

BLACK CATALUMNI ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER



BLACK CAT NEWS

REUNION WILLIAMSBURG, VIRGINIA MAY 2012



****The Hampton Inn****
1880 Richmond Road
Williamsburg, VA 23185
1-757-229-4900

**The Black Cat Reunion will be held in Williamsburg,
 VA, May 20 -25, 2012**
Will include a trip to Fort Eustis to an Aviation Unit

Hampton Inn Information

**Special Black
 Cat Room Rate
 \$85. (two queen
 beds)**

What to expect: Located just two miles from Colonial Williamsburg and the College of William and Mary, 10 minutes from Jamestown and Yorktown, and only 6 miles to Busch Gardens

Hampton Inn Amenities: Complimentary breakfast, free wireless internet access, coin laundry, gift shop, local area transportation, room service, indoor pool, and fitness room. Each room offers a microwave, refrigerator, and hair dryer. There is a coin laundry in the hotel.

Williamsburg

Known as "Middle Plantation" for its location, what is known as Williamsburg today was first settled in 1638. Trouble arose between the natives and the English. Because of frustration with the government's lack of response, Nathaniel Bacon led a group of farmers in an uprising known as "Bacon's Rebellion," in which they killed natives and took over the government, causing a standoff that eventually led to all of Jamestown burning to the ground. Government headquarters were then moved to Middle Plantation until Jamestown was rebuilt. When the Statehouse in Jamestown burned down a second time, students from the newly formed College of William and Mary petitioned to have the government moved permanently to Middle Plantation. Now a town of distinction, Middle Plantation was renamed Williamsburg in 1699.



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8th BLACK CAT REUNION MAY 20 - 25, 2012

WILLIAMSBURG VIRGINIA



- ★ Contact Hampton Inn at 1-757-229-4900 and mention 213th Black Cats for the special room rate of \$85.
- ★ Two Queen Beds
- ★ Free Breakfast
- ★ Indoor Pool & Fitness Room
- ★ Refrigerators & Microwaves in Room
- ★ Free Wireless Internet Access
- ★ Trip to a Fort Eustis Aviation Unit

Activities in the Williamsburg Area

Jamestown

You can see ruins of the original English settlement and watch as glassblowers create beautiful pieces using the same techniques that were available during the colonial era. Nearby is Jamestown Settlement, which recreates the ruins of Historic Jamestown. If you are itching to get out on the water, take the Jamestown Ferry. This free service runs from Jamestown to Scotland, Virginia, and makes it easy to explore some of rural Virginia. Take your car for a scenic drive, or leave your wheels in Jamestown and simply enjoy the fresh breezes as you cross the James River.

Busch Gardens

This amusement park, divided into European-themed sections, has been voted "Most Beautiful Theme Park in the World" multiple times, but it's much more than that; it's a veritable cultural and thrill-seeking mecca. If you're brave enough, hop on the Alpengeist, which reaches heights of 195 feet and hair-raising speeds of 67 miles per hour. Aside from rides, there are cultural experiences - view virtual Europe from the air, shopping, and a whole host of family-friendly restaurants.

Yorktown Battlefield

See where American independence was won at the Yorktown Battlefield, administered by the National Park Service as part of the Colonial National Historical Park. Here on October 19, 1781, British forces under Lord Charles Cornwallis surrendered to the combined American and French armies led by General George Washington, concluding the battle that signaled the beginning of the end of the fight for American independence.



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U.S. Army Transportation Museum

Since the Revolution, Army transportation has been a key to victory on the battlefield. The U.S. Army Transportation Museum celebrates the roles played by the men, women and machines that "get there first with the most." The Transportation Museum's six acres, inside the gates of Ft. Eustis, will take

you from early mule-drawn wagons to modern HUMMVs. The museum includes films, videos, dioramas, models and a gift shop. Outdoor parks feature full-size vehicles and equipment.

Civil War Battlefields

After months of fighting in the late spring of 1864, Union forces backed Robert E. Lee's Confederate army into defensive lines around Petersburg. For more than nine months the city endured a siege. The Petersburg National Battlefield maintains several park units to help tell the story.

PETERSBURG NATIONAL BATTLEFIELD



Contact one of the 213th Alumni Officers to register for the reunion. There will be a \$25 reunion fee to cover cost of the Hospitality room, but that fee will also provide you with a one-year membership in the 213th Black Cat Alumni Association.

- Terry K. Sanderlin (505) 550-0145
- Thomas Hoopes (440) 636-5309
- Foster Sexton (361) 225-4612
- George Haley (508) 737-6827



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Water, Earth, and Sky

Terry K. Sanderlin, Ed.D., and President of 213th Alumni Association

Albuquerque, New Mexico, is a city with a long cultural history that has blended cultures of the Native American, Spanish, Mexican, and European people into a laid-back Southwestern mecca of fun in the sun. The unique cuisine of New Mexico can be found in varying forms. From the budget restaurants to the upscaled high-end bistros, Albuquerque has something for everyone.

For those looking for fun-in-the-sun outdoor activities, the Albuquerque area can provide many opportunities for adventure. With the Rio Grande River at our doorstep, a paddling outing is a short drive away. The middle Rio Grande, running through Albuquerque, is rated as a Class I and II river, with a few minor ripples to add a little spice to an otherwise laid-back journey down a major water artery. However, the



wind can kick up at times making for a difficult paddle trip, as Maggie and I experienced on our last paddle in July, when we were confronted with 35 MPH headwinds. For those interested in wildlife and bird sightings, you may easily find wild turkey, beaver, coyote, blue heron, cranes, ducks, and a wide variety of other winged creatures along the banks of the Rio Grande as it travels through the Albuquerque Metropolitan area and outskirts. Paddling down the middle Rio Grande, you will pass the cottonwood bosque with its many varieties of trees and wildlife set against the background of the Sandia Mountains.

With your feet planted firmly on the ground or on a bicycle of your choice, you can elect to walk or ride the 16 mile north/south Bosque Bike Trail that follows the Rio Grande through the cottonwood bosque. As the path is both paved and near flat, it is an excellent way to travel north or south from one end of the city to the other and see the cottonwood bosque with its many southwestern plants and trees. At Alameda or Central Avenue, you can elect to get off the trail and

try some local cuisine at a nearby restaurant.

If your taste is for the mountains, then the Sandia Mountain range may be just what you need, and a hike up the LaLuz trail to the summit at 10,300 feet offers a great view of Albuquerque and the Rio Grande River below. However, you can also elect to ride the Sandia Peak Aerial Tram and be at the peak in about 15 minutes, after a 2.7 mile ride that takes you 3,819 feet up the mountain. The view at the top allows you to see an 11,000 square mile New Mexico landscape. With any luck you will be able to spot black bear, bobcat, or perhaps an elusive mountain lion. As you are already on top of the mountain, stay for the sunset while dining at the High Finance restaurant at the top.

If you fancy looking toward the sky for your adventure, take a quick drive to the westside of Albuquerque to the Double Eagle II Airport where you





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can find small aircraft for rent or a willing pilot to fly you to any destination you desire. For you pilots, Double Eagle is located at Latitude: 35' 08' 42" Longitude: 106' 47' 40", at an elevation of 5,834 feet. If you prefer to fly without an engine, you can head east of Albuquerque to the nearby community of Moriarity where you can rent a sailplane with or without a pilot depending on your pilot certification status and soar the Estancia Valley. The Monzano mountains provide excellent lift in the form of ridge lift or mountain wave. Morning flights usually find thermals (starting in the spring months) that are boosted by rotor activity. I have personally found many a day when thermal lift was well in excess of 1,000 fpm, especially when cumulus clouds are abundant. Last but not least, Albuquerque is

the host city for the Kodak International Balloon Fiesta. Every October



Albuquerque's population increases by over 100,000 during fiesta. It is magnificent to see 300 to 345 balloons taking off, or the sights of the evening



balloon glow, and fireworks to follow.

All in all, Albuquerque offers many activities and attractions, and at the end of the day, kick back at your favorite restaurant for some southwestern food and a glass of wine, where your toughest decision is to answer the state question: red or green chili?



Terry & Maggie

The Black Cat Association Newsletter is published each October.

Editor: George Haley
To submit news, contact editor at e-mail: emgrh@verizon.net

Non-political submissions are welcomed for publication consideration.

Information contained in the articles is strictly the responsibility of the author and not of the alumni association.