



AvAr Bulletin: 014

Subject: *AvAr Class 0701; Jimmy Camp B-24 Crash Site; Return to Jimmy Camp; New AvAr Brochure; AvAr Website*

Date: May 13, 2007

AvAr Class 0701

Over the weekends of May 5/6 and May 12, 2007, the second class of **AvAr** trainees earned their diplomas and credentials. Although a fairly small class by last year's standards, this five member group has already begun contributing to the program.

All five of last year's instructors returned with new and improved course materials. In addition, two new instructors joined the **AvAr** staff and made presentations this year. Cadre for the 2007 course included:

Dr. Nicole Branton – *Federal Regulations and Laws of the Land*

Duke Sumonia – *Research Methodology and Techniques*

Len Wallace – *Case Studies*

Ron Miller – *Orienteering, Case Studies and Metal Detecting*

Brian Richardson – *Site Investigation and Documentation*

Larry Liebrecht (Class of 2006) – *Aerial Imagery*

Lance Barber (Class of 2006) – *Ordnance Identification*

And a special thanks goes out once again to professor Steve Hankle of Redstone College of Aviation Technology. Lending his considerable technical expertise in identifying aircraft components, as well as conducting tours of the facility on his day off provided a considerable learning experience for **AvAr**'s students.

If you know of any person who might be a candidate for this training course, please have them contact Brian Richardson at aviator_b@msn.com or (970) 405-5377.

Jimmy Camp B-24 Crash Site

Selected as the 2007 **AvAr** graduation field exercise, 12 members of **AvAr**, along with one guest, spent approximately 3 (36 cumulative) hours combing the crash site of a B-24J bomber that went down just 4 miles East of Colorado Springs Airport nearly 63 years ago, killing all 9 crewmembers on board.

Although the official USAAF accident report states that the bomber collided with another while in formation flight and then went into a “flat spin” and crashed, the evidence revealed on site thus far does not seem to agree with that report. More than 170 targets were identified, either visually or with metal detectors, along a 1/8th mile by 150-foot wide [linear] debris field. Such evidence is not conducive with the results of an aircraft that crashed to earth in a flat spin! However, as pointed out by Larry Carpenter (Class of 2007), original crash site photographs taken in 1944 illustrate – what is apparently a wing section exhibiting – classic evidence of a flat spin. Further investigation is definitely warranted.

Return to Jimmy Camp

We'll be returning to Jimmy Camp on Saturday, June 23rd. Arrangements are being made to have a local CAP Squadron supply some cadets to bag the debris and help record. An advance team will go down on the Friday before and grid the area using surveyor's paint. Our mission will be to record and collect all (or as much as we can) of the surface debris on this trip. Once this process is done, we will sweep the area again and plan a subsurface attack strategy for the larger finds. The city administrators are behind us one hundred percent on this.

The Society would appreciate having as many of you on hand as possible to help with this excavation. Our plan is that a field agent, accompanied by a cadet or two, will be assigned a grid. That grid team will recover any debris found and, if it has any sort of markings or is clearly discernible as a specific part, they will record its location within the grid and its description. It will then be bagged separately from the other non-descript debris found in that grid. (Don't worry about identifying parts: **AvAr** team members skilled in this area will be on-site to assist.)

AvAr will provide sandwich fixings, ice, soda and water for all, so we'll need an accurate count as soon as possible. As with the last trip we'd like to get everyone down there early and out reasonably early in the afternoon, perhaps by three pm. If any of you would like to carpool, let's start talking now.

New AvAr Brochure

The Society has authorized **AvAr** to create a new advertising brochure. Developed with economy in mind, this flyer will be a one-third (1/3) page, front and back glossy, color advertisement. Any suggestions or comments regarding this format would be greatly appreciated. Now's your chance to contribute what you think **AvAr** is all about. Let's hear from you soon. All submissions will be kept completely confidential!

AvAr Website

The **AvAr** website previously found at www.Coloradoaviationarchaeology.org will be moving back to the Colorado Aviation Historical Society's preferred website, located at www.coloradoaviationhistoricalsociety.org. Our former Webmaster, Matt "Frenchie" Hensarling (Class of 2006), is no longer capable of managing this tremendous asset. Outside contractors will be administering the new website before year's end.

Send comments, corrections or submissions to *aviator_b@msn.com*