



# 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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*Three surviving buildings of East Base stand abandoned on Stonington Island off the Antarctic Coast.*

## [United States Antarctic Service Expedition](#)

*By Laura Snow*

A website dedicated to preserving the history of the United States Antarctic Service Expedition, 1939-1941 (listed in this article as USAS), was launched earlier this year. John Dyer and I are collaborating on the development and content of the site. John's father was J. Glenn Dyer, Cadastral Engineer, U.S. General Land Office, and my father was ACMM(PA) (NAP) Ashley Snow, Jr., USN, Chief Pilot. The site is currently in its early stages of development. The two USAS bases will have dedicated pages of photo galleries and video from converted film footage. Each expedition member's page will feature a brief biography, pertinent information, and relevant

photographs. The personal journals of Glenn Dyer and biologist Herwil Bryant will be linked to the website.

Although USAS is the least known of the expeditions with which Admiral Richard E. Byrd was associated, it was the largest expedition to the Antarctic attempted by anyone up to that time. USAS was the first U.S. government sponsored expedition to go to Antarctica since Lieutenant Charles Wilkes led the United States Exploring Expedition a century before.

The task of organizing an expedition of this magnitude is particularly impressive when the time line is considered. In

See: USAS      On page 4.

**PRESIDENT'S CORNER**

James "Jim Da Retired Cop" Heffel—OAEA President

**T**O ALL OAEs—I would like to take a moment to thank everyone for their support during the past two years. It has been a very fruitful experience for me. I think we have made some advances in the association membership along with a hefty increase in the scholarship fund.



By the time most of you read this, someone will have won the two free tickets to the reunion for their donation to the OAEA. As of 29 June, there was a total of 351 entries in the drawing.

The reunion committee in Texas has done a great job in planning and organizing the reunion. I look forward to seeing everyone there in November.

I will be trying to stop off on the way home to visit anyone on my route who will give me a yell.

As a member of a couple of different retirement groups and organizations, I can truthfully say the OAEs are the greatest group of people in the world. I wish we could find all the OAEs, who are not yet members, as well as the ones who are members, but can no longer be located.

Condolences to all who have lost loved ones in the past few months and get well wishes to all who have been ailing.

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

Wishing everyone a happy, healthy, and safe Independence Day and a great summer.

*Jim Heffel*  
OAEA President

PS Don't forget to vote in the OAEA election, PPSS Vote in your local elections before you leave home for San Antonio.



**Point of Contact:**  
John Lamont West  
Phone: 956 568 3737  
Web Page:  
[www.Registeroaea.com](http://www.Registeroaea.com)

**Hotel Reservations:**  
El Tropicano Hotel  
Phone: 866 423 7814  
Code: AEG  
(Antarctic Explorers Group)



**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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**Editor**

Billy-Ace Baker

**Editorial Assistants**

Gus Shinn  
Kerry Konrad  
Pam Landy

**Editor Emeritus**

Jim O'Connell

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## Return of Items to the Historic Antarctic Huts

*Editorial by Gene Van Reeth*

We know that back in the early days of Operation Deep Freeze—the 50s, 60s, and early 70s—the Historic Huts at Winter Quarters Bay, Cape Royds, and Cape Evans were unguarded and open to just about anyone who wished to visit (and enter) them.

As we also know, these huts were exactly as the heroic age explorers left them when they departed in the early 1900s. The huts also were replete with clothing, furniture, equipment, scientific instruments, sledges, books, personal items, caches of food, so forth and so on.

Unfortunately, as human nature goes, some individuals could not resist the temptation and “pocketed” some items from these almost sacred historic sites. This was before such activity was most strongly discouraged and the huts cordoned off.

There are two organizations working to preserve these historic huts and everything within them. Each year they send teams to the Ross Sea area to renovate these huts against the harsh environment, while striving to maintain their original appearance, and contents as they were left. These organizations are the United Kingdom Antarctic Heritage Trust, based in Monmouthshire, England, and the New Zealand Antarctic Heritage Trust, based in Christchurch.

The Museum Coordination Committee (MCC) of the Old Antarctic Explorers Association recently established liaison with the NZ Antarctic Heritage Trust. This involved a member of the OAEA who, having a twinge of conscience, wished to return items he “borrowed” from one of the huts back in the 1950s. These items were returned and the NZ Trust was most grateful.

Undoubtedly there are other members of the OAEA having items from those huts, which should be returned. We now have a means of doing so. If any readers have any such items please contact the Chairman of the MCC at the below address. If you wish to remain anonymous, so be it. In all fairness—all wrapping, handling, and shipping expenses incurred in returning the item(s) to NZ should be borne by the sender. If an item is large or heavy, the OAEA may assist with these expenses in keeping with our mission of cooperating with other Antarctic organizations.

Those of you wishing to return items taken from the huts please write to the Chairman of the MCC describing the item(s) completely. **Do not send the item(s).** Again, your identity will be protected if you so wish:

Chairman, MCC “Penguin Ops”

P.O. Box 1734

Flat Rock, NC 28731-1734

You will be provided with instructions on where and how to return your item(s). If heavy or bulky, your item(s) will be referred to the OAEA BOD for their decision as to whether the OAEA will assist you in returning them. You will be advised of their decision.

Now, let's get those truly historic artifacts back in those huts where they really belong.



**USAS****From page 1**

late 1937, an official of the Department of Interior asked Richard Black, a Byrd II veteran, to write a memorandum proposing a government sponsored expedition. At the time Black, was planning a privately funded expedition, as was Byrd. Both men cancelled plans for their respective expeditions and joined the government effort. A January 1939, memorandum from President Roosevelt to Acting Secretary of State Sumner Welles resulted in approval for preliminary planning by multiple cabinet level departments. In July 1939, Roosevelt wrote to the Secretaries of State, Treasury, Navy, and Interior directing them to provide representatives to serve on the Executive Committee of the United States Antarctic Service, which would be responsible for expedition organization, planning, and operational decisions. In a later letter to Byrd, the president wrote, "... I have designated you Commanding Officer of The United States Antarctic Service and an *ex officio* member of the Executive Committee."

Congress approved expedition funding on 30 June 1939. The expedition resources included two ships, the USS *Bear* and the USMS *North Star*, manned by sixty-five officers and crew, the fifty-five foot long Snow Cruiser, fifty-nine winter-over personnel, 160 dogs, and four aircraft (two Curtiss-Wright Condors, one Beechcraft, and one Barkley-Grow, which would return to the U.S. with the ships). The ships were scheduled to sail for Antarctica on 15 October 1939.

Two bases, separated 1600 miles by air and 2200 miles by sea, would be established. West Base would be established as Little America III on the Bay of Whales. East Base would be located on Stonington Island in Marguerite Bay, adjacent to the Antarctic Peninsula.

The *North Star* and the *Bear* left the United States in November 1939. President Roosevelt's orders to Byrd, dated 25 November, were received on 30 November, as Byrd joined the expedition when he boarded the *North*



**Rymil Camp 16 July 1940. Top L to R: SC1 Archie "Tiny" Hill, USN, East Base Cook; Carl Eklund, Ornithologist, Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of Interior; ACMM Ashley Snow, Jr., USN, East Base Chief Pilot; J. Glenn Dyer, Cadastral Engineer, General Land Office. Seated L to R: AMM1 William Pullen, USN, Aircraft Mechanic; LTJG Lewis Sims, USN, Medical Officer; TSGT Zadick Collier, USMC, Machinist, Chief Mechanic. Front: Lytton Musselman, Radioman/Dog Driver, East Base General Duty. The camp site was constructed in 1936 by the British Graham Land Expedition (BGLE) 1934-37. John Rymil was the BGLE leader.**

*Star* at Balboa, Canal Zone. Roosevelt's letter gave specific instructions on a variety of points: the locations of the two bases, the primary geographical objective, secondary geographical objectives, radio communications, administrative policies, and so forth.

Almost six weeks behind schedule when they reached the site of West Base, their initial destination, the ships were unloaded, prefabricated buildings were assembled, and exploratory flights over unknown areas were completed. As the *Bear* proceeded to the site of East Base, the *North Star* sailed to Valparaiso, Chile, to pick up an additional 600 tons of supplies, a Curtiss-Wright Condor aircraft, and the remainder of the prefabricated building sections, all of which had been shipped

earlier and stored until the entire shipment could be delivered to East Base. At the end of March 1940, Byrd and the ships left the Antarctic continent to return to the United States.

When USAS personnel sailed to Antarctica in November 1939, Europe was at war. One year later, the international situation had deteriorated to the point that the Executive Committee ordered the evacuation of all USAS personnel. The *Bear* arrived at West Base on 11 January 1941, followed by the *North Star* on 24 January. President Roosevelt's original intention was continual occupation of the bases by rotating USAS personnel. Consequently, a plan to reoccupy West Base required removal of the dogs, records, scientific specimens, and



**East Base 10 July 1940. Herwil Bryant reading old newspaper comic strips for the umpteenth time on floor of science building.**

important instruments while the majority of equipment and supplies remained. Both ships sailed to East Base and found over 100 miles of pack ice separating East Base from the open sea. Unusual wind conditions prohibited the pack ice from moving out to sea. As the days passed and the situation worsened, the *North Star* sailed to Punta Arenas, Chile, to allow most West Base personnel to disembark and to pick up enough food and fuel in the event that East Base personnel would have to spend another year. An additional concern was that one or both ships would become trapped in the ice, unable to move before the oncoming winter set in. The two ships, East Base, and the Executive Committee in Washington were in constant communication.

In its 20 March meeting, the Executive Committee continued to debate various plans for evacuation. The Committee decided the danger was too great to use the East Base Condor for the evacuation because no emergency landing field would be available. Additionally, the aircraft had been involved in two "crack-ups," the second resulting in serious damage. Although repairs had been made, the safety of the aircraft was compromised.

The Executive Committee agreed that Captain Cruzen, Commanding Officer of the *Bear*, could make any



**USS Bear in Antarctica 1941**

evacuation decisions. The meeting was adjourned with various committee members tasked with gathering information regarding the availability of assets to assist with the evacuation.

On 22 March, the Executive Committee received the following message from Captain Cruzen,

**ALL EAST BASE PERSONNEL EVACUATED IN TWO FLIGHTS MIKELSEN (sic) ISLAND WITHOUT MISHAP AND NOW ABOARD BEAR**

The 1941 Autumn General Meeting of the American Philosophical Society was held in Philadelphia on 21/22 November, two weeks prior to the bombing of Pearl Harbor. Twelve expedition members were invited to present papers describing their research and observations. Ten of the presented papers and an additional 30 non-presented papers were included in the 1945 publication of the prestigious *Proceedings of the American Philosophical Society*.

Nearly all USAS scientists who were assigned to correlate scientific findings joined the military shortly after returning from the expedition. Several would be sent to Greenland and Iceland during the war in order to utilize their knowledge of cold weather operations. USAS military personnel shipped out to various theaters of the war. As a result, remaining reports assigned to expedition members would be postponed or would remain unwritten. A comprehensive

government publication containing all reports never materialized.

Although the United States Antarctic Service Expedition ended prematurely, more unexplored land was discovered and more scientific data was collected than on most of the earlier individual expeditions.

The goal of the website is to serve as a repository of the history of USAS and to tell the stories of the men who endured hardship, danger, and sacrifice in order to accomplish the goals of exploration and scientific study of the Antarctic continent. View the web site at: <http://www.usas1939.org/>, or click the title on page 1 of this issue.



**Nat Geo photo by Robb Kendrick Mormon Tract: During the brief austral summer of 1991-92 a NSF team of eight dug out artifacts from snow-clogged East Base. One of the items that surfaced was a Mormon text: Joseph Smith Tells His Own Story, that perhaps provided spiritual comfort to someone during the long gone winter night.**

## New England Chapter Summer 2010 Meeting

by Marty Diller

*New England Chapter Secretary-Treasurer*

For its Summer meeting on 12 June, the New England Chapter returned to Connecticut for the first time in four years, and gathered at Gilbertie's Place restaurant in the town of Colchester. Since the spacious Yantic River Inn closed its doors in late 2006, the Chapter had been searching for a suitable site in southern New England, and Life Member Jim Kelly alerted the Chapter to this location right in his hometown. A total of 54 attendees enjoyed Gilbertie's excellent lunch buffet, socializing with other OAEs, and an informative presentation about Antarctica and some recent changes in operations at U.S. stations there.



**Bev Diller, Roy Roberts, Bob Epperly, and Jim Hefel listen carefully to the guest speaker Rich Wolak**

### Chapter Business

OAEA President Jim Heffel was in attendance and reminded everyone to watch his or her mail for the 2010 Election of Officers ballots. Jim is running for a second term as OAEA President. He also mentioned the upcoming 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.

In Old Business, Life member Billie Hunter asked members to provide, before the 30 June deadline, three recipes which can be included in a cookbook intended to be sold as a fundraiser at the 2010 OAEA National Reunion.



**John Hasty won a McMurdo Station Fire-Rescue T-shirt during the meeting's raffle drawing. The shirt was donated by Jim Kelly, who obtained it on E-Bay**

### Featured Presentation

Richard Wolak, longtime OAE (USAP 1972-80, 1992-94) and former NSF Project Manager and South Pole Station Manager (WO DF-75), shared some great slides of McMurdo Station and South Pole, and provided a lot of fresh information about ongoing USAP programs on the Ice. One item of interest was NSF's elimination of ski-borne Herk operations at McMurdo Station during the 2009-10 season. After closing the seasonal ice runway, NSF maintained the *Pegasus* blue ice runway season-long for wheeled operations by Herks, C-17 cargo aircraft, and other aircraft.

Another item of interest concerned the dismantling of the geodesic dome at Pole. The dome is being stored at Port Hueneme, CA, until a decision is made on its final disposition.



**Plaque Presentation: Chapter President Fred Santino (right) and member Jim Kelly (left) present restaurant owner Tyler Gilbertie with an OAEA plaque in appreciation of the exceptional food and service during the Chapter meeting. As a local resident of Colchester, CT, Jim "hosted" the meeting for the Chapter by coordinating the event with Tyler.**



**Attendees listen closely to guest speaker Rich Wolak; (L to R) Paula and Ron Oschner, Jim and Martha Pedone, Don Germain and Irene Cowan. In the back, right are Ray and Peggy Lippka.**

### Fundraising

Chapter-logo polo and t-shirts and nylon jackets were the featured fundraising items at the meeting. Limited edition, full-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-6/VXE-6, *Courage Sacrifice Devotion*, and is now selling them for \$15.00. A bookplate signed by the author accompanies each book. Of note, the Chapter Board of Directors intends to donate copies of these books that don't sell to New England libraries and other appropriate organizations.



**John Hollo shows off a penguin lithograph that he won in the meeting's raffle drawing. The lithograph was donated by Jim Pedone, who plans to donate more of the lithographs to the 2010 Reunion Committee.**

To order any Chapter merchandise 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. Prizes for the raffle were either donated by Chapter members or the Chapter.

Raffle winners included: CB Bevilacqua (25' tape measure), Carolyn Brown (penguin-motif tissue box cover), Irene Cowen (OAEA-logo belt buckle), Joyce Drews (set of 4 OAEA-logo juice glasses), Don Germain (Antarctic book *The Longest Winter*), John Hasty (McM Fire/Rescue Team T-shirt), John Hollo (24"X20" Penguin lithograph), Billie Hunter (BBQ grill wok), Jim Kelly (24"X20" Penguin lithograph), Peggy Lippka (Antarctic book *The Longest Winter*/glass penguin figurine), Mac McKenna (daddy w/baby penguin figurine), Paula Ochsner (Flag case/Don Bousquet's *Next Book*), Martha Pedone (penguin-motif tissue box cover), Rich Wolak (BBQ grill skillet).

### Meeting Schedule

The next OAEA-NE Chapter meeting is scheduled for 1:00pm on Saturday, 25 September 2010, at a location to be determined.



**Guest speaker, Rich Wolak, talks while attendees observe his slide presentation about McMurdo Station and recent USAP doings in Antarctica**

# OAEA

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Billy-Ace,

The Jan-Mar *Explorer's Gazette* 'Letters to the Editor', on page 8, mentioned that Bill Elwood was moving to Denison, Texas. Do you have a phone number or address for him? I live in Denison and would like to meet him. Any contact info would be appreciated. Not many OAEs living in this area of the country. I was in DF 71, 72, & 73 as a LC-130 pilot.

Floyd Eldredge

*Editor's Note: Elwood's address is 2164 Tanglewood Blvd Unit 4201, Pottsboro, TX 75076-4898. His new email address is: William.elwood@gmail.com.*

Billy Ace:

I read in the Jan-Mar issue that one of the guys at Scott Base when we were at McMurdo in 1975 died. I remember his name, Nickerson, and his appearance, but can't quite recall what he did. Was he an electronics technician?

My best friend at Scott Base that winter was the dog handler, John Stevens. I actually ran into him at the Christchurch airport in the early 1980s. He was getting ready to board at flight for, I think, Peru or Bolivia—some kind of exchange program involving sheep breeding—and we only had a few minutes to talk. I always wondered what happened to him

By the way, the newsletter is a very good product. A lot of time must go into producing it.

Jim Mathews

*Editor's Note: Craig Nickerson is listed on the Scott Base roster as a Technician. Expertise unknown.*

Editor:

The obituary in the Jul-Sep 2009 issue for my husband David Pluth (died 21 May 2009 in Rwanda) should say that he served two summer seasons in the Antarctic, with Holmes and Narver, one at South Pole Station and one in Marie Byrd Land, circa 1976-77. He was also a National Geographic photographer but that came later. Many thanks,

Patricia Pluth

*Editor's Note: Thanks for setting the record straight.*

Billy-Ace,

I enjoy reading the *Gazette*. So much information and great pics. One of my favorite selections is the glossary because it is so informative.

Just wanted you to know how impressed I always am with this publication. Thanks for all,

Jody Livesay

B-A:

On my recent trip to Egypt I Spotted this travel agency in Cairo while we were walking around after spending the day at the Cairo Museum of Antiquities. I doubt the average Egyptian even knows or cares about a penguin, but still thought it interesting. I didn't see any other animal tours (such as Polar Bear, or Killer Whale)...just Penguin.

Ed Hamblin



Dear Editor

My Dad, David Serwacki, received the OAEA info packet today and was totally into it! I told him I was gifting him a membership. He said he thinks it might be pretty cool to drive down to San Antonio in November! I'm so used to him being crabby and cynical and not wanting to join anything. Who knew?

He wanted to know if you possibly knew his best bud down there, V.W. "Rocky" Haifley. I didn't know till today that Rocky had been down on the Ice numerous times after his initial stint with my father in 66. Last he was in touch with Rocky he was living in Kentucky.

Anita Serwacki Nelson

*Editor's Note: Anita's email probably would have been more appropriate in the 'Locator' Column, but I ran out of room back there anyway. David Serwacki wintered over in the Supply Department (Fuels) with ASA Det Alfa at McMurdo during DF-66 and I did not know his buddy Rocky. Anita can be reached at: 718-369-7099 or [melodynelson70@yahoo.com](mailto:melodynelson70@yahoo.com)*





Editor in Charge,

In response to the article provided by "Black Jack of Ballarat" (AKA, Lionel Wafer) in the Jan-Mar 2010 issue. Clearly his photo depicted the appearance and demeanor of the OAE personnel I encountered and remember so well during my tenure with the Antarctic Program. One must assume the photo was taken from one of the many "Crews Books".

Simply as an observation and comment, I offer the following: In the 'This Quarter in History column', Black Jack alluded that the "Ice Berg, B-15 was the size of Jamaica floating around in the Caribbean". It could be that Black Jack may have had experience in the Caribbean, as well as the Antarctic, which would account for his comparison. However, I must assume Black Jack may not have provided a true assessment, as he may not have had a "Reference Point" of just how big Jamaica was at the time, or for the actual size of B-15! (Additionally, we must assume he did not have contemporary equipment to measure such a land mass as Jamaica or mass of Ice as cited for B-15? I rather think Black Jack and the Caribbean conjure up thoughts of "Rum and Ice"—perhaps those two items may have contributed to his size assessments?

I submit, Black Jack may have been better served to simply state (with some semblance of fact and personal reference) the Ice Berg was the size of say "Delaware" on a cold winter day (Shrinkage included)—which would have made his statement of size more plausible to the contemporary reader?

I can imagine the NSF personnel scrambling to validate "Black Jacks" claim as of this writing.

Respectfully,

Jerry Schleining  
Terminal Ops DF 75-78

*Editor's Note: Black Jack aka Lionel Wafer spent a lot of time in the Caribbean so using Jamaica as a reference point for size comparison makes sense. However, this comparison may have set a trend. About a week into the infamous BP oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico a local TV station anchorman referred to the growing oil slick to be the same size as Jamaica. Strange, very strange indeed.*

Billy-Ace:

In reference to the WASA story in the Jan-Mar issue. If there were a so-called "underground radio" during either of those two seasons I was totally unaware of it. If this station came into full flower during the winter-over period, I'd certainly know nothing about it. As you well know, Billy-Ace, there were MANY incidents with the statement "For cri' sakes don't let the Old Man hear about this!" although I learned later about all but a few of them anyway. And I don't recall EVER listening to an "underground radio".

Eugene Van Reeth

Hello Billy-Ace,

I enjoy the *Gazette*. Keep up the good work. Debbie and I recently attended a Women's Veterans conference in southern Oregon and took the opportunity to drive down and visit Dan Parkin. A truly wonderful family! Hearing his side of the "painters fall" story was absolutely a riot. Dan looks so healthy, Silvina is doing a great job with him. I have been wanting to get him thinking about future OAEA reunions as a traveling buddy. Deb won't be dragged along every time.

Muff Maffin



John "Muff" Maffin and Dan Parkin. March 2010

*Editor's Note: RM2 John "Muff" Maffin wintered-over at McMurdo during DF-76 and then transferred to NSFA Summer Support. RM2 Dan Parkin was in NSFA Summer Support from DF-76 to 80 and he wintered at South Pole Station with Holmes and Narver during DF-83 after he got out of the Navy.*

Dear Billy-Ace,

My sister Nina and I want to thank you for publishing our request to hear from anyone who knew our father, Joseph Morgan, from Deep Freeze 60, along with the photo of him in the Antarctic, in the Jan-Mar 2010 issue. We were also very impressed with the newsletter, which was the first one we've seen. The articles were very interesting, especially the one on wind power, the photos was sharp, and the layout was very professional. Keep up the excellent work.

Terri Morgan

*Editor's Note: Not only were Terri and Nina appreciative of the notice in the Locator Column, but also they both, along with their mother, and brother joined the OAEA. And I appreciate their atta-boys.*

Billy-Ace:

I found the Ross Island wind farm article to be very interesting. It must be a big change in the skyline for both McMurdo and Scott Base!

It also presents a new hazard for those intrepid Herk pilots who occasionally may feel the need to buzz McMurdo with a low fly-by through the pass!

Marty Diller

Billy:

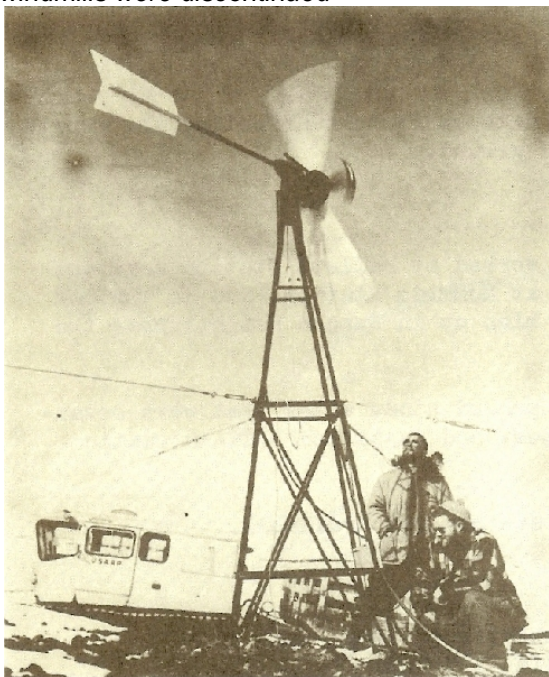
Ironically, we solved the 'over-use' of fossil fuel problem once with "Nukey Poo." The PM-3A nuclear power plant could have powered McMurdo/Scott forever without using fossil fuel but then, politics got in the way and now we eject all that awful carbon into that pristine white snow. Hmmm.

With the extremes of wind at McMurdo, I'm wondering if this is a good idea.

On my watch, we even had a nuclear automatic weather station at Minna Bluff. Same power plant design as the Pioneer spacecraft that we shot out of the solar system. But that was considered too politically incorrect too and was removed. It never missed a beat when we asked it for a report, and I believe the Pioneers are still talking to us.

Mo Gibbs

*Editor's Note: Mo was the McMurdo winter-over Weather Officer during DF-67. During DF-63 there were several windmills at McMurdo that generated electric power for automatic weather stations. Later on the Nukes came along with the SNAP-7C weather stations that operated off nuclear power, so the windmills were discontinued*



McMurdo Windmill Generator DF-63

Ali-Ben:

On page 4 of the Jan-Mar 2010 issue of the *Gazette* there is a photo of a wind generator and the earth. One of the statements in the photo says that concrete cannot be mixed on site due to sub-zero temperatures.

I remember during DF-63 that some BU told us that they used bottles of Tabasco Sauce in the cement to keep it hot so it would set-up. It may have just been an urban legend, but I always repeat the story to unknowing FNGs.

Howard "Guhor" Wick

Billy:

In Jim Johnson's obit in the Jan-Mar Issue you failed to mention his involvement with the squadron Para-Rescue Team. Jim was second in command of the team after LCDR Jerry Smith. There was another CWO by the name of Bill Couch, Bill retired as a LDO CDR. Bill was also a member of the OAEA. Sadly Jim, Jerry, and Bill are all deceased now. I have attached a photo of the team taken in 1972 at Lakehurst, NJ. during training. Jim is in the rear row first from left I am number 6 from left in the rear row.

Ray Norwood



*Editor's Note: Can anyone identify everyone in this photo of the Para Rescue Team?*

G'day Mate:

Regarding the photo in the Jan-Mar issue, I flew over to Marble Point with Ed Hillary in one of two Otters that made the trip (I'm sure George Dufek was there, too) and there weren't that many short people around! I'd have said Gus, too. He certainly looks "familiar", BUT the one thing that does not compute is that the individual looks as if he is wearing New Zealand issue gear.

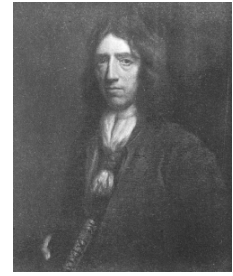
Geoffery Lee Martin

*Editor's Note. Geoff is the author of Hellbent For The Pole. I had three or four people reply to the question of who it was with Ed Hillary, but no one knew for sure, so it is still a mystery.*

# THIS QUARTER IN HISTORY

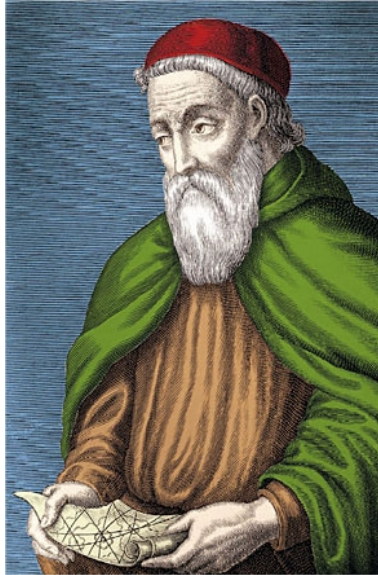
*Ghost written by Black Jack of Ballarat  
for Lionel Wafer*

From the new (in preparation) Second Edition of John Stewart's  
*Antarctica: an Encyclopedia*, due out in 2011.



**Lionel Wafer**

**APRIL:** On 7 April 1502 Amerigo Vespucci recorded a day with 15 hours of darkness in it. Amerigo was born on 9 March 1454, in Florence, Italy. He was an Italian merchant and explorer, and



knew Columbus. He gave his name to what is now South America, and, ultimately, to all of America. His second voyage to the New World left Lisbon on 13 May 1501, and, via Cape Verde, reached Brazil. He sailed as far south as Rio de la Plata, which he discovered, and then probably sailed even farther south, 54S being his official southing record. A day with 15 hours of darkness could only have been in 72S, which would have put him in the Weddell Sea or the Bellingshausen Sea. The trouble is, he claimed to be still along the coast of South America. For Vespucci to have gone as far south as Antarctic waters flies in the face of all we know about his travels, so it is highly unlikely that he was ever anywhere near this far south. Almost certainly, he either knowingly exaggerated, or was in error. However, he was the first to prove that the Americas are not part of Asia, as Columbus had supposed, but an entirely new continent. He died on 22 February 1512, in Seville. Spain.



**Rodney Marks sings about the meaning of life**

**Amerigo Vespucci ponders the meaning of life**

**MAY:** On 12 May 2000 Rodney Marks died at South Pole Station of unknown causes. Rodney was an Australian-born astrophysicist. The winter of 2000 was his second winter at South Pole Station, and this time he was there with his fiancée, Sonja Walter, who was acting in the role of maintenance specialist. On 11 May, Rodney became quite sick, and his condition worsened over the next 36 hours, until he died. The autopsy was held six months later, in Christchurch, and his death was revealed to have been by methanol poisoning. Detective Sergeant Grant Wormald of the New Zealand Police investigated the case, which some said might be "Murder at the South Pole". Although Rodney was not only an alcoholic but also had Tourette's, Det-Sgt. Wormald felt that suicide was unlikely, but he was stymied, he said, by the refusal of both the NSF and Raytheon to cooperate with him in the investigation. It was being rumored that the US State Department might have been applying pressure on the NZ authorities to drop the case.

*Editor's Note: in accordance with Article IV, Section VI of the OAEA By-Laws Rodney Marks was inducted into the OAEA as a Memorial Member by OAEA BOD Resolution Oxnard Number 6 effective 17 August 2005.*

**JUNE:** On 22 June 1945 at the Falkland Islands Dependency Survey Base D, the first edition of the *Hope Bay Howler* appeared. The newspaper, edited by Eric Back, contained news items and articles, as well as letters from the bases at Deception Island (Base D) and Port Lockroy (Base A). Vivian Fuchs, in his book *Of Ice and Men*, quotes a typical "advertisement":

"Bright young men for the Antarctic. Must have knowledge of botany, zoology, ornithology, surveying, taxidermy, geology, oxometry, and so forth. German and French essential. Must be able to type, operate wireless set, light fires, clean drains, build houses, and drive dogs. Some knowledge of huntin', shootin' and fishin' expected. Salary despicable. Prospects nil. Please write and state any additional qualifications".



**Falkland Islander reading about the meaning of life**

## PROFESSOR ON THE ICE

### BOOK REVIEW

#### Dr. Robert E. Feeny – A Brief Remembrance

*Submitted by: Jim Moore (4/25/2010)*

**I**N 1968 I HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO SPEND FOUR MONTHS AT MCMURDO as a part of Dr. Robert Feeny's research team. My job—as a hired hand—was to gather samples of fish blood and protein, and to help with collection of Penguin protein specimens. Being a non-scientist, I never fully understood our research, but I knew that it focused on what special characteristics differentiated extreme cold weather fish and fowl. His research on “antifreeze” proteins and their ability to inhibit ice crystals would later achieved worldwide attention.

Dr. Robert Feeny (1913–2006) made his first trip south in 1964. For the next seven years his teams were based at McMurdo and focused their activities on Cape Crozier and in icehouses on the Ross Ice Shelf. In 1974 Robert published a book, *Professor on the Ice*, which describes his adventures and challenges in managing a research project from scratch.

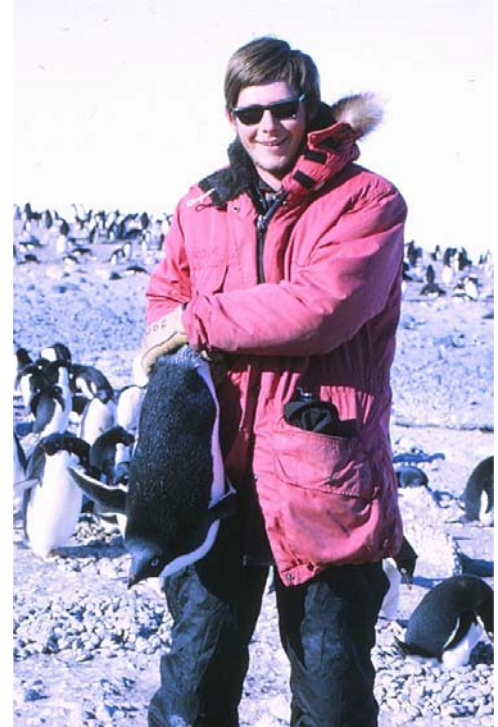
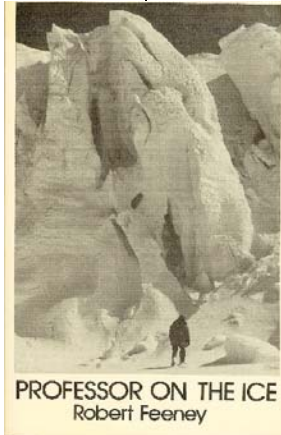
I recently re-read the book and found it most interesting and entertaining. It is not a description of heroic polar exploration, but rather a story about how a lab-based college professor became a veteran Antarctic researcher and helped to advance the goals of the National Science foundation and pure research.



**Doc Feeny in the Penguin Rookery at Cape Crozier**

Dr. Robert E. Feeny became an Antarctic regular by accident. While working as a Protein Biochemist at the University of California, Davis he had chance encounters

with Dr. Robert Ingram (ONR) and Admiral Richard Black. It may have been their support and interest in his research that eventually led to a Naval Research grant and future NSF grants to support many investigative forays to the ice. He often claimed that what allowed him to succeed in those days was not his training (Northwestern, Wisconsin, and Harvard Med.) as much as his WWII experiences in the Philippines. There he had learned how to make something out of nothing. And that is exactly what researchers had to do in the 60s.



**Jim Moore and friend at Cape Crozier Rookery**

We learned to dynamite holes in the ice shelf, and drag an 8' by 16' plywood “laboratory” built on top of skids over the hole. We then caught small fish with hand lines and traps, and trained seals to bring us 100-pound *Mawsoni* fish from the deeper water. From these we extracted blood and flesh samples, prepped them at night in the McMurdo lab, and shipped them out to Travis AFB. They could often be processed at the UC Davis lab within 48 hours of collection. (Quite a feat for the 60s—and all due to the fine support of the Navy). We also learned how to remain upright and in one piece as we waited patiently in the middle of a rookery for the penguins to accept us. We could then band, mark, and collect specimens.

The research teams that shared time on the ice became a close-knit community. Although the projects were vastly different, everyone was eager to help each other out. This allowed us to make short trips to other bases, rookeries, and

even dry-valleys to assist as needed. Dr. Feeney, as well as Ken Moulton of NSF, played a large role in encouraging the sharing of knowledge and effort.



Seal in the ice hole in the icehouse on the ice

Following his years in Antarctica, Dr. Feeney continued his research of cold weather proteins in Norway, Alaska, and northern Japan. Over the years he developed an interest in the effects of food (supply, preparation, storage) on early Antarctic and Arctic exploration. This eventually led him to publish another book, *Polar Journeys: The Role of Food and Nutrition in Early Exploration*. He suggests that nutrition and certain vitamins may have contributed to the success and failure of several famous explorations. He also explored the impact of cultural dietary habits on extreme exploration.

Regretfully, I lost contact with Dr. Feeney as my career took me in a much different direction. But, I'll always be grateful for his willingness to take a chance with a young student, and provide a great adventure. Dr. Feeney always acknowledged the importance of chance, and he certainly made the most of his opportunities.

**Editor's Note:** Robert Feeney died on 21 September 2006 at his home in Davis, CA. See Oct-Dec 2006 issue of the Gazette. Feeney Col and Feeney Peak are named in his honor.

Jim Moore has worked in manufacturing management for the past 28 years.

## OAEA Southwest Group Meeting

By Jim Maddox

The OAEA Southwest group held its second of three annual lunch/get together on 22 May in the Lake Forest area of Los Angeles at Lucille's Smokehouse BBQ. This is the second year we have met at Lucille's and again we all enjoyed the great food and the accommodations and service of the staff.

Ken Stein gave a short speech on his trip to New Zealand. He was surprised that Christchurch was still as he remembers from his DF-69 (1968-69) season but the Deep Freeze facilities at the airport had completely changed and had relocated to another area at the airport. He also informed us that he is working with the Catamaran Resort Hotel to make an information handout on the 2012 reunion that we can give out at the 2010 reunion in San Antonio. Bob Gaboury gave us a financial report and asked for volunteers to count the OAEA election returns.

The next OAEA Southwest group lunch/get together will be on 18 September 2010 in Camarillo, CA at Round Table Pizza, 880 Arneill Road.

Members, family, and guests in attendance were Bob and Linda Gaboury, Ralph Saukko, Jim and Ruth Eblen, Ken Stein, Ron and Judie Palinkas. Jack and Judy Kane, Mille, Brenda Buehler, and Jim Maddox

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

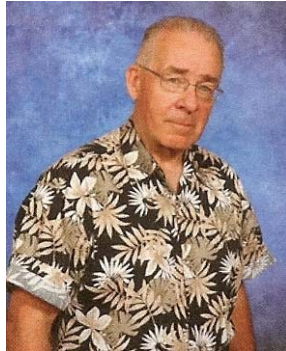


OAEA Southwest Group meeting attendees on steps near Lucille's Smokehouse in Los Angeles

## Tidewater June Get-Together

by Ed Hamblin

On 12 June, while Harbor-fest, car shows, steam engine shows, and perfect beach weather were going on, our more or less regular group of Tidewater "ice" experts got together for a couple of hours of socializing. Showing up to meet and greet at the House Of Eggs Restaurant in Norfolk were Jim Silverstorf, Brad Miller, Bill Raymus, Ron Rooks, Manny Perry, Ed Hamblin, Bob Cantrell, Bill Murray, Herb Schaefer, Bob Long, and Neil Sugermeier.



interstate. But the only way he has to get here is by one bridge or two bridge/tunnels, and this time of the year when the weather is good and there are so many heading to "da beach" that he has to plan on the 40-mile trip taking several hours. Herb was with VX-6 in the late 60s.



**Neil Sugermeier, Bill Raymus, and Brad Miller**



**Bill Murray and Bob Cantrell**

One of the topics we discussed that no one knew the answer to was "Who dreamed up the idea of the ice cube" used at McMurdo. We know that WO DF-73 at McMurdo made one happen. There was also a good amount of discussion over the McMurdo windstorm during the winter-over 1974 period when the Ham Shack blew away. Bill Raymus, Jim Silverstorf, and Ed Hamblin were wintering when that happened and could speak with some firsthand knowledge. Even though we were in "lock down", CMC Zeke Zimmerman who was one of the PM-3A winter over crew took a front-end loader down Observation Hill to rescue the ham shack operator, RM1 Doug Wright, who had taken refuge in the vestibule area which was about all that was left standing of the shack.



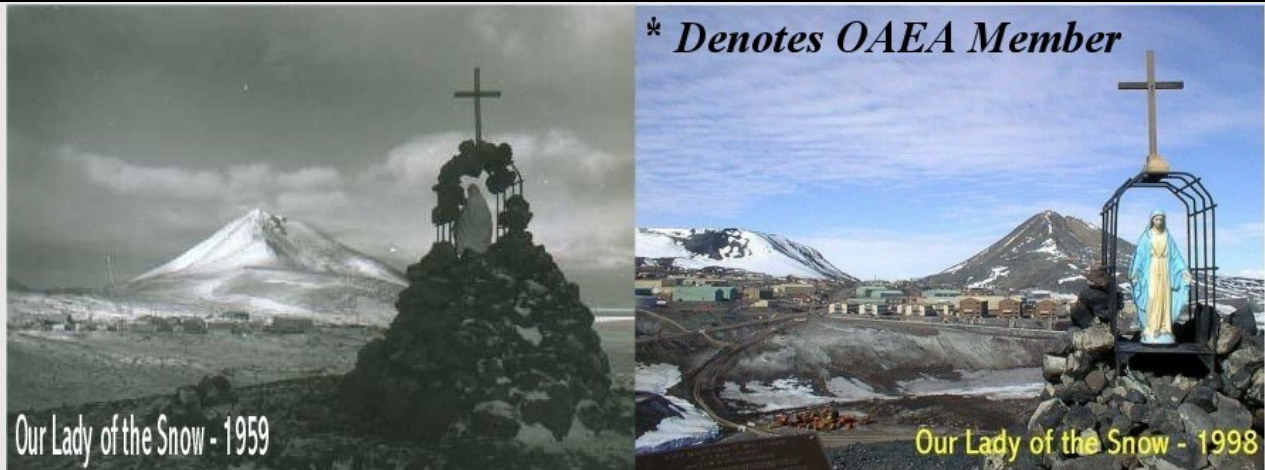
**Bob Long, Jim Silverstorf, and Herb Schaefer**

Herb Schaefer shared a bunch of pictures; originally shot on slides over 40 years ago, he had gotten them recently converted over to prints. That generated a lot of interest, as many of us are in the same situation. One of the interesting things about Herb is that he has to drive in from Williamsburg, which is only about 40 miles away by



**Ron Rooks, Manny Perry, and Ed Hamblin**

We are going to do it next time on 11 September at 3:00/1500 at the House Of Eggs. If you want to be added to the Tidewater area e-mail "tree", contact is Ed Hamblin 757-405-3362, e-mail [ehamblin74@verizon.net](mailto:ehamblin74@verizon.net).



## IN MEMORY

OAE Alf Amphlett, RA (Ret), 87, died on 18 December 2009, in London England. Alf enlisted in 1937 as a Boy Musician flute player. He spent two years with the FIDS as a diesel fitter (mechanic) at Halley Bay in 1957 and 1958. In 1965 Alf returned to Halley Bay as an electrician.

OAE MGYSGT Thomas Arthur Asbjornsen, USMC (Ret), 76, died on 13 February 2010, in Pensacola, FL. When Thomas was a GYSGT he served as a Navigator in VX-6 on the Connie's and C-130s during DF-67 and 68.

OAE Bruce McCheane Barnard III, 61, died on 15 December 2009, in Durango, CO. Bruce visited Antarctica as a tourist.

OAE SSGT Bradley Woods Beach, USAF (Ret), 74, died on 21 January 2010, in Las Vegas, NV. Bradley visited Antarctica as a tourist.

OAE CAPT Robert C. "Bob" Branham, USCG (Ret), 82, died on 21 May 2010, in Chesapeake, VA. Bob served in a Coast Guard icebreaker Helo Det as a pilot.

Rose Marie (Carelli) Boswell, 88, died on 6 March 2010, in Worcester, MA. Marie served as RADM Byrd's secretary during Highjump. Baker's Laws of Antarctica germane.

OAE Garland Brown, 64, died on 9 March 2010, in Albuquerque, NM. Garland was a USAP carpenter and Carpenter Shop Foreman at McMurdo from 1987 through 2002.

OAE John "Jay" Camalick, 60, died on 5 June 2010, in Westminster, CO. Jay was an Air Force C-141 pilot during the 70s.

OAE COL Orion Paul Davidson Canant, 89, USAF (Ret), died on 1 June 2010, in Summerville, SC. Paul was a C-124 pilot during DF-I.

OAE CAPT Richard F. Caswell, CEC, USNR (Ret), 74 died on 12 June 2010, in Milwaukee, WI. As a LCDR Dick served as the ASA Public Works Officer during DF-70 and 71.

OAE Monsignor William R. Charbonneau, a Brigadier General in the Connecticut Air National Guard, 61, died on 5 May 2010, in Norwich, CT. William made several trips to Antarctica with the Air Force.

OAE Robert "Bio Bob" Collins, died on 4 January 2010, in Dexter, MI. Bio Bob visited Antarctica as a tourist on his 66<sup>th</sup> birthday.

OAE Kenneth Milton Craddock, USN (Ret), 66, died on 2 September 2009, Greensboro, NC. Kenneth wintered over during DF-73 as an HM1.

OAE Surgeon CAPT David Dalglish, RNVR, (Ret), 88, died on 28 March 2010, in Devon, UK. David Served as the Medical Officer at FIDS Base E during the 1948-49 season. He returned to the ice as leader of the British Royal Society Expedition (IGY 1955-58). Dalglish Bay off the West Coast of the Antarctic Peninsula is named in his honor.

Frank M. Dane, 86, died on 17 April 2010, in Weymouth, NH. Frank served as an architectural consultant to the National Science Foundation for several buildings at McMurdo Station.

OAE Dorothy Moore Davis, 83, died on 28 May 2010, in Providence, RI. Dorothy visited Antarctica as a tourist.

OAE Amedeo Di Muro, 84, died on 23 June 2010, in Metuchen, NJ. Amedeo served on the USS *Merrick* during Highjump.

OAE Dr. William Lawson Driskill Jr., 81, died on 30 May 2010, in Lynchburg, TN. Bill served as an USAF Flight Surgeon during DF-II.

OAE Warren R. Dwyer, 82, died on 17 January 2010, in Portland ME. Warren visited the ice as a tourist on a Russian icebreaker.

OAE Billy Don Earnhardt, 58 died on 25 May 2010, in Carlin, NV. Billy Don served with the USAP with the Desert Research Institute. Dates unknown.

OAE Gerhardt "Gary" Eckelmann, 88, died on 4 June 2010, in Pleasant Garden, NC. Gary served during the IGY with the Naval Oceanographic Office as a scientific assistant.

OAE Larry Louis Facer Sr., 69, died on 1 May 2010, in Chesapeake, VA. Larry served with the Seabees and made two deployments to Antarctica.

OAE Beverly Fiertz, 78, died on 8 March 2010, in South Woodstock, VT. Bev visited Antarctica three times as a tourist.

OAE Barbara Flynn died on 2 April 2010, in Melrose, NH. Barbara visited Antarctica as a tourist.

OAE June B. Fox, 88, died on 27 December 2009, in Nazareth, PA. June visited Antarctica as a tourist.

\*OAE CAPT David Gerdel, USN (Ret), 72, died on 9 April 2010, in Punta Gorda, FL. Dave served as the OIC of Byrd Station during DF-65. Mount Gerdel is named in his honor.

OAE Betty Lou Hackenberry, 86, died on 8 February 2010, in Lufkin, TX. Betty visited Antarctica as a tourist.

OAE Claude Hamm, 72, died on 5 May 2010, in Penn Yaw, NY. Claude served on the USS *Arneb* during DF-I.

OAE Marilyn Patricia "Pat" Gilmore Hoiland, 73, died on 30 November, 2009, in Chico, CA. Pat and her husband visited Antarctica as tourists in January 2009.

OAE CWO-3 Alexander Paul Heberlein, USN (Ret), 77, died on 23 April 2010, in Tacoma WA. Alexander served on the USS *Burton Island*, during DF-66.

OAE Patricia Josephine Heine (nee McOwen), 81, died on 3 February 2010, in San Antonio, TX. Patricia visited Antarctica as a tourist.

OAE James Raymond (Ray) Helbert, PhD, 91, died on 19 January 2010, in Chicago, IL Ray visited Antarctica as a tourist.

OAE LTCOL Roger Henry Herman, USAF (Ret), died on 18 May 2010, in Fort Worth, TX. Roger was a U-2 pilot and flew missions South of 60 degrees South.

OAE COL Arthur Thomas Hill, USMC (Ret), 88, died on 16 June 2010, in Audobon, PA. Arthur visited Antarctica as a tourist.

OAE AMSC Warren Robert Hoffman, USN (Ret), 77, died on 15 May 2010, in Brunswick, ME. Warren served in VX-6 summer support as an AMS1 during DF-63 and DF-64.

OAE LT Paul A. Humphrey, USNR (Ret), 89, died on 4 May 2010, in Raleigh, NC. Paul served as a meteorologist on icebreakers during DF-I, II, and III. He was a member of the Antarctic Society.

OAE John "JJ" Edward Johnson, 82, died on 28 March 2010, in Grand Rapids, MI. John served on the USS *Merrick* during Operation Highjump.

OAE Ralph Katz, Sr., 83, died on 6 January 2010, Plymouth, MN. Ralph visited Antarctica as a tourist.

OAE Alma Molinari Kemis, died on 11 March 2010, in Santa Rosa, CA. Alma visited Antarctica as a tourist.

OAE Heidi Kloos, 41, died in an avalanche, on 30 March 2009, near Ridgeway, CO. Heidi visited Antarctica on a mountaineering expedition.

OAE RMCM Robert M. Luciani, USN (Ret), 70, died on 3 May 2010, in Norwalk, CT. Bob served on the USS *Arneb* during DF-IV and DF-60 as an RM3.



OAE Sally Ann "Sam" Moore, died on 7 February 2010, in Chester, WV. Sam was a first grade teacher who traveled to Antarctica, and the Arctic, as a tourist in order to report back to her students on such things as Penguins and Polar Bears.

OAE AEC Frederick "Fritz" Joseph Murdock, USN (Ret), 75, died on 8 June 2010, in Danville, OH. Fritz served in VX-6 during DF-70, 71, and 72 as an AE2 and AE1. He was on the Connie Pegasus when it crashed at McMurdo on 8 October 1970 the first day of DF-71 summer season.

\*OAE William D. O'Quinn, 77, died on 6 January 2004, in Sussex, DE. No other information available.

OAE Liam Jareck Przelomski, 27, died 10 April 2010, in Norman, OK. Jareck was a USAP carpenter at South Pole Station during the summer of DF-08.

OAE Kenneth J. Roth, 75, died on 26 April 2010, in Marysville, WA. Kenneth served on the USCGC *Northwind* during DF-II.

OAE Charles Romo, 83, died on 1 June 2010, in Orange County, CA. Charles served as a merchant seaman on one of the annual resupply ships during the IGY.

\*OAE CAPT Tom Schanz, USN (Ret), 79, died on 10 June 2010, in Dallas, TX. As a LCDR Tom was the VX-6 Supply Officer during DF-65, 66, and 67. Tom also served as the OINC of the Para-Rescue Team. Schanz Glacier is named in his honor.

\*OAE EO1 William H. Sheldon, Jr, USN (Ret), 73, died on 1 May 2010 in Coventry, RI. Bill served in ASA Summer Support during 59-61 and 63-65.

OAE RADM. Abraham Harold Siemens, USCG (Ret.), 86, died on 30 March 2010, in Elizabeth City, NJ. Abraham served aboard the USCGC *Northwind* during Operation Highjump.

OAE Elizabeth "Betty" Sampson Siemer, 82, died on 12 February 2010, in Reno, NV. Betty visited Antarctica as a tourist.

\*OAE CEC William T. Singleton, USN (Ret), 82, died on 15 April 2010, in Lewistown, PA. Bill wintered-over with NNPU Crew III during DF-64.

\*OAE SWC Karl A. Smith, USN (Ret), 73, died on 13 June 2010, in Pensacola, FL. Karl served as an SW1 in CBU-201 during DF-67 and DF-70. Karl was a member of the GCG Chapter.

OAE CAPT Richard C. Smith, USN (Ret), 82, died on 31 May 2010, in Washington, DC. As a LCDR Richard was the CO of the Ocean Station Vessel USS *Thomas J. Gary* during DF-66.

OAE John E. "Smoky" Smokowitz, 92, died on 7 January 2010, in Point Township PA. Antarctic Experience not available.

OAE Arnold Robertson Smythe, Jr., 73, died on 23 February 2010, in New Orleans, LA. Arnold Served as a LT at McMurdo during DF-61.

OAE Tony Sorrentino, 88, died on 14 February 2010, in Pembroke Pines, FL. Tony owned a travel agency and made several business trips to Antarctica in that capacity.

OAE Professor Charles R. Stearns, 85, died on 22 June 2010, in Madison, WI. From 1980 through 2008 Charles was the principal investigator of the Antarctic Automatic Weather Station Program. He deployed to the ice 17 times. Mount Stearns in the Royal Society Range is named in his honor.

OAE William James Tobin, 80, died on 25 May 2010, in Green Cove Springs, FL. Bill served on the USS *Philippine Sea* during Highjump.

Virginia Venegas, 55, died on 10 March 2010, in Las Vegas, NV. Virginia worked for the USAP Contractor at CBC Port Hueneme, CA. Year(s) unknown.

OAE OAE Harold Philip Von Gunten, 79, died on 4 March 2010, in Baltimore, MD. Philip served with the USARP.

OAE CAPT Leslie John Williamson, USCG (Ret), 88, died on 30 January 2010, in Tallahassee, FL. Leslie served on the USCGC *Westwind* during DF-III.

OAE Pauline Napier Winslow, 100, died on 6 February 2010, in Carmichael, CA. Pauline visited Antarctica as an extreme tourist. Pauline was a member of the Seaman's Union and visited all continents as a crewmember on several ships.

OAE Robert R. Yeager, 88, died on 23 November 2009, in Riverside, CA. Bob served during Highjump as an MM1



**CHAPLAIN'S CORNER**

Denis Casey—OAEA Chaplain

Father Casey has been out of the country for awhile and, therefore, is not able to bless us with his column this quarter. Not wanting any of you to miss your "Father Casey Fix", we include a story from Deep Freeze 67. At the time Father Casey was the Catholic Chaplin/LT at McMurdo and LCDR Oakley was the Protestant Chaplain. Father Casey's services were always well attended, as the guys of all faiths liked and respected him for his sincere concern for the troops. One of his 'faithful followers' was a Seabee Instant Petty Officer, UT2 Ted Richardson. Ted was the night Water King at McMurdo during the winter and a Founding Member of the "Dragon Killer Society". He was better known, for obvious reasons, as "Whiskey Rich". Rich seldom missed a service, and Father Casey always took time to greet the guys by name, either before or after the service, so he knew Rich was "always there".

One morning, after a well-attended service, Father Casey realized that Rich wasn't in attendance. After a couple of more services—without seeing Rich—the good Father began to worry about his "lost sheep". It was soon

after that when he saw Rich coming out of the Protestant service! This really concerned him, as he thought maybe he had failed to meet Rich's spiritual needs, causing him to look to 'another faith' for comfort.

He knew he had to discuss this with Rich, so he asked him to meet for "a cup of coffee," which Rich readily agreed to, as he always enjoyed talking with Father Casey. After an appropriate amount of small talk, Father Casey bit the bullet and told Rich "I have missed seeing you at services, I hope that it isn't something that I have done to cause you to start attending Protestant service?"

Rich was truly caught off guard, as he had absolutely no problem with Father Casey, or his teaching/preaching. He responded with: "Hell no Father, I'm not mad at you. I'm just tired of poking myself in the forehead and chest, and having to get up, kneel down, get up, and kneel down all the time—I wanted to sing for a while—that is why I have been going to the Protestant service. As soon as I get tired of singing, I'll be back"... and he soon was.

Thank you Father Casey for noticing when we didn't show up...we always knew you had our best interest at heart.

*Submitted by ENCS Kenneth "Big John" Henry*

**GUEST CHAPLAIN**

*Submitted by Pastor Dick Pedigo, DMin.*

I've been asked to fill in this quarter for your Chaplain. I'm honored to do this for you. Now to the subject at hand: IT SURE IS HOT HERE!! Makes me wonder if I took a wrong turn and ended up in the wrong place—it's HOT there I'm sure. I don't remember it being this hot at South Pole Station, except in the sauna (which we could use once a week).

As I look back on my time at the South Pole and think about the guys I served with, I have some great memories, even counting the snow shoveling. I was studying to go into the ministry when I retired; therefore I became "the Pole Preacher." My recollection of that is mostly hilarious. I feel sorry for the members of the crew who attended the worship services I was able to conduct. They were a faithful "congregation." They had to put up with my ideas of what a sermon was and how to present it. Oh! How they must have suffered! But they always came, and I thank them for their patience.

Having said the above, I come now to the point of this little ditty; be kind, supportive, and loving to your Pastor, Priest, Rabbi, etc. Remember, in spite of what they think and present and are sure that they're "on the glory road," they can be wrong. That's why they need your support etc. Give them all the help you can and it will change the way the church moves and grows. They will never forget you for that kind of help. I speak from 26 years of experience. When I think of all the brothers and sisters who loved me along the way as opposed to the few who would take aim to "shoot

me out of the saddle," I give thanks and offer my prayers for them all. Help them to help you.

Grace and peace be to you and yours from our loving God.

**ACC Dick Pedigo conducts lay service in South Pole Dispensary during DF-66 Austral Summer**



*Editor's Note: I was disappointed when I heard from OAEA Chaplain Denis Casey that he was not going to be able to submit his column for this edition of the Gazette, so I asked two members if they would think about being the "guest chaplain" for this issue. I was not sure that either one of them would come to my rescue. Much to my surprise both of them came through with what I consider to be excellent examples of "faith". Meaning? Well, it means that I should have more faith when I ask someone for help.*

## NEW OAEA MEMBERS

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

Thanks to Billy Blackwelder, Carl Bush, Hoot Hartman, OAEA Guestbook, Geoff Lee-Martin, Gene Loper, Larry Berggren, Black Jack, Bill Spindler, Pete Kearney (3), Bob McCauley, Jim Mathews, Pam Landy, Bill Vogel, PS News, and Jim Scott 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  
 §Denotes Upgrade to Life Member  
 ΦDenotes Upgrade to Regular Member

Avery, Lyle PN3	Life	ASA WO DF-62
Bowen, Charles AN	Life	VX-6 DF-69
Brown, Frank HM3	Life	USS <i>Glacier</i> DF-60
Erdel, Elmer AG1	Life	McMurdo DF-ii
Ford "Hogman" RM2	Annual	NSFA SS 73-77
Hendry, John MCPO	Life	VX-6 56-62 & 68-72
Hilden, John SK3	Annual	ASA WO McM DF-71
Hood, John EA1	Life	MCB-71 DF-74
Jaenisch, John AMSC	§Life	VXE-6 85/88/94-97
Kelley, Max ADR3	Annual	VX-6 DF-67
Lappley, Walton EN2	Life	USS <i>Nespelen</i> DF-II & III
Livesay, Jody Civ	ΦAnnual	MV <i>Lyubov Orlova</i>
Marks, William EN3	Life	USS <i>Hisse</i> DF-64
Martin, David Civ	Life	ITT Utilities 89-95
McNally, Bill, QM2	Annual	USS <i>Staten Island</i> DF-74
Pedigo, Richard ACC	Life	ASA Det B DF-65 & 66
Shepard, Danny CEP2	Annual	South Pole DF-66
Stark, Raymond Civ	Annual	ITT/ASA 80-90, 92
Stark, Renee Civ	Annual	ASA 87-90
Swan, John E6	Life	MCB Special DF-III
Tipton, John E3	Life	DF-60
Underwood, Pete ABCM	Life	VXE-6 75-77/80-82/85-87
Williams, Gordon AXC	Life	VX-6 63-67



## 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*

**All Coast Guard:** Icebreaker Muster Nashville, TN, 12-16 May 2010. POC Louis LaRiccia, 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, [bruiceusscurtissav4@rgv.rr.com](mailto:bruiceusscurtissav4@rgv.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

**NMCB/NCB-71:** Gulfport, MS, 12-16 October 2010. POC John Allsworth, [jba843@aol.com](mailto:jba843@aol.com), 309 682 6158, 906 W Northcrest, Peoria IL 61614. MCB 71 served during DF-72 through DF-74.

**USS *Currituck*** (AV-7): San Francisco, CA, 29 Sep-3 October 2010. POC Gary Adams, [ad24history@att.net](mailto:ad24history@att.net), [www.uscurrituck.org](http://www.uscurrituck.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: [gsmith@cfl.rr.com](mailto:gsmith@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.

- PR1 Warren E. Barney, VX-6 Para-Rescue team, summer support DF-65 would like to hear from anyone that might remember him. He can be reached at [wbarney@comcast.net](mailto:wbarney@comcast.net), 732-929-0370, or 28 Lake Ave, PO Box 1029, Island Heights, NJ 09732.
- Pete Gregory is looking for anyone who remembers his Dad Bruce Gregory, who was a pilot of *Pegasus* in the early 60s. Pete can be reached at [pgreg75@aol.com](mailto:pgreg75@aol.com), or 2856 Zola Avenue, Boise ID 83705.
- ACC R.C. Pedigo, South Pole Flight Following DF-65 & 66 is looking for the following South Pole DF-66 winter-over personnel LT William R. Griffin, MC OinC, RM1 Kenneth E. Thomas, and ET2 Robert C. Smith. R.C. can be reached at [revdoc89@aol.com](mailto:revdoc89@aol.com), 904-669-5829, or 1523 Shedd Rd., Green Cove Springs, FL 32043.
- Mary Beerman would like to hear from anyone who remembers BU3 Patrick Tinney, also known as Skip who was in CBU-202 during DF-70. Mary can be reached at [mary.beerman@gmail.com](mailto:mary.beerman@gmail.com).
- Brice DeWald is looking for a USN Recruiting Poster he saw outside the Post Office in Snohomish Washington, circa 1956, with a Deep Freeze theme. There was a VX-6 P2V making a JATO climb from the Ice with a couple of guys in Antarctic cold weather gear standing on the Ice in the background. Bruce would like to have a 8X10 color copy. of the poster. If anyone has a copy of this poster or knows of a source please contact Bruce at: [sbdewald@earthlink.net](mailto:sbdewald@earthlink.net), 929 E. Crown Ridge Drive, Oro Valley, AZ 85755-8800, or 520 825 6731.
- SKC Dave Dubois is looking for Edward K. Johnston, who worked Willy Field Tower from Oct 72 to Feb 73. Ed also worked the Tower during WINFLY 73. He had orders to Lakehurst, NJ and retired as ACC in 1984. Dave can be contacted at: [winterover73@yahoo.com](mailto:winterover73@yahoo.com), 489 Morrills Mill Road, North Berwick, ME 03906, or 207-676-2773.
- ABH3 Floyd M. Jarrells, VX-6 DF-70 & 71 would like to hear from Terry Oaks and John Langdale or from anyone who knows their whereabouts. Floyd can be contacted at [maxie\\_j@yahoo.com](mailto:maxie_j@yahoo.com), 757 817 4024, or 972 Tree Top Pl., Newport News, VA 23608.
- Deb Coburn widow of LCDR Bob Coburn, VXE-6 (90-94) is looking for anyone who contracted blood/bone marrow cancers after their tour in Antarctica. She can be contacted at [d.coburn@comcast.net](mailto:d.coburn@comcast.net), 517 285 7361, or 12730 Grand Willow Dr., Grand Lodge, WI 48837.

- Kiwi Helen Houker (was Helen Wills) wintered-over (1990-91) at Scott Base as the Telecom Operator. She would like to hear from anyone who remembers her. Helen made lots of friends at McMurdo especially the Navy guys. She would especially like to find Seabee Chief James (Jim) Greene. Helen can be reached at [nzboo45@yahoo.com.au](mailto:nzboo45@yahoo.com.au), or 3A Pinewood Grove, Paraparaumu, Kapiti 5032, New Zealand
- Fred Jarrells was summer support at Willie Field 1969-1970, 1970-1971. He left the Ice as an ABH3. went back in the Navy in 1976 and retired as a ABCM(AW) with 32 years service. Fred would like to hear from Terry Oaks, John Langdale or anyone else from those day. He can be contacted at: [maxie\\_j@yahoo.com](mailto:maxie_j@yahoo.com), 757-817-4024, or 972 Tree Top Place, Newport News, Va. 23608.

## GLOSSARY OF SNOW AND ICE

Compiled and edited by Billy-Ace Baker



**Equilibrium Line** — The line or zone on a glacier where a year's ablation balances a year's accumulation. Spanish equivalent: *Linea de Equilibrio*.

**Frazil Ice** — Fine spicules or plates of ice in suspension in water. French equivalent: *Jaahili*.

**Glacier Tongue** — An extension of a glacier or ice stream projecting seaward, usually afloat. German equivalent: *Gletscherzunge*.

**Iceberg Tongue** — A major accumulation of icebergs projecting from the coast, held in place by grounding and joined together by fast ice. French equivalent: *Champ de Iceberg*.

**Piedmont Glacier** — The lobe-shaped, expanded, terminal part of a valley glacier spread out over broad lowlands at the base of mountains. Danish equivalent: *Piedmontgletscher*.

## Gulf Coast Group Chapter Happenings

by Billy-Ace Penguin Baker

Forty OAEA Members, spouses, and guests attended the 3 April meeting at the Navy Boulevard Shrimp Basket Restaurant. First time attendees were Larry Trail and Nancy Pritchett. Larry was in the squadron during DF-71 and Nancy is Mary Lou Platt's sister. Back after a long absence was Paul Amos. Paul had not attended a meeting since we held our meetings at Kooter Brown's.



**Doyle McClung 50/50 Raffle Winner**

The door prize and 50/50 drawings were held before the guest speaker took the floor. The 50/50 raffle was won by Doyle McClung who donated his \$75 share back to the GCG Kitty. Thanks Doyle. The door prize, consisting of a copy of *Hellbent to the Pole*, was won by Nancy Pritchett.



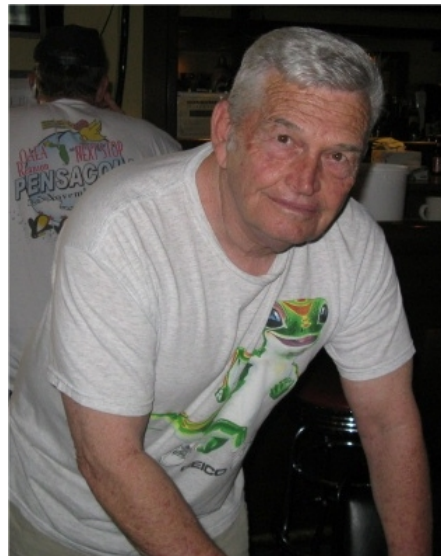
**Laura Snow Reading From Her Notes**

Once the dust cleared from the ticket drawings GCG Chapter President "Cold Duck" Talbert introduced our guest speaker who's presentation was about her father, Ashley Snow, being a member of the Byrd III (United States Antarctic Service Expedition 1939-41 at East Base. Laura is doing research on her Dad, who was an enlisted pilot, for a book that she plans to write. Most of her presentation consisted of thumbnail bios on each of the men in the group photo. As she spoke she pointed out each man in the rank-and-file going down each row of men in the photo including a penguin that had wondered in while the photo was being taken.



**Pam Landy Counting out Raffle Tickets**

While Pam Landy and Glen Harris sold and distributed tickets for the raffle and door prize drawings our guest speaker, Laura Snow, snow distributed copies of an 8X10 photograph of the entire crew of East Base taken shortly before they were evacuated. (See: Cover story in this issue)



**Dan Knox. We only see him when there are no College footballs games on TV. Dan served in VXE-6 during 82-85 and 87-90.**

Following Laura's presentation, Duck spoke briefly about volunteers being needed to run for office in the OAEA election. First time attendees were introduced and I gave a brief talk concerning hotel reservations and reunion registration forms for the November OAEA reunion in San Antonio Texas.



**Billy-Ace Presents the Door Prize to Nancy Pritchett**

Thanks to our waitresses Melinda and Melissa, Pam Landy and Glen Harris for distributing tickets, Lennie Bourgeoise, and Mary Lou Platt for taking the candid photos, and to Geoffrey Lee Martin for donating an autographed copy of his book.

**1 May 2010 GGCG Meeting**—34 members and guests turned up for our first meeting at Beef O'Brady's Sports Bar and Restaurant. We have known for a long time that the Shrimp Basket was too small for our meetings and we finally located a place that has a separate banquet room that will accommodate up to 100 people.



John Perry Blackwelder, OAEA Life Associate member, made his first appearance at an OAEA-GCG Chapter meeting.

Our guest speaker, Maria Landy, gave a short presentation on the Relay for Life program. Maria is a member of the Pensacola Police Department and has been raising funds to support her participation in the Cancer Society Relay for Life Races. When Maria put in her plug for donations she pointed out that two other participants in the forthcoming races were in attendance and Maria plugged the groups that Joyce Blackwelder and Karen Nightengale represent. Joyce made an announcement that any money donated for the cause by the OAEA GCG members should go to Maria. Karen seconded the motion.



**John Perry Blackwelder first time attendee**



**Guest Speaker Maria Landy beams for the Camera**

While Maria was providing background data on the Cancer Society research program and her father's recent bouts with cancer Sean Baker circulated through the group passing out door prize tickets and selling 50/50 raffle tickets.

Following Maria's spiel OAEA GCG President Duck Talbert announced that the chapter picnic we were planning to have in June had been shelved due to the Blue Angel Recreation Center Pavilion at Bronson Field being fully booked on Saturday's in June and July. Next year we plan on making a reservation earlier in the year. In lieu of having a chapter picnic in June we are planning to have a catered buffet luncheon at Beef O'Brady's on Saturday 5 June.

Laura Snow gave a brief update on the web site for the USASE that is being created by her and John Dyer. Laura also asked for support from registered voters who are residents of the city of Pensacola in signing a petition for her neighbor who is running for Mayor of Pensacola,



**Judy Dickson Door Prize Winner**

Billy-Ace made an announcement that OAEA-GCG Chapter members Brian Hoffmaster and Laura Snow have volunteered to run for President and Vice President respectively in the forthcoming OAEA Election that will be conducted by US Mail. By the time you read this you should have received your ballot.



**Jim Norris winner of the 50/50 Raffle**

day, Heidi, was asked to draw the tickets. The door prize consisting of a patch commemorating the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Richard E. Byrd's 1929 flight over the Geographic South Pole, a copy of Polar Press Clippings for 2007, and a copy of the First Discovery Book about Penguins. Was won by Judy Dickson. Dave Bresnahan, Darryn Schneider, and our own Joyce Blackwelder donated door prizes for this meeting. Jim Norris won the 50/50 Raffle, in the amount of \$60.

Thanks to everyone who helped with the meeting and to Lennie Bourgeoise, Mary Lou Platt, and Sean Baker for taking the photographs used in this meeting report.

**5 June 2010 OAEA GCG Meeting**—It was very hot with 100 percent humidity when I was packing my car trunk with all the junk that I take to meetings. However, when the meeting broke up 2 p.m. we were having a torrential downpour with lots of lightening and thunder. Thirty-seven members turned out for our first ever catered buffet. The



**Helen Bourgeoise, Ed Owens, Unknown, Charlie Henke, Jamie Baker, Gary Skaar, and Charlie Mauck at the buffet table**

buffet line was open at 12 noon and the food was very good. The menu consisted of potato salad, chicken and beef quesedadas, chicken wraps, sliders, and chicken wings with celery sticks and assorted dips.

Free chow lured out a few members who we have not seen in a long time. Charlie Mauck has been an absentee for so long that I don't have a date of the last time he attended a meeting. Charlie had a good excuse for missing so many meetings, but I can't remember what it was. Other "strangers" included Sonya and Aiden Hollingsworth (daughter and grandson of Jim and Pam Landy) and Life Associate Members Jamie and Ashlee Baker. Ashlee had not been to a meeting since June 2005. Billy Blackwelder was conspicuous by his absence, but he did call me before the meeting to tender his regrets and again after the meeting to congratulate me for what he heard was a great meeting.

The only first time attendee was Randy Nightengale guest of Life Associate Member Karen Nightengale.

Since this was mainly a social gathering, there was not much business conducted. Mary Lou Platt donated a 10-foot by 3-foot vinyl Antarctic scene of penguins and icebergs. It looked suspiciously like an advertisement banner for the movie *Happy Feet*. When questioned about it Mary Lou said that it was a "donation" from Wal-Mart. Since the banner is relatively large the Beef O'Brady's management agreed to store it for us and break it out for meetings. John Jaenisch became a Lifer when he changed his OAEA membership from Annual to Life status. It's a good thing that I didn't charge him arrears for the annual dues he has missed. Duck introduced Tracey Goodson, the owner of Beef O'brady's. Tracey talked about the Bingo Palace that is next door to

Beef's and he donated a stack of vouchers for free bingo games at the Paradise. Tracey also spoke briefly about a fund raising idea that he thinks would help raise funds for the OAEA-GCG Chapter.



**Duck and our Hostess Heidi calling out winning numbers for the door prize consisting of an OAEA Ball Cap donated by the GCG Chapter (shown below)**

After almost everyone had finished eating Pam started selling 50/50 raffle tickets and Duck Talbert passed out tickets for the door prize drawings. Once everyone had their tickets our hostess, Heidi Gonterman, was asked to draw the tickets for the door prize. The first door prize, an OAEA ball cap, was won by Charlie "Mighty Fine" Henke. The second door prize, a ceramic mug, made by and donated by Karen Nightengale, was won by Ranee Talbert. Billy-Ace won the coveted 50/50 raffle and he took home \$71 as his share.



Following the drawings the meeting was concluded and people started departing. By 2 pm, when our reservation time was up, there was only a hand-full of hangers-on left. I packed up my stuff and headed for home. I think three or four of the others decided to adjourn to the bar to have one more drink for the road. The next meeting is scheduled for Saturday 3 July at 1300. As usual the meeting room is reserved for us from 1100 until 2 pm.



**Jamie Baker, Billy-Ace, and Ashlee Baker**

Thanks to everyone who showed up for our first catered luncheon and especially to Pam Landy who helped with the planning. Special thanks also to Pam and Duck for taking care of the raffles and to Mary Lou and Lennie for taking photos.



**Early bird arrivals. Standing left to right: Paul Amos, Mary Lou Platt, Gus Shinn, Billy-Ace, Jim McCreary, Walter Smith, Bill & Mary Fazio, Lennie & Helen Bourgeois, and Charlie Mighty Fine Henke. Seated left to right: Gary Skaar and Al Rogers.**