weather soundings during May. A total of 14 runs were completed in support. **Project Mineshaft, Cedar City, UT** 6<sup>th</sup> Wx support with a 5 man team for surface obs, rawinsonde runs to 12,000 feet and pibal data to 15,000 feet was required by Air Force Special Weapons Laboratory (AFSWL), and the Army Engineers Waterways Experiment Station, for a project conducted by the Defense Atomic Support Agency (DASA) in Cedar City, Utah in May. The May portion of Operation Mine Shaft was a series of 1,000 pound high explosive detonations.

A 7 man team was dispatched to Cedar City in October to November for the *(Continued on Page 4)*



## My Notes from 6th Weather Squadron - January to December 1968 (Continued from Page 3)

second part which consisted of two detonations of 100 tons each preceded by the 1,000 pound detonations. **Comparison Tests of AN/AMT-12 Rawinsonde & AN/AMT-13 Dropsonde Instruments** Port O'Connor, TX OCAMA requested 6<sup>th</sup> Wx Sq weather support for a series of tests at Matagorda Island Range in Texas in June. A 4 man team with GMD-1A provided data from the AMT-12 instrument while Air Weather Service provided AMQ-19 equipment and personnel for the AMT-13 instrument data. Temperature, humidity and pressure data were required to 50,000 feet for the comparison study. **AFCRL Special Project Palo Alto, CA** Because of the unavailability of an instrumented aircraft for this project to fly antenna patterns, one 6<sup>th</sup> Wx Sq technician with GMD-1A and control recorder were dispatched to provide Air Force



AN/UMQ-4 Wiresonde Set



US Coast Guard ship - Bomex Project

Cambridge Research Laboratory with aircraft tracking using a radiosonde instrument on the aircraft and tracked by providing azimuth and elevation angles recorded by the 6<sup>th</sup> Wx technician. **Project Rocktest, Moriarity, NM** A 5 man team supported the AF Weapons Laboratory in November with wind and temperature data to 18,000 feet in testing the detonation of a 50 ton high explosive near Kirtland AFB. **Smith Mountain Fog Clearance Tests, AFCRL Smith Mountain**

**Airport, VA** consisted of a 3 man wiresonde team for temperature and dew point measurements to develop forecasting fog conditions immediately surrounding the airport. Measurements were made in November at 50 foot increments to 700 feet above surface in fog conditions and measuring fog thickness and estimated wind direction when wiresonde was in sight. The kytoons were also used as reference points for the helicopters by marking the runway points beneath the fog. **Air Weather Service Display, Scott AFB, IL** was set up in September by a 4 man upper air team from 6<sup>th</sup> Wx Sq for the National Security Council of the American Legion. **USAF Fog Dispersal Project** for further development of ground based mobile fog dispersing equipment. A composite of 3 projects: Project Combat Warm 72 days at Travis AFB, CA; Project Cold Plume 90 days at Kingsley AFS, OR and Project Cold Wand 102 days at Fairchild AFB, WA. Using AN/UMQ-4s, 6<sup>th</sup> Wx Sq deployed a 2-man team to each location. **Project Lo-Locat Phase III by Boeing** requested 6<sup>th</sup> Wx Sq weather support at four locations for flight operations of Phase III of the project for a comprehensive meteorological study for correlation of air turbulence. Support locations were McConnell AFB, Kansas for August thru October; Oxnard AFB, California for October thru January '69; Peterson Field, Colorado January thru May '69 and Griffiss AFB, New York May thru July '69. The project required a 4 man team with GMD-1A and UMQ-4. **Part of Project BOMEX aboard USCGS Mt. Mitchell** took place in November with a 4 man team for testing and evaluating the Wind Finding at Sea System WFSS of the Bomex Data Acquisition Systems to be used in the BOMEX Project in '69. Upon completion of this part, the three technicians returned to Sterling, Virginia to continue providing technical assistance in the development of the system. The BOMEX project took place in May thru July 1969 in the Western Atlantic and this was one of the many units used to measure the weather. *"Project BOMEX: Biggest Weather Study Yet"* is an article on-line that describes this project named Barbados Oceanographic and Meteorological Experiment (BOMEX), a joint project of seven US



Bomex Data Acquisition System

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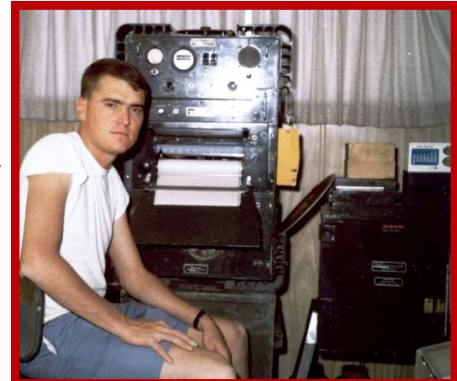
## My Notes from 6th Weather Squadron - January to December 1968 (Continued from Page 4)

departments, agencies, 19 universities and a cost of \$18 Million. **Project 407L Hybrid Inflatable Shelter Test AFCRL, Howard AFB, Canal Zone** 6<sup>th</sup> Wx Sq provided a 5 man team and equipment for 270 days of operation. The purpose was to provide meteorological support to determine the capability of the shelter to withstand the effects of various natural environments, ease of erection/striking, ease of maintenance, component replacement under field conditions without special skill and tools, minor maintenance and repairs using kits normally available in the field.

**The following 7 projects were Classified**, no information on location, number of teams, etc: **AF Projects 68-14 & AFP 68-15; 20<sup>th</sup> Wx Sq Support; Project Cold Skin; Special Project McClellan AFB CA; TAC Support; Acoustic Flight Test OY-3A.**

**Personnel Augmentation** by 6<sup>th</sup> Wx Sq was provided to the following units: **8 observers** to Det 11, 6<sup>th</sup> WW, Patrick AFB FL – Jan –Apr; **3 observers** to Det 31, 6<sup>th</sup> WW, El Centro NAF CA – Jan-Dec; **An observer/technician and 1 observer** to Det 29, 6<sup>th</sup> WW Kirtland AFB, NM – Jan-May; **1 observer** to Foreign Technical Division of Det 53, 6<sup>th</sup> WW Wright-Patterson AFB, OH – Jan-Feb; **2 observers + 2 more observers** to ETAC, Washington, DC – Jan-Dec; **2 observers** to Det 30, 6<sup>th</sup> WW Eniwetok Atoll, Marshal Islands – May-Aug; **1 observer** to Data Processing Div, ETAC Asheville, NC – Jun-Aug; **2 observers** to Det 21, 6<sup>th</sup> WW El Centro, CA Jun-Dec; **1 technician** to Det 31, 6<sup>th</sup> WW Goodfellow AFB, TX – Oct-Nov; **3 observers** to Det 11, 6<sup>th</sup> WW Patrick AFB, FL – Aug-Oct; **3<sup>rd</sup> WW 1 observer** to each of the following units: Det 12, 9<sup>th</sup> WS Ellsworth AFB, SD – Aug-Sep; Det 24, 9<sup>th</sup> WS FE Warren AFB, WY – Aug-Oct; Det 3, 9<sup>th</sup> WS Fairchild AFB, WA – Aug-Sep; Det 10, 8<sup>th</sup> WS Westover AFB, MA – Aug-Oct; Det 22, 26<sup>th</sup> WS – Carlswell AFB, TX – Aug-Oct; Det 1, 9<sup>th</sup> WS Castle AFB, CA – Aug-Oct; Det 20, 8<sup>th</sup> WS Clinton-Sherman AFB, OK – Aug-Sep; Det 13, 26<sup>th</sup> WS Little Rock AFB, AR – Aug-Oct; Det 14, 26<sup>th</sup> WS Blytheville, AR – Aug-Sep; Det 2, 9<sup>th</sup> WS Davis Monthan AFB, AZ Aug-Sep; **4 observers** to Telecommunications Disturbance Forecast Center/ESSA Ft. Belvoir, VA – Aug-Nov for magnetometer readings.

**Rocketsonde** Training of personnel in Rocketsonde and Dual-Theodolite operations is a continuing function of this section, and also became a functional part of Det 30, 6<sup>th</sup> WW at Vandenberg AFB, CA with 4 personnel assigned PCS to that location for training and launching rocket for special tests. Our squadron also revised and updated the AWS Interim Rocketsonde Procedures Manual and evaluated the AWS Meteorological Rocket Data Procedures Manual. **Rocketsonde Operations** continued with a 4 man rocketsonde team to **Vandenberg AFB, CA** in Jan for LOKIsonde Transponder Tests for the Office of Aerospace Research; 1 NCO to **Panama Canal Zone** to train US Army personnel in Rocketsonde operations in March; 1 NCO at **Thule AFB, Greenland** in Apr-May to augment Rocketsonde personnel. Also at **Thule AFB**, a **Diurnal Study Series** was supported by 2 additional rocketsonde personnel and 1 GMD-2 technician augmented the site team for 17 rocketsonde launches. **Training** continued with 5 Rocketsonde Indoctrination Courses conducted. The **Weather Equipment Maintenance Section** moved from Bldg 1100 to Bldg 770 enhancing working environment and efficiency. 1968 was a good year. **END**



Irv Watson working a run on TMQ-5 in El Centro, California

**Deceased Honorary Members:** Joyce Alexander – D Feb 2019; Imogene “Jean” Arkin – D Aug 2020; Constance “Connie” Callicutt – D Mar 2020; Shirley George – D Jul 2017; Elizabeth “Betsy” Gladish - D Jan 2021; Carmell Morris – D Oct 2017; Bernadette “Bernie” Schumacher – D Nov 2020; Jeannine Zinke – D Dec 2017



**Changes:** To keep our costs low: Please keep us informed of any e-mail or address changes by e-mailing us at [webmaster@6thweathermobile.org](mailto:webmaster@6thweathermobile.org) or USPS mail us 6WSAA c/o Buck Bucklin, 8 Sherwood Lane, East Hampton, NY 11937



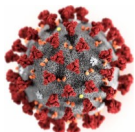
Sometimes I get feedback from some of our members who can add a little more to the project history for the year in the last newsletter or some other project. When I do, I ask if I can share with our members, like the May 2020 issue where Bob Bowling shared his story while on a 6<sup>th</sup> Weather mission and asked to improvise the GMD to track Apollo 13 on the capsule recovery. So here are a few since our last newsletter from Bill King, Thomas Uppstad and Irv Watson. I want to thank them for sharing. Gerry Guay

**Bill King** says: The Line Islands Experiment was one of my TDYs. Buck and I worked the night shift with Nuewenski on Palmyra for two months. I see the official record refers to TROMEX as a South Pacific project. The four islands we manned, Christmas, Fanning, Washington and Palmyra were all north of the equator. It was the first tropical meteorological experiment, the precursor to BOMEX. By the way, I really love the current newsletter... 1967 was a fascinating year. Buck and I came back from Ethiopia in January, worked TROMEX and then the Upolu Point project where the National Bureau of Standards was trying to measure the effects of the atmosphere on radio navigation waves. Two beams were transmitted across the Maui Strait from the Haleakalā volcano rim on Maui to big dish antennas at Upolu Point on the Big Island. One was carried on a Laser beam – the standard, totally unaffected by atmospheric conditions – allowing direct comparison to the unaided beam. Pretty cool science. Buck then went to Liberia on the mapping mission, and I went to Utah to support a project where they were trying to model the effects of a direct nuclear strike on a SAC missile silo. Man, 6WX got to whittle on the sharp end of some neat sticks. *Bill King*

**Thomas Uppstad** says: I was assigned to 6<sup>th</sup> Weather Squadron directly from Chanute in early '68. My classmates were Dick Ransdell, Paul Cason and Jim Baugh. I was assigned duties on short term TDYs, as I had married while home on leave in December '67. I was involved in NSSL in Oklahoma, rawinsonde support in upper NY, Port Henry and Magnetometer monitoring in Washington D.C. and Virginia. I was also assigned Surface Obs duties at Clinton Sherman and Homestead AF Bases in Florida and other assignments as well. I needed 1 year overseas duties in my first hitch and was sent to Panama Canal Zone for rawinsonde duties. While at Albrook, I and my wife lived in the republic as I did not qualify for base (Canal Zone) housing. Thank you, *Thomas Uppstad*

**Andrew "Irv" Watson** added... I especially enjoyed this months (October) "The 6th Dimension". 1967 was my busiest TDY year at 6th Weather. I started the year on the Line Island Experiment (LIE). I'm a friend of Ed Zipser who was the PI of LIE. All these years, I've never heard it called TROMEX. Probably the bosses at NCAR called it that. Also, I stay in contact with Ken Hermach. I don't remember Ken being on Palmyra. He was on Fanning. I believe the photo is me since I was on the day shift. It looks like my body motions. It is Palmyra for sure. The blockhouse with the GMD on top of it was very recognizable. Then I completed LIE rawinsonde computations at the University of Hawaii. I thought it was April. I had a great time living on Waikiki. I was assigned to Project EMEB 4108 at Upolu Point, Hawaii. I revisited Hawi, Hawaii and Upolu Point several years ago. Back in 1967, the crop was sugar. When I came back, the sugar plantations were gone. In Aug-Sept, I went on the GCA Radar Study at Travis AFB. In Oct, I went to Ramey AFB for the Project Haven Winds. We stayed at the Naval Facility just west of San Juan. It was a U.S. Naval Facility, but I called it the Puerto Rican Navy Facility. Anything recognizable as a U.S. Navy base was purely coincidence. We did triple theodolite work, working it up in real time in anticipation of high altitude rocket launches. I believe the launches were done near Arcibo. In early 1968, I deployed to NAF El Centro with Irvin B. Taylor. I was there from late January to early June. Didn't even know that we had a 6th Weather team there in 1967. One additional tidbit... I was the Science & Operations Officer at the Tallahassee NWS from 1996 to 2011 when I retired. I occasionally did rawinsonde at Tallahassee. I launched my first balloon in 1966. So, on the day I retired, January 1, 2011, I launched my last balloon... 45 years apart. So I think of myself like Mark Twain. He was born with Halley's Comet in the sky 1835, and passed away under Halley's Comet in 1910. Regards, *Irv Watson*

**Gerry Guay** – 6WSAA Webmaster/Newsletter Publisher - If you like these comments, we welcome you to contribute to a little 6<sup>th</sup> Wx history with your story or comments. You could comment on a newsletter project history or some personal 6<sup>th</sup> Wx story that you remember. Just e-mail me at [webmaster@6thweathermobile.org](mailto:webmaster@6thweathermobile.org) or write me at: Gerry Guay/6thWx, 14323 S Round Rock Dr, Herriman, UT 84096



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## Final Launch



**John Addesa** – 1937 – 2019 John J Addesa, 81 was born on April 22, 1937 and passed away on March 14, 2019. John was a resident of Dothan, Alabama at the time of passing. He graduated from Scranton Central High School before joining the US Air Force. He served in 6<sup>th</sup> Weather Squadron in '56 to '60 and was a member of 6WSAA.

**Ben Carr**, - 1929 – 2019 Ben Lee Carr, 89, passed away from complications due to a fall. A 1947 graduate of Woodland High, he frequently said he had lived a wonderful life, and looked forward to being reunited in Heaven with his beloved wife of 54 years, Dobby. They had traveled much of the world during his 20 years of service to the US Air Force. He served in 6<sup>th</sup> Weather Squadron in '49 to '50 and was a member of 6WSAA. He lived in several states while employed with the US Postal Service. After retirement, Ben and Dobby made their home in Arizona where they pursued their many interests in archaeology, model railroading, photography, astronomy, travel and history. After Dobby's death in 2004, Ben returned to the Auburn area to be near family. He became a Placer County Museum Docent, and formed new friendships at Auburn Grace Church. More recently he moved to Woodland to be a companion to his nephew, Steven Taylor, a Vietnam veteran, and became involved with the Woodland Museum of Biblical Archaeology. His love of travel never waned, and in recent years he had traveled to China, Australia, Europe and Russia, South America, the Caribbean, Jordan and Israel. Ben is survived by adoring nieces and nephews whom he referred to as his children.

**Jack Williamson** – 1929 – 2016 Jack Glenn Williamson, 87, of Roff, OK was born March 15, 1929, in Stratford to Walter and Esther (Beasley) Williamson. He passed away July 7, 2016, at Arbuckle Memorial Hospital in Sulphur. He grew up in the Stratford area and graduated from Stratford High School in 1947. He served our country in the United States Air Force all over the world with the 6th Weather Squadron and retired in 1972 as a senior master sergeant. He served in 6<sup>th</sup> Weather Squadron in '50 and '51 and was a member of 6WSAA. He taught history and geography at Vanoss schools for 15 years and served on the Vanoss school board for 20 years, six of those on the Oklahoma State School Board Association. He married Lela Faye (Van Schuyver) Wall May 24, 1975, in Ada. He was preceded in death by his parents; his first wife, Jean (Carter) Williamson; four brothers, Joe, Robert, Richard and Lee Williamson; and five sisters, Polly Williams, Marie Clampett, Sally Cordell, Kathryn Williamson and Dorothy McElrath. He is survived by his wife, Lela Faye Williamson, of the home; one son, Jack Williamson and wife, Judy, of Oklahoma City; two daughters, Carol Buchanan and husband, Darrel, of Seminole and Kathryn York and husband, Ronnie, of Ada; two stepsons, Vernon Wall of Ada and Evert Wall and wife, Glenda, of Broken Arrow; two stepdaughters, Darlene Wall and Roger of Florida and Sherry Hall and husband, Rick, of Ada; and a host of grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

**Arthur Ketterling** - 1935 – 2014 Arthur Leroy Ketterling 79, died December 25, 2014 in Black Hawk, SD - He served in 6<sup>th</sup> Weather Squadron in '75 to '77 and was a member of 6WSAA.

**L Dave Morell** – 1933 – 2010 Laverne Dave Morell has passed away on September 3, 2010. Laverne was 77 years old at the time. Previously, Laverne lived in Norton Shores, MI. He served in 6<sup>th</sup> Weather Squadron in '55 to '57 and was a member of 6WSAA.

**Stanley Campbell** – 1930 – 2010 Stanley Dale Campbell 79, was born on March 4, 1930 and passed away on Sunday, January 10, 2010. He was a resident of Sand Springs, Oklahoma at the time of passing. Stanley was married to Carol. He served in 6<sup>th</sup> Weather Squadron in '48 to '53 and was a member of 6WSAA.

**Louis Holtkamp** - 1935 – 2007 Louis Herman Holtkamp, 72, of Titusville, FL passed away Sunday, February 4, 2007, at Parrish Medical Center. Louis was born in Aviston, IL. He came to Brevard County in 1972 from Antigua, West Indies. He retired from Computer Science-Raytheon at Kennedy Space Center as a meteorologist. He was a member of St. Teresa Catholic Church. Louis is survived by his wife, Iliana Holtkamp of Titusville; children, Michael Holtkamp of Titusville, Louis Holtkamp of Sacramento, CA, Luana Wellman of North Ogden, Utah, Erik Holtkamp of Bristow, VA and Hans Holtkamp of Titusville brother, John Holtkamp of Springfield, MO; a sister, Norma Myers of Peoria, IL; and grandchildren, Alexandra Holtkamp, Kayla Wellman, Keira Wellman, Georgia Holtkamp, Elijah Holtkamp and Winston Holtkamp. He was preceded in death by his siblings, Robert Holtkamp, Paul Holtkamp and Edna Davis. He served in 6<sup>th</sup> Weather Squadron in '53 to '57 and was a member of 6WSAA.





## Final Launch



**Jerry D. Hunt** 1937-2020, Jerry D. Hunt Sr, of Lake Placid, Florida, passed from this earth on Thursday, April 2, 2020, due to complications from COVID-19. Jerry was born in Springfield, Ohio on October 9, 1937. He was able to travel the world while enlisted in the U.S. Air Force. He met his bride in the Philippines and started a family. After 26 years in the service, he retired as Master Sergeant in Oklahoma City. Jerry served in 6<sup>th</sup> Weather Squadron from 1955 to 60

and he was a member of 6WSAA. Here, he began his career with The National Weather Service from which he retired after 20 years. He had a love for knowledge, music and technology. He joined 2 Big Band style orchestras and played the clarinet and saxophone. He battled and defeated cancer. He loved adventure and was always heard saying "... you can't

live in what if's". Jerry is survived by his wife, of almost 56 years, Rosita Hunt; 3 children and their spouses - Lisa Dunsmore, Linda & Kevin Orr, Jerry Hunt Jr & Sabrina; 6 grandchildren with their spouses and 5 great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his parents: George Hunt and Catherine Burns.



**Richard Goddard** - 1931 - 2020 Richard (Dick) Duane Goddard, 89, passed away August 4, 2020 in a Florida hospital. He was born February 24, 1931, in Akron, Ohio, to Vachel and Doris Dickerhoof Goddard, who are deceased. His only living relative, Kimberly, (beloved daughter) cared for him upon his retirement in 2016 in her home in Florida. After graduating from Green High School in 1949, he joined the Air Force. While serving, he went to meteorology school and was tapped to be a part of a task force in conjunction with the U.S. March 1954 H-bomb detonation at Eniwetok atoll. He served in 6<sup>th</sup> Weather Squadron in '53 to '56 and was a member of 6WSAA. Upon his discharge, he enrolled at KENT State and graduated with a Fine Arts degree while simultaneously working at the weather bureau in the Akron-Canton airport giving weather forecasts to local radio stations. KYW-TV approached him with a contract for trying his hand at weather segments on the air. He took the TV

opportunity and the rest is history. In 1963, while working at KYW, he flew into the eye of Hurricane Flora, among the deadliest Atlantic hurricanes in recorded history. Being a sports enthusiast, he was the football statistician for the Cleveland Browns radio broadcasts for 32 years. Dick became a renowned TV meteorologist for 50+ years for WJW, and upon stepping down at age 85, he set a Guinness World Record for having the longest career as a weather forecaster at 51 years and 6 days. He was named Ohio's Best Meteorologist in 2001 by Ohio Magazine as well as being inducted into the Cleveland Press Club Journalism Hall of Fame the same year. The Herb Altman Communications Research company twice rated him the most popular weather forecaster in America. He published many Weather Guides and almanacs using his artistic abilities to illustrate them and authored a memoir "Six Inches of Partly Cloudy." In addition to his love of weather forecasting and sports, his passion for the protection of animals led him to create the largest one-day outdoor festival in Ohio, the Woollybear Festival, for over 47 years. After working tirelessly, House Bill 60, (Goddard's Law) was passed in 2016 - making it a fifth-degree felony to knowingly cause harm to a companion animal. Dick will be sorely missed by Kim, all the animals he helped save, and his thousands of fans.



**Phaedon Louis** - 1937 - 2017 Phaedon James "PJ" Louis, Age 79, of Georgetown, Texas, passed away on Wednesday, May 3, 2017. He was born on September 26, 1937 in New Britain, Connecticut to parents Michael James Louis and Georgia Antenna Louis. He graduated from New Britain Senior High School in 1955. PJ served four years in the U.S. Air Force and was Honorable Discharged in 1959. He served in 6<sup>th</sup> Weather Squadron in '56 to '59 and was a member of 6WSAA. He retired from the National Weather Service Bureau as a Meteorologist with over 30 years of service. He is preceded in death by his wife Roberta Louis. PJ is survived by his son, Shawn Louis; granddaughters, Morgan and Madison; brother, Jeff Louis; and numerous nieces, nephews and cousins.

**Ellie Pittman** - 1939 - 2018 Ellie Hugh Pittman passed away February 24, 2018 and was 78 at the time. Lake Charles, LA. No obituary. He served in 6<sup>th</sup> Weather Squadron in '56 to '58 and was a member of 6WSAA.

