

# ATFAR Newsletter

January - 2020



**“Fellowship built on a Lifetime of Service”**

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## ATFAR ENTERS THE DIGITAL WORLD

Greetings and Happy New Year ATFAR members. A lot of new and exciting things have been happening within ATFAR over the past few months and there are many more to come!

### **ATFAR - FACEBOOK**

ATFAR now has both a members only website and an ATFAR Facebook page. The Facebook page is open to anyone (by invitation) that is currently or has previously been employed by ATF. It is a means to quickly catch up on what our former co-workers and current employees are doing in their personal lives. We are trying to keep the ATFAR Facebook page as neutral as possible and encourage everyone to share their activities on the page so we can keep up with them. You may receive a friend request from "Neta Rice" with the ATFAR emblem on your facebook account, this is the ATFAR Facebook page. Please accept the friend request and we can add you to the private group.

### **ATFAR HAS A WEBSITE!!!**

ATFAR now has a members only website! An email was sent to everyone at the email addresses on file in October of 2019 inviting them to create a user account on the

ATFAR web site. The ATFAR web site is currently up and running with new features being added on a regular basis. Members can log in via a member username and password and access many features such as; current and past newsletters, Updates regarding ATFAR functions, ATFAR merchandise, ATFAR member directory, ATFAR announcements and more.

If you did not receive an email inviting you to setup your account please notify ATFAR by visiting ATFAR.org and clicking on the "Contact ATFAR" link and we will resend you the link.

### **ATFAR APPAREL**

Did you know that ATFAR has embroidered apparel that you can purchase? Hats, shirts, jackets, golf towels, sweat shirts and more! All apparel is available through the ATFAR.org members only portal. Once logged into ATFAR.org click on the ATFAR Merchandise icon and you will be directed to several links to chose from, one being the apparel store. When you visit the ATFAR apparel store you will activate a coupon for a nice discount and granted access to the store. Great merchandise, great quality and best of all, 10 percent of your purchase will be paid to the ATFAR Emergency Fund.

### **CHALLENGE COINS**

ATFAR Challenge coins are available to current ATFAR members! We have just received a limited number of ATFAR challenge coins. (They are awesome!) Visit ATFAR.org and click on the ATFAR Merchandise link to order yours! Yes, credit cards are accepted!

### **DUES PAYMENT via ATFAR.org**

Yes! You can pay your annual dues online with a credit card now! By logging in to the ATFAR.org members only area you will be able to pay your dues online with your choice of credit cards! *(Hurry before there is an increase in dues!!!)*

### **PLEASE UPDATE YOUR EMAIL**

**We cannot stress this enough!** On a recent attempt to contact everyone via email we received a great number of non delivery notifications. We are moving more and more to a paperless society and with the costs of printing and mailing bi-annual newsletters skyrocketing it is even more important now to communicate with our members via email and the website. To update your email visit the ATFAR.org home page and click on the "Contact ATFAR" link. Please include your name, current email, mailing address and telephone on your update.

**See you at the RENDEZVOUS 2020!**

## **SAINT SIMONS ISLAND - KING AND PRINCE - RENDEZVOUS**

This is another Rendezvous that you will not want to miss! The Saint Simons Island Team is gearing up for a great time. One of the key features will be a trip to FLETC. There will be a tour of FLETC, lunch at the mess hall, demo at the ATF range and a tour of the ATF National Academy. As you all know, this area is great for entertainment. Jekyll is just minutes away (make sure to visit the Turtle Center), plenty of golf courses and great places to eat and shop.

I'm hoping that you have all got your hotel reservations and your ATFAR Registration Form in already - however, if you haven't you still have time if you get right on it.

### **IMPORTANT**

King and Prince Resort - CALL TODAY - **912-638-3631** - Make sure you let them know you are with the ATFAR Group to get the best rates.

Registration Form - send out to Neta (405 Bonaventure Road, Saint Simons Island, GA 31522) with your check. This is very important because we need to know pretty much exact numbers so we can start getting supplies. You can contact me my phone, text or email for forms and you can also find them on line. Don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

If you want an ATFAR shirt to wear while you are here, go to the ATFAR Store on line at [atfar.org](http://atfar.org) and get your order in. I already have a beautiful blue sweatshirt that went to California with me.

Airlines - Jacksonville (JAX) Airport is about one hour away. If you fly into Atlanta, you can get the Delta connection hop straight into Glynco Jet Port in Brunswick. It might be a little more expensive, but you won't have the hour travel, rental car, etc. Lots of people here can take the few minutes for a pickup in Brunswick.

Parking - Parking at the Kind and Prince is very limited. If you don't have a "Guest Pass" in your car, it could be towed!

**Come and join us for a wonderful experience.**

## Message to ATFAR from a first time attendee to our Rendezvous!

Fellow ATFARians !! Yes, I just made that up. I was so happy that Carmen and I were able to make it to the 2019 Rendezvous At Pigeon Forge, Tennessee. I thank Neta and Geno for twisting my arm to go and let me tell you, we had a blast. I got to meet some of the ATF Legends that were before my time and also reconnect with some of the Agents from my time. I hired on in December of 1986 and got kicked out August of 2016.

One of the highlights was meeting and getting to pick the brain of the Father of ATF, The Legendary Warren H. McConnell. Thanks to this man and the others he recruited, I was able to have an Amazing 30 year Career with the Greatest Agency working with some of the Best of the Best! Thank You Special Agent Warrior Warren McConnell for your foresight and leadership.

I have been retired now a little over 3 years and have been enjoying my freedom taking care of the ones I neglected during those 30 years. Carmen and I take midday walks every day on the beach we live on in Hutchinson Island, Florida. It's midday because our days of waking early died 3 years ago! We also spend a lot of time spoiling the 4 Grands and then giving them back to their parents all juiced up! These kids are so much fun that I wish I could have had them first.

Ok, sorry now back to the 2020 Rendezvous on Saint Simons a place with which we are all so familiar. As you know a lot of people are working behind the scenes to get this event up and running better than ever. Jimm Langley has been working hard with Neta Rice and have created an Awesome ATFAR Interactive Website with a private members only section and several other links to special ATFAR apparel which you will see Carmen and I wearing at this Rendezvous.

We are also planning some fun fund raising activities while we are enjoying ourselves in the hospitality suite. These funds will help defray the cost of the new website and allow ATFAR to not cause any out of pocket expenses to individuals.

I am truly looking forward to this years Rendezvous to continue to meet the legends from the past and making them my friends forever!

I am attaching several pictures from the 2019 Rendezvous.

**Carlos Baixauli**

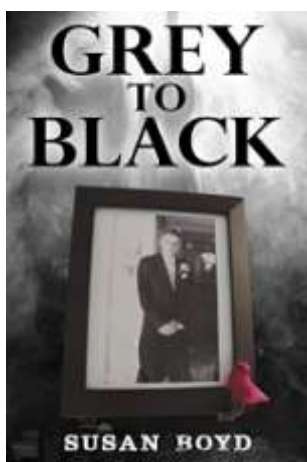
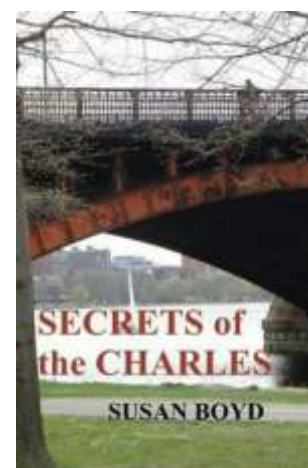


# ATF Author Feature: Susan Boyd

Susan made her career with the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF). Several of her award-winning short stories have been published. Her first novel, "Secrets of the Charles", was a first-place winner of the 2010 Royal Palm Literary Awards. Susan resides in central Florida.

I contacted Susan to see where I could get copies of her books and she sent me all four - **signed**. Couldn't wait to read them!

I so enjoyed them and read them in the order of writing as the characters flow into the next book.



# How am I spending my Retirement?

*A feature article in the ATFAR newsletter submitted by ATFAR members.*

For years I said that I would fight the ATF mandatory retirement age of 57. That is was age discrimination! I was still capable of doing the job and that it was just not fair. Boy was I **wrong**. Retirement is the best thing ever if you let it be. If you prefer to retire and start a second career in the same or another field that is your choice, as for me, I am spending my time playing.

During my last year with ATF I finally had to have major back surgery. Thanks to a lot of prayer and a little research I ended up with a fantastic neurosurgeon at the Andrews Institute who fixed my back and gave me the ability to get out and play again. My wife Nina and I discussed our retirement plans during my rehabilitation and decided that we were going to play hard until such time that our health slowed us down.

I love riding motorcycles. I planned to do a lot of riding in retirement and Nina did not want to be left out. Nina signed up for and completed the Harley Davidson new rider program, got her motorcycle endorsement and we purchased her a motorcycle of her own and have been racking up the miles ever since. I ride a Harley Street Glide and Nina rides a Harley Softail Standard.



*Nina and I on our bikes on the Needles Highway near Hill City S.D.*

We knew that we wanted to see and travel the back roads of America in retirement so we purchased a Thor, Axis motorhome and an enclosed trailer for our motorcycles and began our journey. (We call our motorhome *Irma* because I purchased her during hurricane *Irma*.) We have been on several trips so far, South Dakota, Florida, Kansas, Illinois, Iowa, Nebraska and Wisconsin to name a few. The motorhome handles great, pulls the trailer with ease and allows us to have the luxuries of home while on the road.



*Nina ascending a 200 foot wall at Sylvan Lake, Custer State Park, S.D. Meanwhile, I spent the day on my motorcycle on the back roads exploring.*

Of course we don't spend all of our time on motorcycles or in the motorhome. After retirement we purchased a home on ten acres in the Northeast corner of Tennessee, in Tennessee's oldest town, Jonesborough. We call our place B'Nana Ranch. Between mowing, (the grass in Tennessee grows at an alarming rate!) clearing trails, (The weeds and vines in Tennessee grow at an alarming rate!) home maintenance, spending time with the grand children (The grandchildren in Tennessee also grow at an alarming rate!) and exploring the local area we stay pretty busy



*A beautiful 6 inch overnight snow fall made for a great sledding day! At home pulling the grand boys back up the hill for the great sled obstacle course! There was a lots of hot cocoa and cookies!*

We are lucky to live within a short drive of some of the best off-road ATV trails in the United States. We travel to West Virginia on a regular basis and ride the trails of the Hatfield McCoy trail system (HMT). The Hatfield McCoy is a trail system endorsed by the state of West Virginia with over 800 miles of trails throughout the Appalachian mountains utilizing old gas line access roads, coal mining roads and recently created trail roads. The HMT has trails in various difficulty levels ranging from a "ride in the park" to "what the heck was I thinking."



*Yep, that is Nina headed up the trail on her*

*ATV, brother in law Joe follows in his side by side. We normally ride between 35 and 60 miles of trails each day. There is never any problems falling asleep at night.*

Would you believe that I even rode a bicycle sixteen miles on an off road trail? Anybody that knows me knows that me and bicycles go together like vinegar and oil but, we live very close to the Virginia Creeper trail, a 32 mile trail through the mountains on an abandoned railroad bed. Yep, got to try that one out! We loaded drinks (yes, water) into our backpacks, drove to Damascus Virginia, rented bikes and rode the transport van to the top of Whitetop Mountain. We got on the trail and started down the mountain for what was a very memorable trip. We only covered half of the trail as after the 16 mile point it was no longer all downhill and... well, you know me! Nina did manage to get a nice scar and story out of the trip, you will have to ask her about it at Rendezvous 2020!



*I had not been on a bicycle since grade school. It was a nice trip and would do it again (The downhill part).*

One of the reasons we moved to Tennessee was to be close to our grand children. Two grandchildren live in Jonesborough, and the other two, at the time of my retirement, in Las Vegas but now live near Pensacola, Florida. We spend as much time as we possibly can with the grand children. It

seems that my bride is absolutely the child whisperer. They love everything she does and love when they get to be with her. We were especially pleased to get to spend a lot of time with the grandkids over Christmas.



*Grandson Lex taking the new Go Kart for a spin at B'Nana Ranch*

Another thing that both Nina and I have taken up is metal detecting. I know that this draws images of old men walking along the beach looking for pocket change but this is far different. We both have professional model metal detectors and we hunt for relics. We are fortunate enough to live in an area where there are many pioneer home sites, pioneer meeting places and a great number of civil war sites. Relic hunting is not just a matter of going into the woods or the field and scanning the ground. We spend hours or even days conducting research so our time spent is fruitful. We utilize the internet, local library, local churches, the library at East Tennessee State University and local contacts to find the best places to hunt. Of course we live in an area that has a large national forest and it is off limits so we are limited to private property hunts. I will, using the tax assessor database, identify a property owner then contact them in person and request permission. So far we have had far more yes's than no's. I have spent the last year researching the location of a confederate camp that held around 1500 men. As of

January 4th, I think I may have found it. It will take us a few days of detecting to confirm the location but it is very exciting! Make sure and ask me about it at the Rendezvous. *(Also, if any of you have land where civil war activity was near we would love to detect it!)*



*Nina and our very first civil war find - a Minnie Ball (3 ringer) found at the site of a small skirmish near Jonesborough.*

We travel all around the northeast Tennessee, western North Carolina and southwest Virginia area metal detecting. It is fun to get the old battle maps from the civil war, plot them out on current maps and then try to figure out where the troops would have camped or where picket lines would have been drawn.

We have put together quite a collection of civil war and settler items. I will say that I never expected to have a hobby that was so much work. For every good find you make you probably dig 50 holes that contain not so good finds. I have a terrific collection of pull tabs and bottle caps and an even better collection of shotgun shell head stamps! One rule that we abide by - If we dig it up, no matter what it is, we pack it out. Make



sure and ask Nina about carrying around the deer head or the 6 pound train pin all day.



*One of our best finds yet. This is a confederate canteen. I dug this at the location of a skirmish in which the carrier of the canteen may not have fared too well. The hole in the side of the canteen matches up exactly to a .58 caliber Minnie ball. Also found were several other impacted bullets and a pocket knife. I cleaned the canteen via electrolysis and sealed it with paraffin.*



*This is the canteen after elecrolysis and pariffin.*

In addition to riding motorcycles, motorhoming, riding ATV's, grandkids and metal detecting, we both have tried to get involved with our community as much as possible. Jonesborough is a great little town that does things during the summer to keep the locals involved like Friday night Music on the Square, Saturday night Movies on Main Street and Sunday afternoon Brews and Tunes. It is a great little community, about as close to Mayberry as you can get.

I have joined the local Ruritan club which is a service oriented club that serves rural communities. My particular club does fundraising by having monthly dinners. I have served more steak and gravy than I care to mention but we raise a lot of money and it goes to help those in the community. Our last expenditure was to replace a well pump for a ninety-two year old woman who had gone the past fourteen months hauling water from town in five gallon buckets because she could not afford to have her well fixed. I guess I can serve some more steak and gravy.

Nina meanwhile has been working on her sainthood. In the little time she has between all of our hobbies she finds time to volunteer at the Niswonger/St. Jude Childrens hospital one day a week as a baby cuddler. She received special training and cuddles babies in the intensive care unit, most of which are born drug addicted. I don't think I could do that but she glows every time she comes home from cuddling. She also does B'Nana Blanket. *One of the grandchildren got confused and instead of calling her Nana began calling her B'Nana - it stuck, she is now known as B'Nana .*

B'nana Blanket is what Nina calls her ongoing anonymous work for the older children at the childrens hospital. Each month she creates a nice soft, cheerful,

theme based blanket that would appeal to a child and donates it to the hospital. The blanket, sterilized and warmed, is provided to a child after surgery or a procedure by the hospital and it is theirs to keep. I know for a fact it is pretty darn cool and has made lots of children smile. Recently B'Nana Blanket gifted four blankets to a family who had adopted four Chinese girls, three of which suffer from spinal bifida. The family has communicated with B'Nana Blanket through the B'nana Blanket Facebook page and has shared photographs of the girls with their blankets. Pretty dang cool if I do say so myself!



*Nina had these tags made up and attaches one to each blanket. On the reverse it simply says "Lovingly made by B'nana Blanket in Jonesborough Tn"*

So there you have it. What am I doing in retirement? I am **living**! When I was asked by Neta to do a short article about life in retirement I reluctantly agreed thinking that I would just toss together a few lines and be done but I have really enjoyed putting this piece together. Each day I get older and yes the aches and pains are many. I wish I had purchased stock in Tylenol, Ibuprofen and Aleve years ago. The hair is a lot thinner

and the waist is a lot larger but I am having fun and living each and every day to the fullest.

Some folks say they cannot slow down in retirement and therefore need to find a second career. Good for you! If that is what you want go for it! I will say that I have not slowed down one bit. As a matter of fact it seems that I am busier now than I ever was and am enjoying it as much or more.

I hope you have enjoyed this submission and look forward to reading someone else's submission on what they are doing in retirement in the next ATFAR newsletter.

Should your travels bring you near Jonesborough Tennessee please don't hesitate to give us a shout. We would love to see you whether we worked together or not. If you are ATF you are family.

Jimm & Nina Langley

Jimmlangley@gmail.com

Jimm,  
When I asked for a small favor, I never expected to get this article. All I can say is "you done good"!!!!  
I agree with you that a second career isn't for everyone. I have told people, since I retired, that I don't know how I ever had time to go to work. I am busy all of the time and totally love it.  
I hope your article will inspire more of the ATFARers to send in their "Life After ATF" stories from both sides - the "New Career" stories and the "I'm Retired" stories.  
Neta

New Members are joining daily.

This may not be all the new members who have recently joined as I'm getting some by regular mail and some are joining online (atfar.org)! If I missed you, give me a shout.



It is so exciting that you can now join and pay dues online. ATF retirees and current members can go to [atfar.org](http://atfar.org), join, see what's happening with all your former co-workers, post comments to our Facebook page, order from the ATFAR Store and much more.

Remember that the ATFAR year is from July 1 through June 30. Dues can be paid at anytime, but your payment will be for July - June. You can send your check to Neta at 405 Bonaventure Road, Saint Simons Island, GA 31522 or pay online! If you aren't sure where you stand on dues just let me know, I will be glad to look up the information for you.

**Executive Director**  
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**Ladys 99ers - from way back when!**

