

# BRAT news

The AramcoBrat Inc (ABI) Newsletter

April 1999

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Michael Crocker DH '65

I am looking at a beautiful sunset of Arabia and in the lower right corner, as a bright yellow flash is a flare. The massive colored sky is intense with reds, yellows, and blues, then down in the black, the single flare. The impact is what I see and feel every time a new Brat or an old friend shows up and joins us. A new and bright flare to add to the beautiful flare of friendship that so many have found since the ABI was founded.

I constantly feel the singing of the dunes and the whisper of the gulf, the heat of the day, and the blazing miracle of the starry night. I feel the breeze ruffle the oleanders and hear the sounds of the hearts of thousands there before and after I was. I look up and see all of our brothers and sisters who are no longer with us, and feel that they too are a part of this mysterious bond of Brathood.

Old friends and new ones too, what more could we ask for? Our reunion will be a gathering that will form even more memories and each and every heart that leaves will feel the glory and the sadness of the time. Who would even consider not feeling once again the touch of friendship, fellowship and the bonding within all of us of the "family"?

Never forget, we are now, will be and always have been Children of the Sand. Let us walk upon the great North Dune, hike to the jebels sift the fine sand between our toes and mostly, let us feel the movement of the sand within the dune as the movement of our own blood within us.

I am proud and humble to be able to say that I have served you as your President as best I can. No greater love do I have than you. I hope to see many if not all of you at the reunion, and at future reunions for as long as possible.

Michael R. Crocker DH '65  
ABI President

## REUNION '99 UPDATE

by Doug Romine AB '64 and Sheila Zercoe AB '75  
1999 AramcoBrat Reunion Co-Chairs

Plans for the **1999 Brat reunion** are coming together nicely. It's going to be held from Thursday, May, 27th through Monday, May 31st at the **Crown Plaza Ravina in North Atlanta**. The Ravina is a fabulous hotel on the north side of Atlanta. Rooms normally rent for \$125-\$200 per night. We've got a block of 400 rooms reserved at only \$65 a night!

The Ravina has three restaurants. The **Cafe** is open all day and is tasty and affordable. The **Market** offers high-quality quick bites like pizza, sandwiches, and bakery items. **La Grotta** is a four-star facility, which means you need to bring your no-limit "platinum" card. If these aren't enough, the hotel is in a great part of town with dozens of terrific restaurants in all price ranges serving virtually every possible kind of food. For those of you who might have forgotten something or just love to shop, across the street is Perimeter Mall, one of the nicer malls in metro Atlanta.

Don't worry too much about getting around while you're here. There are lots of Brats who live in the Southeast and will drive and, of course, lots of others will rent cars.

Atlanta has some nice things to see for family members who might get bored listening to you talk about sand, sand and more sand. **Stone Mountain Park** is just 25 miles away. It is the world's largest exposed piece of granite, towering 1000 feet above the surrounding terrain with a carving like Mt. Rushmore that commemorates several Civil War generals. One can take a cable car to the top or hike if you are in good shape. Atlanta has a great zoo and **Fernbank Science Center**. Other attractions include Underground Atlanta, Atlanta World of Coca Cola, the Braves (if they are in town), several art museums, and of course for those wanting some nightlife... **Buckhead**.

If you fly in and don't want to rent a car, don't worry, you really don't have to. **MARTA**, the rapid rail system, goes from the airport to within one block of the hotel. It is cheap, quiet, safe, and clean. Lots of people take it to and from the airport when they travel. You'll see lots of people with luggage. We strongly urge you to take MARTA.

We've got the usual events planned. Cocktail parties, class get-togethers, bowling, golf, banquet, and the Sunday night dance. There is a pool and a lake surrounded by gardens, which will be perfect for small gatherings.

It looks like we're going to have a terrific turnout. As of the first of February, the hotel had about 260 rooms reserved. This means we are

## TREASURER'S REPORT

by Sarah Manwaring-Mitchell DH '77

**Start Up Funds (1998-99 Board)** \$ 9,631.49

**Income:**

Administrative Baksheesh	8,345.00
ABI Proceeds (newsletter ads)	70.00
Post-Reunion Merchandise Sales	647.00
Post-Reunion Directory Sales	1,270.00
Reunion Registration	8,081.00
Donations	5,588.00

**Expenses:**

ABI Spring 1998 Newsletter	(2,740.42)
ABI Fall 1998 Newsletters	(2882.28)
Reunion Start-up/Admin	(266.67)
Reunion Expenses	(4,601.00)
Bank Fees	(24.36)

**Balance:** \$23,117.76

The ABI wishes to thank all of the 550+ brats who have sent in either the \$15 (domestic) or the \$20 (overseas) Administrative Baksheesh (or AdBak) to help the ABI meet our goals. It is this AdBak money that allows the ABI to operate during the two-year term starting in the November following a reunion. Additionally, we have been very pleased with the amount of donations we have received over the past year. On the next page, you will find a separate report on these donations.

As we approach the 1999 AramcoBrat Reunion in Atlanta, the income statement is starting to reflect reunion expenditures, such as expenses for registration materials, payment for the first reunion shirt order, and deposits for bowling and the DJ for the Sunday night dance. These expenditures will increase significantly in the two months before the reunion and for the two months after the reunion as we close out all final bills. An updated and detailed Treasurer's Report will be available in Atlanta, as it was in Chandler, for any interested parties, and a final report detailing reunion closeout as well as ABI Board closeout for this term will be shown in the Fall 1999 Newsletter.

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BRAT CHAT

Brat Chat is an e-mail discussion group for Aramco Brats. The purpose of the list is to provide a friendly and easily accessible environment for discussion of our lives in Saudi Arabia, our lives today, and anything else we want to "talk" about. More than 650 Brats are subscribed to the Chat now, and the number keeps growing. It's free and all you need is e-mail access.

For more information, send a note to Selena Maranjian DH '77 at [TMFSelena@aol.com](mailto:TMFSelena@aol.com).

## CLASS REPS NEEDED

We need Class Representatives for a number of classes. Serving as a Class Rep is a good way to help out your class: you keep your classmates informed about upcoming events, you help keep track of who has moved or gotten married, and you help track down missing Brats.

Class Reps are needed for the following classes:

1958 . . . . .AB, RT	1989
1962 . . . . .AB	1990
1963 . . . . .AB	1991
1975 . . . . .AB, DH, RT	1992 . . . . .AB, RT
1980 . . . . .RT	1993 . . . . .AB, RT
1981 . . . . .RT	1994
1985 . . . . .AB	1995
1987 . . . . .AB	1996
1988 . . . . .AB, DH, RT	1997 . . . . .AB
	1998

We also need Class Representatives for all UD classes, except 1984, 1985 & 1988. If you are interested in helping, please contact me at the address below.

A number of classes in the 1997 Directory had no missing brats listed. To update this list, if anyone has a list of the classes (from class yearbooks, Arabian Sun, etc) listed below — would you please send me a copy?

1958 . . .RT	1985 . . . . .AB, RT
1980 . . .RT, UD	1986 . . . . .AB, RT
1981 . . .RT, UD	1987 . . . . .AB, DH, RT
1982 . . .AB, RT, UD	1988 . . . . .AB, DH, RT
1983 . . .AB, RT	1989 . . . . .AB, DH, RT
1984 . . .RT	

Thank you.

**Mike Vance RT '52**  
120 Olive Mill Road  
Santa Barbara, CA 93108-2424  
[mgvance@west.net](mailto:mgvance@west.net)

### GOT TREASURES?

The ABI is still accepting Raffle/Auction donations for the Atlanta Reunion. If you have any items for us, please contact:

Diana Ryrholm-Geerdes RT '62  
4765 Matty Court  
La Mesa, CA 91941  
619-589-8377  
[ryrholm@aol.com](mailto:ryrholm@aol.com)

Thanks for your support.

## AND A BIG SHUKRAN TO...

A while back the ABI asked all Brats (not just those attending the reunion) to help pay the costs of running the organization through a voluntary contribution called *Administrative Baksheesh*. A number of Brats went beyond paying their share of the ABI's costs and donated additional money to help us fund the organization. As of March 15, we had 58 anonymous donors and 105 nonanonymous donors, who gave amounts ranging from \$5 to \$1000.

### CONTRIBUTION STATISTICS

Total contribution = \$5588

Total anonymous contribution = \$1841

Total nonanonymous contribution = \$3747

Average anonymous contribution = \$31.74

Average nonanonymous contribution = \$35.69

### NUMBER OF CONTRIBUTORS BY YEAR

1950-59: 23 (\$580 total)

1960-69: 61 (\$2952)

1970-79: 61 (\$1531)

1980-89: 17 (\$500)

1990-99: 0

### NUMBER OF CONTRIBUTORS BY DISTRICT

Abqaiq = 17 (\$626 total)

Dhahran = 106 (\$3077)

Ras Tanura = 40 (\$1885)

Udhailiyah = 0

### SO PLEASE THANK YOUR ABI SPONSORS

Anonymous (58 sponsors) • Kenneth Duell RT '66 • Paul Neumann DH '78 • Masil Allen Blythe AB '54 • Donald Ehl RT '66 • Thomas Sales DH '75 • Janice Cyr Allen DH '65 • Robert Long DH '77 • Michael Polhemus DH '66 • Janice Wohlgethan Hawwa DH '66 • Scott Miller DH '62 • Nancy Bradfield Rice RT '50 • Michele McGrath LeBlanc AB '83 • Sean Melton RT '86 • Tarek Alian Shurrab DH '74 • Barry Clark RT '79 • Jane Crampton DH '62 • Wendy Cyr DH '64 • Gail Gantt RT '75 • Amjad Ghori DH '73 • Kevin Haug AB '68 • Eric Hill DH '63 • David Knoll RT '80 • Terry Landis DH '54 • Michael McCoy RT '72 • Pamela Rader Pauwels RT '68 • Walter Makowski RT '62 • Shannon Orr RT '77 • Eugene Colgan DH '55 • Milo Cumpston (Parent) • Joyce Hilsz Barton DH '60 • Carolyn Holm Emmerson DH '54 • Kenneth Kirwin RT '67 • Raymond Lovell DH '61 • Rory Rickwood RT '65 • Mary Schrader Tedsen DH '63 • Gordon Steward DH '65 • Carol Vandendorre Serventi DH '59 • Charles Walters RT '80 • Susan Williams Barba DH '64 • Bob Allen DH '62 • Ann Burba DH '67 • Shadi Dabit DH '69 • Liz Germani RT '84 • Debbie Gunter Coppenbarger DH '77 • Michelle Pippen DH '83 • Hania Shiblaq Saleh DH '77 • Lori Wainright DH '77 • Sheila Zercoe AB '75 • Peter Sundstrom DH '69 • Michelle Aslan Primmer DH '79 • Sherri Dent Moxley DH '77 • Frank Dolce DH '70 • Stan Elberg DH '53 • Diane England Bennett DH '66 • Randy Erickson RT '77 • Morgan M. Gray DH '70 • Anne Grignon DH '77 • Leslie Homolka Craigmyle DH '80 • Selena Maranjian DH '77 • Leslie McMillin Banando RT '62 • Brian Mulligan DH '76 • Erica Nadolski RT '84 • Gilbert Peterson AB '56 • Sissy Quick Kay DH '66 • Sue Waters Herbers AB '59 • Tony Webb DH '71 • Robert Williams AB '75 • Jeffrey Wohlgethan RT '63 • Bill Yaeger DH '71 • Jeff Yaeger DH '64 • John Alio DH '72 • Bradford Bates DH '62 • Judith Ann Boucher Peralta RT '53 • John Butterfield AB '69 • Larry Corry RT '54 • Albert Cszasz DH '77 • Jim Curry DH '79 • Beverly Demo AB '67 • Russ Dersch RT '65 • Deidre Halpin Ambrose DH '79 • Debbie Hendricks Taranik DH '84 • Debbie F. Johnson DH '71 • Twila Jones Morgan DH '62 • Steve Koenig DH '75 • Cindy Kriesmer Carr DH '67 • Teresa Muench Russell DH '78 • Ted Pasternak RT '64 • Robin Payne White DH '59 • Donald Raposo DH '51 • Virginia Rodriguez Wilson RT '79 • Mary Louise Singelyn Littlejohn DH '72 • Jim VanDerzee DH '80 • Rosemary Wakefield Buttermore RT '54 • Andrea Williams Roberts DH '83 • Elaine Wood Armstrong RT '58 • David Cook RT '76 • Alicia Erickson RT '81 • Gary Hawks AB '72 • Angela Hazelton DH '81 • Roger Koryus RT '69 • Janet Lake DH '77 • Charleen Leidecker Haws AB '65 • Kathye Neally Dunsmore DH '67 • Rita Roy McFarland RT '72 • Jackie Ward Strickland DH '68



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If you are interested in submitting an article or Letter to the Editor for publication, please contact Michael McCoy, 20 Paquawket Path, Groton, MA 01450 (mmccoy@tiac.net).

### ABI Board

President:	Mike Crocker (DH '65)
1st VP, Reunion Oversight:	Diane Knipfel-Adams (AB '75)
2nd VP, Publications:	Michael McCoy (RT '72)
Treasurer:	Sarah Manwaring-Mitchell (DH '77)
Secretary:	Doral Zadorkin Allen (DH '66)
Directory Coordinator:	Mike Simms (AB '78)
Database Coordinator:	Sherri Dent-Moxley (DH '77)
Director at Large:	Mike Polhemus (DH '66)
Director at Large:	Diana Ryrholm-Geerdes (RT '62)
Email Coordinator:	Eric Hill (DH '63)

## TRAVEL TIPS

by Michael McCoy RT '72

Once upon a time, we were all world travelers, intimately familiar with which international airports had the best bars and which airlines offered the best free cologne in the restrooms. Since leaving Arabia, however, some of us have done little travelling and may not be current with the latest in travel wisdom. The following is a compendium of travel advice I received from Brats and other sources.

### BEFORE YOU LEAVE

- Order free low-fat or special airline meals at least 24 hours before your flight – your meal will be fresher. Chutzpah points for ordering a kosher dinner.
- Use a copy machine to photoreduce documents you'd want in an emergency (a list of travelers' check numbers, a list of 800 numbers for lost/stolen credit cards, a copy of your passport picture page, a list of what you packed, prescriptions for medications and glasses) down as small as you can read them. Put this somewhere safe (not in your luggage or with your credit cards).
- Have a friend scan copies of your important travel documents on their computer. That way, you can have the documents e-mailed or faxed to you anywhere if you need them.
- See if anyone wants to share a room. Last time, the hotel filled up, and I had to be 8 miles away. By the end of the weekend, I ran into many who would have shared a room - but they never thought to tell anyone, like the organizers, who were being BATTERED by people because of the room shortage.
- Give the house a damned good cleaning before you go. The only thing more depressing than the end of a great vacation is coming home to a messy house.

### WHAT TO PACK

- Paint your bags with big, bright designs or tie colorful ribbons around them for quick identification at the baggage claim. So many black bags, so little time!
- Pack an empty duffel bag. It takes almost no room when it's empty and you can carry your laundry and souvenirs home in it.
- People are going to want to hear about your life today. Bring lots of pictures of family, friends, pets, vacations, or whatever to pass around.
- Bring memorabilia (pictures, yearbooks, music) from your Aramco days to share with others. Don't forget your Saudi Arab abayas or thobes for the Saudi dress up photo event at the reunion.
- Don't forget to pack your hangover cure & suntan lotion! You don't want to have pay extra \$\$\$\$ for buying the stuff at the hotel gift shop (which probably won't be open when you need it most).
- Be sure to have your Brat luggage tag visible. Unless you're one of the gals with an armful of bangles and a pair of hubbly bubbly earrings that we can spot a terminal away, the Brat luggage tag will attract other Brats, making the miles pass if not more quickly, certainly more enjoyably.
- If you are travelling with someone, pack half your clothes in her bag, and carry half of hers in your luggage. If one bag gets lost, you at least have half your things.
- Put medication in your carry-on, not your luggage. Keep medications in their original containers so a pharmacist (or a customs inspector!) can identify them.
- After more than 30 years of traveling, I think the most important thing to take along with you when you travel is a sense of humor. One needs to get the attitude that life is too short to get upset with delays or any other travel problems.

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## BRAT CHAT GATHERING

by Kathy "Abqaiqkath" Montgomery AB '64

You walk into the room, not knowing what to expect. You don't know who is who, or if you even want to know who is who. You look around. A table with an ice bucket holds a bottle of fine wine. Who's sitting at that table? The Golding brothers, of course. You hear laughter and your eyes dart to the source. Who's the joke teller there? Sami Boulos – is that you?? In a corner is a small uprising that's being calmed by... Selena. (Who else?!) At a nearby table is a bedu telling tales. You got it – it's Mike Crocker remembering how many times his mother hit him on the head with her frying pan. Ted Speers and John Cumpston are there, too. Are they serious??? Or not??? Gary Barnes is there with his thermometer, barometer, mister, and oleander. Who is that woman passing out Lion Bars? Someone is showing recent photos of Rahima. Lynn Goldsborough Porter and Robin Norberg Kennedy are reminiscing about the hobby farm. Close at hand is Lynn's bowling ball and bag...with its state of the art, highly sensitive anti-theft device activated. Nancy Schaefer Crays and Bill Crawley are discussing the differences between Aramco in the 50's and the 80's with Amanda Nadolski Barnard and Kelaine Devine. Elizabeth Bowler Morley is spinning yarns (no pun intended) with her carefully chosen words... Against the back wall are a bunch of guys hugging and crying. That would have to be the "boys" who played baseball on our beloved Aramco sand. Reunited at last. Suddenly you hear an unfamiliar voice. Who else could it be but Kathy Montgomery saying, "And the big winner for the Best Small World Story is ..." Who in their right mind (well, that's a bad choice of words when referring to Brats...) would want to miss this? None of us would. The Brat Chatters' Gathering on Friday night will definitely be a highlight of this reunion. So don't miss it. For any reason.

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If you would like to add photos, brief memories, or a link to a page about a Brat listed on the ABI "In Memory" page, please contact [mcrocker@lcc.net](mailto:mcrocker@lcc.net) or [sallyd@texas.net](mailto:sallyd@texas.net).

# ABI BOARD ELECTION • 1999-2001

about 25% ahead of the reunion 2 years ago. I urge everyone to return their reunion packets as soon as possible and to book your room. If all 400 rooms are taken, don't worry, we've made arrangements for extra rooms at nearby hotels. We expect to have 600-800 attendees.

If you have never been to a reunion, you can't imagine how much fun it is to reunite with old friends. You'll find yourself talking with folks you haven't seen in many years and feeling like you just saw them yesterday. And don't worry, we're all older, grayer, heavier, and more wrinkled than we were when we finished 9th grade. Don't think of yourself as old, think of yourself as mature...finally!

Call everyone you know and cajole, threaten, or otherwise coerce them into coming. If you have any questions, you can call Doug at 770-984-2292 (W), 770-971-8499 (H), or email him at romine@mindspring.com

Take care and we hope to see all of you in a few short months.

Doug Romine AB '64  
Sheila Zercoe AB '75

AramcoBrats, Inc. was formed more than three years ago to ensure that Brats have a perpetual organization to help bring them together every two years and to disseminate information so Brats can stay in contact with old friends. Under the ABI charter, we vote for a slate of officers every two years. You can vote for candidates for the ABI board in one of two ways. If you are not planning on attending the Brat Reunion, you can mail the ballot at the bottom of this page to Michael Polhemus by **May 15, 1999**. If you are coming to the reunion, you can mail your vote by 5/15 or vote at the reunion any time before the Annual Meeting.

Since the last election, the ABI Board has made the following changes to the ABI bylaws. We now ask you to approve these changes.

- Election of Officers — Under the revised process, the President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer are elected. Since the Publications Officer and the Reunion Oversight Officer (formerly Vice President positions) are more technical than representative in nature, these positions are now appointed by the ABI Board.
- Organization Termination — Should the ABI cease as a not-for-profit organization or be terminated as an organization, any funds on hand will be placed into an interest bearing savings account, titled AramcoBrat Fund. Three past officers of the most recent ABI shall be appointed and act as trustees on the account, which will be used for future reunions.



## ABI BOARD • ELECTION BALLOT • 1999-2001

**PLEASE VOTE! MAIL-IN DEADLINE: MAY 15!**

Mark ONE name in each category. Use the blank space to enter write-in votes.

The names on this ballot are nominees whose names were submitted for elected positions. Each Brat is entitled to one vote. You can cast your vote by mail or you can vote at the reunion. If you are mailing your ballot, please do so before May 15, 1999.

Votes will be tabulated at the Reunion by ABI board members and at least three randomly selected reunion attendees. Results will be announced at the reunion and published in the next ABI newsletter.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

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

President  
 Michael Crocker DH '65  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Vice President  
 Diana Ryrholm-Geerdes RT '62  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Secretary  
 Doral Zadorkin Allen DH '66  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Treasurer  
 Kathy Montgomery AB '64  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Bylaws Approved  
 Yes       No

Mail to: ABI Nominating Committee, c/o Michael Polhemus, 3600 Carla Court, Granbury, TX 76049-5828

### YOUR CARRYON BAG IS YOUR BEST FRIEND

- If you plan for the worst, you'll be ready for anything. Things to consider: cellular phone, socks, underwear, toiletries, important documents, sewing kit, snacks for when the flight is late, slippers, an inflatable neck pillow, Kleenex, safety pins (to hang my jacket or bag in front of me on the plane), a roll of quarters, ziplock bags of various sizes, Swiss Army knife, plenty of film, a small roll of duct tape, and a tube of SuperGlue.
- Pack Walkman-type headphones, even if you don't bring a CD or tape-player. Most airline seats have a stereo jack. On long flights, you can use your own headphones – they save you the cost of a movie and they sound better than the airline headsets.
- Pack plenty of bottled water. Air on planes gets dried out when it's filtered, which will leave you feeling thirsty and makes you susceptible to colds.
- Put fresh batteries in a battery-powered device but reverse one. That way, the batteries are where they belong and they won't be dead when you need them.

### AT THE AIRPORT

- Leave early. Travelling on a holiday weekend can mean long lines, parking problems, and heavy traffic around airports.
- Seats on emergency exit rows give you extra legroom, but you get a tiny tray table. The smoothest ride is usually over the wing. You'll be sitting within feet of enormous containers of aviation fuel, but what the hell.
- Experts disagree on whether security scanners hurt film. You can check your camera gear safely, but put your film (exposed and unexposed) in a clear

### Reunion: Last-Minute Instructions

If you want to attend the reunion in Atlanta (May 27-31, 1999), but still haven't taken care of the necessary paperwork, here's a quick list of what you need to do to register:

- Send Survey Form.** Send the Reunion Survey to the committee (PO Box 429, Lithia Springs, GA 30122). If you don't have the survey form, go to [www.aramco-brats.com](http://www.aramco-brats.com) and print the Reunion Survey form. The form is also available in the November '98 issue of the ABI newsletter.
- Send Admin Baksheesh.** Send \$15 (\$20 if you live outside the USA) Baksheesh to the ABI treasurer (Sarah Manwaring Mitchell, 5923 Fairview Woods Dr., Fairfax Station, VA 22039). This helps pay for newsletters, reunion mailings, and general ABI operation.
- Make hotel reservation.** Call the Crowne Plaza Ravinia (800 554-0055). Tell them you're an AramcoBrat so you get the special rate of \$65 per room per night.
- Make airline reservations.** American Airlines is offering a discount for Brats flying to the reunion. Call their group travel folks at 800 433 1790 and give them group number A5159UB. They are offering a 5% discount off the lowest available fare if you book more than 30 days in advance.
- Wait** for your reunion registration packet to arrive (This will only be sent after you send your survey form and Baksheesh.)
- Send in your reunion registration forms and fees.** Do hurry, as the deadline was March 31. You may still register but MUST include a \$10 per person late fee.

If you have any questions, contact co-chair Sheila Zercoe at [szzercoe@mindspring.com](mailto:szzercoe@mindspring.com) or (770) 577-1331.

ziplock bag and have it inspected visually at the security gate. Same with laptops.

- Before you go through security, put anything that might set off the metal detector (keys, coins, etc.) in a ziplock bag and put it in your carry-on bag.
- Airports take security seriously. Carry a government-issued ID (passport or driver's license). Be ready to demonstrate that your laptop or tape player works when boarding aircraft.
- If the airline cancels your flight, don't rush the ticket counter to rebook. Head to the nearest telephone and dial the airline's 800 number to go to "the front of the line."

### ON THE PLANE

- If you ask for orange juice, they pour it out of a carton. If you ask for tomato juice, you get the whole can. Ask for extra peanuts.
- Wear comfortable clothing and shoes you can slip on and off. A long flight is not the time to worry about fashion.
- Audiobooks are a good way to pass time.
- You can usually find a channel on the airplane music console that lets you eavesdrop on conversation between your pilot and the tower.
- Babies cry. That's just what they do. Annoying as hell, I know, but just keep telling yourself that it's an act of God and there's nothing you can do about it.
- Bring a pair of disposable foam earplugs. They cost about fifty cents and they can save your sanity. If you want to make a friend for life, bring an extra pair and give them to the person next to you.

### AT THE REUNION

- Pizza can be delivered right to your room.
- Have a bottle of something in your room for visitors. Also NICE random snacks (Brie, crackers, fruit). Schedules get turned around during a wild weekend.
- Be careful about how much you drink – it is *such* a horrible waste of time to be dragging around all morning with a nasty hangover.
- Polaroid cameras are expensive but fun. You can share pictures with others and do immediate retakes if a picture doesn't turn out.
- Film is cheap. Take lots of film with you and shoot absolutely everything you want.
- Get your film developed at the reunion. It may cost a dollar or two more, but you'll know almost immediately if that picture of you next to your eighth grade girlfriend didn't turn out.
- Don't forget to tip the hotel maids. You just spent several days rumpiling up beds, leaving glasses everywhere, and throwing towels on the floor. Good Lord, the awful messes they've cleaned up!

**ABI Bulletin Board**  
 To post a bulletin board entry, write or email  
 Michael McCoy  
 20 Paquawket Path  
 Groton, MA 01450  
 mmccoy@tiac.net  
 Cost is \$5 for the first five lines, \$1/line after that. Make checks payable to the ABI. The ABI board reserves the right to decline any item it deems inconsistent with the goals of the AramcoBrats, Inc.

Aramco, Saudi, and Middle-Eastern stuff for sale. Check out the website at <http://www.teleport.com/~christo/>. Make an offer and it could be yours! christo@teleport.com.

**Office Supplies** - Russ Dersch RT '65 and ATKINS Office Products have arranged a proprietary discount program to benefit AramcoBrats, their employers, and ABI. Place your orders for office supplies with the ATKINS Office Products superior customer service department at (800) 289-5672, request a catalog be sent to you, identify yourself as an AramcoBrat, and you will receive your proprietary discount. The ABI will receive a donation for each order placed through this special program.

**Financial Services** - The DERSCH Group (Russ Dersch RT '65), a registered representative of Transamerica Financial Resources, Inc in PA, NJ, and DE, offers a wide range of insurance and financial services. Those services include: Life and Health Insurance, Stocks, Bonds, Mutual Funds, 403b and 401k plans with rollover options, IRAs, IRA Rollovers, Educational IRAs, fee-based investment programs, along with financial and estate planning. For more information, contact Russ toll-free at (888) 467-8886 or by email at russder@aol.com or by fax at (609) 467-6116. Who better to watch out for your best interest than a fellow Brat?

**CHANGE OF ADDRESS CARD – LET US KNOW YOU’VE MOVED**

We want to make sure Brats everywhere can stay in touch. Please help us accomplish this by letting us know if your address information has changed.

PLEASE PRINT

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



Mail to: AramcoBrats, Inc., c/o Sherri Dent-Moxley, 675 Cypress Tree Drive, Rock Hill, SC 29730-9271 U.S.A.

\* Year you graduated from 9th grade and district where you lived at graduation.  
 If you did not graduate from an ARAMCO school, year you would have graduated and last district where you lived.

**ADMINISTRATIVE BAKSHEESH – I WANT TO SUPPORT THE ABI**

Your contributions keep ABI alive – please respond today!

PLEASE PRINT

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

This is New Address Information — Please Update ABI Records

1997-1999 Administrative Baksheesh: \_\_\_\_\_  
 (\$15 U.S./ \$20 International)

Additional Contribution: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Anonymous contribution – Please do not include my name in list of donors

**Total :** \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to AramcoBrats, Inc.

Mail to: AramcoBrats, Inc., c/o Sarah Manwaring-Mitchell, 5923 Fairview Woods Drive, Fairfax Station, VA 22039 U.S.A.

\* Year you graduated from 9th grade and district where you lived at graduation.  
 If you did not graduate from an ARAMCO school, year you would have graduated and last district where you lived.

## **Saudi Arabia and Aramco Videos**

*The ABI is pleased to be able to offer the following videos to you:*

- **Brats # 1** – Over 2,000 photos and film of us as kids.
- **Brats # 2** – Almost 3,000 additional photos and film of us as kids and sights/places in Saudi Arabia/ARAMCO.
- **Dhahran 1996** – Video of five hours( 3 tape set) of Dhahran filmed by a Brat.
- **Island of Allah** – A color version of the famous Aramco film showing the history of oil and Saudi Arabia. This film has not been available since the 1950's.
- **All Arabia** – Almost 3,000 photos of the sights, places, markets, people, history, Aramco history, schools, desert, camels, horses, dhows, and more. Very wide variety of all Arabia.
- **King Abdulazziz's Saudi Arabia** – A two-hour documentary made of original photographs, film footage, captioned and set to Arab music. Very rare historical video and one of a kind. Approximately 2,000 photos and lots of film footage never before seen.

*Each video costs \$25.00, which includes S&H. Send your order and check to:*

Mike Crocker DH '65  
315 Ellington Street  
Nacogdoches, Texas 75961

## **Forever Friends (Children of the Sand)**

The AramcoBrats book *Forever Friends (Children of the Sand)*, a compilation of over 300 pages and photographs, is now available. Printed in English and Arabic, the book collects the stories of Brats growing up in Arabia: their feelings, thoughts, emotions, and memories. This book took over a year to be published, and the printers have done an outstanding job.

*Forever Friends* will only be available for a limited time. We received a limited shipment, and 571 have already been ordered or committed. Brats who contributed to the book will receive a free copy. You should place your order now – **WHEN OUR CURRENT SUPPLY RUNS OUT, WE WILL NOT BE ABLE TO ORDER MORE.**

To order *Forever Friends*, send a check for \$20, which includes S&H, to:

Mike Crocker DH '65  
315 Ellington Street  
Nacogdoches, Texas 75961

FORWARD AND RETURN  
POSTAGE GUARANTEED

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