



# EXPLORER'S GAZETTE

Published Quarterly in Pensacola, Florida USA for the Old Antarctic Explorers Association

Uniting All OAEs in Perpetuating the History of U.S. Navy Involvement in Antarctica

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## 10<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY EDITION



NSF/USAP PHOTO By Mike Casey

Wind turbines on Crater Hill between McMurdo Station and Scott Base.

## RENEWABLE ENERGY COMES TO ANTARCTICA

*Compiled, condensed, and paraphrased from various sources by Billy-Ace Baker*

**A** New Zealand wind farm helps power New Zealand and U.S. Antarctic Stations. Three new wind turbines located between the United States' McMurdo Station and New Zealand's Scott Base provide alternative energy for both stations. Under optimal

wind conditions the three turbines produce approximately 330 kilowatts of electricity each, for a total of 990 kW. This would power approximately 100 average American households. This may save approximately 240,000 gallons

See: WIND POWER On page 4.

**PRESIDENT'S CORNER**

James "Jim Da Retired Cop" Heffel—OAEA President

**T**O ALL OAEs—We have finally seen the light at the end of the tunnel, spring is upon us, and the sun has been seen.



Most of the members have made it through another rough winter. We have lost a few members and spouses whom we have all met or talked to on-line. To those surviving spouses, my deepest condolences.

We still have a few months left to give to the scholarship fund, the Gazette fund, and the general fund. The offer is still open for the two free tickets to the San Antonio reunion in November.

It is also time for the election of OAEA Officers and Directors; we could use a few more candidates to run for President, Vice President, and three Directors. In the same vein, if you are not running, I could use some votes as I plan to run for reelection as President. I feel there are still a few more issues that I would like to see passed. See the Editorial on page 3 for details on how to get your name on the 2010 ballot.

On the ice, the Austral Summer has ended. As was reported in the Oct-Dec 2009 issue, the iconic geodesic dome at South Pole Station is down. According to the most recent news, the deconstructed Dome panels have been returned to Port Hueneme for final disposition (See page 17 of this issue).

Your suggestions, recommendations, and constructive criticisms are always welcome. Feel free to contact me

To all, have a great spring. I hope to see you in San Antonio in November.

To those on the binnacle list, I wish you a speedy and full recovery.

OAEA President

*Jim Heffel*



**GROWLERS & BERGY BYTES**

*Feature Stories, Odds & Ends, Collected, Compiled & Written by Billy-Ace Penguin Baker*

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**DISCLAIMER STATEMENT**

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## OAEA 2010 ELECTION

*Editorial by Billy-Ace Baker*

### Do you want to be a leader of the OAEA?

The time for election of new officers is upon us once again. Bob Gaboury, who chaired the 2008 OAEA Election Committee, has volunteered to chair the 2010 Election Committee. Bob did a great job in 2008 and we expect the same in 2010.

The OAEA Board of Directors has authorized the Election Chairman to solicit volunteers to run for office from the regular membership to ensure that all members get a chance at a leadership position in the OAEA.

This year, there will be an election for the offices listed below:

- President
- Vice President
- Three Directors

In accordance with the OAEA By-Laws, the President and Vice President terms are for two years and the Directors terms are for six years.

Except for the OAEA Reunions, there are NO meetings to attend. Between reunions, all OAEA business is conducted by Email by the Board of Directors, so candidates should have access to the Internet.

There are a lot of very-well-qualified members in the OAEA and if you feel that you are one of these with the leadership qualities necessary to lead the OAEA into the future and continue its current growth rate, get your name on the ballot by downloading an **OAEA Election Solicitation Form** from the **Vote OAEA** web site at: <http://www.voteoaea.com/>

Once completed, the form (**the entire page**) should be mailed by **30 April 2010 to:**

**Bob Gaboury**  
**159 Via Rosal**  
**Camarillo CA 93012**

If anyone has any problems with the **Vote OAEA** web site, you can contact me at: [upizauf@aol.com](mailto:upizauf@aol.com) or Bob Gaboury at: [gabbygaboury@spamarrest.com](mailto:gabbygaboury@spamarrest.com).

### Don't delay. Get your name on the ballot today!

**NOTE:** Only Regular Members can hold office in the OAEA. (Associate Members are NOT allowed to vote or hold office.) You can run for only one office and you can only nominate yourself.



**WIND POWER** **From page 1**

of diesel fuel per year, an 11 percent savings. The construction of the turbines is a joint project shared by the United States and New Zealand. This is the first electrical grid that connects two different nation's Antarctic stations electrical systems into one common grid.

On 16 January 2010, U.S. and New Zealand officials held an opening ceremony for the three-turbine wind farm on Ross Island.

The Antarctica New Zealand (ANZ) wind farm has tapped into the naturally blustery conditions around Ross Island to help power its research station and the U.S. Antarctic Program's McMurdo Station.

The U.S. Antarctic Program (USAP) and ANZ have collaboratively designed and planned a proof-of-concept project to demonstrate and quantify the viability of wind power. The project built the world's southernmost wind farm beginning in November 2008 with construction of three, 330-kilowatt wind turbines on a site called Crater Hill overlooking New Zealand's Scott Base.

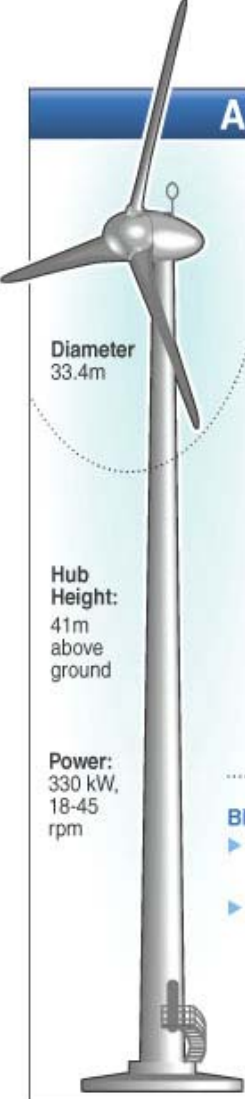
ANZ financed most of the estimated \$10 million (New Zealand dollars) project and covered the bulk of the cost as part of its enhanced contribution to the shared logistics pool with the USAP, which does much of the heavy lifting on behalf of both countries in transporting fuel, people and materials to the continent.

The USAP upgraded roads to Crater Hill, conducted site surveys and provide various supplies and equipment to support the construction. In addition, the USAP transported all equipment to the Crater Hill site.

McMurdo and Scott Base, about 3 kilometers apart, have a combined average electricity demand of 1.7 megawatts. Annual fuel requirements for power production for the two stations are almost 5 million liters (1.32 million gallons). Space heating needs consume an additional 2.7 million liters (700,000 gallons) of fuel.

The construction of the three-turbine Ross Island wind farm was a huge

## ANTARCTICA WINDFARM



**Diameter**  
33.4m

**Hub Height:**  
41m  
above ground

**Power:**  
330 kW,  
18-45  
rpm

**A new wind farm built in Antarctica will supply power to New Zealand's Scott Base and the U.S.'s McMurdo Station, in a challenging environment where temperature can fall as low as -57°C**

- Built and run by New Zealand's Meridian Energy, a state-owned company that generates all of its power through renewable sources, either wind or hydro
- Each of the three turbines are anchored with concrete blocks, each weighing 13 tonnes. They were pre-cast in New Zealand and shipped to Antarctica, as concrete cannot be mixed on site because of the sub-zero temperatures

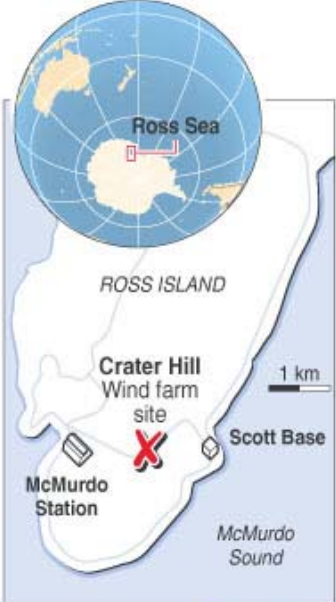
**ANTARCTICA FACTS**

- ▶ Contains 90% of world's ice and 70% of the world's fresh water
- ▶ Permanent Ice Cap up to 3km thick
- ▶ Average temp: -20°C

**BENEFITS**

- ▶ Emissions reduced by 1,243 t/CO2 per year
- ▶ Project displaces 11% fuel used for generation at both stations, saving 122,000 gallons or 463,000 litres/yr, & cost of transporting fuel to Ross Island

Source: Meridian



REUTERS

challenge in an environment where the temperature can fall as low as -57 degrees Celsius (-70 F).

There are enough potentially suitable sites around Scott Base and McMurdo Station to power up to 50 percent of the combined bases' energy needs.

With only one supply ship a year, the project required meticulous planning to ensure all the required parts were packed into the limited space. Everything had to be planned right down to the last nut and bolt.

Construction of the 37-meter high (121 feet) turbines took two years, partly because weather conditions

permit work only between November and February.

All wind-generated electricity flows into the McMurdo distribution system, and Scott Base draws electricity via an inter-connector.

Effectively, wind energy will in the first instance meet the Scott Base electrical demand, and then McMurdo electrical demand. As the installed capacity is considerably in excess of the Scott Base electrical demand, much of the time, wind-generated energy will be supplying a portion of the McMurdo demand.

McMurdo will consume about 66 percent of the energy generated by the wind farm, while Scott Base will use the



**Mawson Station Wind Turbine. Here Comes The Sun**

rest. That represents about 15 percent of McMurdo's annual electricity demand, but about 87 percent of Scott Base's. Both stations now draw all of their electrical and heat demand from diesel generators and diesel-fired boilers.

If the Crater Hill wind farm is successful, a second phase could include up to 10 more turbines. The location for this second project is still under discussion. One location, Arrival Heights, could support the larger system, but the area overlooking McMurdo Station is an Antarctic Specially Protected Area. The site enjoys special protection under the Antarctic Treaty because of the presence of sensitive instruments that record upper atmosphere data.

A 10-turbine wind farm would produce enough energy to power a small town. A full production wind farm would provide 40 to 60 percent of McMurdo's power needs and 100 percent of Scott Base's needs. An alternative site along a recreational trail north of McMurdo Station could support about four wind turbines. The German-made machines are well matched for the cold Antarctic climate. The technology is suited for low temperature operation

and has been proven in the Antarctic with two slightly smaller model machines installed at the Australian Antarctic Division's Mawson Station. In addition, the Belgium Antarctic Station, Princess Elisabeth, has eight wind turbines.

## AUSTRALIA WIND POWER

Two 300 kW wind turbines were installed at Mawson in 2003 and now make a significant contribution to the station's power requirements.

The Mawson wind turbine system ranks among the world's most innovative, and is capable of providing 600 kW of renewable power. Australia is the first country to obtain a significant electricity supply for its Antarctic stations fuelled by the most powerful winds on the planet.

Studies in the early 1990s revealed that the constant katabatic winds blowing from the inland of the continent make Mawson ideally situated to generate the bulk of its energy requirements with wind turbines.

The Australian Antarctic Division worked closely with a German turbine manufacturer and an Australian company to install the turbines and the associated computerized powerhouse control system in early 2003.

## BELGIUM WIND POWER

In 1898, a team of Belgian explorers aboard the whaling ship *Belgica* became the first expedition to ever winter in the Antarctic. In the late 1950s, Belgium became one of the original signatory countries to the Antarctic Treaty. As a consultative state member nation, it has a long association with Antarctica. But, in 1967, Belgium closed its only Antarctic research base, known as King Baudoin Station. After only ten years of operations, the facility was being buried by snow and was no longer safe for human habitation.

The Princess Elisabeth Station has placed Belgium back on the Antarctic map with a new and unique research station: the first to operate without releasing any greenhouse gases. The station receives two-thirds of its electrical power from eight wind turbines.

The new station is named for Princess Elisabeth, the young granddaughter of Belgian King Albert II. Located in Eastern Antarctica, the new facility cost \$28 million (US Dollars) to complete and was officially opened on 15 February 2009. The building sits on stilts to stop the build-up of snow. It's the first Antarctic Station operating entirely on renewable energies, getting all its energy requirements from solar and wind power.



**Belgium Princess Elisabeth Station Wind Turbines**

## New England Chapter Spring 2010 Meeting

by Marty Diller

*New England Chapter Secretary-Treasurer*

For its spring meeting on 27 March, the New England Chapter returned to one of its favorite meeting places, 'Pelly's 19th Hole' restaurant, located in North Kingstown, RI's Quonset/Davisville Port and Commerce Park (formerly the Davisville Seabee Base and NAS Quonset Point). Pelly's is located on the site of the NAS Quonset CPO Club and has the Pro Shop, a bar, and a spacious meeting room. A total of 81 attendees enjoyed Pelly's good food and friendly service, and the chance to socialize with their fellow Antarcticans.

### Featured Presentation

As folks finished their meals, the first 19 minutes of an interesting hour-long YouTube video, 'Antarctica and Apollo: Heritage Horizons' was shown. In the video, Bryan Lintott, former Ferrymead Historic Park (NZ) director and current Exhibitions Officer for Scott Polar Research Institute at the University of Cambridge, England, compared early 20th century Antarctic exploration and explorers with the Apollo program astronauts and lunar exploration, and talked about efforts to preserve the historic huts of Antarctic explorers and the contents of those huts.



**Attendees mill about smartly just prior to getting the business meeting underway. (L to R, near side of table) Bob Shirk (ballcap), Peggy Busch, Peggy Lippka, and Bob Epperly (seated). Far side of table: Ed Cunningham, Ray Lippka, Bob Busch (standing), and Jack Swenson and his son, Kyle (seated).**

The video offered a good opportunity to remind attendees about the OAEA Museum Coordination Committee and their purpose (see page 16 of Oct-Dec 2008 *Explorer's Gazette*). Although many OAEs consider themselves to be truly intrepid Antarctic explorers, they should realize that

museums are not interested in their Antarctic artifacts unless they were directly involved in a major event that directly involved one of the TRUE historical greats in Antarctic exploration—such as Admiral Byrd, Sir Edmund Hillary, etc. Those who have Antarctic memorabilia or artifacts that they believe may be of historical interest to museums should think twice about how historic it may be, and complete and submit the Application for Museum Repository Consideration form (in the 2008 *Gazette* article mentioned above). The Committee will determine whether an item is either appropriate for display or desired by a museum or other repository.

### Chapter Business

Following the presentation, the business meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance—led by Life Member John Hollo. John brought along U.S. Flag, serial number SP-003, for this ceremony, which was flown at the geographic South Pole on 25 December 2006.

OAEA President Jim Heffel was in attendance and reminded everyone about the opportunity to get directly involved in the OAEA by nominating themselves for one of the open positions in the 2008 Election of Officers before 30

April: President, Vice President, or Director (3). He also mentioned the 5th National OAEA Reunion in November and the opportunity to win two round-trip airline tickets to the Reunion by donating at least \$25 to the OAEA before 4 July. More info about the drawing for the tickets is available at the OAEA website.

Guest Bill Waller (founder of Cape Ann Science Alliance [CASA], a community organization that fosters scientific curiosity, opportunity, and discovery), summarized the successful December 2009 public Panel Discussion that the Chapter jointly hosted

with CASA and the Massachusetts Space Grant Consortium in Rockport, MA. The topic of discussion was "Settling the Moon and Mars—Insights from Personal Experiences of Living in Antarctica". OAEA Life members Charlie 'CB'

Bevilacqua (Burlington, MA), Ed Schwalenberg (Boulder, CO), Dr. Matt Spitkovsky (Boston, MA) and John Drews (Canton, MA) were members of the Panel and spoke about their Antarctic experiences and lessons learned that may apply to building bases on the moon and Mars. The final panelist was John Briggs, an astronomer and historian who wintered at Pole in 1994 and now teaches in Brookline, MA.



**Bill Waller recounts the successful December 2009 public Panel Discussion that the Chapter jointly hosted with CASA and the Massachusetts Space Grant Consortium in Rockport, MA. On the left is Peg Forman and Carolyn Brown, and behind them are Paula & Ron Oschner.**

In New Business, Life member Billie Hunter asked members to bring three recipes to the next meeting which can be included in a cookbook intended to be sold as a

fundraiser for the OAEA Scholarship Program at the upcoming OAEA National Reunion. Also, CB Bevilacqua proposed that a "2-Bell Ceremony" in honor of deceased Chapter members be part of the next Chapter meeting.

### Fundraising

Chapter-logo polo and t-shirts and nylon jackets were the featured fundraising items at the meeting. Limited edition, color OAEA-logo belt buckles, OAEA license plate frames, and OAEA-logo ball caps and polo shirts were also available for sale.

Additionally, the Chapter still has a quantity of Noel Gillespie's original-edition books about VX-/VXE-6, *Courage Sacrifice Devotion*, and is now selling them for \$15.00. A bookplate signed by the author accompanies each book. To order any of these items by mail, go to the 'OAEA-NE Merchandise' link on the OAEA website ([www.oaea.net](http://www.oaea.net)), or contact Dave Hazard directly at: 207-353-9068. For the raffle, prizes were either donated by Chapter members or the Chapter.

Raffle winners included: CB Bevilacqua (*Penguins* book & *March of the Penguins* book), Al Brier (Uncle Sam plaque & C-130 photo), Barry Chase (DF'80s/'90s DVD), Ed Cunningham (C-130 photo), Joyce Drews (Ceramic penguin), Bob Epperly (Penguin baby bib w/spoon), Art Goulet (OAEA-logo belt buckle), Larry & Billie Hunter (Powerball ticket & Penguin candle ring), Don Germain (Penguin butter spreader & napkin set), Jim Kanes (DF'60s DVD), Joan Lodge (Glass penguin paperweight), Aram Raky (Penguin candle ring), Quentin Risher (Flag case, Uncle Sam plaque, & 4" stuffed penguin pair), Bob Shirk (Little Penguin wine), Jack Swenson (Matted NYANG Ski-Herk photo).

### Meeting Schedule

The next OAEA-NE Chapter meeting is scheduled for 1:00pm on Saturday, 26 June 2010, at a location yet to be determined.



**Charlie 'CB' Bevilacqua (standing, far right) proposes that a "2-Bell Ceremony" in honor of deceased Chapter members be part of the next Chapter meeting.**



## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Hi Billy-Ace,

Thanks for the latest *Gazette*. I noted with interest the group photo of the Navy DF-60 winterers at Byrd in the Locator Column and the remark that a group photo of civilians was unavailable. For what it is worth, I happen to have a photo taken (by me) at McMurdo just before going down to the ice runway for the flight to Byrd Station which includes only six (not all, five missing) of the civilians for the 1960 winter. Identifications are as follows from left to right: Richard Urbanak, US Weather Bureau, observer, John Bennett, US Coast & Geodetic Survey, geomagnetism, Luis Aldaz, USWB Meteorologist in Charge and Station Scientific Leader, Dale Reed, US Bureau of Standards, ionosphere, William Feyerharm, USWB observer, James McCarthy, USWB electronics technician. Feel free to use it if you like.

Best regards,

Henry Brecher



**Byrd Station DF-60 Civilian Winter-Over Crew**

Billy Ace,

Really enjoyed today's *Pensacola News Journal* article on Old Antarctic Explorers. You guys are certainly an interesting and honorable bunch. I'm thrilled to be a "groupie". Most of all:  
THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE TO OUR COUNTRY.  
Fondly,

Jody Livesay

*Editor's Note: Jody is now a full-fledged Regular Member of the OAEA. See page 20 of this issue of the Gazette.*

Billy Ace,

A 24-page newsletter is extremely impressive and I know you dedicate much of your time to compiling it.

I also wanted to thank Dave hazard for taking on the thankless task of managing the Rookery ships store. Hopefully he will receive generous contributions from everyone to fill the kitty so goodies can be purchased.

I especially appreciate the regional chapter reports and photos. It brings a smile to my face to see Rediron, you, Gus, and the many others in the candid you include in the paper.

Last of all, I most enjoy your humor and comments (mutterings) you interject into the paper. It is refreshing!

Elaine Hood  
RPSC

*Editor's Note: Elaine is the Editor of the USAP Contractor Newsletter the PS News. Her atta-boys are appreciated.*

Billy-Ace:

Find enclosed my check for \$100 for mailing the newsletter to me.

Charlotte Dieckhoff

*Editor's Note: Charlotte's contribution to the Gazette Printing and Mailing Fund is greatly appreciated. Charlotte is the surviving daughter of OAEA Commemorative Member Fred Ferrara who served during DF-II.*

Billy-Ace,

I really enjoyed my trip to Pensacola and visiting with you and Gus. Due to multiple delays I just got home a few minutes ago. At the airport in Pensacola, I saw a man walk by with a blue jacket and an Antarctic map on his shoulder and something that looked like the OAEA logo, so I followed the man. Does the name Bill Elwood ring a bell? He knows you and Gus and told me he was a flight controller in Antarctica. Small world.

Lynne Cox

*Editor's Note: Lynne is the author of [Swimming to Antarctica](#). She was in Pensacola doing research for a new book she is writing. She just happened on Bill Elwood who is relocating to Dennison Texas.*





Billy,

I wish to correct the dates [in the Jul-Sep 2009 Gazette] that Floyd Price was in VX-6/VXE-6; his dates were from April 1960 to May 1969. Would have said something sooner, but I had major back surgery in November, and am still laid up.

Rick Perez

*Editor's Note: Sorry for the confusion. I used the date spread that is in the Geographic Names of the Antarctic.*

Billy-Ace,

Once again, you have outdone yourself with the latest issue of the newsletter. WOW! I learn so very much about these unique topics from reading them each quarter.

I tried to listen/watch the video interviews in the Online Supplement [Oct-Dec 2009 Gazette], but I could not link to the subject.

Dr. Penguin  
(Jim Wallace)

*Editor's Note: Unfortunately the Pensacola News Journal removed the Memorial Day OAEA-GCG video interviews from their web site shortly after the On-line Supplement was posted.*

Hi Billy:

I was Attached to ASA Det B 1964-70. I am looking for anyone who wintered-over during DF=70. Specifically looking for the Antarctic verse to the Mariners Hymn. The wife of a PM-3A CPO wrote the verse and it was in the winter-over cruise book. Any help would be appreciated. Thanks

ACC Scotty Riley

*Editor's Note: This is the verse about Antarctica from the Navy Hymn:*

Creator, Father, who dost show  
Thy splendor in the ice and snow,  
Bless those who toil in summer light  
And through the cold Antarctic night,  
As they thy frozen wonders learn;  
Bless those who wait for their return.

-- L.E. Vogel, 1965

Dear Editor:

Regarding the Save the Dome story in the Oct-Dec 2009 Gazette. I was stationed at the South Pole when the Dome was being erected and still marvel that the Seabees could do it. However, I do not feel it's a symbol for the entire program, so if the choice were the Dome or a Herc....give me a Herc! Just my onion.

Jim Kelly

Hi Billy-Ace:

I listened to the OAEA-GCG interviews that you had advised us as being ready for downloading. I found all of the interviews to be interesting and exciting. We could use a bit more of the same.

I have often thought of all the adventures that took place in 1956 and I remember the nights and days when VX-6 pilots related their experiences after returning from their unique flights. All were enthusiastic about their experiences and most made their experiences more enthralling by doctoring their stories with a bit of B.S, on the side.

I have often wished that these adventures had been put down on paper so the World would have a memory of what had taken place during that unique year 1956-57.

Unfortunately all these pilots and air crewmen left us without a speck of knowledge of what had taken place during these unique flights. As you know, I put down my adventures over the Antarctic Continent as best I could remember it, but what about all those other VX-6 flights; why couldn't someone from those aircraft have put down what they thought and did.

I recall listening to those stories, which were told after the crews, returned from their long flights. Now all of that is lost.

All these stories could have been collected and then appended to the final report.

Thank you for all you have done to foster a group of Antarctic lovers.

Jim Waldron

Dear Billy:

One of my closest of friends, Mike Bruner, who was in VXE-6 from 69-71, has a radio show in New Zealand. I thought OAEA members might be interested in checking it out.

<http://www.radioferrymead.co.nz/news.html>

Thanks, Gary Skaar

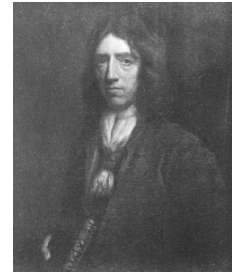


Mike Bruner Kiwi With an American Accent

# THIS QUARTER IN HISTORY

*Ghost written by Black Jack of Ballarat  
for Lionel Wafer*

From the new (in preparation) edition of John Stewart's  
*Antarctica: an Encyclopedia*, due out in 2010.



**Lionel Wafer**



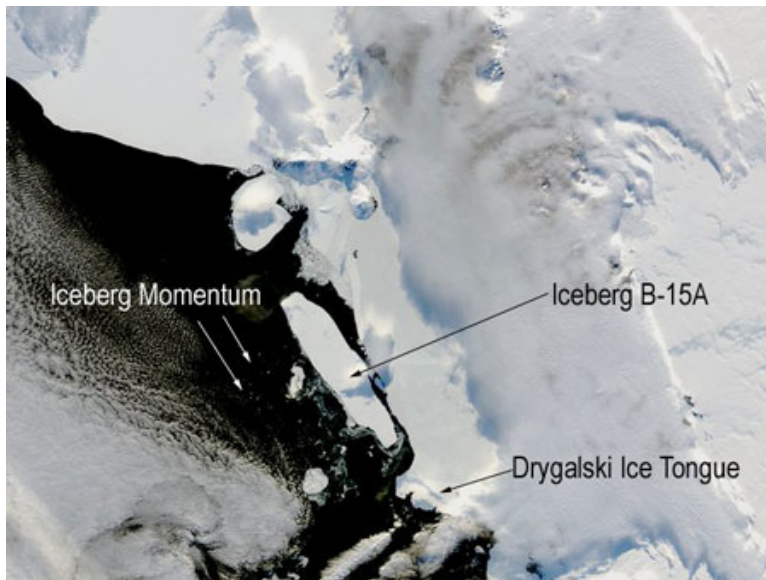
**Sir Niles Olav Inspects the Royal Norwegian Guards**

**JANUARY:** 20 January is National Penguin Awareness Day. No one knows when this Penguin lover's holiday was first observed. However, 20 January has been set-aside in honor of the humble flightless birds. On this day penguin lovers should take some time out to reflect on their favorite penguins past and present. Among them: [Nils Olav](#), a king penguin resident of the Edinburgh Zoo who's an honorary member of the Norwegian King's Guard and who received Norwegian Knighthood in 2008. The penguin has long been the mascot of the King's Guards of Norway, and in that role has risen through their ranks, starting out as a lowly lance corporal and eventually making it to colonel-in-chief. An earlier Nils Olav king penguin was first adopted by the Norwegian soldiers in 1962 and each successor has proudly worn the mantle of the regiment's mascot; Lala, the king penguin who [goes shopping for his family at a Japanese fish market](#), all the while wearing a tiny penguin-shaped backpack; and the talented cartoon penguins who [dance right along with Dick Van Dyke](#) in *Mary Poppins*. When you're done with all that reminiscing, of course you'll have to watch [March of the Penguins](#).

**FEBRUARY:** Big Balls in the Sky: On 4 February 1902 Captain Robert Falcon Scott made aviation history by being the first person to see Antarctica from the air, when he went up in *Eva*, a captive Army hydrogen balloon, to a height of 790 feet, at the Bay of Whales. Shackleton went up next, to take photos. Aboard the *Discovery* were six enormous gas tanks from which to fill *Eva*, as well as the other models of the Army's captive balloons. *Eva* was inflated with 8500 cubic feet of gas from 19 cylinders. Scott's balloon section consisted of Skelton, Shackleton, Lashly, Kennar, and Heald, and they had been trained at Aldershot, under Colonel Templar.



**Scott Being Lowered From The First Antarctic Flight**



**Big Iceberg On The Loose**

**MARCH:** On 20 March 1990 a massive iceberg broke away from the Ross Ice Shelf, from a point about 300 km E of McMurdo Station. It measured 183 miles long by 23 miles wide (an area of 4250 sq miles, or 11,000 sq km), the largest recorded iceberg of all time. The National Ice Center named it B-15, and as it cruised westward toward Ross Island, it smashed into, and removed, other chunks of the Ross Ice Shelf. To give an idea

of the dimensions (if not quite the impact) of this piece of ice, it would be like the island of Jamaica suddenly floating around the Caribbean, bumping into things. B-15 soon broke up into several smaller pieces, many of which are still afloat.

# PM-3A Nuclear Power Plant Plaque Dedication

## PM-3A HISTORY

by CECS Robert A. "Rags" Garland

Naval Nuclear Power Unit Detachment McMurdo operated and maintained the PM-3A Nuclear Power Plant and the water distillation plant. The PM-3A was designed and fabricated by Martin-Marietta of Baltimore, MD. Naval Mobile Construction Battalion Seabees accomplished PM-3A site prep and erection. The site operated for 10 years and was the first and only nuclear power plant in Antarctica. The PM-3A was the U.S. Navy's only shore-based nuclear electric plant. As McMurdo Station's primary source of electric power it operated an average of 85% of the year. The water distillation plant, normally powered by nuclear plant steam, is unique in being the world's first plant to produce fresh water from the ocean using nuclear energy.

The Navy Shore Nuclear Power Program was directed by the Naval Facilities Engineering Command, A field activity of the Command, the Naval Nuclear Power Unit at Fort Belvoir, Virginia, provided primary support and technical direction to its McMurdo Detachment.

The Detachment's winter-over crew normally consisted of two Navy Civil Engineer Corps Officers and 22 enlisted men. The enlisted crews consisted of Seabees, Hospital Corpsmen, and Army and Air Force enlisted members. All crewmembers were graduates of the Army Nuclear Power Program at Fort Belvoir, Virginia.

The Antarctic Detachment also provided support for a 10-watt radioisotopic powered device, the SNAP-7C that powered a portable automatic weather station.



Commemorative Plaque on Surrogate Rock

## THE DEDICATION

Compiled by Capt Chuck Fegley

The dedication ceremony for the PM-3A Nuclear Power Plant Commemorative Plaque occurred at 1830, Tuesday, 19 January 2010 at McMurdo Station, Antarctica. The PM-3A plaque arrived at McMurdo Station just hours before the planned dedication ceremony and was unveiled at a ceremony with attendees including the Director of Polar Programs, Dr Karl Erb, shown here speaking, the National Science Foundation Director, an Undersecretary and Deputy Secretary of Energy and the Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution. A complete list of all official attendees is available on request. It's most impressive, to say the least.



PM-31 Commemorative Plaque Dedication Ceremony in front of NSF Chalet

The surrogate rock picked out for the ceremony was clearly too small, but a larger, more appropriate one, is shown in the later photo. The plaque will be attached to the selected rock in the McMurdo Station carpenter shop this winter. Final installation at the site of the former PM-3A nuclear power plant on the side of Observation Hill won't take place until next October or November as the final site clean up was not quite complete this Austral Summer. This site location on Observation Hill also serves as the principle viewpoint for McMurdo, Hut Point, and McMurdo Sound.

There were many people who contributed to the success of this project, but three deserve very special recognition and the deepest appreciation of those who gave a part of their lives in support of the PM-3A: Phil Smith, former Director of Polar Programs, NSF, who conceived the idea, knew all the buttons to push to get necessary approvals, located the foundry, coordinated fabrication, and ensured that its shipment was in accordance with NSF and New Zealand standards, thereby avoiding critical delays. Dr Karl Erb who believed in and approved our project and then conducted the dedication ceremony. George Blaisdell, US Antarctic Program Operations Manager, NSF Representative, who in addition to his enormous responsibilities during the peak

Antarctic summer support season, helped us through the NSF approval process, provided the specifications for shipping the plaque, shepherded it from New Zealand to McMurdo, located the display rock, organized the very successful dedication ceremony, and will see to the plaque's final installation on Observation Hill. Thank you all.

I have been very proud to be a part of this significant commemorative event for what was once the Navy's Shore Nuclear Power Program and the Army's Nuclear Power Program. These programs were once in the business of developing compact, portable nuclear power plants. It's my belief that they may have been about 25 years too early considering the energy needs of the US Antarctic Program of today. One thing is certain; these programs of the past produced some of the finest, dedicated, senior technicians and engineers of any program of the period under the Department of Defense.

*Editor's Note: Rags Garland wintered-over at PM-3A during DF-64 and DF-69. He was in PM-3A summer support during DF-66. Chuck Fegley was the PM-3A winter-over OIC during DF-64. Phil Smith and George Blaisdell contributed to the Plaque Dedication article.*

## OAEA Southwest Group Meeting

*By Jim Maddox*

The OAEA Southwest Group held its first of three 2010 lunch/get-together on 23 January in San Diego. Val Johnston made arrangements for us to meet at Sammy's Wood Fired Pizza Liberty Station, located in the old Naval Training area. We enjoyed a good selection of menu items

for lunch. Everyone used the time to meet new attendees, old friends, and remember the time we all spent in Antarctica and Christchurch.

The next OAEA Southwest lunch/get together will be in the Los Angeles area on 22 May 2010. Cy Buehler has made arrangements to have the lunch at Lucille's BBQ in Lake forest, CA.

Members, family and guest in attendance were Bob and Linda Gaboury, Jack Kane, John Barnes, Choyce and Maureen Prewitt, Jim and Ruth Eblen, Ron and Judie Palinkas, Dick Masters, Gus Hermes, George and Gladys Purcell, Valerie Johnston and Jim Maddox.

If any OAEA members would like to attend the next lunch/get-together in Los Angeles, CA. Please contact Jim Maddox at 661-945-0469 or: [jmadflynav@aol.com](mailto:jmadflynav@aol.com).

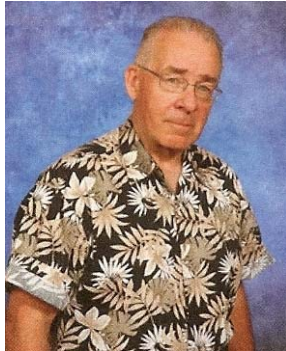


## Tidewater December Get-Together

by Ed Hamblin

In the Tidewater area, some of the local OAEs met for their quarterly social gathering on 20 March. Several new faces were welcomed. Ed Horton and wife, Janice, rode their motorcycles down from the Richmond area braving the cell phone talkers on the interstate. Ed wintered at Plateau Station as part of the plank owner crew. He brought pictures of Plateau, then and now. Ed was in touch with members of the Norwegian party that recently revisited the Plateau site, and was able to go down into the station. All that can be seen from the surface in the pictures was the top of the tallest structure on the base. Another couple that came was Frank Ferantelli and his wife, Susanne. Frank and Susanne met on the ice, while both were on active duty.

Frank was a winter-over party Damage Controlman, assigned the firehouse at McMurdo, and Susanne was a



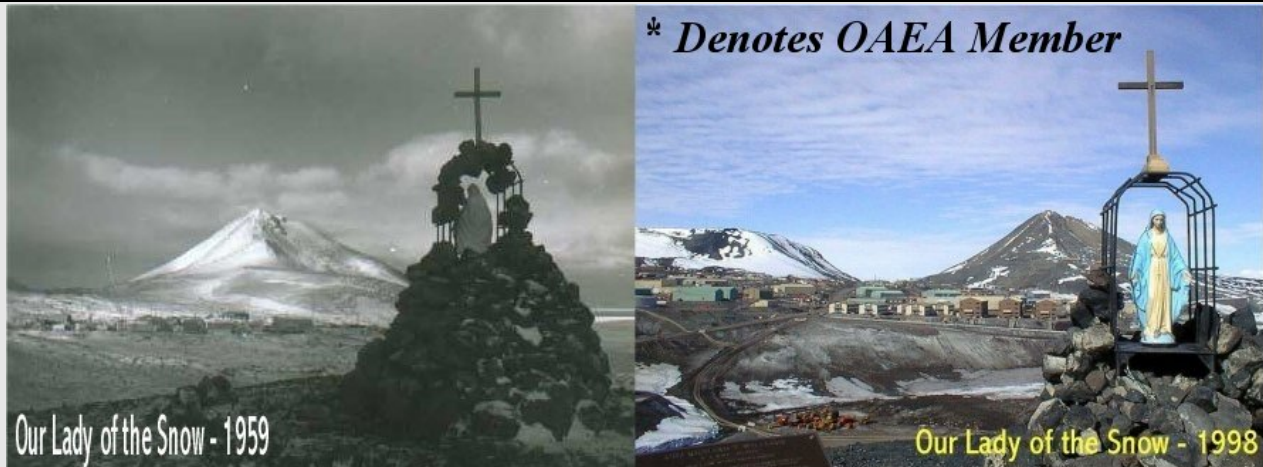
Navy Religious Programs Specialist. They had the distinction of having two marriages, one at McMurdo, and one at Christchurch. Frank is still on active duty as a Senior Chief Petty Officer on the Commander, Naval Surface Forces staff in Norfolk, and as chance would have it, works in the same ComNavSurfLant building as OAE Ed Hamblin; the two work about 30 yards apart. The good Mrs. Ferantelli is actually RPC, USN (Ret). Pete Parker also came. Pete "soloed" in from Portsmouth. He is also married to an OAE who couldn't make it as she works for Military Sealift Command and was at sea. Pete and Senior Chief Frank Ferantelli wintered-over together at the Fire House around 1993/94 timeframe when Pete was the fire chief.

Our next hook-up will be 12 June same place, Norfolk House Of Eggs at 3PM. One of the nice changes is that with Virginia going "smoke free" in restaurants, we have a very nice area in which to meet. Picture is courtesy of Herb Shaefer, who bailed Ed Hamblin out when Ed somehow walked out of the house without his camera. Thanks Herb!!

If you want to be added to the Tidewater, Virginia e-mail "tree" for the reminder, let Ed know at [ehamblin@cox.net](mailto:ehamblin@cox.net); Ed's phone number is 757-405-3362.



**Seated (L to R)-Billy Raymus, Bill Murray, and Pete Parker. Standing (L to R), Ed Horton, Janice Horton, Ed Hamblin, Marty Nemcosky, Herb Shaefer, Ron Rooks, Manny Perry, Jim Silverstorf, Brad Miller, Susanne Ferantelli, and Frank Ferantelli.**



## IN MEMORY

Fred G. Alberts, 88, died on 3 March 2010, in Bethesda, MD. Fred was the editor/compiler of the 1880 edition of *Geographic Names of the Antarctic*. Mount Alberts is named in his honor.

OAE William "Bill" Becker, 93, died on 27 January 2010, in Santa Monica Canyon, CA. Bill was a New York Times reporter and a member of the Antarctic Press Club during the IGY (DF-II and III).

OAE ACC Kurt Carl Benson, USN (Ret), 61, died on 24 December 2009, in Portland, ME. Kurt served in NSFA summer support during DF-75 and 76 at McMurdo and South Pole.

OAE Ira "Ike" DeLos Blackburn, 83, died on 8 February 2010, in Salt Lake City, UT. Ike served during Highjump.

OAE CWO John Elmer Brazil, USA (Ret), 84, died on 13 March 2010, in Bethany, OK. John was a helo pilot in the US Army Aviation Det during DF-62. Mount Brazil is named in his honor.

OAE William H. Broome, 81, died on 28 January 2010, in Memphis, TN. Bill served during Highjump.

Wilbur "Bill" A. Carrington, 84, died on 24 December 2009, in Grand Rapids, MI. Bill was an amateur radio operator, call sign W8YCI, who ran AMRAD and MARS phone patch traffic for members of Deep Freeze.

OAE E-7 Everett "Bud" Chance Jr., USA (NG) (Ret), 71, died on 15 January 2010, in Woodward, OK. Bud served on the USS *Staten Island* during DF-65.

\*OAE Dr Fauno Cordes, PhD, 82, died on 25 December 2009, in San Francisco, CA. Fauno visited Antarctica as a tourist in 1978. Fauno was the first OAEA Associate Member to become a Regular Member. She created and maintained an extensive, annotated bibliography of Antarctic fiction. This bibliography, known as *Tekeli-li*, is recognized worldwide as an authoritative source and has been cited by numerous bibliographers.

OAE Lawrence E. "Larry" DeMarco, 82, died on 12 February 2010, in Monmouth Beach, NJ. Larry served during Highjump.

OAE TMC Dominik Frank Domoradzki, USN (Ret), 91, died on 7 January 2010, in Seattle, WA. Ski served on the USS *Brownson* during Highjump.

\*OAE Joel W. Drabkin, 80, died on 21 January 2010, in Massapequa, NY. Joel served in VX-6 as the Flight Surgeon during DF-III and IV.

OAE Thomas E. Duffy, 71, died on 29 January 2010, in Lebanon, NH. Tom served in Deep Freeze in the early 60s with the USN. Unit and year(s) unknown.

OAE William C. Elder, 89, died on 20 December 2009, in Bernalillo, NM. Bill was a USGS topographic engineer and was a member of the 1500 mile Topo-South Traverse during DF-62. Mount Elder is named in his honor.

OAE Orwin Orval Evenson, 71, died on 20 February 2010, in Hayden, ID. Orwin served on the USS *Staten Island* during DF-II.

\*OAE Richard Michael "Dick" Everett, 64, died on 15 March 2010, in Stevensville, MT. Dick wintered-over at McMurdo during DF-71. He was a frequent donor to the OAEA and was a founding member of the OAEA Communicator Group Fund.

OAE Carlos Garcia Figueroa, 52, died in March 2004, in Tucson, AZ. Carlos served in MCB-71 as a UTCN during DF-72.

OAE RM1 Delbert L. Foster, USN (Ret), 70, died on 5 October 2009, in Grand Junction, CO. Del served in ASA summer support during DF-67.

OAE Roy S. Gates Jr., 83, died 21 February 2010, in Springfield, OH. Roy served during Highjump. Unit unknown.

OAE LCDR John David Girard, USCG (Ret), 66, died on 17 March 2010, in Monticello, IN. Unit and year(s) unknown.

OAE CDR George White Gregory, Jr., USN (Ret), 86, died on 1 March 2010, in New London, CT. George was involved with the construction of NNPU during DF-61.

\*OAE LCDR Neil "Red" Hagerty, USN (Ret), 84, died on 5 December 2009, in Escondido, CA. Neil wintered-over at McMurdo during DF-60 with the VX-6 Detachment. He was scheduled to winter during DF-IV as a PH1, but he was promoted to ensign and was dropped from the winter-over party.

Arthur J. Hodgen, 94, died on 6 January 2010, in Nashua, MA. Arthur was the owner of Sno-Pak kennels. He raised Alaskan Malamutes for 60 years. In 1957 he sold dogs to the Navy for use in Antarctica.

\*OAE CWO James Daniel "Jim" Johnson, USN (Ret), 70, died on 1 February 2010, in S. Padre Island, TX. Jim served in VXE-6 from 1971-73.

OAE Joseph J. Kelly, Sr., 64, died on 30 January 2010, in Manahawkin, NJ. Unit and year(s) served unknown.

\*OAE CAPT George W. Kittredge, 91, USN (Ret), died on 23 February 2010, in South Thomaston, ME. George served as a navigator during Highjump.

OAE 1st Sgt. Nicholas A. Kramer, USMC (Ret.), 86, died on 15 March 2010, in Lexington, MD. Nicholas was a member of DF-I.

OAE Andrew E. Lange, 52, died on 27 January 2010, in an apparent suicide, at Caltech, CA. Andrew was the co-leader of Project Boomerang, which in 1998 used a telescope, carried over Antarctica by a balloon for 10 and a half days.

OAE Phillip Garth Law, 97, died on 2 March 2010, in Melbourne, Australia. Phillip was head of the Australian National Antarctic Research Expedition (ANARE) for many years. He made 23 trips to Antarctic as a member of ANARE. His first trip was in 1954 and his last trip was in 1998. Law Dome, Law Plateau, and Law Promontory are named in his honor.

OAE [Col. Herbert T. Levack](#), USAF (Ret) 93, died on, 25 January 2010, in West Hartford, CT. Herb served as the USAF, 52nd Troop Carrier Squadron, (63rd Wing) Operations Officer, and a C-124 pilot, during DF-I and II. He was a member of the ADFA. Mount Levack is named in his honor.

OAE MSGT Richard G. "Seahook" Marinelli, USA (NG) (Ret), 70, died on 18 December 2009, in Erie, PA. Richard served on the USNS *Eltanin* during DF-70 as an electronics technician.

OAE Thomas J. McGuire, 74, died on 8 February 2010, in Deer Isle, ME. Thomas served on the USARP research ship the RV *Hero* as an oiler during DF-68 on the Hero's first deployment to Palmer Station. McGuire Island is named in his honor.

OAE Edgar J. Melanson, Jr., 79, died on 26 February 2010, in Merrimack, NH. Ed served on CTF-43 Staff during DF-III as a LTJG.

\*OAE CDR Joseph Morgan, USN (Ret), 80, died on 9 March 2008, in Honolulu, HI. Joseph was the hydrographic officer on CTF-43 staff during DF-61. Morgan Inlet is named in his honor.

OAE ICCS Charles Edward Moss Sr., USN (Ret), 79, died on 7 February 2010, in Rock Hill, SC. Charles served on two icebreakers. Name of ships and years deployed to Antarctica unknown.

OAE ACCM Edward Joseph Mulligan, USN (Ret), 82, died on 15 November 2009, in Duval, FL. Edward made two deployments to Antarctica. Unit and year(s) unknown.

OAE Craig Nickerson, died on 27 December 2009, in New Zealand. Craig wintered-over at Scott Base during DF-75.

\*OAE EOC Don Olsen, USN (Ret), 76, died on 8 December 2009, in Maricopa, AZ. Don wintered over during DF-62 and DF-65 as an EO2 and EO1.

OAE CAPT Walter David Opfer, USN (Ret.), died on 24 January 2010, in San Diego, CA. Walter served as the NSFA Medical Officer during DF-97.

\*OAE ETCA William D. O'Quin, USN (Ret), died on 6 January 2004, in Sussex, DE. Bill wintered at South Pole Station during DF-60.

\*OAE UTCM Herbert "Herb" William Pollock, 78, USN (Ret), died on 25 February 2008, in Seneca, SC. Herb wintered-over at PM-3A with Crew I (DF-62), Crew VI (DF-67), and Crew X (DF-71). He also served with PM-3A during summer support on Crew III (DF-64) and Crew IV (DF-65). Mount Pollock is named in his honor. Herb was the author of *None Shall Forget*. A novel in name only of the history of PM-3A

\*OAE QMC Willard B. Potter, USN (Ret), 83, died on 12 January 2010, in Newport, RI. Bill served on the USS *Arneb* during DF-I.

OAE Leonard "Pinky" E. Quigley, 89, died on 16 January 2010, in Bushnell, FL. Pinky served on the USS *Sennet* during Highjump.

\*OAE LCDR Donald J. Renz, USN (Ret), 80, died on 14 September 2009, in Coronado, CA. As a LTJG Don served on the USS *Arneb* as the Gunnery Officer during DF-I.

\*[OAE Karl Sackman](#), 68, died on 30 March 2010, in Coeur d'Alene, ID. "Kool Karl" served in VX-6 as an RM2 during DF-64.

OAE Allen James Sander, 69, died on 6 January 2010, in Chicago, IL. Allen served with MCB-6 at McMurdo during DF-65.

OAE Ralph Walter Savory, 91, died on 18 January 2010, in Santa Rosa, CA. Captain Savory was a member of the crew on the PANAM Boeing Stratocruiser that landed at McMurdo on 15 October 1957.

OAE John Simons PhD, 75, died on 28 January 2010, in Tallahassee, FL. John served on an Antarctic oceanographic expedition in 1977.

OAE LTCOL Wilson Sanford Smart, USAF (Ret), 93, died on 27 December 2009, in Tebbetts, MO. Wilson served as a USAF pilot during DF-I.

OAE Robert Donald Sonney, 85, died on 4 January 2010, in Johnson City, TN. Robert served during Highjump. Unit unknown.

\*OAE Virginia Speed, 88, died on 24 January 2010, in Pensacola, FL. Virginia was the widow of VX-6 pilot LCDR Harvey G. Speed who served at Little America Station during DF-II & III.

\*OAE ABHC Charles James Swinney, USN (Ret), 65, died on 16 February 2010, in Pataskala, OH. Charlie served in VX/VXE-6 from 1963-69, and 1973-79 as an LC-130 Loadmaster.

OAE Benjamin W. Taylor, USN (Ret), 81, died on 2 March 2010, in Houston, TX. Benjamin served in VX-6. He made 50 landings at South Pole Station and was on the first ever fly-in from Australia in 1965.

OAE Raymond E. Trone, 84, died on 28 January 2010, in Gladstone, OR. Raymond served in the USN during Highjump.

\*OAE ADRC Albert Vicari, USN (Ret), 85, died on 2 December 2009, in Pensacola, FL. Al served in VX-6 from DF 60-62.

OAE COL Ralph L. Warren, USAF ANG (Ret), 55, died on 2 December 2009, in Gallup, NM. Doctor Warren was a Flight Surgeon with the NYANG and made several deployments to McMurdo.

OAE Bernard D. Weiss, died on 27 January 2010, in Fort Lauderdale, FL. Bernard served as the chief meteorologist at Byrd Station during DF-IV. Weiss Amphitheater in Marie Byrd Land is named in his honor.

\*OAE Lenvil "Jim" West, 81, died on 7 January 2010, in Summerville, FL. Jim served on the USS *Yancey* during Highjump.



## CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Denis Casey—OAEA Chaplain

There is a lovely prayer attributed to fishermen off the coast of France.

It simply says, "O God, your sea is so great and my boat is so small".

The prayer is short and simple and yet says so much

There are even some people who claim that it is not a prayer at all.

Yet, in this short sentence, we have the groundwork and basis for all our prayers.



*Editor's Note: The author of this simple prayer is unknown, but this line is part of a traditional prayer called the Breton Fisherman's Prayer. It originated among the fisherman of Brittany and has been widely used among the scouting organizations. President J.F. Kennedy had a plaque on his desk inscribed with this prayer.*



## The Dome Is Home

*Compiled by Billy-Ace Baker*

After so many years of service to science in the harshest place on Earth, the iconic South Pole Station Dome has been returned to southern California where it will be held in storage. The top sections of the dome have been specially preserved so that they can be re-assembled for a possible exhibit in the new U.S. Navy Seabee museum.

The whole dome is off continent except for one panel that the South Pole crew moved into the new station. Everyone present during the deconstruction project signed the aluminum panel, inking their names into South Pole history.



Cartoon Courtesy of Matt Davidson

## NEW OAEA MEMBERS

The below listed personnel have joined the OAEA since the last issue of the *Gazette*.

Thanks to Chuck Fegley, Jim Heffel, Nick's List, USS *Nespelen* Association, Tony Herman, Bruce DeWald, Black Jack Stewart, PK Panehal, Nicole Heinz, Big John "Pig Pen" Henry, and OAEA Guestbook, for recruiting new members or for providing names and contact info for prospective members. If you know of any OAE, or anyone interested in Antarctica, who is not a member of the OAEA please send their contact info to the OAEA Membership Chairman at [upizauf@aol.com](mailto:upizauf@aol.com), 850 456 3556 or 10819 Berryhill Road Pensacola FL 32506.

\*Denotes Associate Member

Barker, Ted Civ	Life	PM-3A 60-64
Brougham, Gary Civ	Life	WO South Pole 70-72
Cypher, Trish Civ	*Annual	Armchair Explorers
Cypher, Bob Civ	*Annual	Planning a trip South
Ertenberg, Helen NOK	Life	Widow of Homer USASE USS <i>Bear</i>
Farrell, Nancy Civ	Life	USAP 91-10
Fernald, Joseph CDR	Life	CTF-43 Staff Logistics DF-I
Frontz, LeRoy LCDR	Life	VX/VXE-6 65-67/ 72-75
Griffith, Earl AG2	Life	ASA McMurdo/Hallett 70-73
Horton, Ed ET3	Annual	WO Plateau DF-66
Kearney, Peter SKSN	Life	WO McMurdo DF-71
Koen, Gary SH2	Life	NSFA 75-79
LaCava, Louis SFP2	Life	WO Byrd DF-63
Lacey, James LT	Life	VX-6 64-66
Lane, David BT3	Life	WO McMurdo DF-68
Mason, Jerry ABH3	Annual	NSFA 83-86
Morgan, Joseph CDR	Commem	CTF-43 Staff Hydro- graphic Officer DF-61
Morgan, Sally CIV	Life	Widow of Joseph
Morgan, Terri Civ	Annual	Daughter of Joseph
Morgan, Jon Civ	Annual	Son of Joseph
Morgan, Nina Civ	Annual	Daughter of Joseph
Moyer, David CAPT	Life	VXE-6 75-78
Panehal, PJ AS2	Annual	VXE-6 83-87
Parker, Pete Civ	Life	ASA Contract DF-91 Through DF-99
Shepard, Danny CEP2	Annual	WO South Pole DF-66
Silberman, Ed GSGT	Life	VX-6 Navigator DF-III
Silberman-Green Civ	*Annual	Daughter of Ed
Smith, Steve PC3	Life	NSFA 74-76
Tickhill-Terrell, Terry Civ	Life	USARP DF-70 Dry Valleys
Trimpi, Michael Civ	Life	WO Eights DF-63, Byrd DF-65, Palmer DF-83. Summers DF-67, 71 & 93
Zegarelli, Philip LT	Life	NSFA 70-72

## REUNION & MEETING INFORMATION

Send reunion information to Billy-Ace Baker at 850 456 3556 or [upizauf@aol.com](mailto:upizauf@aol.com) for publication in the *Gazette*

**MCB-1:** Hampton, VA. 26-28 Feb 2010. POC Peter Dowd, 781 837 0393, [nmcblreunion@verizon.net](mailto:nmcblreunion@verizon.net). MCB-1 served during DF-II, IV, and 62.

**All Coast Guard:** Icebreaker Muster Nashville, TN, 12-16 May 2010. POC Louis LaRiccina, 623 434 6805, or [icebreakermuster@yahoo.com](mailto:icebreakermuster@yahoo.com). The reunion web site is located at: <http://www.icebreakermuster.net>,

**USS *Thomas J. Gary*** (DE/DER-326): Pigeon Forge, TN, 5-8 Aug 2010. POC Ronald Day, 315 528 0641, [rsday13654@yahoo.com](mailto:rsday13654@yahoo.com). USS *Thomas J. Gary* served during DF-66 and 67.

**USS *Wyandot*** (AKA-92): Philadelphia, PA, 11-16 September 2010. POC Dolores Conroy, 660 Willow Valley Square #M310, Lancaster PA 17602, 717 464 6719, [dconroy85@yahoo.com](mailto:dconroy85@yahoo.com). USS *Wyandot* served during DF-I, thru DF-IV and DF-64, thru DF-72

**USS *Wilhoite*** (DE/DER-397): Russellville, AR, 15-16 September 2010. POC Elisabeth Rider 479 968 6659, [canerday@suddenlink.net](mailto:canerday@suddenlink.net). USS *Wilhoite* served during DF-61.

**USS *Curtiss*** (AV-4): Tucson, AZ, 15-18 September 2010. POC Bruce Snider, [bruceusscurtissav4@agv.rr.com](mailto:bruceusscurtissav4@agv.rr.com). 956 423 3314. USS *Curtiss* served during DF-II.

**USCGC *Southwind*** (WAGB-280): Baltimore, MD, 23-26 Sep 2010. POC Ed Clancy, 904 242 9070, [clancyedward@bellsouth.net](mailto:clancyedward@bellsouth.net). USCGC *Southwind* served during DF-68, 69, and 72

**USS *Currituck*** (AV-7): San Francisco, CA, 29 Sep-3 October 2010. POC Gary Adams, [ad24history@att.net](mailto:ad24history@att.net), [www.ussscurrituck.org](http://www.ussscurrituck.org). USS *Currituck* served during Highjump.

**USS/USCGC *Edisto*** (AGB-2/WAGB-284): Warwick, RI, 17-20 October 2010. POC Glenn Smith, PO Box 747 Mims, FL 32754-0747, 321 269 5637, or by email at: [gdsmith@cfl.rr.com](mailto:gdsmith@cfl.rr.com). *Edisto* served during Windmill, Deep Freeze I, IV, 61, 63, 65, & 70,

**OAEA.** San Antonio, TX, 3-5 Nov 2010. POC John Lamont West, [oaea2010reunion@hotmail.com](mailto:oaea2010reunion@hotmail.com), 956 568 3737, 2024 Quail Creek Drive, Apt 507, Laredo, TX 78045-8259.

**ADFA.** Gettysburg, PA, 21-23 Jun 2011. POC Jerry "Mac" McKee, 610 857 9567, 331 Gum Tree Road, Coatesville, PA, [mac19552@verizon.net](mailto:mac19552@verizon.net).



## OAE LOCATOR

Send locator information to the editor by email at [upizauf@aol.com](mailto:upizauf@aol.com), or by snail mail to 10819 Berryhill Road, Pensacola FL 32506, or by phone at 850 456 3556.

- D. Conroy is looking for any and all crewmembers of USS *Wyandot* (AKA-92) for a book that is being compiled about the history of the *Wyandot* and her crews. The history will include stories by crewmembers about their memories and experiences. Contact D. Conroy, at: Willow Valley Square, M310, Lancaster PA 17602, 717 464 6719, [dolores.conroy@yahoo.com](mailto:dolores.conroy@yahoo.com)

- Kim Stephen is looking for anyone who knew her Dad Ron Stephen. Ron was a USARP USWB weather guesser who wintered at South Pole Station during DF-66. Kim is currently a member of the NZAP. She can be reached at: [kim@hideaways.co.nz](mailto:kim@hideaways.co.nz), or [kms32@student.canterbury.ac.nz](mailto:kms32@student.canterbury.ac.nz). No other contact info available.

- Stacy Canada Jordan is looking for anyone who knew her uncle Robert C. Newcomb. Robert was the Navigator on the USS *Glacier* during DF-I and II. Stacy can be reached at: [gracescj@msn.com](mailto:gracescj@msn.com), or 478 757 8194, 172 Rivoli Landing, Macon, GA 31210-0632.

- Terri and Nina Morgan are looking for anyone who served with their father, CDR Joseph Morgan. Joseph was on CTF-43 Staff during DF-60. Terri can be contacted at: [soquelterri@yahoo.com](mailto:soquelterri@yahoo.com), 2702-B Lafayette Street, Soquel, CA 95073. Nina's contact info is: [ninamorgan@lineone.net](mailto:ninamorgan@lineone.net), Rose Cottage, East End, Chadlington, Oxon OX7 3LX, UK.



CDR Joseph Morgan. DF-60 Staff Hydrographic Officer

- Joe Johnson is looking for Scots who served on the ice. Joe can be reached at: 4 O'Dowd Street, GARRAN ACT 2605 Australia, [antarcticscots@gmail.com](mailto:antarcticscots@gmail.com).

- Paul McBride is looking for anyone who knew his Dad Frances E. McBride, who served aboard the USS *Staten Island* as a helo pilot in HU-1 during DF-II. Paul can be reached at: [pngmcb@netscape.net](mailto:pngmcb@netscape.net), 8 Shady Creek Lane Bridgeport TX 76426.

- Glen Harris is trying to locate VXE-6 personnel Bill (William) Brown who was a CS2 in 1970, 71, 72 and BM2 Danny Gaines, 1970, 71. Glen can be contacted at: [glen60@cox.net](mailto:glen60@cox.net), 8136 Imperial Drive Pensacola, FL 32506, 850-455-4101.

## GLOSSARY OF SNOW AND ICE

Compiled and edited by Billy-Ace Baker



**Depth of Snow** — The vertical distance between the surface of a snow layer and the ground or ice beneath. Spanish equivalent: *Espesor de la Nieve*.

**Glacier Pot-Hole** — A deep and more or less vertical hole in a glacier. Glacier pot-holes drain away surface water. French equivalent: *Moulin, Entonnoir*.

**Ice Front** — The vertical cliff forming the seaward face of an ice shelf or other floating glacier, varying in height from two to fifty meters above sea level. German equivalent: *Eisfront, Schelfeisfrand*.

**Ice Shelf** — A floating ice sheet of considerable thickness attached to a coast. Ice shelves are usually of great horizontal extent and have a level or gently undulating surface. Limited areas may be aground. The seaward edge is termed an Ice Front.. French equivalent: *Plateforme de Glace*.

**Ridge** — A ridge or wall of broken floating ice forced up by pressure. May be fresh or weathered. Danish equivalent: *Skrueeisvold*.

## Gulf Coast Group Chapter Happenings

by Billy-Ace Penguin Baker

When I left home around 10:30, the ambient temperature for the first OAEA-GCG Chapter meeting of 2010 on 09 January was 24 degrees F. It was also windy and on the way to the Shrimp Basket one of the gusts nearly blew me off the highway. In spite of the cold and the wind, 38 members, guests, and visitors showed up.

Jackie Drewett of Pensacola Beach, Florida was a first time visitor. Jackie is interested in taking a tourist voyage to Antarctica and as it turned out, Jody Livesay, who just returned from an Antarctic cruise was present and was our unscheduled speaker. Jody passed around some photos she took of her voyage and the crew of the Russian Icebreaker, the MV *Lyubov Orlova*. Jody told several humorous stories of her Antarctic Experience which everyone seemed to enjoy. In addition, Jody passed around a sheet of specifications for the Russian ship. I found it interesting that the 34-year-old icebreaker was one of six in the same class built that was named for Russian actresses. Hopefully, Jackie was able to get some good tips from Jody that will influence her Antarctic tour plans.



Entrepreneurs Brian Hoffmaster and Jim Landy were selling VXE-6 memorabilia. Brian had a box of VXE-6 challenge coins and Jim was offering Hercules patches with crew chevrons. The only requirements was that each vendor donate an item to the GCG. Brian donated one of the coins that will be used as a door prize at the February meeting and Jim donated a set of the patches that will be sewn on the GCG chapter flag.



LC-130 Hercules Patches



OAEA GCG President Duck Talbert and Guest Speaker Jody Livesay

First time guests were Mary Lou Krewson daughter of Life Member Mary Lou Platt and Life Member Walter Smith's daughter Stephanie.



VXE-6 Challenge Coins

Karen Nightengale donated a three-piece penguin set from the Boyds collectibles line. The set consisted of a Coca Cola pin, a gift bag, and a stuffed toy penguin holding a bottle under one of his



flippers. The bottle under the flipper was reminiscent of Puckered Pete, but it was probably Coke and not Old Methusela.

Karen must have been in a giving mood because she presented me with a small (5 inch tall) ceramic penguin that she had made for me. Instead of a beak the little penguin had

a button. Karen said that she broke the beak and replaced it with the button. Karen's gift will make a great addition to my ever-growing penguin collection.



**Bill Fazio (VX-6 66-69) 50/50 Raffle Winner**

Following Jody's informal presentation, the drawings for the door prize and the 50/50 raffle were held. Don Emmons, Operation Highjump, won the three-piece penguin set and Bill Fazio took home \$63 as his share of the 50/50 raffle.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned. Thanks to Sean Baker for distributing the door prize tickets and for selling the 50/50 tickets. Also, thanks to Karen Nightengale and Pam Landy for helping Sean with the tickets. Thanks to Bill Statler for renewing his OAEA Membershi for life. Thanks to Lennie for providing candid photos of the meeting, and finally thanks to our waitresses Malinda and Lisa for providing us with outstanding service.



**Sean Baker passing out the last of the door-prize tickets to the meeting stragglers**



**It's a Wrap.**

**OAEA-GCG Meeting Saturday 13 Feb 2010—**

On Friday the entire Florida Panhandle was closed down due to a threatening snow storm. The Escambia Emergency Management Command Center was manned. Bridges and overpasses were being coated with a layer of sand. Public schools and Federal facilities were closed down. You would have thought that a Category Five hurricane with snow and whiteout conditions was about to strike. As it turned out, it was a lot of rain and cold temps. For most people, it was much ado about nothing, but parents, who had got the day off, took their children a few miles north to play in the snow.

By Saturday morning, the threatening Winter Storm was out of the area. It was bright and sunny with the temperature around 50 degrees F when I packed up my car and headed for the Shrimp Basket.

Thirty-three members and guests turned up for the meeting. First time attendees, James and Joyce Phillips, drove in from Georgia. James was and HM1 (PJ) in VX-6 during DF-66 and 67. Also attending was Chloe Boone, guest of Karen Nightengale. Karen told me that Chloe's son and daughter-in-law both served in Antarctica. I asked Chloe for their address so I could send them an OAEA Information Package. Chloe has been brushing up on her Antarctic history and she surprised me with things that she remembered from several of the books she had recently read. Other out-of-towners were Life Associate Members Kerry and Rob Konrad visiting from Millington Tennessee.



**James and Joyce Phillips Enjoy Lunch**

Virginia Jeffrey was tentatively scheduled to give us a little talk on her Oral History project, but she showed up after 1300 and by then some of the attendees had departed. She did provide me and several other OAEs, who she had interviewed for her term paper, with large matted photographs of ourselves. She also asked us to sign model release forms.



**Kerry and Rob Konrad Visiting From Millington**

Laura Snow and I discussed her forthcoming presentation of the BAE III (USASE 1939-41). At this point, she is contemplating putting her material on the USS *Bear* into a PowerPoint Presentation for the April GCG meeting.



**Bernice and Gary Forney (VX-6 55-57)**

Roger Talbert, OAEA-GCG President, made a few announcements and showed us a photograph that he had downloaded from the Internet, of Gus Shinn and Ed Hillary at Marble Point. Gus denied that the short guy in the photo was he because he never had any boots like the guy in the photo was wearing. Les Liptak also said that it was not Gus because Gus had never been to Marble Point. If anyone can identify the individual in the photo, please contact the *Explorer's Gazette* editor.



**Gus Shinn and Who, or Ed Hillary and Who?**

As soon as the official business was out of the way, we had the 50/50 drawing. Al Rogers held the winning ticket and pocketed \$50 as his share of the proceeds. The door prize drawing, consisting of a VXE-65 Challenge Coin and a 2000 Antarctic Press Clippings book, was won by Kerry Konrad. Thanks to Brian Hoffmaster for donating the VXE-6 coin and to Darryn Schneider, Project Ice Cube, for donating the Antarctic Press Clippings book.

Thanks to Glen Harris for selling the 50/50 raffle tickets, Pam Landy for distributing the door prize tickets and conducting the drawings and last, but not least, thanks to Lennie Bourgeois for taking the photos for this article and thanks to Helen for letting Lennie use her camera.



**Lennie and Helen Bourgeois**



**Al Rogers Checking His 50/50 Raffle Ticket**

## WASA RADIO

*By LCDR Bob Flint, USN (Ret)  
ASA "Det A" Deep Freeze 72*

In 1971, I had the privilege of being deployed to the Antarctic for one year and three days. The following are excerpts from my diary in regards to my involvement with the WASA radio station at McMurdo.



**Bob Flint On Air at WASA**

During the winter-over period of DF-71 the radio station, WASA, providing news and entertainment to the crew, utilized an AM transmitter for broadcasting.

During the DF-72 austral summer, the transmitter became inoperable. A replacement FM transmitter was en route from the

States but would not arrive till after Thanksgiving.

To help with crew morale, the electronics technicians on base utilized a mobile FM radio to create an "underground" transmitter, broadcasting taped music on the FM band, and gave the station the call sign of MUGR (McMurdo Under

Ground Radio). This had limited operation because the transmitter utilized was not designed for continuous broadcasting and tripped off the line numerous times. On 30 November, Capt Van Reeth (summer Commanding Officer), directed the radio be shut down. We tried broadcasting on another frequency for two more days with call sign WRFM (Radio Free McMurdo) but due to transmitter limitations we ceased that effort on 4 December 1971.

Knowing that a new FM transmitter was en route to the site, a group of us (Bob Flint, Walter Harris, Mike Provot

and Kieth Miller set out to build a "professional" studio in Bldg 64. With some technical guidance from JO3 Thom Wilborn, construction of the studio was started on 4 Dec. We installed a wall with a plexiglas window so visitors could see the operation. A cue board was



**Station Manager Thom Wilborn, broadcasting from WASA**

manufactured, dual turn-tables installed, and an equipment rack assembled which provided technical flexibility allowing interface with the McMurdo Station phone system, as well as HF shortwave radio.

The FM transmitter was received in early December and installed at the Transmitter Site. The 100 watt FM transmitter went on the air at midnight on 13 December 1971. All the electronics for the studio was completed on 16 December.

Thom Wilborn got several volunteers and set up programming while he was there during the austral summer. I took over as the winter station manager and broadcast 6 AM till midnight, seven days a week with the help of 14 other volunteers. We had five news/sports broadcasts each day utilizing UPI Teletype news stories along with a structured schedule of AFRTS shows and "Disc Jockey" controlled music from Country to Classical.

On 3 January, we were told that Bldg 64 would be torn down at the end of the winter. After all that work, we were a bit depressed but figured we would deal with the teardown when the time came. (*Ed Note: Bldg 64 was not torn down until 2002*)

On 12 January 1972, a group of VIPs arrived and Thom Wilborn interviewed Senator James A. Buckley from New York and William F. Buckley, Jr., the writer. Both interviews were broadcast on the air that evening.



**Thom Wilborn Interviewing William F. Buckley Jr.**

Since the FM transmitter installation, we had been operating with the antenna installed on the building at the Transmitter Site. On 25 January, I installed the antenna 55 feet up on the mast of the Russian Rhombic Antenna at the site to increase our broadcast range since it was basically line-of-site. On 29 January, the Rhombic Antenna tilted to about 70 degrees. WASA was shut down for a day so the guy wires could be adjusted.

On 21 February, I was the station announcer when President Nixon first set foot in China. I broadcast it live at 1532 McMurdo time.

On 3 March 1972, the base was in Storm Condition I with winds of 40-50 MPH gusting to 80 MPH. This continued for

several days. During this period WASA was utilized as a "Civil Defense Communications System".

The first "live" coverage of sports occurred on 10 March 1972 when we broadcast from the bowling alley utilizing the base phone system for connectivity.

On 8 April, we ran a 24 hour "All Request" Marathon starting at 1800.

Then on 11 April at 2250Z, we had our first live broadcast from the States when my wife, Flo, said hello to the troops via a MARS phone patch. Her words were: "Hi fellas. I hope you enjoy winter-over. Remember, there is a lot of love waiting for you back here. NOT FROM ME!! From YOUR wives!"



**ET1 Bob Flint and HM1 Chuck Yarnell . Note the U Barrel**

On 17 April 1972, the launch of Apollo XVI was covered live. HF comms were bad, so later that day Ham Radio operator, Dave Porter from New Jersey, fed a tape that he had made which was crystal clear. On the 21<sup>st</sup>, we covered the Orion moon landing, live, at 0223Z and later lunar lift-off on the 24<sup>th</sup>.

The rest of the winter operation of the station became routine. I took on other projects like Mid-Winter Party and editing the yearbook.

For some reason, I didn't cover the shut down of Bldg 64 in my diary but I remember moving the studio to a small room in the Barracks in Building 155, again with the soundproofing and Plexiglas window. I departed Antarctica on 13 October 1972.

I know we could never compete with the Radio and Television operations that exist there today but WASA was a major morale factor during the DF-72 winter over period.

*Editor's Notes:*

1. More WASA photos may be viewed on the Radio Heritage Web Site at: <http://www.radioheritage.net/Story170.asp>
2. Over the years the McMurdo entertainment broadcast radio station had numerous call signs. During my first two winters (DF-63 & 67) it was known as KMSA (Kiss My Sweet Arse or K McMurdo Sound Antarctica) and WTFO (no definition required). In DF-71 it was WASA (W Antarctic Support Activities) and during DF-75, and thereafter, it was AFAN (American Forces Antarctic Network).