

Travel via the Moon

A date we often just think about once each year.... *6 June 1944*.....a very special day in our history, has just passed with numerous people visiting that famous site in France where the USA was able to turn around the damage being done to the rest of the world. If Europe is on your itinerary this year, consider going to this part of the world and spend a couple of days seeing where the Allies were lucky enough to change what could have very easily been a terrible loss of our military men and equipment. Just go to *Omaha Beach* and see how easy it was for the enemy to plaster everything that moved below them on those now famous cliffs. Because of the location and beach-fronts further north, the Brits and Canadians had a little easier time, but they too, lost a lot of men on that famous date. The military cemetery atop those beach areas is a beautiful tribute to those veterans.

Just a little studying of the history of what went on in the surrounding areas of *Normandy* can easily be explored and understood by renting a car and visiting a 20-50 mile radius in all directions. Hotels and restaurants in those small villages are easy to find and make for a vacation that is hard to beat....at very little cost! There are also a few museums that will prove quite interesting as they show history many folks just take for granted.

Just a short note on airline travel today....you have an oversize bag you plan to carry on the plane and *jam* into the small compartment over your seat....if it's too big, flight attendants may take it...and you will be **charged for excess baggage**. It's happening on more than one airline.

OK...if you didn't get to "pepsi-cola" and **NWSA #40**, you missed another *great one!* Bernie Bauer and PJ & Libby produced an outstanding get-together and chose an extremely good hotel to have it. The 23 inches of rain in 24 hrs and 3 different tornadoes during that 4 day period may have made a couple of the tours (and golf tourney) just a little damp....it even made some of the meals in the hotel impossible to cook, but the waitresses and cooks were able to come up with buffet-meals despite all the power outages in the city.....it's rumored that the *mayor* asked the NWSA not to come back right away until repairs have been made. The airport was closed, I-10 was flooded and closed, there were many many trees downed, many sink-holes and cars trapped, but we survived in the hotel and the "hostility" room was busy and occupied from early am to late pm. And on day#1 before Alabama and Arkansas sent all the down-pours east, we all had a "private" showing for the visiting "WxGuessers" by the famous Blue Angels at nearby NAS. Because of high clouds with the approaching storms, they were limited to lower altitudes below 20000, but they compensated by giving us a slightly longer show – it was, as always, *outstanding* ! The following day, the entire base was closed due to the tornados and storms.

Do you recall going thru boot-camp many years ago. After the initial haircut those sadists barbers gave you in the first week, we used to call each other "*skin-heads*". to show who had the lowest crew-cut of hair.....was it poor eye-sight or, were there a lot of "**skin-heads**" in attendance at #40 (actual *skin*). Probably a result of people getting older maybe. Don't miss any of these events. We are NOT getting any younger and 95% of the good things that

happen at these events are meeting and talking to some of the friends we've known for many years. And don't worry if you have dementia and can't remember those familiar faces names.....the reunion committees all take those memory losses for granted and make the name badges **LARGE and bold**. Get out the road maps now and locate *Memphis Tenn*.....we'll see you there at **NWSA 41**.