



Santa Ana Winds and Fire Damage in San Diego

We had an unscheduled day off in November 2007 when the fires moved out of San Diego east county toward the ocean. The mandatory evacuation was a conservative and precautionary action. The fires passed well to the north and south of the headquarters building, and we did not sustain any damage. In addition we do not know of any Tailhook Association members who lost homes. For a map of the damage areas visit <http://www.kpbs.org/news/fires>.

From the Executive Director: Association Update

Membership and Recruiting

As a result of the changes in fleet carrier aircraft and carrier deck loading over the last 10 years there has been a five percent decrease in the number of carrier aviators. Another five to ten percent decrease in carrier aviators is anticipated over the next five years. Also the Naval Flight Officer community is expected to decrease by 66 percent in the next five years. With these losses in the Naval Aviation community, it is difficult to maintain and grow our membership base. With three years into our five year growth plan, our overall membership numbers have shown a slow decline.

Our total membership changes for many different reasons. We have a regular turnover of about 600-800 members leaving and the same number joining every year. In 2007 we lost 621 members. They failed to update their addresses, renew their membership or received their last cut. Fewer new members joined. This resulted in a decline of only 20

members. At the end of the year we sent invitations to all past members who failed to renew in 2006 and 2007. This initiative should show some success by the beginning of 2008.

- Total membership in 2004 = 11,349
- Total membership in 2005 = 11,142
- Total membership in 2006 = 11,293
- Total membership in 2007 = 11,273



CAPT J.R. Davis

2007-2008 Budget

Our membership dues have remained at \$40.00 per year for the last 10 years. We have been able to keep our membership rates low because we have generated new income through additional corporate sponsorships, sale of merchandise and increasing attendance at our annual reunion in Reno. However, we cannot continue without an increase. As of 1 January 2008, our membership fee structure is:

Membership	Cost	Life Membership	
1-Year	\$45.00	59 and Under	\$795.00
3-Year	\$120.00	60-65	\$680.00
5-Year	\$210.00	66-69	\$570.00
		70 and Over	\$460.00

Life Member Payments (12.5 percent increase)

	Down Payment	Four Quarterly Payments*
59 and Under	\$195.00	\$150.00
60-65	\$180.00	\$125.00
66-69	\$170.00	\$100.00
70 and Over	\$160.00	\$75.00

*Active-duty members can stretch the payments over four years instead of four quarters.

Tailhook Reunion

The theme for our next reunion is a "Tribute to the Landing Signal Officer" with the working title "Blazing Paddles." For 2008 we are working on many issues to improve the reunion experience.

- We will add additional food at the Bug Roach mixer and distribute it throughout the Rose Ballroom and the Pavilion.
- We will select a keynote speaker who will focus on our theme.
- We are taking a fresh look at the symposium to find ways to make it more attractive for our active-duty members and spouses.

Start planning now for Hook '08. If you are part of a reunion group, please consider the advantages of staging your reunion activities at Hook '08 in Reno. Many reunion organizations have done so in the past.

J.R. Davis
CAPT J.R. Davis, USN(Ret)

Executive Director, The Tailhook Association

 (858) 689-9223 (800) 322-HOOK	 (858) 689-9227 JOURNAL OF CAREER AVIATOR	 TAILHOOK EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION, Inc. (800) 269-8267 CFC #10251
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Future Hook Reunion Dates

**4-7 September 2008,
Reno/Sparks, Nev.**

**10-13 September 2009,
Reno/Sparks, Nev.**