



The Bridge



Connecting Members of the Auburn Knights Alumni Association
JUNE 2014

Don't Miss It!



As this year's reunion quickly approaches, I'd like to welcome and encourage each and every one of our Bridge readers and AKAA alumni and friends to return to the Plains this July for our annual weekend of incredible jazz. Sometimes we forget to realize, but every person makes a difference. Whether you come to play, or just to listen or dance, our reunion's success totally depends on the

commitment of our members to join together in our annual pilgrimage to Auburn. It's absolutely amazing each year to see the Auburn Knights faithful returning, along with their friends, families, children, grandchildren, and yes, even great grandchildren. It's quite a family we have!

If you haven't had the good fortune to previously stay there as a guest, the Marriott has first class facilities in which to spend a few days and they treat us exceptionally well. Of course, there's the added benefit of great Big Band music to fill the air. So, set your sights on attending the 84th Anniversary of the Auburn Knights, July 16-20. If you haven't been with us in a while, come on back and check us out. You just might find yourself coming back again...and again...and again!

I'll see you there!
Tim Baur
AKAA President

AKAA Rooms at The Marriott Currently Sold Out for Friday & Saturday, July 18th & 19th

Cancellation of some of those reservations is certain. As a result, the Marriott is keeping a wait list. If you haven't yet booked your room at the AKAA Group rate, you have until June 17th to add your name to the wait list.

To reserve rooms by phone, call (334) 741-9292 (Reservations) or (334) 737-2130 (Karen Gilmore, Event Coordinator, Auburn Marriott Opelika Hotel and Conference Center).

The AKAA Board Needs You!!!

It's a fact the AKAA could not exist without the skills, talents, and generous commitment of time our Board members have made over the years. With that in mind, the AKAA Board is losing five valued members of the Board who will be completing their three-year terms of office. With their departure, five new Board members are needed to replace them.

The AKAA Board meets twice a year—the Winter meeting in mid-February and the Summer meeting during the AKAA reunion in July. For those of you needing a reason to visit the Loveliest Village in the waning days of winter, here's your chance!

Board members represent a cross-section of Knights alumni from throughout the years. Regardless of your band era, there's a place for you on the AKAA Board.

Contact any officer or Board member for more information.

The 84th Anniversary AKAA Reunion
Auburn Marriott - Opelika Conference Center
July 17-19, 2014

2014 Era Band Leaders			
Era	Leader(s)	Phone	E-mail
30s/40s	Graham Thomas Richard Garrett	(404) 294-0459 (334) 322-9300	wgthomas@aol.com PIALLC@msn.com
50s	Jay Owen Sonny Harris	(908) 510-3910 (205) 823-4165	bebopbuf@mindspring.com sondrum.harris@gmail.com
60s	Steve Means	(251) 504-6004	auknights@hotmail.com
70s/80s	Fritz Siler Nat Michelson	(404) 421-8674 (904) 249-0539	dogsiler@hotmail.com nmichelson001@gmail.com
90s/2000s	Wade Johnson	(334) 332-9156	wade.johnson@gmail.com

**REMEMBER TO PAY
IT FORWARD!**

**ALL CONTRIBUTIONS TO
THE AKA A SCHOLARSHIP
FUND ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE!**

Volunteers Needed to Staff the Registration Desk

No AKA A reunion can happen without the selfless dedication of our volunteers. The most visible of those is, of course, the folks who staff the registration tables each year. This year, we need your help. If you are able to help staff the registration desk for a shift or two, please contact **Ann Morrison at (256) 236-4853**.

ADVANCE REGISTRATION IS AVAILABLE

Beat the crowds and register in advance for this year's reunion. Remember, for all era band players, *the reunion is a pay to play event*. No freebies! Yes, we're all there to enjoy the camaraderie, the stories from years gone by, and the awesome musicianship. However, at the end of the day, we are also raising scholarship funds for qualified members of the current band. To register, simply fill out the registration form below and send it with your payment to Wade Johnson (address on the form).

**2014 Auburn Knights Alumni Association Reunion, July 16 –20
~ Registration Form ~**

NAME _____ STREET _____

CITY/STATE/ZIP _____ E-MAIL _____

PHONE # _____ CATEGORY: MEMBER ASSOCIATE VISITOR

Event or Item	How Many?	Cost	Total
2014-2015 Dues (Members & Associates)	_____	\$20.00	_____
Concert/Dance, 7:30 PM, Friday	_____	\$10.00	_____
Concert Dance, 7:30 PM, Saturday	_____	\$10.00	_____
Saturday Jazz Brunch, 11:00 AM			
BBQ Beef or Chicken, Baked Beans, Cole Slaw, Bread & Drink	_____	\$9.00	_____
Hamburger, Chips & Drink	_____	\$8.00	_____
Hotdog, Chips & Drink	_____	\$5.00	_____

Contribution to AKA A Scholarship Fund (*all contributions are Tax Deductible*)

Total Amount Enclosed _____

PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO THE AUBURN KNIGHTS ALUMNI ASSOCIATION.

Send this form and payment to:
Wade Johnson, AKA A Treasurer | 4868 Camp Grandview Rd. | Millbrook, AL 36054

Silent Auction Needs Your Help

Last year's incredibly successful Silent Auction raised \$2,820 for the AKAAs Scholarship fund. Without a doubt, this year's Silent Auction will feature even more wonderful artwork and unique items.

To help ensure another successful Silent Auction, we need volunteers to help, even if only to monitor the auction items for an hour or so. To volunteer, please contact Board Member John Norton at (334) 887-9883 or "john.norton72@gmail.com."

From the Archives

Did you know that during the summer of 1941, the Auburn Knights played all summer long, six nights a week, at the Village Barn in Virginia Beach. The Knights' popularity went well beyond their dancing audience as other professional musicians playing the beach would come and occasionally sit in with the big band from Loveliest Village. Some of those sessions included notable players such as Tommy Dorsey, Don Lodice, Ziggy Elman, Buddy Rich and an aspiring vocalist named Frank Sinatra.

2014 Reunion Schedule

	Thursday, July 17		Friday, July 18		Saturday, July 19			
8:30 AM	Food and Beverage Lakeview Room Breakfast: 6:30 - 11:00 am Lunch: Noon - 2:00 pm Dinner: 6:00 - 9:00 pm Pool Bar: 4:00 - 9:00 pm		30s/40s Dress Rehearsal (Ballroom)		AKAA Board Meeting (Conference Suite 303)			
9:00 AM			50s Dress Rehearsal (Ballroom)		General Membership Meeting (Amphitheatre)			
9:30 AM			60s Dress Rehearsal (Ballroom)		Jazz Brunch 11 -1:00 pm (Pool area)			
10:00 AM			70s/80s Dress Rehearsal (Ballroom)		Matinee Band (Ballroom) Free Time Pool Archives Silent Auction			
10:30 AM			90s/2000s Dress Rehearsal (Ballroom)					
11:00 AM			AKO/AKAA Mixer (Ballroom Foyer)					
11:30 AM	30s/40s Rehearsal (Ballroom)		Lakeview Room Dinner Specials		Lakeview Room Dinner Specials			
Noon	70s/80s Rehearsal (Ballroom) 50s Rehearsal (Mtg Rm 1)		30s/40s Concert "The Swing Years"		70s/80s Concert "Jazz meets Rock meets Latin"			
12:30 PM			50s Concert "The Big Bands Live On"		90s/2000s Concert "Swing Makes a Comeback"			
1:00 PM			60s Concert "The Big Bands Rock On"		AKO Concert "Still Swinging after 84 years"			
1:30 PM			Jam Session(s) TBA		Bandstand open for sit-ins		Bandstand open for sit-ins	
2:00 PM					Breakfast Buffet		Breakfast Buffet	
2:30 PM								
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11:00 PM								
11:30 PM								
Midnight								



Teeny's Birthday Bash CD Available at the Reunion

In January, AKAAs Alum Jim (Teeny) Mahaffey celebrated his 75th Birthday in style by assembling a band of 18 crack San Antonio musicians to play eleven of his compositions and arrangements. The CD of their performance, recorded live at San Antonio's Blue Star, is a fine compilation of some very tasty playing.

For this year's Reunion, Jim will selling his Birthday Bash CD for \$10 each with ALL proceeds going to the AKAAs Scholarship Fund. Don't miss this opportunity to support the scholarship program by picking one up!



Auburn Knights Alumni Association
c/o Peter Blaise, Newsletter Editor
1195 Muirfield Way
Niceville, FL 32578

**The 2014 AKA Reunion
July 17-19, 2014**

**The Auburn Knights Alumni Association
2013-2014 Board of Directors**

OFFICERS

Tim Baur, President | (770) 650-0898 | tim_baur@rocketmail.com
Woody Leonard, Vice President | (229) 387-4967 | wleonard54@yahoo.com
Peter Blaise, Secretary & Newsletter Editor | (850) 897-3728 | blaisepete@gmail.com
Wade Johnson, Treasurer | (334) 332-9156 | wade.johnson@gmail.com

BOARD MEMBERS

2011 - 2014 Ralph Black Jr. | Andy Duke | Nat Michelson | John Norton | Sonny Mayfield
2012 - 2015 Cathy Bell Altonji | Ryan Chapman | Rob Cothran | Bob Greenhaw | Tony McCutcheon
2013 - 2015 Jana Calano | Cecil Wilder | Hank Elliott | Phil Gipson, Jr. | Reid Gavin

APPOINTMENTS

Vic Atkins, Communications | (334) 872-7292 | vbatkins@bellsouth.net
Richard Garrett, Publicity | (334) 365-7595 | PIALLC@msn.com
Bob Jemian, Music Librarian | (334) 246-1227 | bob.jemian@gmail.com
Wade Johnson, Webmaster | (334) 332-9156 | wade.johnson@gmail.com
Paul McCracken, Historian | (205) 970-3834 | bookncatz@msn.com
John Norton, Fundraising | (334) 887-9883 | john.norton72@gmail.com
Fritz Siler, Archives & Scholarships | (770) 978-1287 | dogsiler@hotmail.com

CURRENT BAND

MANAGER Tyler Strickland | (334) 209-1162 | tylerstrickland.strickland@gmail.com