

**CNAC**  
ASSOCIATION



# CANNON BALL

June 2007

**William Maher, President**  
PO Box 984  
Jackson, MI 49204  
(517) 784-5603

**Eve Coulson, Editor**  
291 Russell Road  
Princeton, NJ 08540  
(609) 497-0324  
[ecoulson@aol.com](mailto:ecoulson@aol.com)



Some words carry such meaning they bear repeating.

"There are many things which fashion our lives. Some of these were at work before we went to India and China. We were already pilots, mechanics, doctors and all. For me especially, as for many others, that brief time influences and colored my life forever after. As those days recede into the past our lives have diversified. We have made new friends, climbed a few mountains, raised our kids, lived and died, but that interlude flashes in my memory; ever more remote but like a distant beacon.

We came together there and then scattered to the 4 corners of the globe. This time we had in common remains. Someone said common tradition is the strongest link that binds people together."

---Editor Reg Farrar (pictured above), from the October 1979 CANNONBALL

If you think you haven't received a CANNONBALL in a long time, you're right. The last issue was mailed in September 2006. Since then, largely due to the website ([www.cnac.org](http://www.cnac.org)), we have heard from a number of people who had been out of touch in for a while. Please visit the website (whether or not you have before, as it is constantly updated by Tom Moore); do let us know if your address changes. You can do this through the website or by contacting Bill Maher, Valerie Kendrick or Eve Coulson by phone, letter or email—our contact information is on pages 1 and 3 of this issue. A complete address list of members and associates will be available at the reunion.

This issue includes:

	Page
A letter from President Bill Maher	3
A tentative schedule for the upcoming reunion (September 5-8, 2007)	4
CNAC website information	5
Reunion information and registration form	6
Minutes from the Co-Pilots meeting at last year's reunion	7
Documentary DVDs and C-47s for sale	11
Tribute to Chuck West	12
Louis Stannard's historical novel <i>China Diaries</i>	15
Tribute to Julius "Pete" Petach	16
Rita Wong article from the China Daily (8/16/06) (submitted by Bob Willett)	21
"Yahbut, last year..." 1944 essay by Bert Coulson	23



# CHINA NATIONAL AVIATION CORPORATION ASSOCIATION

P.O. Box 984  
Jackson, MI 49204

W.J. MAHER  
President

Dear CNACers

The 2006 reunion was an outstanding success. Over seventy-five people attended, which was more than the last two reunions. Thanks to our website we picked up several attendees who were not even aware of our existence. Plus, the interest and support generated by our co-pilot group is serving to perpetuate our organization. This is in the face of both the CBI and the Hump Pilots organizations having been disbanded. This is partly due to their having sold so many lifetime memberships and failing to enlist the support of their second generation.

The board of directors has decided to lengthen our next reunion to four days. We had numerous complaints that attendees did not have any free time because there was so much interesting material presented. Namely: Dr. Wen, China Diaries author Louis Stannard, Christy Hanks, CNAC author Greg Crouch, AVG/CNAC film producer Jeff Green, CNAC stewardess Margaret Soong, and Steven Loane. Clayton Kuhles presented an excellent film on his search for CNAC 58. He has since reached CNAC 58 and will have that film this year. I am pleased that Joe Rosbert was aware of this before he passed away on January 6th.

Moon Chin has suggested that we hold our next reunion sooner as the weather in San Francisco is much nicer in early September. We selected September 5, 6, 7 & 8th this also resulted in a \$20.00 savings on our room rate. The new contract was for \$129.00 but we negotiated a rate of \$109.00 for these dates. Still a very good value considering all of the amenities including breakfast and cocktails.

I would like to take this opportunity to invite you to join the CNAC association and attend our reunion in San Francisco.

Our second generation intends to perpetuate this association so that the world never forgets the sacrifices and contributions made by those who served with CNAC.

Author Louis Stannard has recently written an excellent book of historical fiction entitled China Diaries. The characters in the book were actual CNAC personnel, and it is a must read for those with interest in CNAC.

Sincerely,

**Dues: \$35.00**  
CNAC  
Valerie Kendrick  
252 South Main St.  
Willits, CA, 95490  
(707) 459-5165

W.J.,. Maher

**Reunion: Sept 5 - 8, 2007**  
Embassy Suites  
Burlingame, CA  
650-342-4600  
(CNAC rate \$109  
inc. breakfast and cocktail hour)

**Make your hotel reservation  
today...rooms are filling up fast!**

# C.N.A.C. REUNION PROGRAM 2007

(TENTATIVE)

## BURLINGAME, CALIFORNIA

MEETING ROOM: ALAMEDA ROOM

HOSPITALITY ROOM: 10:00 AM UNTIL??

### WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 5

1:30 REGISTRATION IN HOSPITALITY SUITE

5:00 COCKTAIL HOUR – HOTEL ATRIUM

7:30 DINNER AT MEMBERS OPTION

### THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 6 - ALAMEDA ROOM

8 – 9:30 BREAKFASTS – HOTEL ATRIUM

9:30 GREG CROUCH – DISCUSS HIS BOOK

SET UP INTERVIEWS, CLARIFY FACTS

10:00 CNAC WEBSITE PRESENTATION\* (see note bottom of next page)

TOM MOORE AND CRAIG CHINN

11:00 CNAC CO-PILOTS DISCUSSION MEETING

EVERYONE WELCOME

1:30 CNAC- SHOW AND TELL -ORAL PRESENTATIONS

MEMBERS AND ASSOCIATES TELL THEIR PERSONAL STORIES,  
SHOW MEMORABILIA

4:00 JEFF GREENE- MOVIE (maybe?)

5:00 COCKTAILS- HOTEL ATRIUM

7:00 DINNER AT MEMBERS OPTION

**FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 7**

**9:00 CNAC-SHOW AND TELL-RAL PRESENTATIONS; MEMBERS AND ASSOCIATES TELL THEIR PERSONAL STORIES, SHOW MEMORABILIA**

**1:30 FILMS AND ORAL PRESENTATIONS: FLETCHER HANKS**

**3:00 FILMS AND ORAL PRESENTATIONS: PETE GUTIERE**

**4:00 DINNER WITH MOON FUN CHINN – MEET IN HOTEL LOBBY; TRANSPORTATION PROVIDED; CASUAL DRESS**

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 8**

**8-9:30 BREAKFASTS – HOTEL ATRIUM**

**10:00 BUSINESS MEETING- ALAMEDA ROOM**

**1:30 ALAMEDA ROOM – 2005 TV “UP CLOSE” (INTERVIEWS RECORDED IN CHINA)**

**3:00 BOOK SIGNING: FELIX SMITH, ILSE SHILLING, LOUIS STANNARD, PETE GOUTIERE, CHRISTY HANKS, GREG CROUCH, CYNTHIA BOWLES**

**5:00 COCKTAILS-HOTEL ATRIUM**

**7:00 CNAC DINNER-BANQUET ROOM**

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 9 8-9:30 BREAKFASTS and GOODBYES**

\*\*\*\*\*

**\* Visit the CNAC WEBSITE today!**

You don't know what you are missing if you haven't explored the CNAC website. Do not let trepidation about the Internet, computers, or modern technology keep you from this wonderful resource, developed by Tom Moore. You simply won't believe what you will find there! All are welcome to contribute new information and photos. The website address is [www.cnac.org](http://www.cnac.org). If you are not sure what to do with this information, get your daughter, son, grandchild, or teenage next-door neighbor involved. If you have flown the Hump, you can travel the World Wide Web.