

AramcoBrat Bands: *The Early Years*

Dean L. Barnes DH'67 - Publications Director

One experience in our collective memories is the Tri-District dance we attended in the summer when we were returning students. After the dance, whether we returned home, or, more common, when we went to the after parties that seemed to last until dawn the next day, the music of the Tri-D dance band played in our heads and set the theme for the entire night. Who were these bands, how did they get together and how did they affect us?

AramcoBrats have an interesting shared history. Each summer, when we were fortunate to return to the Aramco camps from schools in America, Europe or elsewhere, we would bring with us an appreciation of the music we had been exposed to in our dorms and residences and in our travels.



Some of us became musicians. We memorized songs and practiced in our rooms, in garages, and in dorm stairwells. We sought out other musicians and in junior high school, or as returning students we formed bands.

Brats have often mentioned the bands that played at the Tri-D dances, but there doesn't seem to be any collected information on when these bands existed and who played in them – until now. This article explores the early years of the AramcoBrat bands. As you read, I hope you cast your mind back in time and remember the time when the sounds of the BratBands echoed in your ears and when these influential musicians made their mark in your memories.

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2005 Houston Reunion Memories

Diane Knipfel-Adams AB'75 - ABI Vice President

The last reunion put all your fears about attending your first Brat Reunion to rest. You had the time of your life, and almost felt as if you were 'back home' again. It was a wonderful feeling to be among others who you didn't have to explain your past to, people just like you, people who get what it means to be a Brat.

And there were more of them than you could have ever imagined. There were 842 official registrants, plus another hundred or so who weren't brave or smart enough to register and hang out the whole weekend.

One of the best surprises was the large number of parents and teachers that were there. It was gratifying updating your former teachers about who you'd become in the 25 years since they last saw you spitting spitwads in one of the portables, and it felt wonderful being able to thank them for all the knowledge they imparted on you.

It was also incredible spending time with some of your friends' parents and laughing about the last time you saw each other -- when you and your best buddy got caught sneaking out the last trimester of 9th grade.

As you had been warned, the post-reunion blues hit you hard. The lost memories of home have been revived and will keep you

going until the next reunion, which you hear will be held in Asheville, North Carolina.

A quick visit to the ABI website just says to watch for further details, so you'll log on again soon and look for your Brat newsletter for more information and registration materials.

You want to reserve your hotel room and register for the reunion as soon as possible because you don't want to miss out on any of the activities and opportunities offered only to the official registrants.

As you peruse the ABI website, you send off a note of thanks to the '05 reunion committee and ABI

for all their hard work, and to ASC for their generous donation that paid for the big banquet on Sunday night.

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Mike Simms AB'78—President

Well, since you are reading this, it means we've finally birthed this ten-ton gorilla.

Thanks to all for your patience as we've gotten on our feet this term. With a significant number of new board members in key positions being added to our group, we've had a few ups and downs getting our sea legs, but our work and perseverance is starting to pay off.

Leaving us in November were some fantastic people whose service to the ABI really raised the bar for us all. Our eternal thanks go out to Cathie McCoy RT'74, Michael McCoy RT'72 and Sherri Dent-Moxley DH'77, all of whom worked tirelessly to make this organization better. The new faces coming in to fill the void are equally impressive. We are thrilled to have Doug Webb DH'72, Marie Littlejohn-Dunn DH'77, Penny Dougharty-Maher DH'72 and Dawn Kolb DH'92 join the team. All are dedicated, insightful and capable, and we've already seen great things out of them. Doug has replaced Cathie McCoy as treasurer and has jumped into the fray with a willingness to do what it takes to get the job done. I'm not sure he knew what a big job it was when he agreed to it, but he has come along through it all in spades. Coming off the highly successful Houston reunion, Marie has already successfully negotiated the contracts for the 2007 reunion venue and continues to guide the 2007 Reunion Committee as the Reunion Oversight Director. Penny has taken up the reins as Database Director and continues the never-ending job of maintaining contact information for more than 4,500 Brats even while she is spearheading the database upgrade project we've been just talking about for years. Dawn has slipped into the role of Class Representative Director with ease and brings her sharp intelligence and understanding to board discussions. The remainder of the new board is comprised of repeat characters though we've shifted jobs around a bit. See the board list in this newsletter for a complete listing of who does what.

We've finally completed reconciliation of last term's finances. You will find a report on that in this newsletter as well as the reports for the first two quarters of 2006 along with the budget for the 2006-2007 term. Kirk Lippert DH'72 has been working on the audit of the last term's financials as required by ABI bylaw. While he has not yet completed his work, he has issued this statement: "The audit of the financial records of the ABI is substantially complete with just a few items left to complete. The audit encompassed four areas including Cash, Revenues, Costs and Expenses, and Operational Issues. The procedures in all four areas were designed to verify that the balances shown on the ABI website were materially correct and that there were sufficient internal controls and supporting records and documentation to ensure the accurate recording of the ABI's financial transactions. To date, no exceptions or unusual items have been noted." We are working closely with Kirk to wrap up the audit and as soon as it is complete we will issue a report via our website. ABI treasurer Doug Webb is now intimately familiar with the ins and outs of ABI finances and has included an excellent discussion of same to go along with the financial reports. Please don't hesitate to contact the board if you have any questions on the finances or financial reports. If you have attended a reunion, purchased anything from our website or a reunion raffle/auction, given a donation or paid your Adbak, it's your money and we want to make sure you understand everything you need to about it.

Which brings up another important point. The ABI operates

solely on the voluntary donations of its members. That's you. We need your support to continue bringing you newsletters like this one, directories, our website and even quality reunions. We have not raised our suggested donation amount (Adbak) this term, or for the last several years for that matter, but we still really need you to send it in if we're to stand any chance of a reasonably balanced budget. If you haven't ever participated by sending us your Adbak, I ask that you take a look and see if the ABI has provided anything positive in your life over the years. If so, please help us continue that work by sending us a check. If you've contributed in the past, we thank you a thousand times, but ask you to do so again. It's a special deal for our very good friends -- only \$18 in the US and \$23 for everyone else and that's for two years! Just think about it for awhile and then use the form in this newsletter to send in your Adbak today.

We've got lots of projects we are working on from database and procedure upgrades to the taking of credit cards to the creation of manuals so that transitions from board to board and from reunion committee to reunion committee go more smoothly. So, stay tuned. We're back on schedule now so you can expect another newsletter from us in November. That one is important because not only will it contain reunion registration information, but it will also contain descriptions of ballot issues and statements of candidates for ABI board positions for next term.

But for now, the newsletter in your hand is rich with information on the activities of the board and on other things that would be of interest to Brats. I encourage you to read every word. And then read it again.

Mike Simms AB'78



Editor's Note

Dean L. Barnes DH'67—Publications Director

I have enjoyed putting this issue together. Last year, after the reunion, and in the nature of trying to recapture the spirit of a Brat Reunion, I was looking at my old Brat memorabilia – copies of the "Ash", student directories, and Binzagr Co. matchboxes – when I began thinking about the event which was a highlight of my summer as a returning student, the Tri-D dances. These thoughts led me to thinking about the music we listened to and then to the musicians who made that music. Many of you were helpful in providing me with information about the Brat Bands who played at the Tri-Ds and I am pleased to present this first installment in what I hope will become a two part series loosely covering the history of the Brat Band scene. I am hopeful that this article will inspire some of the younger Brats, the Brats of the 80s, 90s and 00s to share their memories of

their musical experiences in the Aramco camps.

You will enjoy the rest of this newsletter as well. Take a moment to review the Aramco Brat financial figures. A lot of work went into seeing that these figures were accurate and clearly represented the work of the board. Meet the members of the board and learn what's happening on the ABI website. On the front page we revisit the 2005 reunion and inside you can learn all about the 2007 reunion in Asheville, NC. Along with information about what the ABI board has been doing is information about how you can get involved. If that's not enough, we have included two pages of reunion photographs.

Please send any suggestions about what you would like to see in the newsletter to dean@aramco-brats.com. I look forward to hearing from you.

In My Mind I'm Going to Carolina...

Marie Littlejohn-Dunn DH'77—Reunion Oversight Director

Finally! The announcement for which you have all been so patiently waiting! We are very excited to announce that the 2007 ABI Reunion will be held May 24th through May 28th at the Crowne Plaza Resort Asheville in beautiful Asheville, North Carolina. Just off the scenic Blue Ridge Parkway, Asheville is a wonderful blend of art, history and nature and was voted one of the "10 Great Adventure Towns" by National Geographic Adventure. There is something for everyone in our Brat family, old or young, from strolling around historic downtown Asheville to hiking and river rafting. The area around Asheville offers many different things to do. The Biltmore Estate, Chimney Rock Park, Lake Lure and the Blue Ridge Parkway, one of the most scenic drives in the country, are just a few.

The Crowne Plaza Resort Asheville sits on 125 acres nestled against the Blue Ridge Mountains, just minutes from downtown Asheville. Surrounded with verandas loaded with rocking chairs for enjoying the scenery, the property has some other inviting gathering spots, including Mulligan's Bar and Grille, with its overstuffed furniture and large, stone fireplace; an outdoor pool and patio, and the aptly named Overlook Room and adjoining Overlook Terrace, which offer spectacular views of the 18-hole golf course against a mountain backdrop – perfect settings for late night reminiscences, rekindling friendships and starting new ones! All guest rooms include private patios or balconies with mountain or golf course views, and additional accommodations in the form of vacation villas are tucked in the woods along the golf course.

Reservations at the Crowne Plaza must be made by May 10, 2007. To make your reservations, go to <http://www.ashevillecp.com> and click on "reserve online". You will be prompted to enter dates needed and number of people. At the very bottom of the screen there will be a box for "group booking code". Enter ABR to get the group rate. For those who prefer to make their reservations by telephone, dial the toll-free reservation number for the Crowne Plaza in Asheville - (800) 733-3211. Don't

forget to give them our group code to ensure you receive the group rate. For those of you who are planning a longer vacation around the reunion dates, our group rates will be valid for an additional 3 days before and 3 days after the event. Suites cannot be reserved directly at this time. If you would like a suite, please send an email to suiterequest@aramco-brats.com and request to be added to the waiting list. Suites will be offered to those on the wait list on a first-come, first-served basis closer to the reunion.

The Asheville Regional Airport is served by Continental Airlines, Delta Air Lines, Northwest Airlines, and US Airways. Airfares directly into Asheville are competitive with flying into one of the larger airports in the region and renting a car, but for those of you who want to use frequent flyer miles on a different airline or who want to do some comparison shopping, check fares into Greenville, SC (41 mi); Piedmont Triad International Airport in Bristol, TN (72 mi); Knoxville, TN (86 mi); Charlotte, NC (91 mi). We encourage everyone to make their reservations early to get the best airfares and to take advantage of some of the non-stop flights into Asheville.

Please check the Reunion pages at www.aramco-brats.com often for more details about the reunion and registration. The Reunion Committee will be adding information about travel discounts, driving instructions, and activities at the reunion as it becomes available. And be sure to check out <http://www.exploreasheville.com> for details on local and area attractions. If you have any questions or suggestions, the Reunion Committee would love to hear from you! Send them an e-mail at reunion2007@aramco-brats.com.

The stage and crew are set for another great ABI reunion. We're just waiting for the cast of Aramco Brats to arrive and bring the party to life. Mark your calendars for Memorial Day weekend, 2007, make your reservations, then pull up a rocking chair on the veranda and join us! See you there!

Webmaster's Corner

Gretchen Connally DH'91—Webmaster

Greetings from the Webmaster's Corner!

My name is Gretchen Connally DH'91, and I am the new Website Director for ABI. Some of you may know me as the former Class Representative Coordinator. I've also been assistant to the webmaster for the past few years. I am so happy to be taking over this position. I love the opportunity to reach out to the Brat Community and help to bring everyone together. The website is the public face of ABI. It is many people's first glimpse at a connection to their past, their childhood, the treasure-trove of memories that resides inside of them. I want people to feel excited about visiting our website. In each newsletter, I'd like to tell you about a few areas of the website (<http://www.aramco-brats.com>) that you may not know about.

Did you know...

- We have Brat High Schools and Brat Colleges & Universities pages to help brats connect with their fellow alumni. Check out the pages and send us your information! Click on "Memories" for links to both of these pages.
- We have a great online message board system, called BratBoard, with forums to discuss memories, food & recipes, reunions, politics, and more. Click on the link on the ABI home page.

As always, on the website you can access the address update form, download old newsletters, look at photos, get reunion information, and more. If you have any comments or questions, feel free to email me at webmaster@aramco-brats.com.

If you want to ask ABI related question or share information, you can use email or the website to let us know what's going on with you:

- To send a message or a question to the ABI Board, send an email to board@aramco-brats.com. Someone on the ABI Board will respond to you within a day or two. (If you want to contact a specific Board member, open the ABI home page and choose ABI > ABI Board, then click the email address of the person you want to contact.)
- To let us know about a change of email address or mailing address, please fill-out our address form. You can find a link to it on the main ABI home page.
- To contact the 2007 reunion committee, send an email to reunion2007@aramco-brats.com.
- To pay your Administrative Baksheesh, print the webpage found at <http://www.aramco-brats.com/adbak2.htm> and mail it with your payment to AramcoBrats, Inc. c/o Doug Webb, P.O. Box 270931, San Diego, CA.

BratBands (Continued from page 1)

Leaky Roof Circuit

The Leaky Roof Circuit started life in Dhahran as a band called The Chosen Few. Bill "Beanie" Mandis (DH '65), explains: "The true seed of the band was Bill Scott on rhythm guitar, Jimmy Congleton on bass, and Ricky Simon on lead. The three of them had started playing together in Rome at Notre Dame. They came back to Dhahran in the summer of '66, looked to start a band and said they needed a drummer. I said I could probably fill the position, although I had no drumming experience. So, I borrowed Mike Polhemus' drum set, took them to the first practice at Bill's house, and failed miserably. Thank god Mike stuck around to see that I didn't damage his drum set. As my percussive shortcomings became evident, Bill suggested that Mike take over the drums and I try some lead singing. Thus, the band was born."

Mike Polhemus gets the kudos for coming up with the name, Leaky Roof Circuit, although he took a few curses at first. Mandis says, "We were The Chosen Few until a "Sun and Flare" reporter talked to Mike without our knowing it. Mike had stumbled across an article in Sports Illustrated about horseracing entitled "The Leaky Roof Circuit" and liked it. So he told the reporter, without consulting the rest of us, that that was our name. It went to press and it stuck. We were all kind of ticked at the time but now, seeing the name still out there after all these years later... Good call, Mike."

That first summer, the band performed at a few private parties.

"We played at Tom Barger's retirement party," Mandis says.

"We played 'Well-Respected Man' by the Kinks, only the lyrics were revised by Peter Pestoni's dad. All I remember was the chorus. Pete's dad changed it from '...doing the best things so conservatively' to 'doing his thing so chief executively'."

The band also staged a public Tri-D in the Dhahran auditorium during the summer of '66, with the proceeds benefiting the Palestinian Relief Fund.

The next summer, '67, band members all returned except for Ricky Simon whose parents left Aramco. "A great loss," says Mandis. "I'm pretty sure it was then that we brought Binker Milam on board, a rhythm guitarist. Bill covered the leads, although we stuck to songs that weren't too lead-guitar dependent. It was an exciting summer. We became THE band and landed the Tri-D dances. Prior to us, a group called The Rogues had been the go-to band for at least a couple of years. They were terrific! I regret that I only remember two of their names – Clem Marino and Dick Teeters."

Mandis continues, "We played almost nothing but covers in '67 – a lot of stuff by The Young Rascals ('Ain't Gonna Eat Out My Heart Anymore', 'Love is a Beautiful Thing', 'It's Only Love', 'Baby It's You'), Beatles ('It's Only Love', 'Baby It's You'), Steppenwolf ('The Pusher', 'Born to Be Wild'), Rolling Stones ('Mother's Little Helper', 'Everybody Needs Somebody to Love', 'Carol', 'As Tears Go By'), and The Grassroots ('Live for Today')."

Mark Lameier, (DH '68), adds, "Jeff Yeager used to do a cameo

appearance with the Leaky Roof Circuit doing, 'High Heeled Sneakers' in a falsetto voice. If he is at the next reunion, see if you might coax him into doing it again."

The summer of '68 saw the Leaky Roof Circuit play at all of the Tri-D's, perform at lots of parties – including gigs at the consulate general's and the Mission Inn, bring in new songs from Jimmy Hendrix like 'Joe', Credence Clearwater Revival's 'Born on the Bayou' and others.

Band members stayed the same in '68, yet in '69 John Prusinski joined as lead guitar extraordinaire and opened new frontiers such as infusing a little Led Zeppelin like 'Whole Lotta Love', for example. It was the summer of '69 too, that Aramco generously provided new rehearsal space in the kitchen of the Industrial Cafeteria. Originally, the band practiced in Portable #1 across from the canteen. Then, they had a room upstairs from the Fiesta Room before moving to the Cafeteria – where they wouldn't disturb anyone.

Mandis says, "It seemed that at our practices, we spent the first twenty minute tuning the guitars. I remember Bill Scott saying in frustration that 'One of these days, they're going to make a little black box that you just plug into and it tells you when each string is in tune.' Visionary..."



The original lineup, with Beanie Mandis singing, Binker Milam on bass, Scott Hood on organ, Mike Polhemus on drums, and John Prusinski on guitar. In front of the stage are Barbara Crampton and Lynette Harmon. (Photo courtesy of John Prusinski.)

The summer of '70 was the start of the Circuit's demise, Mandis says. "We were really into acid rock and, because it was less danceable, lost out to Rubber Band in an audition to play the RT Tri-D. All these years later and it still stings. The Polhemus family moved on from Arabia, taking Mike with them, and we were lucky to find another talented drummer, Greg Gorman, to take over. Also, Jimmy Congleton got married and didn't return to play bass. We still landed a few gigs that summer but it was obvious to us that, just as The Rogues had passed the baton to the Circuit, it was time for the Circuit to make room for The Rubber Band. We'd had a great four-year run."

Fourth Run

The band called Fourth Run, says Bill "Beanie" Mandis (DH '65) "was actually The Leaky Roof Circuit after John Prusinski joined us. We had changed our style, were no longer the original band, and felt that a new name was in order. The group was still comprised of Bill Scott, Jimmy Congleton, Binker Milam, Greg Gorman, and myself. We probably never should have changed the name. We only played as Fourth Run during the summer of '70. It's probably obvious, but the name referred to 4th run off a still, the safely drinkable stuff."

The 8th Crusade

Mike Keller AB'69 says, "We had our one shot at fame with a band in Abqaiq in '67 called The 8th Crusade. I believe we were the first band from Abqaiq. The band was made up of Mark Marino, Richard Mahon, and myself. Mark played drums and vocals, Richard played guitar and vocals, and I sang, plus aided on percussion with a tambourine. I played the sax in the Abqaiq school band, but don't remember playing it in the band."

Keller continues, "We played vintage '60's rock - Beatles, Rolling Stones, Herman's Hermits, and the Animals. We had practiced at Mark's house for about a month, and then decided to put on our

own party at the Teen Canteen featuring ourselves. Somewhere, I have a Sun and Flare photo of us and I did find an invitation that we drew up for the party. On the front, there was a caricature of the three of us and it said, 'Get live if you want it'. Inside, it said, 'bring your banana peel to the teen canteen behind the time of 7:30 on the 31st day of August in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and 67. In other words: Time: 7:30-10:30; Where: Teen Canteen; When: 31st of August; Given by: Keller, Marino, and Mahon; Entertainment: the 8th Crusade and the record player.' As I remember it, everyone had a good time, the party went off without a hitch and we got our hour in the limelight. We never played after that."

White Apple

According to the 1969 yearbook, says Sharon Boynton Kenny (DH '69), "White Apple had the following members: Mike Morrow, Steve Simon, Walker Heywood, and Walt Randall."

Katherine Simon (DH '70), adds, "White Apple played I think in 1968 and 1969. This was before Billy McDonald took over as bass guitarist and Stephen – my brother who was bass guitarist for a very brief stint – never touched the guitar again. Does the phrase 'I got blisters on my fingers!' ring any bells for anyone?"

The Rubber Band

An article from a summer 1970 'Ash' mentions The Rubber Band as being 'Dhahran's newest group', says Harlene Morrow (Camp/Year?). "The article talks about The Rubber Band stretching its musical style from hard rock to ballad blues with the 'agile ability of Walker Heywood playing drums, Mike Morrow holding lead guitar and vocals, Walter Randall with second guitar and organ, the very talented Bill McDonald playing base, and lastly, cooling the audiences' ears with his gold plated vocal chords...David Collier."

The Rubber Band played for a number of Tri-Ds like those held in 1971 in Dhahran called 'Treasure Island', in Ras Tanura themed 'Lord of the Rings', and in Abqaiq named 'Whispering Glades'.

Flute player Dean Barnes (DH'67) sat in on several Tri-Ds enabling the band to expand its repertoire to include songs by Jethro Tull, Traffic, and the Moody Blues.

Morrow says, "Then there was the memorable AEA Talent Show in Dhahran on July 26, 1971, where the Rubber Band morphed into 'Burger King and the Wah-Doos', with David Collier, Walker Heywood, Mike Morrow, Walter Randall and Bill McDonald doing a fifties greasy music stage show. They won first place for that."

She adds, "There is also mention of another band playing that night – 'The Dhahran School Stage Band' with Danny Westuba, Ducey Menicke, Stan Hutchison and Martin Barrie."

Arabian American Music Company

As far as I know, this band was the only band to combine American and Saudi musicians. "In the summer of 1972, I was approached by Iggy, the guitar playing singer of a trio of Saudi returning student musicians who were looking for gigs in the Aramco camps." Describes Barnes. "The band was short on musicians and equipment. Munsor, the base player told me that they wanted to play at a Tri-D, but were not sure what songs

would be the most popular with the crowd," Barnes explained. "They borrowed my dad's drum set and along with Muhammad, the drummer, Steve Foote on Piano and me on Flute, we played the 1972 Tri-D in Abqaiq."

Rock Tuesday

Rock Tuesday actively played during the summer of '77, says Peter Wernsdorfer (AB, DH, RT '72). "The names and instruments of the band members, who were all from Dhahran, were: Mark Tracy on lead guitar, slide guitar, and background vocals; Hirath Ghori on bass and background vocals; Mike Grimes on drums; and myself on rhythm guitar and both background and lead vocals. There was also a special appearance by Patti Jo Long on vocals at the AEA barbecue."

Wernsdorfer adds, "We were a cover band. Our set list included: 'Sweet Home Alabama', 'Freebird', 'Sympathy for the Devil', 'The Weight', 'I'm Your Captain', 'Machine Gun/Catastrophe', 'Hey Joe', 'Dimples', 'Honky Tonk Woman', and 'Johnny B. Goode'."

The interesting thing, says Wernsdorfer, is that "we were a throw together jam band that actually played a Tri-D. It was one of those things - sitting around, talking about stuff, and the subject of who played an instrument came up and who knew what songs and where could we practice? That led us to the 'sound room' in our backyard at 931. I never knew how famous this room was until the 2005 reunion. Apparently a lot of people partied there."

Wernsdorfer continues, "We decided to play in the talent show. We just knew we could win! Surprisingly, we were pretty good for a bunch of guys who had never played together and had three weeks to get ready! Somehow, Mark and Hirath conjured up a Bass for us to practice with. Hirath had just used one of my extra guitars for our first practice. We had no Bass Amp so, one day we got our hands on a company owned Peavy Bass Amp. It was a MONSTER! It came complete with

decibel exposure warnings on the back. Man, did we turn up the volume after that. The carpenter in the DHC shop built me some magnificent cabinets out of real Mahogany - I cannibalized my Dad's Fisher stereo speakers and voila, instant wall of noise! Mark had a homemade guitar that made a really nice sound that we played through a VOX amp we "borrowed" from Recreation. None of us could sing well enough to front the band, so we convinced my brother Paul that he was a lead vocalist. I spent many hours writing out the words to the songs, which we taped to a music stand so he could read the words and the set list in case he forgot what he was doing. Somewhere along the way, we couldn't quite get 'The Weight' down because we had no body to sing the high part. We recruited Patti Jo Long for that part and she filled in the rest too."

Other Bands of the Era

"One of my favorite bands", says Diane Knipfel-Adams (AB '75), "is The Cumpston Brothers Band. There was another one that I spent much time with and that was Nothing Yet – Frank Dolce, Dave Gardner and Mike Grimes."



John Prusinski on guitar and Jim Congleton on bass.
(Photo courtesy of John Prusinski.)

TREASURER'S REPORT

Doug Webb DH'72—*Treasurer*

As someone who has benefited greatly from the dedicated efforts of the ABI, primarily as a result of having "more fun than humans should be allowed to have" at several Reunions, I've always wanted to find a way to contribute to the Aramco Brats. So when I was approached last summer and asked whether I would like to help out and fill in as Treasurer, naturally I said, "Are you out of your mind?!"

Eight months later, here I sit with binders of correspondence, statements, and receipts, not to mention a 1982 edition of "Managerial Accounting" on my desk. To be honest, the job of ABI Treasurer has been a learning experience for me; much of this due to getting familiar with using a Quicken program that tracks all the financial activity and the corresponding chart of accounts that creates a category for all expenses and receipts.

Most of the categories you see in this report are also broken down into sub-categories. For instance, the Publications expense account contains sub-accounts for newsletter, directories and election ballots, and each of those has categories for printing, and mailing costs. AdBaks are divided between a category to offset costs of printing the directory and a donation category. So, when the Treasurer writes a check for something or processes a receipt, in many cases they have to be apportioned into different sub-categories. Certainly, I have a new found admiration for those who preceded me in the job. And I can hear Cathie and Kathy saying, "Just wait until the Reunion!"

For those of you keeping score at home, the numbers in certain categories may change on occasion due to

modifications to past activity; a good example being the few Brats who are due refunds as a result of overpaying their reunion fees, and checks that were written to Brats that were never cashed. Some may opt for a refund; others may want to have the money applied to 2006-2007 AdBaks. Others still, may be feeling generous and will donate all or a portion of their refund to the ABI. And believe it or not, we do have some bad debt: checks received from Brats that bounced a while ago, and have yet to be replaced. Currently, this amount is less than \$300, but if never recovered, will have to be written off the books. Finally, we are still in the process of having our books audited – a task that must be completed at the end of each Board Term. All of these activities may result in changes to the posted numbers.

Many of you have expressed a desire to pay for your AdBaks and Reunion fees with a credit or debit card. Yes, we have a committee for that (!), and it is exploring a variety of solutions that will allow us to incorporate credit card processing to our bank account and website. The service is not free and normally involves a flat monthly fee and a nominal charge for each transaction. In addition to being cost-effective, we also want to be sure that our chosen solution is one that protects both you and the ABI from fraudulent activity. It is our goal to have this feature available by the end of the year.

If you have any questions, concerns or suggestions, please don't hesitate to write me at doug@aramco-brats.com.

Until next time, ma'a'sallaamah!

Meet the Board

Gary Barnes DH'70—*Director at Large - Nominations*

November, 2005 marked the start of the new ABI board. We had several veterans who returned this year and some new faces as well.

Let me begin by thanking Diana Ryrholm-Geerdes, (RT '62), who stepped down as President of the ABI, but continues to be a valued member of the board as Director at Large - Contracts. Diana was an outstanding President for this organization, and we are grateful that her dedication, experience and boundless energy continue to be a part of ABI. Our new President is Mike Simms (AB'78). Mike's experience as our previous Vice President ensured a smooth transition as he assumed the leadership of the ABI board.

Stepping in as Vice President was Diane Knipfel-Adams (AB'72) who for the last four terms served as our Reunion Oversight Director. Mike and Diane's many years of board experience are invaluable as we face new challenges and goals.

Replacing Diane as Reunion Oversight Director was Marie Littlejohn-Dunn (DH'77) who is helping the Asheville Reunion Committee prepare for the 2007 reunion.

The position of Secretary continues to be filled by Pat Meadors-Desormeau (RT'60), and your truly remains as the Director at Large - Nominations.

We have a new Treasurer, our one and only Doug Webb, (DH'72). Doug took over for Cathie McCoy (RT'74). Thank you, Cathie, for a great job.

We also said goodbye to Michael McCoy (RT'72) who, as our Website Director, helped create the amazing ABI website. Gretchen Connally (DH'91) took over as our new Website Director, and passed the position of Class Rep Coordinator to Dawn Kolb (DH'92).

We are sorry to have lost Sherri Dent-Moxley (DH'77) as our Database Director, but pleased to welcome Penny Dougharty-Maher (DH'72) who took over for Sherri.

And finally, we are grateful to Doral Zadorkin-Allen (DH'66) who remained our E-Mail Director, and Dean Barnes (DH'67) who continued as our Publications Director.

For flattering photos of the ABI board, please check out the ABI website at www.aramco-brats.com.

<i>Quarterly Report 2005–2006</i>	Q1 2005	Q2 2005	Q3 2005	Q4 2005	Budget For 2006-2007	Q1 2006	Q2 2006	Total 06- 07 Term To Date
INCOME								
4100 Contributions	3,703.00	2,828.00	357.00	82.00	15,600.00	63.00	24.00	87.00
4200 Special Events Revenue	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
4300 Website Revenue	122.67	0.00	10.00	10.00	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
4400 Donated Services	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
4500 Corporate Grants	30,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
4600 Directory Revenue	2,710.00	2,280.00	260.00	100.00	12,500.00	50.00	30.00	80.00
4700 ABI Sales Revenue	0.00	8,424.00	0.00	0.00	7,300.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
4800 Investment Income	91.61	112.45	9,448.40	123.77	850.00	145.87	166.48	313.35
4900 Reunion Revenues	21,499.00	27,553.00	1,265.00	126.00	43,600.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
TOTAL INCOME	58,126.28	41,197.45	11,340.40	441.77	79,950.00	258.87	220.48	479.35
EXPENSES								
5100 Bank & Audit Fees	15.00	0.00	40.00	16.20	1,100.00	43.80	0.00	43.80
5200 Office Expense	0.00	0.00	51.76	14.04	1,700.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
5300 Publication Expense	4,721.43	18,795.67	693.80	0.00	26,260.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
5400 Website Expense	294.78	0.00	48.00	0.00	800.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
5500 Travel & Entertainment Expense	355.83	0.00	0.00	0.00	5,400.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
5600 Insurance Expense	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,400.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
5700 Professional Expense	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	300.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
5800 ABI Sales Expense	0.00	393.73	0.00	0.00	600.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
5900 Reunion Site Search Expense	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,172.63	1,200.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
6100 Special Expense	0.00	1,099.77	210.43	0.00	1,550.00	215.80	38.95	254.75
7100 Reunion Expense	1,754.55	26,554.96	26,116.50	0.00	44,925.00	18.00	0.00	18.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	7,141.59	46,844.13	27,160.49	1,202.87	86,235.00	277.60	38.95	316.55
PROFIT/(LOSS)	50,984.69	(5,646.68)	(15,880.09)	(761.10)	(6,285.00)	(18.73)	181.53	162.80
Cash Balance from Previous Term					68,056.64			
Cash Balance—End of Quarter	90,284.51	84,637.83	68,817.74	68,056.64		68,037.91	68,219.44	
Anticipated Cash Bal.—End of Term					61,771.64			

HONORED DONOR LIST -We would like to thank the following Brats for donating beyond the suggested AdBak amount since the last newsletter was published. Your generosity helps keep the ABI going!

Nellie Aboassaly-Guibert de Bruet AB'64
Dorothy Cameron-Sheppard DH'72
Michael Crocker DH'65
Randy Frossard RT'77
Nancy Gollan DH'76
Doug Grant RT'71
Michael Grimes AB'75
Frederick Haack III DH'70
Krista Hamilton-Borders DH'91
Robert Harris RT'66
Kathie Homewood-Muris DH'60
Wila Jones-Morgan DH'62

Cindy Kriesmer-Carr DH'67
Julie Light-Githens DH'78
Tina Lorentzen-Winters AB'59
Christian Lund DH'61
David Lunde DH'56
Ghassan Malaab DH'79
Anne Marinovic-Voelker DH'85
Bridget Marshall DH'60
Nick Massis DH'75
Kimberly Mosley-Kotara RT'82
Julia Niehaus-Soper DH'77
Jackie Pierce-McGehee DH'71

Lynda Randall-Goodman DH'70
Jon Richards RT'74
Rory Rickwood RT'65
Sandra Serdahely-Clark RT'61
Ted Sketo DH'71
Marj Stauffer-Hastings DH'71
Ann Sundberg DH'75
Jnee Tomaselli-Cole DH'61
James Vick AB'69
Doug Webb DH'72
Elaine Wood-Armstrong RT'58

Uncle Isam needs YOU!

Marie Littlejohn-Dunn DH'77—*Reunion Oversight Director*

While the 2007 Reunion Committee is busy cooking up another great Brat party in Asheville, NC, now is the time to start thinking about 2009. Over the past few months, we have heard interesting suggestions for host cities as well as suggestions on the site selection process.

So how do we go about choosing a Reunion location? We would all like to spend the Reunion in some choice, easy-to-get-to destination with plenty of rooms for attendees, but no room for outsiders, plenty of banquet space and room to dance for the traditional Sunday evening bash, and lots of nearby dining options.

But wait! We also need a fabulous pool and patio! AND we want it all to be affordable for Memorial Day weekend, the start of peak season for most choice, easy-to-get-to destinations. Anyone see a problem yet?

Oh! I almost forgot the most important thing: someone (else) local needs to volunteer to plan it for us! Are you still with me?

The point is not that it is an impossible task but that our choices are, in reality, quite limited and that it all starts and ends with volunteers to host. Believe it or not, we do not have a long queue of Brats standing at the door with proposals. When you consider the hard work and number of hours these reunion committees put into the planning, that's understandable. It is a big job but one that is greatly appreciated and worthwhile.

If you think you might be interested, please contact the ABI Board (board@aramco-brats.com) or Reunion Oversight Director (marie@aramco-brats.com). It is not necessary to present a full-blown proposal with a site already scoped out. All you need to start with is a place a whole lot of people can get to by car and plane. We will help you with an initial evaluation and official requests for proposals from properties if the location looks feasible.

Having choices and the ability to move these reunions around to new and different sections of the country is one of our goals, but in order for this to happen, we really need more of our many talented and resourceful Brats to step up and volunteer.

Gary Barnes DH'70—*Director at Large - Nominations*

Candidates Wanted

One year from now the 2007 AramcoBrat reunion in Asheville will be over and the newly elected ABI Board will be preparing for another two year term. Who we elect is up to you, the AramcoBrats. If you believe strongly in the ABI mission and believe that we need a plurality of perspectives to keep ABI fresh and effective, put your passion into action and become a candidate for the ABI Board of Directors.

Each election we choose a President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer. Each candidate has an opportunity in the Fall Newsletter to describe why they want to serve, and to outline their hopes and vision for ABI. By becoming a candidate, you help shape the debate for the next election, and ensure that your concerns and priorities are being heard.

Don't be put off if you have not served on this or any other board. The ABI board is there to help all new members, and to ensure a smooth transition. Teamwork is key to ABI Board activities, and you will get the support you need to succeed.

You can learn more about ABI and the ABI Board by going to our website at www.aramco-brats.com. The deadline to submit your name is October 1, 2006, to allow us time to get your candidate profile in the Fall newsletter, and to announce the upcoming slate for the 2007 election. If you would like to submit your name to be a candidate, please contact Gary Barnes (gary@aramco-brats.com) or the entire board (board@aramco-brats.com).

Now is the time to throw your hat into the ring and to help make a difference for all AramcoBrats. If you are passionate about ABI,

DONATIONS NEEDED - *Bring out your old!*

One of the most exciting parts of a Brat Reunion is the Brat Raffle. The Raffle is your chance to bid on an Arab painting, sandals, a new geutra, an Aramco mailbox door. To run the raffle, we need donations from you. So get up, go into your closet and get down that cardboard box containing the stuff you saved from your student days! If you have Brat or Arabia related memorabilia or items you are willing to part with and would like to donate to the upcoming raffle/auction in Asheville, please send a note to raffleauction@aramco-brats.com. We are extremely fortunate that our now famous (and looked forward to) reunion raffle and auction is totally supported by generous donations of much sought after treasures from our days in the Middle East. The items are donated by brats, parents, teachers, and other friends of AramcoBrats, Inc. Last year this event raised over \$5,000. An enormous shukran to these fantastic people who donated items for the 2005 Reunion:

Joy Alexander Neumann DH'83
Bob & Janice (Cyr) Allen DC'62, DH'65
AramcoBrats, Inc.
Aramco Services Company
Kathleen Butterfield AB'70
Lauri Carl-Wright DH'72
Michael Crocker DH'65
Luella Crow, Teacher
Albert & Karen (Hanson) Fallon AB'59, AB'58
Sandra Gelinas DH'86
Gulovsen Family RT'57, RT'62, RT'73

Mary Ann Heyser AB'64
Greg & Jeff Hutchins DH'62, DH'71
Lee Ingham RT'72
Teresa Kiersznowski DH'66
Lorentzen Family DH'55, DH'59
Marie Littlejohn-Dunn DH'77
Selena Maranjian DH'77
Crystal Uecker-Maxwell DH'91
Dave McClaine DH'63
Scott Miller DH'62
Orseth Family DH'79, DH'81

David Owen DH'73
Rick Owen DH'61
Jan Michele-Philip DH'77
Candy Riley-Summrall DH'66
Paul Robinson RT'56
Marilyn Ross-Bergeron DH'58
Ryrholm Family RT'60, RT'62, DH'72
Jerry Smith DH'50
Phyllis Stringfellow, Teacher
Sue Waters-Hebert AB'59
Bill Westuba DH'69

Address Change Form

PLEASE PRINT ALL INFORMATION CLEARLY

Name: _____
 First Middle Maiden Last

District/Year*: _____
 District (DH, RT, AB, or UD) Year of 9th Grade Graduation

Address: _____
 Street/Post Office Box

City State/Country Zip +4

Telephone: _____
 Area Code/Country Code Telephone Number

Email: _____

* Year you graduated from 9th grade and district (AB, DH, RT, UD) where you lived at graduation. If you did not graduate from an Aramco school, year you would have graduated from 9th grade and last district where you lived.

Mail Form to: **AramcoBrats, Inc., c/o Penny Dougharty-Maher**
4024 Ruskin St., Houston, TX 77005

Contact information can also be changed online at http://www.aramco-brats.com/address_change_form.htm



2006-2007 AdBak Fees

PLEASE PRINT ALL INFORMATION CLEARLY

Help Keep ABI Alive—Please Respond Today

☐ This is New Address Information—Please Update ABI Records

Name: _____
 First Middle Maiden Last

District/Year*: _____
 District (DH, RT, AB, or UD) Year of 9th Grade Graduation

Address: _____
 Street/Post Office Box

City State/Country Zip +4

Telephone: _____
 Area Code/Country Code Telephone Number

Email: _____

* Year you graduated from 9th grade and district (AB, DH, RT, UD) where you lived at graduation. If you did not graduate from an Aramco school, year you would have graduated from 9th grade and last district where you lived.

Mail to: **AramcoBrats, Inc. c/o Doug Webb**
P.O. Box 270931, San Diego, CA

2006-2007 AdBak (\$18 US/\$23 International)	\$ _____
Additional Contributions	\$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Anonymous contribution - Please do not include my name in list of donors.	
2005 ABI Directory (\$10 US/\$15 International)	\$ _____
Total \$ _____	
Make checks payable to AramcoBrats, Inc. in US Dollars only.	

Keep in Contact

Doral Zadorkin-Allen DH'66—ABI Email Director

The AramcoBrats email listing continues to grow daily. With everyone's continued help, we are keeping up with most of the changes. You have two options for keeping your email address current. You may (1) notify Doral directly, at doral@aramco-brats.com, or (2) you may go to our AramcoBrats website at www.aramco-brats.com, choose Address Change Form from the ABI menu, fill out the form and click on the send button. Those who want to change their information by regular US mail should use the address change Form, above. We encourage you to sign up and keep current because, by being on the list, you will receive the announcements we periodically send out between newsletters.

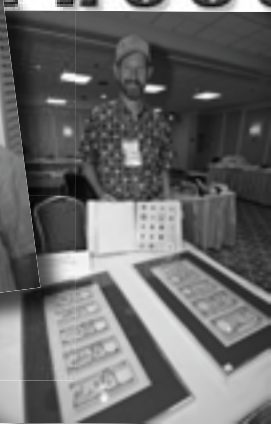
ARAMCO BRATS

TENTH BIENNIAL REUNION

2005

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HOUSTON





BRAT news

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Dean Barnes, Editor

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ABI Board

President:	Mike Simms AB'78
Vice President:	Diane Knipfel-Adams AB'75
Treasurer:	Doug Webb DH'72
Secretary:	Pat Meadors-Desormeau RT'60
Reunion Oversight Director:	Marie Littlejohn-Dunn DH'77
Director At Large:	Gary Barnes DH'70
Director At Large:	Diana Ryrholm-Geerdes RT'62
Database Director:	Penny Dougharty-Maher DH'72
Email Director:	Doral Zadorkin-Allen DH'66
Publications Director:	Dean Barnes DH'67
Class Rep. Director:	Dawn Kolb DH'92
Website Director:	Gretchen Connally DH'91



So we journey on, my friends.

In the days since we last met, some have left us, but others have joined us.

Is not life but a series of meetings and partings?

Our tribe is now scattered like the sand grains of the great desert and no one knows where the winds of providence will blow us. Still, we can take pleasure in our stories and in our friendships, and draw strength from our memories and our common heritage.

As I go forward, I often think about our last gathering in the city of Houston. But ha..I am greedy, so I think about our next meeting in the cradle of the Blue Ridge Mountains. Yes, the city of Asheville, North Carolina, gets ready for our arrival, even as we speak.

So, start your preparations now. Because if you do not carefully guide your path, you may fall behind. That is the way of it.

Forwarding Service
Requested

AramcoBrats, Inc.
C/o Penny Dougharty-Maher
Database Director
4024 Ruskin St.,
Houston, TX 77005

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