

# REUNION 101—Our Own Majlis

Diane Knipfel Adams AB'75—*Reunion Oversight Director*  
and Marie Littlejohn-Dunn DH'77—*Houston Reunion Committee*



You've seen the articles and website info that tell you what the reunion schedule is, you've heard vague references to class parties, teen canteen, auction, suq, and dinner/dance, but if you've never been to a reunion before, you'd like to know what these things really are. Let me be your guide.

You've reserved your hotel room and registered for the reunion, and the big event is fast approaching. You are discouraged that you weren't able to lose that 30 pounds, the minoxidil hasn't given you that luxurious head of hair you desired, and now you're reconsidering your decision to finally go to a reunion. No worries! Don't forget that you're not the only one that is 10 (or 20 or 40) years older. You'll see that the cutest girl in 8th grade is no longer size 2, the class bully now sports a classic, bad comb-over, and the girl you used to call "Jumbo" is hotter than hot. No matter how you've changed physically, you'll be in good company, so quit your worrying, and start packing!

"How do people dress at the reunion, and what should I pack?" you wonder as you stare at your empty suitcase. First, Houston's May weather is very changeable.

It could be hot and sunny during the day and pleasant at night or rainy. Since there is no "typical" dress at the reunion, you could opt for your comfy, at-home wear—jeans or shorts and t-shirts. Old, Saudi-themed t-shirts are popular, as are the reunion shirts you receive at registration. Others may dress a little nicer or even don thobes and Arab dresses. Get your gold out of the safe deposit box, you'll be in good company wearing that armful of bangles! There is no dress code for the banquet/Tri-D Dance, but most attendees tend to dress up a bit more. Men can be seen wearing everything from jeans or slacks and a nice shirt to a suit or even a tux. Women opt for anything from nice slacks and blouses to cocktail dresses. In short, whatever you feel comfortable in is what you should pack to wear! Don't forget your swimming suit, so you can join the gang at the pool.

The suitcase is packed, and it's time to head to the airport. Depending on your flights, the reunion can start as early as your arrival at your departure airport, just like the old, returning-student, going-home-for-the-holidays airport gatherings. But your mind is reeling, and you're afraid... are you going to recognize the people you're supposed to know?? Rest assured that this is a common fear among  
*(Continued on page 2)*



## 2005 ABI Board Elections

Gary Barnes DH'70—*At Large/Nomination*

The ABI Board of Directors consists of four elected and seven board-appointed, unpaid directors whose job is to ensure that AramcoBrats, Inc., continues to fulfill its purpose, which is to promote continued contact and fellowship among Aramco Brats. Throughout the last two years we have been constantly working to keep the ABI mission alive and successful. Since planning for the reunions begins as soon as the last reunion ends, there is no down time for board activities. During the year newsletters  
*(Continued on page 9)*

## WHAT'S INSIDE

• President's Message	4
• Editor's Note	3
• Class Parties	6
• AdBak—Addr Forms	7
• Treasurer's Report	8
• Reunion Basics	9
• General Registration	10

## Reunion 101 (Continued from page ۱)

attendees. You will look at everyone, wondering if they're "one of us." Some of them will be easily recognizable. How can you miss the Abqaiq Raft Race t-shirt, the puzzle ring, or the luggage tag (from previous reunions) that says "AramcoBrat"? Don't hesitate to approach them and ask if they're headed to the reunion. If you do, you'll have made your first, new Brat friend!

What about local transportation? How do I get from the airport to the hotel? Should I rent a car? Unless you plan to do some local sightseeing while you're in Houston (not that you'll have time!), there is little reason to rent a car. The hotel is within walking distance from an abundance of shopping and dining options. If you're planning on participating in the sports events, folks with cars line up in front of the hotel and offer rides to fellow participants. To get to the hotel from the airport, you can take the shuttle (a long ride, stopping at numerous hotels along the way), taxi (same price as the shuttle if shared with another person), or have a local friend pick you up. A good strategy is posting on the BratBoard (at [www.aramco-brats.com/BratBoard](http://www.aramco-brats.com/BratBoard)) to share a ride with someone arriving at the same time.

If you're driving, please do so safely. When you arrive at the hotel, there will be three options for parking: 1) hotel parking (expensive daily rate), 2) hotel valet (even more expensive daily rate), and 3) FREE parking in the garage immediately adjacent to the hotel's attached garage. Just ask the bellman at the front of the hotel when you pull up, and you will be directed around the corner to the free lot.

You finally arrive at the hotel and your stomach is full of butterflies. You haven't seen any Brats yet (that you know of), but you know that is about to change. You walk into the hotel lobby, trying to look confident, but you sure don't feel it. Your plan is to quickly check in then rush off to your room to hide and try to drum up some courage to put yourself into the thick of it. The lobby is filled with small groups of people smiling, laughing, and hugging. You make a beeline to the registration desk, but your trip is interrupted by a vaguely familiar face popping in front of you squealing "Oh my god! Is that YOU?? I'm so glad you finally decided to come to a reunion! We've been hoping you'd show up some day!" You aren't quite sure... it looks a lot like your best friend from 6th & 7th grades, but you don't want to err... then you notice his name tag, and you sneak a peek. It is him! And he recognized you! And now that you have confirmation, you can clearly see that it is, indeed, the friend with whom you shared so many adventures. You hug and chime in with the common reunion line "Oh my god!!" Whew! You have a friend here! Your fears have begun to dissipate. Your friend grabs your arm and pulls you toward one of the clusters of people in the corner of the lobby, informing you that there are already ten members of your class here. As you approach the group, they move toward you, hands outstretched. You're obviously remembered. You

breathe a sigh of relief, certain that this is going to be a great weekend. Four hours later, you finally make it to the desk to check in. You find your room, but there's no need to hide out and certainly no time to unpack... you've got people to hang with that you haven't seen in decades!

As you make your way around the hotel, you notice that many of the attendees are wearing matching t-shirts. You wonder where they got them, but find out as soon as you make your way to reunion registration. Because you were a good Brat and pre-registered, all you have to do is give your name to the registration personnel, and they hand you a name tag and bag of goodies. You put on your name tag, proud that you're now an official reunion attendee. Inside your bag, you find your reunion shirt, the latest version of the Brat directory, the reunion newsletter, and other very cool goodies. Score!

Once you've slipped on your cool t-shirt and safely stowed your other goodies in your room, it's time to check out the rest of the reunion. The reunion newsletter was full of information, including something about a "teen canteen," so you set off to find it. It wasn't difficult to find, and you're glad you did. The small ballroom was set up with tables and chairs, games, a pool table, foosball table, and there is even a dance floor and jukebox. There's also a little stage with band equipment on it. You ask if a band performs, and you're told that it's for the old "garage band" members who will often get together

and jam during the reunion. Next stop, the suq, where you find Brats selling an interesting mix of products: t-shirts, books, crafts, etc. You continue on to the pool, and enjoy lounging with a frosty beverage while reconnecting with even more old friends and meeting some new ones.

It's dinner time, and you realize that you have been so busy that you haven't eaten since you left home, oh-so-many hours ago. The options are numerous. Your initial plan of having room service while hiding is definitely out. The hotel restaurant looks good, as does the lighter menu in the lobby pub. There is a list of restaurants within walking distance posted on the bulletin board near registration, so you head over there to check it out. There are many notices posted on the bulletin board, including some personal notes, one of which is addressed to you! It's from another old friend that you didn't even know was here but who heard about your presence. It told you to meet him in the lobby at 7:00, if you wanted to join them for dinner at the Mexican place around the corner. It's 6:50, so you're in luck, and to the lobby you go.

After a very long night of merry making, followed by a full day of reconnecting, the opening reception is next on the agenda. The ballroom is filled to the rafters! The din of excited conversation is deafening. This is as cool as it gets, then you find out that the drinks and snacks are free! You kick yourself for not having attended a reunion before now.





When you registered for the reunion, you did not join the bowling tournament. You haven't bowled since the last Tri-D (Tri-District Dance for returning-students) you attended! Now that you've talked to people at the reunion, you have learned that it's not so much about the bowling (though some do take it seriously) as it is about fun, and you join them as a spectator. Brats with no ride line up outside the hotel, and those with cars pull up and offer rides to those waiting. The atmosphere at the bowling alley is one of pure fun and enjoyment. You vow to sign up for bowling at the next reunion. You hear that some brave Brats are going skydiving today, and others are going to visit NASA Space Center Houston. You're learning that it's not so much what you do at the reunion, but the fact that you're doing it with others just like you. Tennis and golf are not your thing either, but you have no doubt that those who are involved with those activities are enjoying themselves as much as you are.

During the weekend, you purchase some raffle tickets and are directed to the raffle tables. There you find an amazing array of Aramco and Middle Eastern treasures, each with a numbered bag near them. To enter, you pick the prize of your choice and drop your ticket in the corresponding bag. You note some extra special prizes. These are the items for the silent auction. Below each item is a list of bidders and their bid. If you want it, just add your name and a higher bid to the list. The highest bidder at the end of the ABI business meeting (where all are welcome to greet the newly elected board — you DID vote, didn't you? — and pose any questions or give feedback about our organization) wins the prize. Also on display are items for the live auction, which will be a part of the big dinner and dance on Sunday night. Get your bidding arm and checkbook ready!

Sunday night is the culminating event of the reunion — the dinner/dance. It's so nice to see everyone all dressed up a bit and wearing their gold. The atmosphere of shared origins and love for our childhood adventures is so thick it literally brings tears to your eyes. So often in your life since Arabia, you've felt out of place and a bit different. Not here. Here you are among friends and family and you feel more at home than you have in years. You listen to the thank yous to and from the ABI board and the reunion committee, enjoy a nice meal with your friends, laugh at the antics of the auctioneer, then as if you didn't know it would happen, you spend a ton of money to purchase a beautiful, Arabic-motif, handmade quilt. You don't mind having spent the money. You have a lovely handcraft that reminds you of home, and the ABI will have more money in its coffers to ensure that you'll have another reunion to attend in the future. After dinner, it's off to dance the night away.

Monday morning arrives before you're ready for it. It seems like you just went to bed. But wait! You DID just go to bed! How can it be over? It's been four days, but it seems like mere minutes. It's time to pack and say your last goodbyes. The cries of "oh my god" in the first days are replaced by another phrase familiar to reunion attendees,

"See you in two!" It's your new mantra, and you mean it.

As your taxi pulls away from the hotel, you have a different feeling in your stomach than when you arrived. This time it is a gut-wrenching sorrow that you've felt but one other time in your life, and that was when you left "home" for the last time. But there is a bright spot this time. In just two years, you'll be able to "go home" again by attending the next reunion. Be prepared for a few things when you get home: the desperate need to catch up on sleep and a bout of the post-reunion blues. The blues are easily remedied by signing up for BratChat, BratBoard, and keeping in touch with the old and new friends you saw at the reunion. As you drive toward the airport, you wonder what the heck took you so long to join the incredible fun of "going home" to the reunion.

## Editor's Note

Dean L. Barnes DH'67—*Publications Director*

I have a confession to make. This upcoming reunion will be my first AramcoBrat reunion. I've considered attending in the past, but somehow I always came up with excuses.

When I started to discuss this newsletter with the ABI publications committee, I adopted the attitude of a skeptic and said that the newsletter should convince me that I should attend. The results were fantastic.

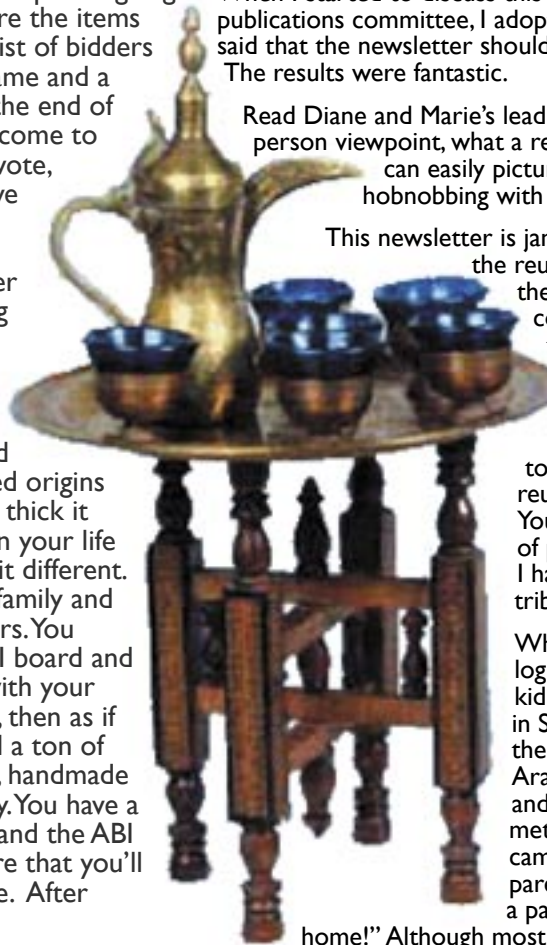
Read Diane and Marie's lead story that describes, from a first person viewpoint, what a reunion will be like. As I did, you can easily picture yourself at the reunion hotel hobnobbing with old and new friends.

This newsletter is jammed full of information about the reunion and what it takes to make the reunion what it will be. This issue covers the basics and includes all of the reunion forms so those who did not get the last issue of the BratNews won't miss out.

Let me give you another reason to attend the reunion. At the reunion, you will find your people. You can never find another group of people like the AramcoBrats. As I have observed before, we are your tribe.

What, you want something more logical? OK, you are a third culture kid. When your parents went to work in Saudi Arabia, you either came with them, or were born there. You lived in Arabia and got used to the customs and particularities of living there. You met and found friends in the Aramco camps. Then came a time when your parents left to "go home." There was a part of you that cried out, "but I am home!" Although most of us cannot go back and live in the places of our childhood, our friends are still around and because of the reunion; we can go hang out with them.

You don't think any of your friends will be there. Well, just look me up at the reunion. If you're an AramcoBrat, I want to talk with you, and I can still stay up very late at night. See you at the reunion.



# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Diana Ryrholm-Geerdes RT'62—President

Late January, I was offered an amazing opportunity to go “home” again after 40 years. The National Council on US-Arab Relations invited me to be part of a 12-person delegation. The primary purposes were to reacquaint ourselves with the Kingdom, as well as to update and broaden our connections. Although I felt quite guilty about traveling without all of you, I’m very pleased that I went since my presence on the trip was in some respect, on behalf of all of you. The Council of Saudi Chambers of Commerce and Industry was our primary sponsor and in-country coordinator, and Saudi Aramco was our host for the visit to the Eastern Province. My family and friends were concerned about my safety on this trip. I wasn’t, and can unequivocally say that at no time did I feel uncomfortable or threatened. After all, I was home.

Like many of you, I truly appreciate what a gift it was spending my childhood in Saudi Arabia. This opportunity to rediscover my favorable memories and impressions of life in the Kingdom was an unexpected, but welcome and incredible experience.

I was honored to have the company of two other Brats—Mary Martin-Venker and Mark Mowbray—as well as teacher Sue Koenig. The rest of the group was comprised of John Duke Anthony, President and CEO of the National Council, and annuitants Bill and Karen Irwin, Marland and Maryln Townsend, Bert and Joan Golding, and Laney and Mary Ann Littlejohn. Keeping with our truly Brat tradition, we all became close friends in the short amount of time we had together.

Because of adverse weather, the trip from Washington, D.C., to Riyadh took us over 25 hours. After being warmly greeted, I made my way to my hotel room exhausted. I immediately turned off the air conditioner, opened my window and fell into a sound sleep. I was awoken in the morning by the sound of the call to prayer, and I breathed the warm pleasantly fragrant Saudi air and knew that I was “home” once again. This made me smile.

Our time in Riyadh and Jeddah was filled from early morning until late evening with meetings with representatives of the Ministries of Planning and Petroleum, the leadership of the American Business Groups, selected officials of the American Embassy, and current Saudi Aramco representatives. Having never been to either of these cities I didn’t have any memories to compare, but

I was in awe at how large both cities were, at the new and old architecture, at the many banners put up about combating terrorism, at the warmth and friendliness shown to us by each and every person we encountered. I was humbled by the hospitality, the warmth, the intelligence, the astuteness, the articulation, and the love of both countries (USA and KSA) that every single official we met with had. When people ask me what is the main message I want to

convey about Saudi Arabia, I reply that the Arabs are no different than us—they have the same concerns about family, economics, friends, life and terrorism that we do.

We spent 3 1/2 days in the Eastern Province. Again, we were met with the utmost hospitality and warmth. Seeing Brat friends was one of the highlights of the trip. My special thanks goes to the Owens families for taking care of us in our spare time. Meeting with high officials and employees that remembered my father touched my heart. We visited Dhahran and Al Khobar and some of us were able to take a side trip to Ras Tanura. A lot has changed—and yet, some things remained the same within Dhahran. The dining hall looks the same from the outside. The homes looked smaller than I remembered. Steinke Hall and Hamilton House looked the same from the outside. The new admin buildings smothered the old. The clinic looked the same from the outside but had expanded tremendously. The commissary looked the same from the outside, but there were lots of other things around it that weren’t familiar. The school I went to is now surrounded by a high wall with guards at the entrances. There are 3 or 4 main gates (wasn’t able to take pictures of any). The



Abdallah S. Jum’ah, President & CEO Saudi Aramco, Diana Ryrholm-Geerdes, Mary Martin-Venker, Mark Mowbray (Saudi Aramco Image)



(Saudi Aramco Image)



(Saudi Aramco Image)





fenced-in area is much much larger than before, I couldn't figure out exactly where the old perimeter fence had been. The playground had grass and new equipment (the tall slide gone), I knew it was the same place and yet, it was so very different. The King's Road ball field is in the same place but has grass and other things that made it look different.

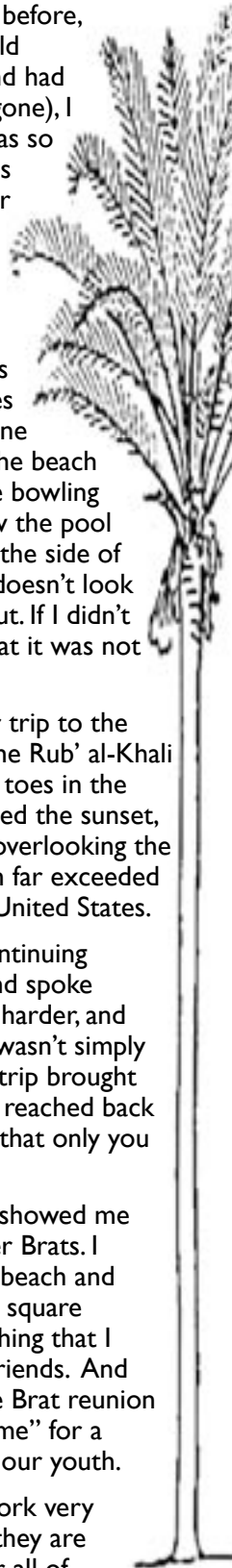
RT was where I lived most of my childhood. I admit to getting teary-eyed at the changes. My old home was gone. Houses on either side were standing. It is like a ghost town. At least half the homes are empty. The beach wall was mostly gone and grass was growing between where the beach wall used to be and the sandy beach. The bowling alley is now the library, the library is now the pool hall. A new bowling alley was built onto the side of the Surf House. Nobody was around. It doesn't look like the area is used for "kids" to hang out. If I didn't know I was there I would have sworn that it was not the Surf House.

One of the highlights of the trip was our trip to the remote desert oil facility of Shaybah in the Rub' al-Khali (Empty Quarter), where we wiggled our toes in the soft red sand, climbed sand dunes, watched the sunset, and feasted in Arabic tradition in a tent overlooking the facility. Again, the hospitality and warmth far exceeded anything I have ever experienced in the United States.

As a Brat, I know the intensity of our continuing interest in Arabia. As I walked around and spoke with people, I tried to listen better, look harder, and remember better because I knew that I wasn't simply visiting for myself, but for all of you. The trip brought back many memories and emotions that reached back to an earlier part of my life—something that only you could understand.

The mostly empty streets of Ras Tanura showed me what was missing—the presence of other Brats. I see that it wasn't only the town and the beach and the perimeter fence and the suq and the square hamburgers, and the shamals, and everything that I miss. It is mostly my friends—and your friends. And there is a cure for that. Coming up is the Brat reunion in Houston where we all can return "home" for a weekend and rekindle the friendships of our youth.

The ABI and the Reunion Committee work very hard this time of year in the hopes that they are preparing a "chance of a lifetime" trip for all of you. We can't thank the committee (Marie, Penny, Osama, Andrew, Lisa, and James) enough for all the time they are spending planning special surprises and paying attention to the fine details of registration. Our Publications Director



(Dean) is busy working on this newsletter and the 2005 ABI Directory; our Webmaster (Michael) is constantly updating the reunion details on the website; our Treasurer (Cathie) is checking her overloaded mail box almost daily and keeping good track of who owes what; our VP (Mike) is working on some ideas that we hope to surprise you with in the near future and handled official business in my absence; our Reunion Oversight Director (DiK) is always in the background guiding and answering questions that the committee might have, and she has begun research for the 2007 reunion location; our Database

Director (Sherri) is always on the outlook for new and lost Brats and is in the process of perfecting the database before having to turn it over for the directory printing; our Email Director (Doral) makes hundreds of changes and additions to our email list which helps Brats keep in touch as well as enables us to get special announcements out in-between newsletters; our Class Rep Coordinator (Gretchen) is helping class reps plan reunion parties and get the word out about the reunion and the registration process; our Director at Large (Gary) has finalized the nominees for the upcoming election and is preparing the ballot which should be in your mailbox soon; and our Secretary (Pat) keeps us all in line. I owe a special thanks to Dean Barnes and he knows why. :-)

In closing, I would like all of you to know that I completely support the proposed nominees on the ballot. All are hard working, dedicated Brats that have my utmost respect and confidence. I hope that you will show your support by voting in this upcoming election.

Hope to see you in May,

*Diana Ryrholm-Geerdes*

**On behalf of Aramco Brats, Inc.,  
The Board of Directors  
would like to extend  
their sincere thanks  
and appreciation  
to the  
Aramco Services Company  
for its generous sponsorship  
of this year's  
ABI Reunion Banquet Dinner**

## Aramco Brats, Inc. Biennial Business Meeting

Sunday, May 30, 2005—2:00 PM

Hilton Houston Posts Oak  
Houston, Texas

ABI Board Panel Discussion  
Election Results

ABI Annual Reports—ABI Financial Reports  
Reunion Feedback—Questions and Answers



## BRAT COMMUNICATION

You have several channels for obtaining or receiving information about AramcoBrat events and news. The best place to start is the ABI home page (<http://www.aramco-brats.com/>), which highlights late-breaking Brat news and coming events. If you're interested specifically in reunion information, go to the ABI home page and click the Reunion button in the toolbar: that will display the 2005 reunion home page, which will provide news and links about the upcoming reunion in Houston.

The ABI BratBoard (<http://www.aramco-brats.com/BratBoard/>) is another good way to send and receive information. The ABI has separate forums for general announcements, ABI news, and reunion news. You will need to register for a free membership if you want to post messages, but you can read messages even if you're not yet a member.

If we have a current mailing address for you, we will send you a printed newsletter every six months and an election ballot about a month before the election. If we have a current email address for you, we will email a brief summary of late-breaking news to you every month or two.

If you want to ask a 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](mailto: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 to your mailing address or email address, fill out the webform at [http://www.aramco-brats.com/address\\_change\\_form.htm](http://www.aramco-brats.com/address_change_form.htm) or send an email to [address\\_change@aramco-brats.com](mailto:address_change@aramco-brats.com).
- To contact the 2005 reunion committee, send an email to [reunion2005@aramco-brats.com](mailto:reunion2005@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 Cathie McCoy, ABI Treasurer.

## Class Parties

Marie Littlejohn-Dunn DH'77—Houston Reunion Committee

Saturday evening has been set aside for individual class parties. This is an opportunity for classmates to spend some time together as a group. You can plan to have dinner together, or merely hang out and look at old yearbooks and photos that class members bring with them. With the reunion just around the corner, Class Reps (or their proxy) should begin making plans for their respective classes. Here are some ideas to consider:

- Party at the hotel — A number of rooms are available for this purpose. If you would like to organize a party through the hotel, please contact Kimberly Shipman at [Kimberly\\_Shipman@hilton.com](mailto:Kimberly_Shipman@hilton.com) or 713-968-1345 prior to the reunion to make arrangements. She will assist with menu options (chips, appetizers, meals) if you can provide a headcount estimate and budget. Since all class party expenses are the responsibility of each class party's organizers and participants, you can be as lavish or frugal as you wish.
- Dinner at a restaurant — There are enough restaurants in the general vicinity of the hotel to fit most food preferences and budgets, from steaks to seafood to cheap Tex-Mex. If you have something in mind but aren't sure what is available, please contact the Reunion Committee at [reunion2005@aramco-brats.com](mailto:reunion2005@aramco-brats.com) for suggestions. Additionally, we will be posting a long list of Middle Eastern restaurants, complete with a map and contact information.
- Get-together at a local classmate's home
- Get-together in a classmates suite/room
- Picnic in Memorial Park— Load up on gourmet goodies to go at Eatsie's (just across the street from the hotel), throw some beer and drinks into a cooler, and head over to Memorial Park for a pleasant evening outdoors.
- Eat, drink, and play at Jillian's ([www.jillians.com](http://www.jillians.com)) or Dave & Buster's ([www.daveandbusters.com](http://www.daveandbusters.com)), both just a short drive from the hotel.
- Drinks and dancing at a club on the Richmond Strip (ask the Reunion Committee or hotel staff)
- Drinks poolside or in one of the hotel bars

If your class doesn't have a Class Rep or your Class Rep will not be attending the reunion, and you would like take the lead and organize something for your class, please contact the Class Rep Coordinator, Gretchen Conally at [gretchen@aramco-brats.com](mailto:gretchen@aramco-brats.com).

Michael McCoy RT'72—Webmaster

Address Change Form

PLEASE WRITE ALL INFORMATION CLEARLY

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 First Middle Maiden Last

District/Year\*: \_\_\_\_\_  
 District (DH, RT, AB, or UDH) 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, UDH) 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 Sherri Dent-Moxley, 675 Cypress Tree Drive, Rock Hill, SC 29730-9271

Contact information can also be changed online at [http://www.aramco-brats.com/address\\_change\\_form.htm](http://www.aramco-brats.com/address_change_form.htm)

2005 AdBak Fees

PLEASE WRITE 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 UDH) 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, UDH) 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: Cathie McCoy, AramcoBrats, Inc. P.O. Box 141, Hatfield, MA 01038, USA

2005 AdBak (\$18 US/\$23 International)	\$ _____
Additional Contributions	\$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Anonymous contribution - Please do not include my name in list of donors.	
2003 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](mailto:doral@aramco-brats.com), or (2) you may go to our AramcoBrats website at [www.aramco-brats.com](http://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.

# TREASURER'S REPORT

Cathie McCoy RT'74—Treasurer

Registrations are pouring in for the Houston 2005 Reunion – I'm getting excited about seeing long-time friends and making some new ones! (Did you long-time friends notice how I just avoided saying you were old? I hope you appreciate that!)

A few points of clarification:

1. Registration checks should be made payable to "AramcoBrats, Inc." (They are sent to Penny Dougharty-Maher, but should not be made payable to her.)

2. If you haven't paid your AdBak for the term, you aren't fully registered for the reunion. If you fall into this category, please send a check made payable to "AramcoBrats, Inc." and send it directly to me at: AramcoBrats, Inc., PO Box 141, Hatfield, MA 01038.

3. AdBak is only needed once per TWO-YEAR term. We have a high number of Brats who paid it in 2004 and then

again in 2005. If you aren't sure if you have paid, contact me at [Cathie@aramco-brats.com](mailto:Cathie@aramco-brats.com) and I'll check my records.

For those who like tracking numbers, we have had **428** pay AdBak this term to date for a total of **\$7,704.00**. In addition, we have had **147** Brats donate beyond the suggested AdBak amount for a total of \$4,481.00. (Wajid shukran!!!!) In addition, we have sold **fifty-eight** 2003 Directories, and **two** <yourname>@aramco-brats.com account. (There have been many more people who have requested an @aramco-brats.com mailbox, but they haven't sent their \$10 check to activate the account yet.)

As always, you can see the Budget & Quarterly Financial Report in this newsletter and on the ABI website at <http://www.aramco-brats.com/income2005.htm>.

Quarterly Report 2004—2005	BUDGET FOR 2004-2005	TERM TO DATE TOTAL	Q1 2004	Q2 2004	Q3 2004	Q4 2004
<b>INCOME</b>						
4100 Contributions	\$13,500.00	\$5,283.00	\$982.00	\$252.00	\$3,182.00	\$867.00
4200 Special Events	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
4300 Website Revenue	\$100.00	\$10.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$10.00	\$0.00
4400 Donated Services	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
4500 Corporate Grants	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
4600 Directory Revenues	\$8,300.00	\$2,840.00	\$525.00	\$160.00	\$1,685.00	\$470.00
4700 ABI Sales Revenue	\$7,250.00	\$40.00	\$2.50	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$37.50
4800 Investment Revenue	\$9,000.00	\$29.41	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$29.41
4900 Reunion Revenue	\$49,150.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$87,300.00</b>	<b>\$8,202.41</b>	<b>\$1,509.50</b>	<b>\$412.00</b>	<b>\$4,877.00</b>	<b>\$1,403.91</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>						
5100 Bank & Audit Fees	\$200.00	\$ (29.05)	\$(34.05)	\$0.00	\$(10.00)	\$15.00
5200 Office Expenses	\$450.00	\$106.09	\$40.13	\$25.38	\$9.53	\$31.05
5300 Publication Expenses	\$26,125.00	\$3,870.91	\$0.00	\$997.6	\$2,856.47	\$16.84
5400 Website Expenses	\$550.00	\$192.90	\$117.90	\$0.00	\$75.00	\$0.00
5500 Travel & Entertainment Expenses	\$3,700.00	\$3,525.25	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$3,525.25
5600 Insurance Expenses	\$2,400.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
5700 Professional Expenses	\$1,100.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
5800 ABI Sales Expenses	\$100.00	\$5.05	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$5.05
5900 Future Reunion Site Expenses	\$1,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
6100 Special Expenses	\$1,320.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
7100 Reunion Expenses	\$49,150.00	\$42.50	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$42.50
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$86,095.00</b>	<b>\$7,713.65</b>	<b>\$123.98</b>	<b>\$1,022.98</b>	<b>\$2,931.00</b>	<b>\$3,636.69</b>
<b>PROFIT/(LOSS)</b>	<b>\$1,205.00</b>	<b>\$488.76</b>	<b>\$1,385.52</b>	<b>\$(610.98)</b>	<b>\$1,946.00</b>	<b>\$(2,231.78)</b>
<b>Cash Balance from Previous Term</b>	<b>\$38,811.06</b>					
<b>Cash Balance—End of Quarter</b>			<b>\$40,196.58</b>	<b>\$39,585.60</b>	<b>\$41,531.60</b>	<b>\$39,299.82</b>
<b>Anticipated Cash Bal.—End of Term</b>	<b>\$40,016.06</b>					



## Reunion Basics—Revisited

For the first time ever, you can register for the reunion by visiting the ABI website (Aramco-Brats.com). Just fill in the web form blanks, and the info will be automatically added to the reunion committee's registrant database. Due to the automation with this method, the committee urges Brats to utilize the on-line registration process. While we wish we could also offer the ease of credit card payments, we decided that that option added too much expense to the reunion and ABI budgets. Thus, you will have to mail your registration fees to Penny, of the Houston Reunion Committee.

**IMPORTANT NOTE:** If you have not yet paid your administrative baksheesh (AdBak) for this term, be sure to include it with your registration fees. This monetary support of the ABI must be paid in order to attend the reunion. If you are unsure whether you've paid for this term, contact Cathie McCoy, ABI Treasurer, at [cathie@aramco-brats.com](mailto:cathie@aramco-brats.com). For those more comfortable with regular mail, fill out the forms on pages 7, 10 and 11, and send them with the appropriate fees to the address given.

We expect record attendance for the Houston reunion. Space at the Sunday night banquet is limited, as is Aramco Services' generous subsidy. Plus, those who dally beyond March 31 will have to pay late fees and risk not getting the official reunion shirt and other registration freebies. Register NOW, so you don't miss out!

The hotel is already 90% full, so do not delay in making your reservations. You do not want to risk having to stay off property and missing any of the fun. Even local Brats prefer to stay at the reunion hotel to maximize their enjoyment of the 24/7 party. More importantly, no one should be driving after Brat-level enjoyment at the reunion. Texas DWI laws are strictly enforced. Be forewarned that we did not include your bail in the reunion budget!

Houston has two major airports, Hobby and Intercontinental (Bush). They are essentially equidistant from the hotel, so if you're making airline reservations, either one is fine. Watch the ABI website, and the threads on the BratBoard for further info on local transportation. Texas' south central location will make driving to the reunion the transportation of choice for many Brats. Hotel valet parking is quite expensive, but there is free parking adjacent to the hotel's lot.

Here are a few miscellaneous reminders for you: Bring your instrument if you want to jam. If you are interested in setting up shop in the suq, please contact the committee at [reunion2005@aramco-brats.com](mailto:reunion2005@aramco-brats.com). Class Reps and other interested Brats should contact the reunion committee for info and ideas regarding the class parties on Saturday night.

So, in a nutshell, here's what you need to do:

1. Register for the reunion, via the website (preferred method), or by submitting the forms found in this newsletter.
2. Pay your registration fees, including the AdBak if not yet paid.
3. Make your hotel reservation. Call the Hilton Post Oak at (713) 961-9300 and be sure to tell them you're an AramcoBrat so you get the special \$79+tax room rate. The special rate of \$79+ per night is available to attendees three days prior and three days after the reunion. You can also make your reservations online via the link provided on the ABI reunion website. Anyone interested in registering for a suite should contact Diana Ryrholm-Geerdes at [diana@aramco-brats.com](mailto:diana@aramco-brats.com).
4. Make travel reservations.
5. Call a friend or two or twelve. One of the best ways to ensure that a lot of your friends attend the reunion is to call them and let them know you'll be there.
6. Attend the reunion! Thursday, May 26 through Monday, May 30. Don't forget that Monday is Memorial Day holiday, and the closing event of the reunion is held on Sunday evening. Visit the ABI website for reunion information and updates. Speak with us on the BratBoard for the quickest replies to your questions. If you have any specific concerns, please contact us at [reunion2005@aramco-brats.com](mailto:reunion2005@aramco-brats.com). See you in Houston!!

## ABI Elections *(Continued from page 1)*

are written and mailed to almost five thousand Brats, budgets are submitted, discussed, scrutinized, and approved, the website is updated and scores of ideas are submitted, reviewed and voted on. We measure our success by your feedback, and there is no stronger way for you to make a statement than through your vote.

You will soon be receiving the 2005 ABI Board ballot in the mail. This year we did not have any new candidates step forward for the elected offices, but we are very fortunate that four current board members have agreed to stay and fill these critical positions. Even without alternative candidates your vote is very important. Completing the ballot and mailing it back to us is your way of telling us that you agree with the job we are doing for the ABI. The ballot also permits you to submit a write-in candidate, and we encourage you to use this option if you feel there is someone who should be and is willing to be on the board. Finally, the ballot is an opportunity for you to correct any information we have on you, such as your home or email address.

Additional ballots will be available in Houston at the reunion. We will be counting votes and announcing the results at the reunion. Watch your mail for the ABI ballot and, when it comes, take a few minutes to fill it out and send it back.

**DONOR THANK YOUS** -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!

Heather Archer Smith DH'81  
Dean Barnes DH'67  
Larry Barnes DH'Parent  
Cynthia Blanchard Curtis DH'75  
Charles Boyle AB'57  
Anne Bryan Patrick DH'59  
Brent Cleaver RT'64  
Cheryl Congleton Green DH'65  
Nan Cooper Healy  
Mary Covell Morehouse DH'54  
Sherri Davis Alazraki AB'62  
Thomas Doody RT'66  
Kenneth Duell DH'67  
Jerry Eberle RT'60  
Donald Ehl RT'66  
Deborah Elliott DH'66

Arnold Elving DH'71  
John A. Galleazzi DH'61  
Dale Gray RT'51  
Ginny Griffith DH'18  
Linda Hass Kinker RT'62  
Peggy Horne Taylor RT'63  
Luann Jones Harlow AB'51  
Nathalie McIntosh RT'79  
Leslie McMillin Banando RT'62  
Patricia McQuiston DH'65  
Karen Marie Morrow DH'74  
Chip Noble DH'77  
Michael Polhemus DH'66  
Sissy (J.E.) Quick Kay DH'66  
Diana Rader Moyle RT'66  
Donald J. Raposo DH'51

Linda Richardson Rednour DH'71  
Jane Robinson Cleaver DH'63  
Carolyn Romard Horvath AB'60  
Dorothy Shaw Boyle AB'56  
Martha Speers Blazewski DH'64  
Esther Steele Shekell AB'67  
Ronald Stroud AB'52  
Robert Sturgill AB'69  
Diana Szostek Lynn DH'60  
Susan Taylor Elving DH'71  
Mara Urenovich Barth DH'85  
Carol Vandenberg Serventi DH'59  
Dani Walthall DH'74  
Russell Webb RT'66  
Cindi Young Baguskas AB'64



**PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY!**

### 2005 Registration and Fees

Please complete the forms below and back and return the completed sheet with payment. Each BRAT / TEACHER must complete their own form. DO NOT consider a brat / teacher as a "guest." Thank you!

\*\*\*\*\* STOP! \*\*\*\*\*

Wouldn't you prefer to register on-line? It's so easy! Just go to: [www.aramco-brats.com](http://www.aramco-brats.com) and click "Register now!"

Your name: \_\_\_\_\_

First Maiden Last

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Apt. \_\_\_\_\_

Street/PO Box \_\_\_\_\_

City State/Country Zip+four

Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_ e-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

area code + number

Guest name(s)(non-brat/non-teacher) for whom you are paying registration: \_\_\_\_\_

First Last

First Last

First Last

Please check one (per category):

You are: Brat  Parent  Teacher

Guest is: Spouse  Parent  Other

Information for name tag:

Your names will appear as they are entered in the reunion database.

Brats... \_\_\_\_\_

Last district lived in \_\_\_\_\_

Year of 9th grade graduation from \_\_\_\_\_

Aramco school or other \_\_\_\_\_

Teachers/Parents \_\_\_\_\_

Last district lived in \_\_\_\_\_

Years employed with Aramco \_\_\_\_\_

Registration (per person) \$45 x \_\_\_\_\_ persons = \_\_\_\_\_  
*(required per registrant - 1 L or XL shirt per registrant included; sizes will be distributed on a first come-first served basis at Registration.)*

Bowling(per person) \$10 x \_\_\_\_\_ persons = \_\_\_\_\_  
*(if you are bowling, please complete BOWLING form on back)*

Golf (per person) \$75 x \_\_\_\_\_ persons = \_\_\_\_\_  
*(if you are golfing, please complete GOLF form on back)*

Tennis (per person) \$12 x \_\_\_\_\_ persons = \_\_\_\_\_  
*(if you are playing tennis, please complete TENNIS form on back)*

Extras:

XXL shirt (per shirt) \$2 x \_\_\_\_\_ shirts = \_\_\_\_\_  
*(additional cost if you want XXL w/ your registration packet)*

Extra shirt (per shirt) \$6 x \_\_\_\_\_ shirts = \_\_\_\_\_  
*(if you want more than the 1 per registrant Lor XL shirt)*

Extra XXL (per shirt) \$8 x \_\_\_\_\_ shirts = \_\_\_\_\_  
*(if you want any additional XXL shirts)*

LATE FEE (per person) \$15 x \_\_\_\_\_ persons = \_\_\_\_\_  
*any envelope postmarked later than March 31, 2005*

AdBak \$18 (US address) \$23 (other) = \_\_\_\_\_  
*if not previously paid*

Check # \_\_\_\_\_ Total enclosed = \_\_\_\_\_

Make check payable to "AramcoBrats, Inc."

Mail registration forms & payment to:  
 Penny Dougherty Maher  
 4024 Ruskin  
 Houston, Texas 77005

**Cancellation Policy:**  
 Cancellations received prior to March 31, 2005 will be refunded in full.  
 Cancellations received after March 31, 2005 and prior to May 12, 2005 will be partially refunded.

Please check all that apply:  
 Plan to attend Friday's Opening Reception: You  Guest

Require a vegetarian plate at Banquet: You  Guest

### SUQ VENDOR INFORMATION

Open Friday - Sunday ... various times

If you are interested in marketing your Saudi or other crafts during the reunion, please complete the form at below.

You are responsible for the delivery of your products to the hotel, set up, storage and safety of all items. If you need one, the committee will arrange for a table to be available to display your merchandise, however you are responsible for the actual selling of your product.

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY!

### Suq Vendor

- Only complete this form if you are selling items at the reunion

We need a description of your wares to publish in the Reunion Information Newsletter:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

I require a table

Schedule of Events	
Friday, May 27th	Welcome Reception 6 pm-8 pm
Saturday, May 28th	Bowling Tournament 9 am-3 pm
	Holuf 10am-6 pm
Sunday, May 29th	Class Parties 6:30pm-?
	Golf Tournament 8 am-12pm
	Tennis Tournament 9 am-1 pm
	Class Photos 3 pm-6 pm
	Pre-Banquet Cocktails 6 pm-7pm
Banquet and Live Auction 7 pm-9 pm	

Reunion Committee Use only

Input Date \_\_\_\_\_

Batch # \_\_\_\_\_

Sent Date \_\_\_\_\_



**Please print clearly!**

- Only complete these forms if you are signing up for the event
- Include fees on registration form
- Participants must be registered for the reunion
- Teams are randomly selected by district/year

Thank you!  
2005 Reunion Committee



**TENNIS TOURNAMENT INFORMATION**  
9:00 am - 1:00 pm Sunday, May 29, 2005  
Limited to 20 players

The Briar Club  
2603 Timmons Lane

[www.thebriarclub.com](http://www.thebriarclub.com)

Participation is limited to 20 players and will be reserved on a first come, first served basis. If space is not available for you, a refund will be sent to you after the reunion wrap-up.

Arrangements will be made for a round robin mixed doubles event based on the number of those interested in participating.

Food and beverages may be purchased from the Briar Club. Outside food and beverages are not permitted.

Players should bring their own rackets and balls.

Transportation is not included, so participants will need to carpool or utilize the complimentary hotel shuttle service. We ask that all those with vehicles please help with this effort. Players should meet at the front of the hotel at 8:30 am.

If you have any questions, please contact Andrew at [a-bobb@sbglobal.net](mailto:a-bobb@sbglobal.net) or 713 883 7996.

**Please indicate your participation:**

I'm playing:

Guest name \_\_\_\_\_

Guest name \_\_\_\_\_

Guest name \_\_\_\_\_



**GOLF TOURNAMENT**  
8:00 am Sunday, May 29, 2005  
4-Person Shotgun/Limit 144 golfers  
Lakes Course at Wildcat Golf Club  
[www.wildcatgolfclub.com](http://www.wildcatgolfclub.com) 12000 Alameda Road

Includes: Greens fees, cart, unlimited range balls, bag valet service, driving range shuttle service. Players are responsible for any food and beverage costs.

Proper dress: Wildcat Golf Club requests that all golfers wear appropriate golf attire. Slacks or dress jeans are acceptable. Policy prohibits cut-offs and T-shirts. In addition, all shirts must have collars and all shorts must be Bermuda length and hemmed. Soft spikes required.

Rental clubs: Contact the Wildcat Pro Shop (713 413 3400) prior to the event to reserve. Club rental is \$40.

Transportation: Transportation is not included, so carpooling will be needed. We must ask anyone with a vehicle to please help with this endeavor.

Drop-Outs: No refund for drop-outs after April 30, 2005. We will, however, have stand-by's and will ask that they reimburse the player that they are replacing. Please contact Marie at [marie.dunn@pqd.net](mailto:marie.dunn@pqd.net) or 281 937 0902, if you cannot play.

Scramble rules of play and transportation information will be available at the reunion. Teams randomly selected by district/year.

If you have any questions, please contact Marie at [marie.dunn@pqd.net](mailto:marie.dunn@pqd.net) or 281 937 0902.

**Other terms and conditions:**

**Conduct:** Participants agree to be responsible for their own conduct and care of the golf course, facilities, and all equipment in accordance with the rules and regulations of Wildcat Golf Club.

**Inclement weather policy:** In the case of rain-out, the following refunds will apply:

- 0-6 holes 100% greens/cart fees refunded
  - 7-12 holes 50% greens/cart fees refunded
  - 13+ holes No refund
- Houston-area residents may opt for raincheck.

**Please indicate your participation:**

I'm playing:

Guest name \_\_\_\_\_

Guest name \_\_\_\_\_

Guest name \_\_\_\_\_



**BOWLING TOURNAMENT**  
9:00 am and 12:00 pm Saturday, May 28, 2005  
Limit 352 Bowlers  
Palace Bowling Lanes  
4191 Bellaire Blvd

In order to accommodate as many bowlers as possible, there will be two sessions: one from 9:00 am - 12:00 pm and another from 12:00 pm to 3:00 pm. Session assignments will be posted at the Reunion.

The cost to participate includes shoe rental and 20 minutes warm-up. Food and beverages may be purchased at Palace Bowling Lanes. Bowlers are prohibited from bringing in outside alcoholic beverages.

Transportation is not included, but Palace Bowling Lanes is quite close to the hotel. Bowlers will need to carpool, so we ask everyone with a vehicle to please help with this endeavor. **Bowlers must be at the hotel front entrance by 8:00 AM for the first session and 11:00 am for the 2nd.**

Cancellations will be accepted and refunded through April 30, 2005.

Please contact James Erwin at [jerwin4@houston.rr.com](mailto:jerwin4@houston.rr.com) or 281 485 5151 with questions or cancellations.

**Please indicate your participation:**

I'm playing:

Guest name \_\_\_\_\_

Guest name \_\_\_\_\_

Guest name \_\_\_\_\_

Committee use:





# BRAT news

© 2005 AramcoBrats, Inc. <http://www.aramco-brats.com>

BratNews is published twice a year by AramcoBrats, Inc.,  
*Dean Barnes, Editor*

All contents are the copyright of ABI and of the articles' authors.

## ABI Board

President:	Diana Ryrholm-Geerdes RT'62
Vice President:	Mike Simms AB'78
Secretary:	Pat Meadors-Desormeau RT'60
Treasurer:	Cathie McCoy RT'74
Reunion Oversight Director:	Diane Knipfel-Adams AB '75
Class Rep. Coordinator:	Gretchen Connally DH'91
Publications Director:	Dean Barnes DH'67
Database Director:	Sherri Dent-Moxley DH'77
Director At Large:	Gary Barnes DH'70
Email Director:	Doral Zadorkin-Allen DH'66
Webmaster:	Michael McCoy RT'72



At last we have arrived. I can see the spot where we will camp. Hurry! Hurry! unload the camels! pitch the tents! and lay out our finest carpets! While you are working, I'll shoof around a bit and see who's here. Listen—can you not hear the sound of voices raised in laughter and excitement? Look over there. Isn't that your friend, the one you haven't seen for years? And smell that fresh brewed coffee. Hurry with that tent and you can go with me. But first I must tell you one thing. When we go to the majlis, pay close attention so that when we leave, you will remember everything.

Forwarding Service  
Requested

AramcoBrats, Inc.  
C/o Sherri Dent-Moxley  
Database Director  
675 Cypress Tree Drive  
Rock Hill, SC 29730-9271

RESORTED  
FIRST-CLASS MAIL  
PAID  
US Postage  
PERMIT # 2325  
San Diego, CA