



# EXPLORER'S GAZETTE

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

Uniting All OAEs in Perpetuating the Memory of United States Involvement in Antarctica

Volume 11, Issue 1

Old Antarctic Explorers Association, Inc

Jan-Mar 2011



*USS Gravely Tug Assist Float Off*

## Guided Missile Destroyer Named After OAE

*Submitted by Ed Hamblin*

Quite a number of the people listed on the OAEA membership roster have Antarctic features named after them; but there is only one who has an active Navy ship named after him. USS *Gravely* (DDG-107) is named after Vice Admiral Samuel L. Gravely Jr (1922–2004). Admiral Gravely was sponsored into the OAEA in 2009 by Billy-Ace Baker as a Commemorative Member with eligibility being based on his tenure as Commander, Third Fleet, during which time he made a familiarization trip to the ice during the 1976–1977 summer season. Naval Support Force, Antarctica and Antarctic Development Squadron Six fell under his operational control while deployed.

Built in Pascagoula, Mississippi and commissioned in November of 2010, the USS *Gravely* is one of the newest ARLEIGH BURKE class DDG hulls, the 57<sup>th</sup> of the class. With the latest in ship design stealth technology, the ship is powered by four gas turbine engines, is equipped with the AEGIS Anti-Air Warfare suite, and has vertical launch capability for a number of missile types. It can carry and support two MH-60R Seahawk LAMPS III ASW helicopters, is fitted with a 5-inch gun, two torpedo tubes, 25MM and 12MM guns, and boasts the latest in electronic countermeasures. As configured, the ship will be able to sustain any type of warfare mission from carrier battle group

See: [USS GRAVELY](#) On page 4.

**PRESIDENT'S CORNER**

James "Jim Da Retired Cop" Heffel—OAEA President

**T**O ALL OAEs—I hope that this finds everyone in good health and even though winter is still upon many of us I am looking forward to an early spring.



In February the OAEA BOD approved the expenditure of \$1000 for a plaque to commemorate the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the VX-6 P2V crash at Wilkes Station on 9 November 1961 in which four crew members and one USARP scientist were killed. See the Editorial on page 3 for more details

I would like to extend a heart well-done to the OAEA NE Chapter for donating slightly over \$1500 to the New Zealand Red Cross Appeal to aide victims of the 22 February Christchurch NZ earthquake. For more details see the NE Chapter spring meeting report in this issue.

In the last issue of the *Gazette* I mentioned that the OAEA 2010 Reunion Memory Book would be published in March or April. However, the editor, Billy-Ace Baker advises that problems with obtaining a "mug shot" of everyone in attendance has further delayed the memory book completion. He now expects that it may not be mailed out until late May or early June.

The strength of any organization lies within the cohesiveness and participation of the membership of that organization. You, and only you, can determine the future of the OAEA. We need your input and help as the OAEA continues to expand. Membership growth is always a challenge. I would like to personally challenge each member to recruit a new member. The best way to do this is to contact OAEA Membership Chairman Billy-Ace Baker and provide him with the name and contact information of the person you wish to be recruited. Billy-Ace will send an OAEA Information Package containing a membership application and other items to that person. He will also give you credit in the New Member column of a future issue of the *Gazette*.

I solicit your recommendations and suggestions on those areas of the OAEA that you perceive as going well, as well as, on those areas where you feel we can do better. Feel free to contact me at [jim1031@hotmail.com](mailto:jim1031@hotmail.com), or 25 Lakewood Road, So. Weymouth, MA 02190.

In closing, I wish to remember those who have lost a loved one or a friend. I express my condolences to the families of the OAEs who have died. To those under the weather, I wish you a speedy recovery. Until the next time, take care.

*Jim Heffel*  
OAEA President



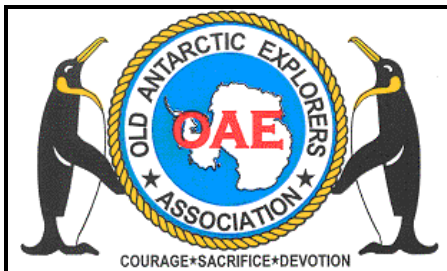
**GROWLERS & BERGY BYTES**

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

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**DISCLAIMER STATEMENT**

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## 439 MEMORIAL PLAQUE

*Editorial by Billy-Ace Baker*

In mid-January the OAEA Museum Coordination Committee Chairman Gene Van Reeth requested that the OAEA BOD consider helping to fund a memorial plaque for a Deep Freeze P2V that crashed at Wilkes Station during DF-62.

After discussing the request the OAEA Board of Directors approved a resolution to fund a memorial plaque for the 50th Anniversary of the crash. Details of the crash may be viewed on the following web site: <http://www.oaedks.net/billy439.pdf>.

The resolution approved an expenditure of \$1000 from the OAEA General Fund for the plaque that will be partially funded by several Australian OAEA members. The resolution also includes provisions for creating an OAEA Memorial Plaque Fund that will only be used in support of memorials for other OAEA Memorial Members who died in Antarctica.

Anyone interested in donating to this fund may download a form from [www.oaea.net/OAEDonationForm.pdf](http://www.oaea.net/OAEDonationForm.pdf). Complete the form and mail it with a check to the address at the top of the form. Be sure to check the OAEA Memorial Plaque Fund line, and make your check payable to the OAEA. If you are unable to download the form you may mail your donation to:

OAEA

3104 Deepspring Drive

Chesapeake Virginia 23321 USA

Indicate on your check that it is for the Memorial Plaque Fund.

The first \$1000 received will be used to reimburse the OAEA General Fund for the cost of the plaque purchased in memory of those who perished in the crash of BUNO 140439.

The plaque is currently being cast at a foundry in Australia and when complete it will be shipped to Hobart Tasmania for further shipment to Antarctica. The plaque will contain the following wording.

### FATAL AIRCRAFT CRASH AT WILKES 9 NOVEMBER 1961

A United States Navy P2V Neptune BUNO 140439 from Air Development Squadron Six (VX-6) and based at McMurdo Station had flown across Antarctica to the Russian station at Mirny. The purpose of the mission was for Dr. Edward C. Thiel to conduct an airborne magnetometer survey over the Continent. The aircraft called in at Wilkes after leaving Mirny on 8 November 1961, for an overnight stop to take on extra fuel before returning to McMurdo. The following morning it crashed on take-off from the basic airstrip on the plateau near here. Dr Thiel and four of the eight-member crew were killed. The crash site is at: Longitude 100° 46' 55" East; Latitude 66° 15' 41" South

#### Killed

Edward C. Thiel, PhD. - USARP Geophysicist  
LCDR William D. Counts, USN - VX-6 Co-Pilot  
LTJG Romauld P. Compton, USN - VX-6  
AMH1 William W. Chastain, USN - VX-6  
ADR2 James L. Gray, USN - VX-6

#### Survivors:

LT Elias J. Stetz, USN - VX-6 Pilot  
LTJG Ernest L. Hand, USN - VX-6  
AE1 Jack C. Shaffer, USN-VX-6  
AT2 Clarence C. Allen, USN-VX-6

This memorial was created and sponsored by the Old Antarctic Explorers Association (OAEA) and members of the Australian National Antarctic Research Expedition (ANARE) Wilkes.1961 wintering party. It was erected by the Casey Expeditioners over the summer 2011/2012.



**USS GRAVELY** **From page 1**

AAW and ASW operations to independent anti-piracy/sea lane control missions.

After commissioning in Wilmington, NC, the ship arrived at its new homeport of Norfolk, VA. Following their arrival and a holiday break, the ship has been busy steaming and



**VADM Gravelly & CAPT Lefty Nordhill pose with Byrd's Bust at McMurdo**



**The Ship Comes To Life**

training (known as "shakedown") with very little time in port. In the near future, it will receive an upcoming major post-shakedown availability where the ship will go into a Norfolk shipyard for some scheduled hardware upgrades, and repairs following a rigorous at sea schedule. Once the ship



**Man The Ship And Set The Watch**

finishes the post-shakedown availability, it will be a full "up round" fleet unit, ready for all tasking.

I have had some correspondence with the Executive Officer, Cdr. Michael Witherspoon through a series of emails. We hope in the future after things with the ship settle down following their shakedown, we can get a Tidewater area OAE visit aboard the ship.

A bit of relevant trivia: Quite by accident, I had dinner with Admiral Gravelly at the Chief Petty Officer's club at Treasure Island in June of 1977.

I was staying in quarters at TI while attending school in Oakland, and was sitting in the club by myself on a weeknight, when I was approached by his Admiral's Aide and asked if I would permit his entrance to eat. As it turned out, the Closed Mess at the Officer's club was literally closed, and there were no

other facilities open on base. We got a table, and the Admiral bought me dinner. He was most interested in my shipboard experiences. At the time, I was a relatively new CPO, with not quite eleven years in, and here I was, chitchatting with a flag officer, and he

seemed interested in my opinions. One of the interesting things I remember about our conversation was not one time did he mention being the present Third Fleet Commander. Instead, he talked about his first flag posting as Director Of Naval Communications. Because that was my first real personal interaction with a flag officer, and it was so down-to-earth in nature, that became my "measuring stick" and MO that I used throughout the rest of my career in my dealings with flag officers.

**Condensed Biography**

Samuel Gravelly was born in Richmond, VA on 4 June 1922. He enlisted in the Naval Reserves on 15 September 1942 and was trained as a Fireman Apprentice.

He was the first African American to command a US Navy warship (USS *Theodore E. Chandler*), the first African American to command a US warship under combat conditions (USS *Taussig*), the first African American to command a major naval warship (USS *Jouett*), the first African-American admiral, the first African American to rise to the rank of Vice Admiral, and the first African American to command a US Fleet (COMTHIRDFLEET).

After suffering a stroke, Gravelly died at the National Naval Medical Center in Bethesda, MD, on 22 October 2004. He was buried in Arlington National Cemetery.

## New England Chapter Spring 2011 Meeting

By Marty Diller

*New England Chapter Secretary-Treasurer*

It was back to Pelly's 19th Hole restaurant, our regular Spring meeting site, on Saturday, 26 March for the 72 OAEs and guests who attended this OAEA-NE Chapter meeting. Pelly's has treated us very well and thankfully has held the line on their lunch buffet price over the four years that we have been holding our Spring meetings in North Kingstown, RI. Their good food and hospitality has been greatly appreciated!



**Jim Kelly volunteered to collect lunch tickets. Ticket stubs were later used for the door prize**

### Featured Presentation

At the time of this meeting, one of the main stories getting national media attention was radiation leaking from a tsunami and earthquake-damaged nuclear reactor in Japan. Meanwhile, in Ohio, Cleveland's Channel 5 (ABC) news was also airing some "5 On Your Side" interviews with OAEs and next of kin of OAEs that have/had suffered cancer that could be attributed to documented radiation leaks by the PM-3A nuclear power plant at McMurdo Station when it operated from 1962-73.

Two videos of "5 On Your Side" interviews were presented to the meeting attendees, and other information was provided, including that according to a 25 June 2010 story in *The Antarctic Sun*, the next seven years after the plant's closing, "...until February 1979, was spent decommissioning and removing the facility, including about 11,800 cubic yards of radioactive dirt from the site in compliance with the Antarctic Treaty". Also, that Ohio's Senator Sherrod Brown has asked the DOD and department of Veterans Affairs to evaluate the probability of radiation exposure from PM-3A to veterans serving at McMurdo, and that the national commander of the DAV (Disabled American Veteran's org.) has now published a press release in support of Senator Brown's request of the DOD and VA.



**Bob Sexton and Bob Shirk fill their plates at the buffet line**

### Chapter Business

The Chapter Board of Directors met before the meeting and voted to donate all of the money collected for this meeting's raffle drawing to the "New Zealand Red Cross Earthquake Appeal", and that the Chapter would match that amount with money from the Chapter's General Fund. After the meeting, a hat was passed and more money was collected for the appeal, intended to support those affected by the 6.3 magnitude earthquake that caused widespread damage and loss of life in Christchurch on 22 February. (More donations were sent to the Chapter by mail following this meeting. A total of \$1,508 was donated to the Earthquake Appeal by the Chapter.)

During the New Business portion of the meeting, further discussion ensued about the possibility of radiation exposure from PM-3A to veterans serving at McMurdo. A motion was passed for the Chapter to mail letters to all New England congressional delegations—and to draft and send sample letters to our members for their use in personally contacting their representatives—urging them to support the DAVs request for the DOD and VA to



**John Hasty examines the goods available for sale**

evaluate the probability that radiation exposure from the leaking PM-3A may have caused cancer in personnel serving at McMurdo.

**Fundraising**

Raffle winners included: Barry Chase (Bronze penguin family figurine), John Drews (DVD *March of the Penguins*/USN mug), John Giro (Antarctic book *The Longest Winter*), Gloria Hollo (Ceramic penguin family figurine/*March of the Penguins* book & DVD), George Lewis (book *Penguins of the World*), Peggy Lippka (book *Surviving Antarctica*), Jim Pedone (*March of the Penguins*

book/*Life in the Freezer* DVD), Sue Peipock (children's book Peter Pitseolak's *Escape from Death*), Mary Pellegrino (Powerball ticket), Aram Raky (USN mug), Bob Shirk (book *The Longest Winter*), Bob Sexton (matted NYANG ski-Herk poster), Ms. Pat Tengco (24" x 20" penguin lithograph), Chet Thomas (Antarctic book *Surviving Antarctica*).

**Meeting Schedule**

The next OAEA-NE Chapter meeting is scheduled for 1:00pm on Saturday, 25 June 2011, at *Tweed's Pub* in Worcester, MA.



(L to R) John Peipock, Bernie & Pat Benardello, Mary Pellegrino, Bev Diller, Anne Hazard, Paula Hall, Joan & Dave Killian, Nick Pellegrino (ballcap) and Fred Santino enjoying after-meeting drinks.

**Quonset Air Museum is still Flyin'**

March 2011  
By Marty Diller

Founded in 1992 with the assistance of then Governor Bruce Sundlun, the Quonset Air Museum in North Kingstown, Rhode Island, has remained a viable concern thanks to the efforts of a small group of dedicated volunteers from the Quonset Point area. The museum is housed on three acres in an original NAS Quonset Point hangar built in 1945 as the point building for the Overhaul and Repair (O&R) facility. It is proud to have 23 aircraft on display or undergoing restoration and maintains a large collection of aircraft parts and other historical artifacts.



In 2006, the QAM staff was working with the Rhode Island Airport Corporation to lease 15 acres of ground near the runway at the northern part of the airport for a proposed museum complex that included six buildings totaling over 122,000 square feet. However, those plans were scrapped when that property, a former air station weapons storage

area, was discovered to be contaminated and the costs of environmental cleanup were deemed too great to further pursue the proposed project. So for now, the QAM will stay at its present location.



**David Payne, QAM President & Executive Director**

I met and talked with QAM President and Executive Director David H. Payne recently about the overall status and future plans for the museum. Dave is quick to praise the hard

work of his 28 museum volunteers for the QAMs continued success, but laments a general lack of interest in the museum by Rhode Island residents, which translates to a lack of revenue necessary to expand display and storage areas for their collections. A successful small business owner, Dave is using the marketing skills he developed over the years to create ways to attract more customers and to increase donations to the museum.



**Portion of Antarctic Display at QAM**

To raise additional money for its building fund, the QAM is instituting a program called "the commemorative walk". This walk is around the museum flagpole and donors may purchase walkway bricks and have names inscribed in them to memorialize and honor loved ones.



**Air Development Squadron Six (VX-6) plaques with Antarctic Support Activities (ASA) plaque on the right**

The museum has a small display of VX-6 artifacts such as plaques, patches and newspaper clippings, but is always looking for large photos and other items suitable for display. Dave Payne was the museum Archivist before taking over as President, and he described some of the display-quality Antarctic-related artifacts held in the museum's large storage area. Most of these items consist of flight

crew uniforms and cold weather survival gear, but he welcomes any good quality memorabilia that ex-VX-/VXE-6 squadron personnel may wish to donate.

From the beginning, the QAM has been a major part of the annual RIANG Air Show, and now provides over a dozen of its aircraft for air show static displays. For 2011, the museum has established a Summer Commemorative Series and will be hosting different commemorative weekends to honor service members. The first weekend, 9-10 July, will pay tribute to WWII veterans and the museum will display its WWII aircraft along with various other displays. Plans are in the works for additional weekend events to honor Korean, Vietnam, Iraq, and Afghanistan vets.



**P2V parked on QAM ramp**

Meanwhile, the backbone of the QAM continues to be its volunteers. During the August 2006 OAEA National Reunion, as part of one of the reunion tours the museum opened its doors and their volunteers hosted many attendees for lunch. Reunion attendees also benefited from the museum's close ties with the Rhode Island Air National Guard (RIANG), and were provided shuttle bus transportation to the Guard's ramp for tours and static displays of C-130s from both the RIANG and the NYANG. Today, QAM volunteers continue to do it all, including maintain the facility and displays, restore aircraft and other artifacts, guide tour groups and customers through the facility, host parties, meetings and other events on site, and man displays for parades, festivals and other events.

For more QAM information, visit their website at: <http://www.thegam.org>.



**OAEA Day at QAM: 2006 reunion attendees enjoy food and displays at the QAM**

# OAEA

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

B-A:

When Ken McPherson upgraded his OAEA Membership to Life he sent me the following message and photo.

Ed Hamblin

Thanks Ed:

Attached is a photo of me and my golf cart at the new South Pole Station. Note the license plate.

Ken McPherson

*Editor's Note: Hummmm.*

Billy-Ace:

Bravo Zulu on the OAEA Communicator Group Club.

George Parker

*Editor's Note: Thanks to George and the other group donors who made it possible for the Communicator Group to be the first to donate \$10,000 to the OAEA Scholarship Fund.*



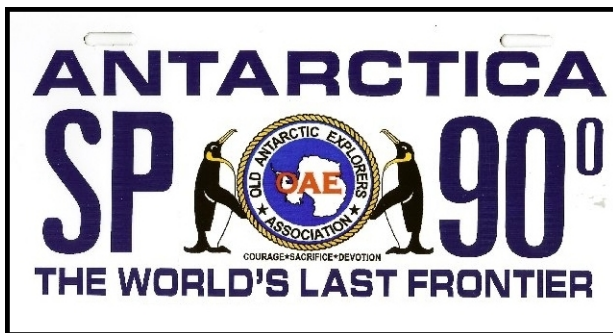
Billy-Ace,  
Wow! Excellent coverage of the San Antonio events as well as other stuff, as always. Thanks for sharing...  
Bill Spindler

Hey Billy:  
Another great issue! Thanks, Buds. All the Best!  
Mac, aka DK00004

**Editor's Note: Click here to visit: Harold MacPherson's Web Site**

Billy-Ace:  
Best Gazette so far! Excellent work and thanks  
Gary Skaar

Dear Editor:  
Great Gazette, but on page 14, in Ed Hamblin's story about the Tidewater Group Cliff Dickey is misidentified as Chris Dickey.  
Elaine Hood



*Detail of Golf Cart License Plate*

*Editor's Note: Well, I asked for criticism, good, or bad, and Elaine is right. It was my bad. Ed had it correct in the text and I made the error in the photo caption. My apologies to Cliff. I would like to point out here that Cliff was a member of the first South Pole Stations winter-over party.*



Billy-Ace:

Thanks for publishing my photo ID request. In the locator column of the Oct-Dec 2010 *Gazette*.

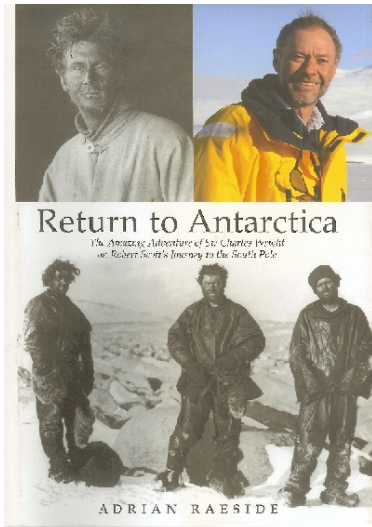
I noted the cartoon on page 19 that is by a friend of mine Adrian Raeside who is the grandson of Sir Charles Wright, probably better known in Antarctic circles as Silas Wright of the Scott 1910-1912 expedition. Wright was the fella who found Scott's tent.

Last year Raeside published a book *Return to Antarctica* using his experience of a cruise there, and the diaries of his grandfather and his two great uncles—Priestly of Scott's northern party, and Griffith Taylor geologist, also of the same expedition.

My book is coming along, it is written and now I am working on the revisions etc. We should be publishing later this summer. (See [www.habnag.wordpress.com](http://www.habnag.wordpress.com)).

Graeme Connell

*Editor's Note: Copies of Raeside's book can be ordered online by clicking on the photo of the book below:*



Hi, Billy-Ace!!

We just downloaded and printed out the latest *Gazette* and, once again, you have created a masterpiece!!!

On a sad note, we saw the notification of the death of Andy Holzemer who was Plane Captain on the infamous R4D-8 whose pilots were Captain Maurice LeBas and Captain Joe Walker. Buz has enumerable stories of the antics of that particular crew combination and just related to me that the last time he saw Andy was in Vietnam when Buz's C-130 was in line to offload cargo. Andy was Ground Control for his USMC C-130 which was behind Buz in line and they spied each other. Evidently, Andy threw off his head gear, grabbed Buz up, and tossed him around in the air for a while

Sam Dryfoose

B-A,

I got a note today from CAPT (DC) Max Perlitsh, USN (Ret), w/o DF-III Little America V, in response to an email to him about annual Chapter dues. I believe the note is not only directed to me, but applies to the OAEA in general, and I thought maybe it would be worth publishing in the *Gazette*:

Marty Diller

" I truly look forward to the mailings on Antarctic activities. I am not able to make the Reunions, but any Old Explorers from DF-III (1957-58) Little America may remember me and I send only best regards to all.  
Dr. P "

Hey, B-A:

I took some photos this season of the memorial plaque for the nuke plant on Ob Hill that some of the PM-3A veterans put together for transportation to McMurdo last year. (See *Explorer's Gazette Jan-Mar 2010, page 11*). The plaque has now been permanently installed on Ob Hill. You're welcome to use them for the next newsletter; I figure that's the best way to get the word out.

Peter Rejcek



*PM-3A Memorial Plaque on Ob Hill at McMurdo*

*Editor's Note: Thanks to Peter for sharing his photos. I only had room for one of them. I assume that the pit behind the plaque is where the contaminated soil was removed*

Dear Editor:

I started putting this vest together last year in October. I had some patches from my time on the ice during Deep Freeze 61. I added to my collection from various sources including several I purchased from you.

I found the vest on eBay with ANTARCTICA on the back and on the zippers pulls. It was just by luck that I found it and I won it with a \$6.95 bid.

I got the brass medallion from a mint in Washington State and paid \$17 each including the engraving. When I received them I drilled small holes in order to attach split rings to hang them from the zipper pulls.

I designed the large round back patch myself and had it made at a patch company for \$19 including shipping and handling. The name badge came from the same company and cost \$9. These are printed patches and not embroidered.

For the ANTARCTICA on the front I purchased individual letters and my neighbor sewed them on for me. I sewed on the rest of the patches myself.

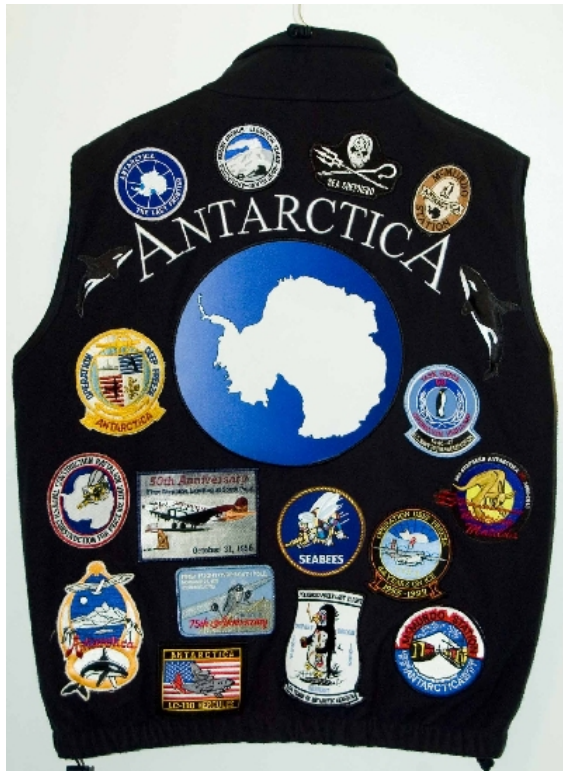
The pocket zipper pulls are sterling silver Antarctic continents. The main zipper has a sterling silver oval with a penguin and seal with the word ANTARCTICA on it.

I estimate that the total cost for the vest was between \$200 and \$300. I feel pretty proud wearing it.

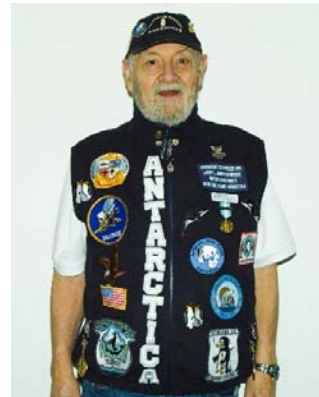
RM1 Larry Johnson  
Winter-Over DF-61



Front View of Vest With Antarctic Service Medal, Name Tag, & Assorted Embroidered Patches



Back of Vest With Large Printed Patch & Assorted Embroidered Patches



Larry Poses in his Vest



Zipper Pull

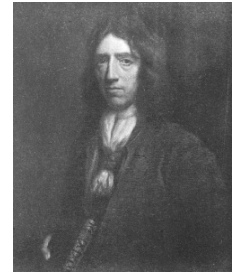


Zipper Pull with Larry's Name and Dates Engraved

# THIS QUARTER IN HISTORY

Ghost written by Black Jack of Ballarat  
for Lionel Wafer

From the Second Edition of John Stewart's  
*Antarctica: an Encyclopedia*, 2011.



*Lionel Wafer*

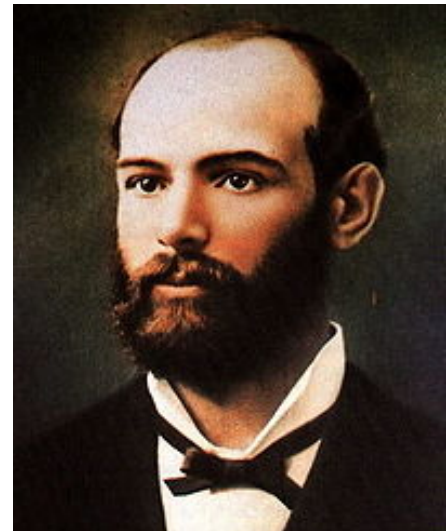
**JANUARY:** On 7 January 1893, the *Active*, commanded by Tom Robertson, during the Dundee Whaling Expedition, pulled into a hitherto undiscovered sound, 20 km long and 10 km wide, and



*Tom Robertson Aboard Active*

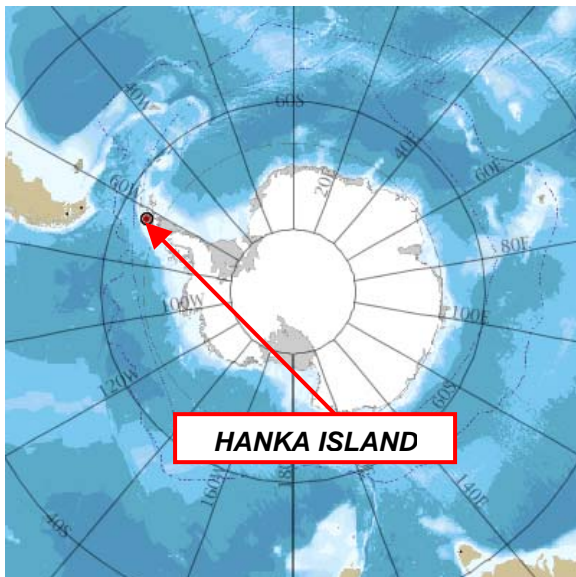
which extends in a NW-SE direction between the NE point of Dundee Island and the SE point of Joinville Island. It merges to the NW with Active Sound, forming the eastern entrance to that sound, and with which it completes the separation of the two aforementioned islands. Tom plotted it in 63° 22' S, 55° 45' W, and named it Firth of Tay, for the Scottish firth of that name. It appears as such on Tom's 1893 chart, but, Dr. Donald, also on that expedition, charted it as Firth Tay. On a 1937 British chart it appears as Firth of Tay, and that was the name accepted by the British naming committee on 8 September 1953, and by the Americans in 1956. It appears as such on a British chart of 1962. From at least 1908, the Argentines were calling it *Seno de Tay*, but on one of their 1949 charts it appears as *Estrecho de Tay*. The last name was the one accepted by the Argentine gazetteer of 1970. The word "estrecho" is better than "seno" The Chileans use the name *Estrecho Tay*. It was surveyed by the FIDS from Base D in 1953-54, and again between 1958 and 1961.

**FEBRUARY:** 6 February 1947 is a significant date for Antarctic Chileans (or Chilean Antarcticans). Soberania Station was opened, on Guesalaga Peninsula, Discovery Bay, Greenwich Island, in the South Shetlands, the first Chilean Antarctic station. Construction had begun on 27 January. That first winter, 1947, six men wintered-over, under Boris Kopaitic O'Neil, and a post office was established. Men have wintered-over there ever since. The name Soberania, which means "sovereignty", was a word much on the Chilean's minds back then (as it still is), their Antarctic claim conflicting as it does with that of the UK and Argentina, but the name of the base was later changed to Capitan Arturo Prat, to honor Capitan Arturo Prat Chacon, hero of the old naval battle of Iquique. Everyone refers to it as Prat.



*El Capitan Arturo Prat*

**MARCH:** In 1911, the great Scottish whaling firm of Salvesen, out of Leith, Edinburgh, needed good, reliable geological maps of South Georgia, the South Shetlands, the South Orkneys, and the Antarctic Peninsula. They found the man to do the job, David Ferguson, a



54-year-old Glasgow mining engineer, who had been a mining prospector in Persia in 1891, in Newfoundland in 1894, and Africa between 1903 and 1905. Between 1905 and 1907, Ferguson studied geology and mineralogy at Glasgow University, and conducted mining surveys in Scotland, but never graduated from university. In 1911 he headed down to South Georgia, and was based there until 1915. In the 1913-14 season he made a running survey of the South Shetlands, South

Orkneys, and the Antarctic Peninsula, from the whale catcher *Hanka*. Plotting, charting, naming as he went. Whenever you study geographical features in that area of Antarctica, you see features that he named, all over the place. This unsung hero of Antarctic exploration died in Glasgow on 8 March 1936.

## OAEA Southwest Group Meeting

By Jim Maddox

The OAEA Southwest group held it's first of three annual 2011 lunch/get togethers on 22 January in the Old Town area of San Diego, at the La Pinata Mexican Restaurant. We all enjoyed the food the accommodation and the service of the staff.

We had a new member Richard Pillsbury join us who had signed the guest book on the OAEA web site and I contacted about our Southwest Group. At that time he was in South Korea, he arrived back on Friday the 21<sup>st</sup>, and was able to join us for lunch. I meet with the 2012 reunion group and passed on all the stuff and info from the San Antonio reunion. Our next lunch/get together will be on 14 May. Cy Buehler has made arrangements at Polly's Pies Laguna Hills, CA.

Members, and family in attendance were Richard Pillsbury, Val Johnston, Phil Plouffe, Ken and Lee Hrossowyc, John and Faye Barnes, Jack Kane, Gus Hermes,



January 2011 OAEA Southwest Group Meeting

Cy and Millie Buehler, Jim and Ruth Eblen, Gabby and Linda Gaboury, Ron Stone, Faith Maybury and Jim Maddox.

If any OAEA members would like to join us at our next lunch in Laguna Hills, CA. Please contact Jim Maddox at 661-945-0469 or [jmadflynav@aol.com](mailto:jmadflynav@aol.com).

## Tidewater December Get-Together

by Ed Hamblin

The Tidewater Virginia contingent of the Old Antarctic Explorers had their "more or less" quarterly social get together at the House Of Eggs Restaurant in Norfolk in March. As the accompanying picture shows, either it is becoming fashionable to be an OAE, or everyone was bored with the seemingly long winter that we had, and came out due to Spring fever. The newest "face" was John Oberlander. Retired from the Coast Guard, John will bring us some true ice "sea stories".



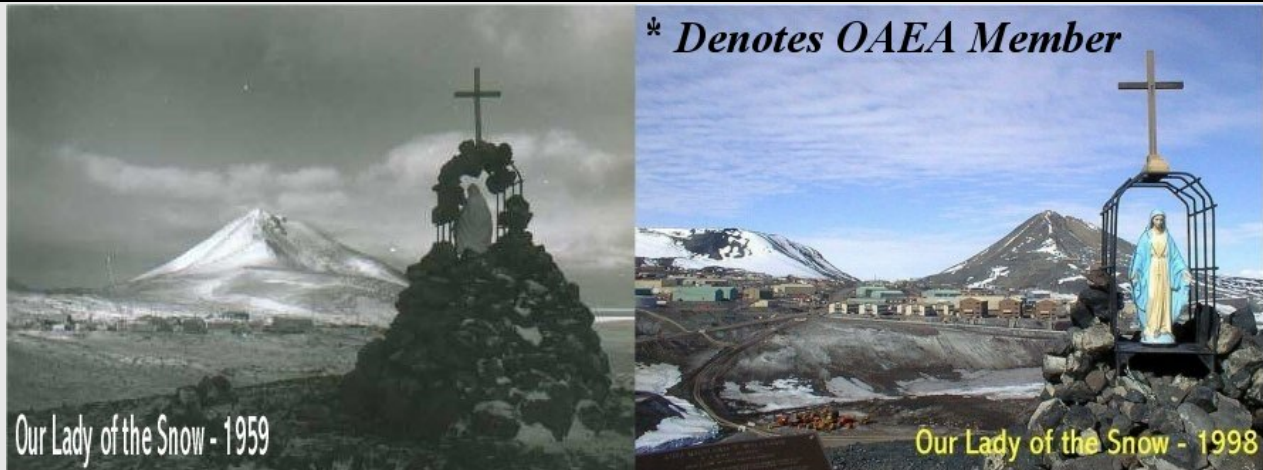
Herb Schaefer, and Ed Hamblin visited a number of area hotels that were interested in hosting the event. Norfolk, Virginia and the rest of the area is a very popular place for military type reunions and business conventions, and there are a lot of different events that take place during the year, so planning for another event becomes very long range in nature. The ad hoc committee took their findings to the group, and the group was able to decide on a venue. So for those of you, who like to plan, put 12-14 November, Norfolk Waterside Sheraton on your calendar for the Old Antarctic Explorers 2014 Reunion.

The next Tidewater social hook-up will be at the Norfolk House Of Eggs Restaurant on Saturday, 4 June at 1500/3 PM. We meet in the room on the side. If you want to be added to the Tidewater e-mail notification tree, contact Ed Hamblin ([ehamblin74@verizon.net](mailto:ehamblin74@verizon.net), phone 757-405-3362).

Because Tidewater area will be hosting the 2014 Old Antarctic Explorers Reunion, during the winter months, an ad hoc committee consisting of Brad Miller, Bill Raymus,



Pictured, left to right: Cliff Dickey, Jim Silverstorf, Bill Murray, John Oberlander, Charlie Thompson, Bill Raymus, Manny Perry, Herb Schaefer, Brad Murray, Ron Rooks, Bob Cantrell, Dave Steward, Wayne Rogers.



## IN MEMORY

OAE Lester M. Bachmann, 87, died on 2 March 2011, in Sarasota, FL. Lester visited Antarctica as a tourist.

OAE Stephen Sherwood Barnes, 95, died on 20 October 2010, in Boulder, CO. Stephen was the IGY Station Leader of Byrd Station during DF-III (1957-58). Barnes Ridge is named in his honor.

OAE Lloyd Beebe, 94, died on 6 January 2011, in Sequim, WA. Lloyd wintered-over at Little America V during DF-I (1955-56) as a Walt Disney photographer. He was a member of the Antarctic Deep Freeze Association (ADFA).

\*OAE CAPT James H. Bergstrom, USN (Ret.), 81, died on 13 February 2011, in Annandale, VA. Jim wintered-over with MCB(Special) at McMurdo as a LT during DF-I. (see story on page 16)

OAE MGEN. Raymond Charles Bonnabeau Jr., MD, PhD, USA (Ret), 77, died on 26 February 2011, in Saint Paul, MN. Raymond was the doctor with the USARP University of Minnesota Geological field party to the Jones Mountains during DF-61. Bonnabeau Dome is named in his honor.

OAE Billye Johnson Bowman, 78, died on 9 December 2010, in Houston, TX. Billye walked with King Penguins when she visited Antarctica as a tourist.

OAE Billie Lee Bunker, 72, died on 21 January 2011, in Tucson, AZ. Billie was a PR and wintered-over during DF-IV (1958-59).

OAE Mary Hardy Cawley, 88, died on 8 February 2011, in Tucson, AZ. Mary visited Antarctica as a tourist.

OAE Linda Able Choice, 59, died on 16 March 2011, in Houston, TX. Linda and Bill Choice were married in Antarctica on 16 February 2007.

OAE William T. Colston, 41, died on 21 January 2011, in Frisco, TX. Will served as Division Director for Antarctic Infrastructure and Logistics at the National Science Foundation since November 2009.

OAE Jean Marie Claps, 74, died on 11 February 2011, in Schenectady, NY. Jean visited Antarctica as a tourist.

OAE Robert L. Clarke, 92, died on 1 January 2011, in Brandenton, FL. Robert visited Antarctica as a tourist.

OAE May Cutler, 87, died on 5 March 2011, in Montreal, Canada. May was the founder of Tundra Books and spend six weeks in Antarctica in 2010.

Vannye Whitfield Dady, 92, died on 17 January 2011, in Tallahassee, FL. Vannye served as a personal Secretary to Admiral Byrd's sister in Washington DC, and then got a better paying job as a clerk at Dalton's Drug Store in Tallahassee.

OAE Hugh Brennan Dakers Sr., 83, died on 19 January 2011, in Scarborough, ME. Hugh served on the RV *Hero* in 1968. Dakers Island is named in is honor.

OAE David N. Dickinson, 65, died on 26 January 2011, Deer Isle, ME. He served with Antarctic Support Activities as a Construction Mechanic (CM) and made two deployments to the Ice.

- OAE Charles Diener, 83, died on 34 February 2011, in Wilmington, DE. Charles served as an Aerographer's Mate (AG) on the USS *Mount Olympus* during Highjump (1946-47).
- OAE Ronald Forrest Dunlap, 50, died on 20 January 2011, in Redding, CA. Ronald was with the Navy on the Ice. Unit and years unknown.
- OAE Peter J. Eng, age 89, died on 30 January 2011, in Roseville, MI. Peter served on MSC ships and was an honorary Chief Petty Officer. Years unknown.
- OAE REV Jesse William Essinger, USN (Ret), 85, died on 24 March 2011, in Austin, TX. Jesse wintered-over at McMurdo during DF-68 as the Chaplain. Mount Essinger is named in his honor.
- OAE Robert Marion Fees, 89, died on 1 February 2011, in West Sacramento, CA. Robert served during Highjump. Unit unknown.
- OAE Joe Edward Fritcher, 95, died on 31 January 2011, in Tyler, TX. Joe served in the USN during Highjump.
- OAE Frederick William Gerretson, 97, died on 24 February 2011, in Heathsville, VA. Frederick served with Highjump. Unit unknown.
- \*OAE Noel Gillespie, 77, died on 15 March 2011, in Christchurch, NZ. Noel visited Antarctica in 1984 on an NSF MWR project to decorate the clubs at McMurdo.
- OAE Helen B. Goff, 84, died on 9 January 2011, in Ridgefield, CT. Helen visited Antarctica several times in her capacity as a travel agent and travel film narrator.
- OAE CDR James Donald Goulette, USN (Ret), 79, died on 31 March 2011, in Oakland, CA. James served in DF. Unit and year unknown.
- OAE Phillip E. Grigg Jr., 83, died on 29 March 2011, in Warren, MI. Phillip served during Highjump.
- OAE Jerry Hanson, 77, died on 11 January 2011, in Kent, WA. Jerry served on the USCGC *Northwind*. Years unknown.
- OAE MAJ John Washington Haynes, Jr., USMC (Ret), 78, died on 12 March 2011, at his home at Abernethy Laurels, NC. John served in VX-6 as a pilot during DF-67 and 68. Haynes Glacier in Marie Byrd Land is named in his honor.
- OAE Brian P. Hicks, 39, died on 27 March 2011, in Salem MA. Brian was an electrician with RPSC during the 2010-11 summer season.
- \*OAE ABCS Bobby Joe Hook, Sr., USN (Ret), 72, died on 22 January 2011, in Quitman, AR. Bobby served as an LC-130 Loadmaster from 1963-67 with VX-6.
- OAE CPO George Hucul Sr., USN (Ret), 92, died on 3 February 2011, in Wallingford, CT. George served during Highjump.
- OAE Greydon G. Jones, 84, died on 11 April 2010, in Sumner, WA. Greydon visited Antarctica as a tourist.
- \*OAE CSC Donald A. Kitchen, USN (Ret), 84, died on 22 February 2011, in Dunellen, NJ at the Green Brook Senior Center while helping to prepare for the senior's meeting. Don wintered-over at South Pole Station during DF-IV as the station cook.
- OAE Harold Kwast, MD, 80, died on 15 February 2011, in Midland, MI. Harold visited Antarctica as a tourist.
- OAE Wesley Laird, 74, died on 14 January 2011, in York, ME. Wesley served on the ice with the Seabees. Unit and year unknown.
- OAE Edwin R. Lindner, DVM, 77, died on 12 January 2011, in Dodgeville, WI. Ed was an AG2 and served with MCB(Special). He wintered-over at McMurdo during DF-I. He was a member of the ADFA.
- OAE AGC Robert Luke, USN (Ret), 51, died on 22 October 2010, in Silver Spring, MD. Robert wintered-over at McMurdo during DF-84.
- \*OAE PHC Terry H. Malone, USN (Ret), 90, died on 8 February 2011, in Canton, OH. Terry served during Highjump.
- OAE Milton Bynum McRary, 84, died on 15 January 2011, in Edgewater, FL. Milton served during Highjump.
- \*OAE CDR Martin Nemcosky Jr., USN (Ret), 79, died on 22 March 2011, in Virginia Beach, VA. Marty served in NSFA Det Charlie (Weather) during DF-73 and 74.

OAE William A. Nicholson aka "Wild Bill", 59, was found dead of an apparent suicide on 1 March 2011, in Driggs, ID. Wild Bill worked in Antarctica as a contract carpenter and carpenter foreman from 1989 through the present. He wintered over at McMurdo during DF-90 and 92.

OAE Russel Pardoe, 78, died on 16 February 2011, in Eureka, CA. Russel wintered over as the doctor at Mawson Station with ANARE during 1961 where he gained fame by performing brain surgery on a fellow expeditioner. After he wintered over he moved to the USA and became a plastic surgeon specializing in breast enhancement surgery. Mount Pardoe (twin peaks) is named in his honor.

OAE John Parker Oliver, Dr., 71, died on 10 February 2011, in Gainville, FL. John served as an astronomer at South Pole Station during the austral summer each year from DF-85 through DF-88 at the South Pole Optical Telescope team. (SPOT).

\*OAE Joe Parr, 74, died on 13 September 2010, in Ventura, CA. Joe wintered-over at South Pole Station as the Communications Specialist during DF-75 as part of the first all civilian crew and at Palmer Station during DF-78

OAE Kincy Madison Reel, 63, died on 31 March 2011, in Ayden, NC. Kincy worked for NARF during the Dome Charlie aircraft recovery in the late 70s.

OAE James J. Reidy, 69, died on 29 January 2011, in Holden, MA. Jim served as a Quartermaster on the USS *Edisto*.

OAE Dorothy A. "Lucey" Roche, 69, died on 23 December 2010, in Holyoke, MA. Lucey visited Antarctica as a tourist.

OAE MTCM John J. Sawicki, USCG (Ret), 69, died on 8 January 2011, in Gile, WI. John served on the USCGC *Glacier*. Year unknown.

OAE Richard Alan Saxton, 78, died on 28 February 2011, in Australia. Dick wintered-over in 1963 as the OIC of Wilkes Station. Saxton Ridge is named in his honor.

OAE Francis J. Scheid, 90, died on 24 February 2011, in Nashua, NH. Francis made two trips to McMurdo as a math instructor for the Navy.

OAE John Charley Schulz, 74, died on 30 March 2011, in Everett, WA. John deployed to Antarctica during 1970 as part of the University of Washington USARP research team.

OAE Bill Servais, 68, died on 25 January 2011, in Mazatlan, Mexico. Bill served as the dentist at McMurdo Station for four austral summers.

OAE Joe Lorraine Estes Sherrill, 92, died on 30 August 2010, in Pensacola, FL. Joe visited Antarctica as a tourist.

OAE Bruce D. Sidell, 62, died on 8 February 2011, in Old Town, ME. Bruce conducted research on Antarctic Icefish for 15 summer seasons at Palmer Station and on Research vessels commencing in 1987. Sidell Spur is named in his honor.

\*OAE Valeriy Spitkovsky, 72, died on 2 March 2011, in Brighton, MA. Valeriy served with the Soviet Antarctic Expeditions. He summured at Mirny Station in 1962 and wintered-over at Vostok Station in 1964. He became an American citizen in 1996.

OAE Dee Ann Story, 79 died on 16 January 2011, in Wimberly, Texas. Dee Ann visited Antarctica twice as an anthropologist.

OAE Hal Hazelton Strickland Jr., 97, died on 11 December 2010, in Greensboro, VA. Hal visited Antarctica in 2008 to study and photograph penguins.

\*OAE Wilbur G. "Bill" Sumney, 76, died on 9 October 2010, in Dayton, OH. Bill served with MCB-1, ASA, and MCB-71 during DF61 through 64, and DF-73 and 74.

OAE Jack Temple, 66, died on 9 February 2011, in Clevadon, North Somerset, UK. Jack served with the British Antarctic Survey (BAS) as a carpenter. Jack first went south in 1972 on the RV *John Biscoe* and wintered over on Signey Island. In 1974 he returned to Antarctica and wintered-over at Halley Bay Station.

OAE Charles W. Thompson, 75, died on 19 February 2011, in Oklahoma City, OK. Charles wintered-over with the USN. Date unknown.

OAE Charles W. Weddleton, 83, died on 11 March 2011, in South Yarmouth, MA. Charlie served during the IGY.

OAE David Willingham, USN (Ret) died on 4 February 2011, in Alexandria, VA. David served in New Zealand and Antarctica. Dates unknown.



**CHAPLAIN'S CORNER**

Denis Casey—OAEA Chaplain

When and if Antarctica chooses a continental song could I suggest one verse from the state song of Kansas called *Home on the Range*.

How often at night, when the Heavens are bright  
 With the light of the glittering stars,  
 Have I stood amazed, and asked as I gaze  
 If their glory exceeds that of ours.

It has been said that many of our generation have lost their sense of "Awe" and sense of "wonder."

I do not mean curiosity, which is covered by newspapers, television, and Internet. I mean the experience of a heavenly display of lightening or a beautiful sunrise or red sails in the sunset.

Old Antarctic explorers, even many years after returning from the ice, having the advantage of great photos and Internet sites to rekindle the awe and wonder we were so fortunate to experience while in the land of penguins.



Let the nations praise you O God, let all the nations praise you.

May God show kindness and bless us and make his face shine upon us. For then the earth will acknowledge your ways and all nations will know of your power.

**REMEMBERING JIM BERGSTROM**

**26 February 1929 – 13 February 2011**

*by DianOlson Belanger*

**18 February 2011**—The likelihood of my ever meeting Jim Bergstrom seems remote at best, despite learning later that he grew up in Duluth, Minnesota, as did I about fifty miles to the north. He graduated from Duluth Central High School, where I later did my practice teaching, and he attended UMD, my alma mater. His naval career and my non-military background and professional life as a historian would not ordinarily have intersected.

young officers like Jim, had been pioneers in Antarctica in the mid-1950s. They had built and maintained seven bases there for pursuing scientific research during the International Geophysical Year (IGY), 1957–1958. "I hear you do oral history interviews", Jim said. I'm not sure he knew exactly what that meant, but he invited me to lunch to chat about a possible joint project, hopefully funded by NSF.



**Captain Jim Bergstrom USN**

But in the summer of 1997, Jim Bergstrom telephoned me, and I learned he had been to the National Science Foundation's Office of Polar Programs to find a way to preserve the memories of the Navy veterans of Operation Deep Freeze. These men, primarily Seabees and



U.S. Navy / Special to The Antarctic Sun

**Brides Maids at Grace Kelly's Mock Wedding**



I knew a tad about the IGY, but I did not know about the Navy's critical role. I did not appreciate how significant it was, in the depths of the Cold War, for 66 countries to cooperatively investigate the earth and its environment, 12 of them in Antarctica. I had no idea how exciting, how fascinating, how important this untold story was. But by the time Jim finished outlining his participation in this historic endeavor, I trusted his integrity, admired his purpose, enjoyed his company, and wanted in.



**Jim Bergstrom, Patty Ahrens, and Catherine Bergstrom at the 2009 ADFA Reunion in Madison, Wisconsin.**

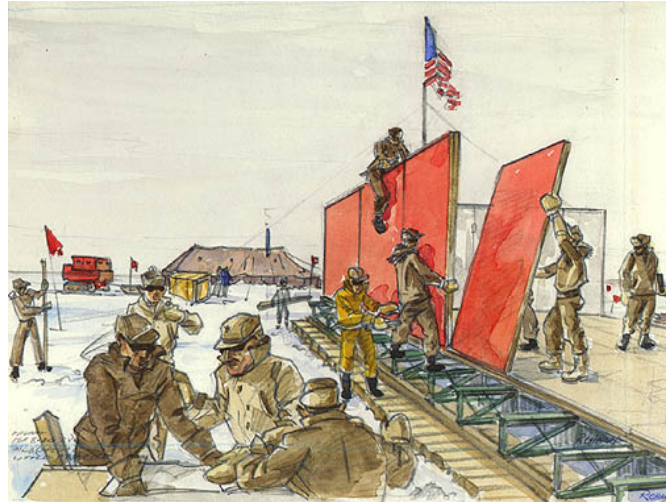
What NSF eventually funded was a written history as well as 44 individual oral history interviews to inform and enliven it. Jim and Dick Bowers, who started this ball rolling, and I formed an unusual but warm, productive, and supportive partnership so my primary focus could be making a book. Bill Stroup signed on to manage the financial aspects of our grant. Dick coordinated my interviewing. Jim, calling himself our CEO, handled all the administrative details with NSF, including insisting that I should see Antarctica for myself and going to bat for me at NSF to make it happen. In his conscientious, persistent, good-natured way, Jim dogged NSF on my behalf throughout the project, which lasted at least twice as long as any of us expected.



*Photo by Elaine Hood*  
**Jim Bergstrom At 2005 ADFA Reunion**

Jim's personal story in Antarctica was amazing. In late 1955, when he sailed for the polar continent as part of Operation Deep Freeze I, he was a 26-year-old Navy

lieutenant, a pilot (though he did not fly on the ice). He led the Advance Party that built the first tent camp at McMurdo Station. He was the Executive Officer of the wintering-over party of 93 men. Shortly after the last ship left, isolating them for the long winter night, a strange accident left him with two shattered elbows, one broken in 19 places. Doc Taylor did his best, further handicapped when the x-ray machine failed. By all accounts, Jim never lost his unflappable sense of humor, keeping up others' morale with his own.



*Painting by Robert Charles Hahn Navy Historical Society*  
**Seabees Erecting the First "Permanent" Buildings at McMurdo During DF-I**

Photos show Jim charming and beautiful (moustache notwithstanding) as the Maid of Honor in Father Condit's theatrical production of "Grace Kelly's Wedding." Movies show him carrying a comely bikini-clad manikin off the first spring plane, bending her backwards for a dramatic kiss, then looking up quizzically as if to wonder: why is she so cold?

I know that Jim rejoined the Navy after his convalescence back home and a brief stint as a commercial pilot and went on to a distinguished career, retiring as a Captain. He helped found and lead the Antarctic Deep Freeze Association and helped bring me to its biennial reunion even before our grant came through.

My book, *Deep Freeze: the United States, the International Geophysical Year, and the Origins of Antarctica's Age of Science*, was finally published in late 2006. Immortalizing this extraordinary story became in a very personal way my gift to Jim and his fellow Antarctic pioneers, though, in truth, I was the gift recipient. I am but a quasi-Antarctican, but I offer these thoughts on behalf of all those who were there on the ice with Jim and wish they could be here to honor and remember him today.

Jim Bergstrom, my respected and appreciated partner, my treasured friend, thank you. You will ever live in my heart.

***Editors Note: Jim is survived by his wife Catherine, daughters Karen Goers and Patty Ahrens, and five grandchildren.***

## NEW OAEA MEMBERS

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

Thanks to Laura Snow (5), Jerry Schleining (3), Nick Majerus, Grant Nelson, Dale Cockrill, Doc Abbot, Stan Wilson, Alex Synowicz, Jim Bain, Pam Landy, Wendy Summers, Rod Adams, Burke Richards, Bill Donnell, Stan Wiley, and Charles Lagerborn 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

|                            |         |  |
|----------------------------|---------|--|
| Baker, Jimmie CIV          | *Life   | GCG Groupie/Young Eagles Pilot                   |
| Ballard, Thomas CIV        | Life    | Hallett WO DF-61                                 |
| Bamford, Toni NOK          | Annual  | Dau of Dan Siwinski                              |
| Bentley, Charles CIV       | Life    | USARP/USAP 56-10                                 |
| Boudreaux, Oneil CIV       | Life    | MV <i>Frontier Spirit</i> 93                     |
| Brown, Rodger CIV          | Life    | DF-III   |
| Cameron, Richard CIV       | Life    | IGY WO Wilkes DF-II                              |
| Carlisle, Betty CIV Doctor | Life    | USAP 75-76/91-92/00-04                           |
| Carlson, Richard CIV       | *Life   | NE Groupie                                       |
| Chombeau, Sarah LTJG       | *Annual | GCG Groupie                                      |
| Elder, Tom AMSC            | Annual  | VXE-6 75-77/82-86                                |
| Eley, Richard PH2 (AC)     | Life    | VX-6 63-67                                       |
| Eppley, Zoe CIV            | Life    | USAP Palmer, RV <i>Polar Duke</i> 85/89/91/95/97 |
| Grinnell, Sheldon LT MC    | Life    | Wilkes DF-II (56-58)                             |
| Hatfield, Robert CM2       | Annual  | ASA WO McM DF-70                                 |
| Hutchinson, Suzy NOK       | Life    | Niece of Hugo Neuburg                            |
| McDaniel Loren EO3         | Life    | NSFA WO DF-74                                    |
| McPherson, Ken CIV         | §Life   | USAP 88  |
| Nelson, Susan NOK          | Life    | Dau of Jim West                                  |
| Perry, Manuel CM2          | Life    | USS <i>Yancey</i> (46-47)                        |
| Pillsbury, Richard UT2     | Life    | ASA SS 63-64                                     |
| Polskoy, Walter CE2        | Life    | WO Byrd DF-70                                    |
| Stravinsky, Joseph EOC     | Life    | South Pole WO DF-70                              |
| Turkington, Wm LCDR        | Life    | NSFA SS 72-75                                    |
| Weirich, John SK1          | §Life   | VXE-6 76-79                                      |
| Willborn, Thomas JO3       | Life    | NSFA WO McM DF-72, SS 72-75                      |
| Yelvington, Thomas CIV     | §Life   | ASA SS DF 71-72                                  |
|                            |         | RPSC Director                                    |



### 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*

**USS *Atka*** (AGB-3): Philadelphia, PA, 12-15 May 2011. POC Carl Brown, 616 308 4846, [browncarione@aol.com](mailto:browncarione@aol.com). USS *Atka* served during DF-II, III, 60, 62, 64, and 66.

**USS *Brownson*** (DD-868): Plymouth Meeting, PA, 19-23 May 2011. POC Joseph Eliff, 610 948 6475, [josepheliff@ussbrownson.com](mailto:josepheliff@ussbrownson.com). USS *Brownson* served during Highjump.

**USS *Philippine Sea*** (CV-47). St Louis, MO, 29 Sep—02 Oct 2011. POC Chuck Davis, 270 Mentel Terrace, Port Charlotte, FL 33952, [philsea@embarqmail.com](mailto:philsea@embarqmail.com), or 941 743 5460. USS *Philippine Sea* served during Highjump.

**NNPU**. Branson, MO, 16-20 May 2011. POC Rags Garland, [rags\\_seabee@comcast.net](mailto:rags_seabee@comcast.net), 8000 Rabbit Lane, Harrisburg, PA 17112, 717 469 2075.

**VXE-6**. Fort Mitchell, KY, 19-22 May 2011. POC Joe Hollern, [jhollern@wowway.com](mailto:jhollern@wowway.com), 614-906-6289, 556 Liberty Ln, Westerville, OH 43081.

**USCGC *Eastwind*** (W-279): South Portland, ME, 15-19 June 2011. POC LeRoy Grant, 603 447 6040, Box 292 Albany, NH 03818, [junelee.1@roadrunner.com](mailto:junelee.1@roadrunner.com). USCGC *Eastwind* served during DF-I and DF-60 through DF-67.

**ADFA**. Gettysburg, PA, 21-24 Jun 2011. POC Jerry "Mac" McKee, 610 857 9567, 331 Gum Tree Road, Coatesville, PA 19320, [mac19552@verizon.net](mailto:mac19552@verizon.net).

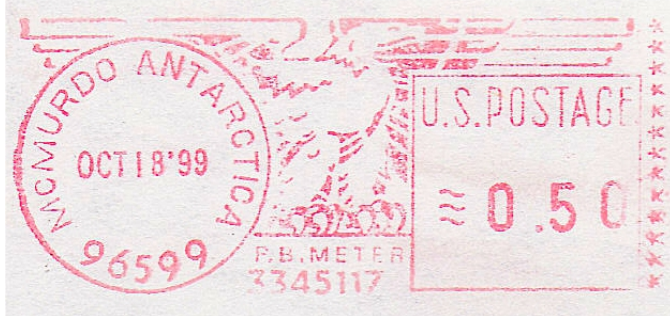
**USCGC *Westwind*** (WAGB-281): Mobile, AL, 9-11 September 2011. POC Frank Roberts, 910 279 0823, or [froberts@frankrobertsconstruction.com](mailto:froberts@frankrobertsconstruction.com). The *Westwind* served during DF-III, 67, 68, and 71

## 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.

- David Crotty is looking for meter mail from McMurdo and South Pole Stations. The meters were used mostly on packages send home by parcel post. David can be contacted at [decrotty@yahoo.com](mailto:decrotty@yahoo.com), 859 360 0676, or PO Box 16115, Ludlow KY 41016-0115.

- Scotty Smith is also looking for meter mail. According to Scotty the Pitney Bowes postage meter labels were mostly used for packages going north or when there might not have been enough postage stamps on site. These have seen use in Christchurch, McMurdo, and South Pole Post Offices. Scotty is trying to back track years when these were first used. And to obtain examples of these. Scotty can be contacted at [plumberdude71@gmail.com](mailto:plumberdude71@gmail.com), 4000 Lipan St., Denver CO 80211, 720-855-8018 (H), 303-919-2593 (C)



Sample of McMurdo Postage Meter Label

- Jeff Weiss would like to hear from anyone who remembers his father, Bernard Weiss, who wintered-over at Byrd Station during DF-IV (1958-59) as the Chief Meteorologist. Jeff can be reached at: [jweiss@ntsi-usa.com](mailto:jweiss@ntsi-usa.com), or 820 E Worthington Ave. Charlotte, NC 28203.



Bernard Weiss

- SKI Jimmy Woods, NNPU Crew III (WO DF-64) would like to hear from anyone who served at PM-3A. Jimmy can be contacted at: [JWoods5283@gmail.com](mailto:JWoods5283@gmail.com), or 2623 Peniel Road, Timmonsville SC 29161

- Maury "Moe" Sanders, ASA Det C Weather Guesser from 72 through 75 at Hallett, Byrd, South Pole, and McMurdo is looking for any other AGs from that time. Moe can be reached at: [sandersmoe@gmail.com](mailto:sandersmoe@gmail.com), 2429 28th St. Lubbock TX 79411, or 806-749-5433.

- UT2 Richard Pillsbury is looking for anyone who wintered-over with him at Byrd Station during DF-70. Richard can be reached at: [richardp1946@yahoo.com](mailto:richardp1946@yahoo.com), 9824 Bonnie Vista Dr., La Mesa, CA 91941, or 629 961 7812.

## GLOSSARY OF SNOW AND ICE

Compiled and edited by Billy-Ace Baker



**Floe** — A piece of floating ice other than fast ice or glacier ice. Norwegian equivalent: *Flore*.

**Hummocked Ice** — A form of pressure ice in which pieces of ice are piled haphazardly, one piece over another, to form an uneven surface. When weathered it has the appearance of smooth hillocks. French equivalent: *Glace bosselee*.

**Ice Cluster** — A concentration of sea ice, covering hundreds of square miles, which is found in the same region every summer. German equivalent: *Dauereis*.

**Open Water** — A large area of freely navigable water in which floes may be present in concentrations under 1/10<sup>th</sup>. If there is no sea ice present the area may be termed open water, even though icebergs are present. French equivalent: *Glace navigable*.

**Strip** — A long narrow area of pack ice usually composed of small fragments detached from the main mass of ice, and run together under the influence of wind or current. German equivalent: *Streifen, band*.

## Gulf Coast Group Chapter Happenings

by Billy-Ace Penguin Baker

**Saturday 07 January 2011**

**OAEA GCG Meeting**—Thirty members and guests showed up for the first meeting of 2011. First time attendee was Suzy Hutchinson who is the NOK of OAEA Life Member Hugo Neuburg who recently passed away. Before the meeting was over Suzy filled out the paperwork and joined the OAEA as a Life Member.



**Suzy Hutchinson**

Larry's slide show of the San Antonio reunion on the widescreen TV. I guess some things are just not meant to be.



**Larry and David trying to set-up the AV equipment**



Our guest speaker was Gary Lowery who spoke about the homeless veterans in the local area. Gary is a retired USN Hospital Corpsman who served with the Fleet Marine Force. Gary's main presentation was to dispel myths and stereotyping of homeless veterans and the homeless population in general. Although it was only a 15-minute presentation it was an eye opener.

Following Gary's presentation Suzy Hutchinson spoke briefly about her uncle Hugo's Antarctic Experience's (see Hugo's obit in the 'In Memory' section of this issue of the *Gazette*). She had a collage of photos she had made that featured her father and Hugo taken during the 1940s and 50s. She also said that she had met a few of the GCG members when she attended the 2002 reunion with her uncle Hugo.



**Guest Speaker Gary Lowery**

Les Liptak was asked by GCG Chapter President "Duck" Talbert to give us an update of *Que Sera Sera* (QSS) and Hangar Bay One at the Aviation Museum. Les said that QSS is hung from the overhead, but Hangar Bay One is still closed to the public because of a problem with the paperwork involving "high authority".

After the presentations and announcements were concluded the drawings for the raffle and door prizes were held. The 50/50 raffle was won by Raine Talbert. Of course "foul" was cried because Duck was the one who drew the tickets. Rainey pocketed \$44 as her share of the raffle. The first door prize, a copy of the Air Force Deep Freeze book and CD were won by LHJ (Doyle McClung) who turned around and gave it to GCG Groupie Chuck Minerman. The second door prize, a patch commemorating the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary at the first aircraft landing at the geographic South Pole, was won by Suzy Hutchinson.

There being no further business the meeting was concluded. Thanks to Lennie and Sean Baker for taking candid photos of the meeting. Thanks also to Pam Landy for selling the 50/50 raffle tickets and to Sean Baker for distributing the door price tickets.

The next meeting will be at the Shrimp Basket on Saturday 5 February 2011. Anyone who is interested in attending any OAEA-GCG Chapter meeting and who is not already on the post card or email notification list feel free to contact me by email, or telephone.

**Saturday 05 February 2011 OAEA GCG Chapter Meeting**

—It was cold in Pensacola, real cold when I left the house at 10:30 on 5 Feb 2011 to attend the GCG Meeting. I ran into a sleet storm on the way. I figured no one would believe me, so I didn't say anything to anyone. However, when the Preston's arrived Sharon told me that on their way to the meeting from Pace they had ran into hail, sleet, snow, and rain. I couldn't top that, so I kept quiet about my minor sleet encounter. We also had Snow and a Blizzard at the meeting. More about that later.

Thirty-seven members and guests were in attendance. Cindy Liptak made her first appearance since the October 2008 meeting, which was the last chapter meeting before the November reunion. Guests included Brian Hoffmaster's father-in-law Dick Blizzard, who the MC forgot to introduce, John Olson along with Dale and Sandy Sikora, visiting from Wisconsin were the guest of the Liptak's and Chuck Minerman.



**John Olson, Sandy Sikora, Cindy Liptak & Dale Sikora**



**Brian Hoffmaster and Father-in-Law Dick Blizzard**

Our leader, Duck Talbert was absent, so Chuck Minerman volunteered to be the MC and introduced our impromptu guest speaker, Oneil Boudreaux and introduced the guests. Oneil, or Neal as he prefers, visited Ross Island on a tourist expedition in 1993. Neal shared a few of his experiences while at McMurdo, Scott Base, and Macquarie Island.



**Ed Feeney, George Griffin, Jim Landy, Bill & Mary Fazio, Lennie & Helen Bourgeois**

Pam Landy sold 50/50 tickets and Brian Hoffmaster distributed the door-prize tickets before the guest speaker gave his presentation.

The 50/50 drawing was held after the introductions and Walter Smith won the drawing. Walter donated his \$54 prize



**Volunteer MC and Guest Speaker**



**Walter Smith Sr., Laura Snow, Virginia & Wade Jefferey**



**Pam Selling 50/50 Raffle Tickets**  
**Pictured from Left to Right: Mike & Jean McGrath, Skeeter & Chris Carson, and Pam Landy**

back to the GCG Kitty. The door prize drawing was next and the door prize, consisting of a copy of *Hell Bent to the Pole*, by Geof Lee Martin, was won by Mitzi Emmons. Laura Snow said a few words about her efforts to get a geographic feature in Antarctica named for Tony Wayne, the sole survivor of the 1939-1941 US Antarctic Service Expedition. Following Laura's update the meeting was concluded.

spite of the late start twenty-nine members and guests were present at the Shrimp Basket for the 5 March meeting.



**Mitzi Waiting for her Door Prize**      **Pam Just Heard a Good One**

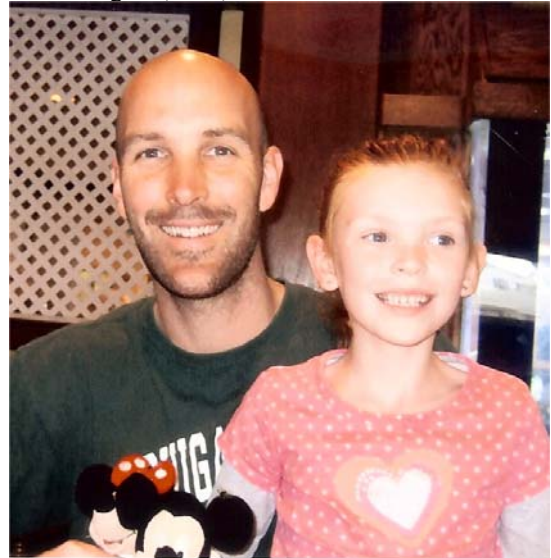
Thanks to Pam and Brian for taking care of the 50/50 and door prize tickets, and to Lennie and Mary Lou for taking candid photos. The next GCG meeting will be at the Shrimp Basket on Saturday 5 March.

**Saturday 05 March 2011 OAEA GCG Chapter Meeting**—I arrived at the Shrimp Basket at 1100 and OAEA VP Laura Snow arrived around the same time. She joined me in the parking lot and helped me carry in my stuff. We were followed shortly thereafter by Glen Harris and several other early arrivals. It was a wet and cold day and by 12 Noon not very many people had shown up. Even the wait staff at the Shrimp Basket asked me where everyone was. In



**Our Waitresses Waiting For the Crowd to Arrive**

Since there was no speaker scheduled Glen Harris volunteered to sell the 50/50 raffle tickets after he had finished his lunch. Raine Talbert passed out the door prize tickets while Glen sold the 50/50 tickets. Brian Hoffmaster's six-year-old daughter, Ella, was asked to draw a ticket for the



**Brian and Ella Hoffmaster**



**Les Liptak, Jimmie Baker, Bily Blackwelder, and Chuck Minerman**

50/50 raffle and Jimmy Baker was the winner. He took home \$50 as his share. One of the waitresses was asked to draw a ticket for the door prize and Raine was the lucky ticket holder. The door prize consisted of a CD of the Air Force book *Operation Deep Freeze 50 Years of USAF Airlift in Antarctica 1957-2006* and a 2010 OAEA Reunion lapel pin.

Following the drawings OAEA GCG President Duck Talbert made a few announcements about forthcoming Antarctic reunions including the VX/VXE-6 reunion in KY and the Naval Nuclear Power Unit reunion in Branson MO. He also spoke briefly about the Christchurch Earthquake.



**Onell Boudreaux, Bily-Ace and Lennie Bourgeois**

Late arrival Suzy Hutchinson wanted to make an announcement that she will be going to the Explorers Club in New York City in April to attend a ceremony honoring her deceased uncle Hugh Neuburg. She volunteered to take comments from anyone who served on the ice with her uncle to the ceremony and read them.

Following the announcement by Suzy the meeting was adjourned. The next OAEA GCG meeting will be at the Shrimp Basket on 2 April.

Thanks to Lennie and Mary Lou for taking photos and thanks to Glen and Raine for taking care of the raffle and door prize tickets.



**Jim McCreary. Jim served in VX-6 During DF-61 and 62**



*Clockwise: Jim Norris, Glen Harris, Billy-Ace, Raine Talbert, Duck Talbert, Walter Smith, Stephanie Smith, and Carl Jackson*

## OAEA Donor Awards as of 1/30/2011

*compiled by Billy-Ace Baker*

There are now over 100 Little Blue Penguin Club members, so this category is no longer reported. Asterisks indicate new donors, or donors who have reached the next level. Donations to the OAEA are tax deductible. See the President's Corner in the Oct-Dec 2010 issue.

### BRONZE ADELIE CLUB

Donations of \$100  
 Baker, Ashlee F.  
 Baker, Jamie  
 Baker, Sean  
 Baker, Tracey  
 \*Bethea, Joe  
 Bolt, Ron L.  
 Boyer, Robert E.  
 Bracken, Harold  
 Buehler, Cyril  
 Cabrera, Quirino  
 Capozzoli, Albert A.  
 \*Cockrill, Dale  
 Conklin, Harold  
 Damvelt, Karen  
 \*Dieckhoff, Charlotte  
 Diller, Marty & Bev  
 Dostal, W "Dusty" A.  
 Dunn, Thomas  
 Epperly, Robert M.  
 Everett, Richard (deceased)  
 Fazio, Bill

\*Gerrish, Samuel  
 Giro, John J.  
 Giro, Mary V.  
 \*Grimes, Paul  
 Hall, Richard M.  
 Halpern, Barry  
 Hames, Winters  
 Henley, Elizabeth (deceased)  
 Henley, Joseph  
 \*Herr, Arthur  
 Hickey, John  
 Higdon, John C.  
 Jernigan, Laura  
 Konrad, Bradley, N.C.  
 Konrad, Kerry  
 Konrad, Robert D.  
 Konrad, Robert K. A.  
 Landy, James  
 Landy Pam  
 Lindberg, Arthur E.  
 \*Loper, Gene  
 Morton, John E.  
 Munson, Evelyn  
 OAEA Gulf Coast Group Chapter  
 \*Olsen Don (deceased)  
 O'Neal, Jerry  
 Owlter, Robert (deceased)  
 \*Panehal, Paul "PK"  
 Phillips, Elmer F.  
 Smith, Herschel  
 Snow, Laura  
 Snyder, Mary Margaret  
 Spaulding, Richard  
 Spencer, Erwin J.

Splain, Vincent F.  
 Startz, Donna  
 Tamplet, Walter  
 Taylor, William C.  
 Toney, Phillip  
 \*Verba, Sheila & Cheryl  
 Walsh, Mike  
 Werner, Alexander  
 Whitehead, Eugene  
 Yow, Maxine  
 Zinser, Richard

### GOLD ADELIE CLUB

Donations of \$500  
 Cordes, Fauno (deceased)  
 Herman, Andrew "Tony" (deceased)  
 OAEA New England Chapter  
 \*Reed, Dale

### SILVER ADELIE CLUB

Donations of \$1,000  
 2006 OAEA Reunion Committee  
 2008 OAEA Reunion Committee  
 Baker, Billy-Ace  
 Biery, Roger  
 VX/VXE-6 Para-Rescue Team

### EMPEROR CLUB

Donations of \$5,000  
 Communicator Group Fund

### COMMUNICATOR CLUB

Donations of \$10,000  
 \*Communicator Group Fund