



# EXPLORER'S GAZETTE

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

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*Photo by Marty Reed*

*Ice Pier Under Construction*

## 2011–2012 Antarctic Season Begins

*By Peter Rejcek*

*Special to the Explorer's Gazette*

Anyone who has been involved in the U.S. Antarctic Program for any length of time knows there's no such thing as a typical year. But even 2011 has been a little weirder and wilder than most—and it promises to only get stranger as the 2011–12 summer field season approaches.



*Peter Rejcek*

The wild ride began back at the end of the 2010–11 field season when the sea ice in McMurdo Sound finally blew out all the way to the McMurdo Ice Shelf edge for the first time in about a dozen years. The spectacle was a welcome one for personnel at both McMurdo Station and Scott Base, especially because of the amount of wildlife that paid a visit in the ensuing weeks.

However, while an exciting development, it wasn't necessarily an altogether convenient one. In the course of

See: WINFLY on page 4.

**PRESIDENT'S CORNER**

James "Jim Da Retired Cop" Heffel—OAEA President

**T**O ALL OAEs—It is my pleasure to announce that Ryan McCoy has been awarded the 2011–2012 OAEA Scholarship. See the Scholarship Chairman's report on page 3 for full details.



Not much else has happened since my last column, so I will devote most of my space to a letter from the VA to Senator Brown concerning the McMurdo Nuclear Power Plant. An identical letter was sent to Senator Blumenthal:

THE SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS  
WASHINGTON  
August 24, 2011

The Honorable Sherrod Brown  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Brown:

Thank you for your letter regarding the United States Navy's McMurdo Station, and your request for the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to join forces with other Federal departments to review the McMurdo report for appropriate action. VA is aware of the McMurdo situation and has been in recent discussions with the Department of Defense (DoD).

DoD is performing a McMurdo radiation dose exposure assessment and is currently searching the National Archives and other data repositories to identify Veterans that may have been affected by the released radiation. DoD will publically present their assessment at the Veterans' Advisory Board on Dose Reconstruction in San Antonio, Texas, on March 23, 2012.

The DoD dose reconstruction process will assign a dose exposure to each McMurdo Veteran. Each McMurdo Veteran may present a claim to VA and have their claim processed in well-established procedures used for other Veterans exposed to ionizing radiation. Dose exposures will be entered by VA into a National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) Interactive RadioEpidemiological Program which provides a statistical estimate on the probability that a Veteran's disease is associated with ionizing radiation exposure. This will assist VA in adjudicating claims and providing benefits to affected Veterans.

I hope this information is helpful to you. Thank you for your continuing support of our Nation's Veterans.

Sincerely  
/S/ Eric K. Shinseki

\*\*\*\*\*§\*\*\*\*\*

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  
South Weymouth, MA 02190.

*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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## OAEA Scholarship Committee Report

*Editorial by Ed Hamblin*

This year, we were prepared to make up to three awards with a notional ceiling of around \$2000; the word was put out via the Topica network in April. I received ten requests for scholarship applications via e-mail. Of the ten sent out, one was returned so we made a single award of \$2000 to Ryan McCoy of Nashville, TN. Ryan is sponsored by OAEA Life Member Phil Holloway. Ryan was accepted to Middle Tennessee State University with the stated intent of a Psychology major and curriculum that will lead him into youth counseling.

During the 2010 San Antonio reunion membership general assembly meeting, there was a lot of spirited discussion about scholarships. I tried to address the concerns of the general assembly. At the end of it, I tried to make clear that the bottom line is that with the way the stock market had been performing, our scholarship money “engine” had not generated sufficient income to be worthy of awards for the last two years (2009 and 2010). A simplified version of the process is that the scholarship fund that is driven strictly by donations is invested. Under our present system, investment income becomes what can be granted in awards.

In reviewing the scholarship donations, since the 2010 reunion, there have been nine scholarship fund donations totaling \$441.00, from eight separate persons or organizations. Thanks to the following for their generosity: San Antonio Reunion (from the raffle), Billy-Ace Baker, OAEA New England Chapter, Alexander Werner, Phil Holloway, Vincent Janson, Lisa McDermott, and Laura Snow.

Without donations or fundraising efforts, there will be no potential for serious growth in the size of the scholarship awards. The main contributor over the years has been the OAEA Communicators, with an annual fund solicitation by Billy-Ace Baker. At the San Antonio general assembly, I asked for fund raising assistance. One of the thoughts I have would be for someone to step forward and organize an OAEA golf tournament in conjunction with the 2012 OAEA San Diego reunion with proceeds to the scholarship fund. Every year here in Tidewater, Virginia, the area Chief Petty Officers do a golf tournament and are able to award thousands of dollars in scholarships.

I intend to post the names of scholarship fund contributors in each edition of the *Gazette* for that quarter; there will also be a donation form, and an award application.

Ed Hamblin  
Scholarship Committee Chairman  
3104 Deepspring Drive  
Chesapeake Virginia 23321 USA



**Ryan McCoy OAEA  
Scholarship Awardee**

**WINFLY**

**From page 1**

just a few days, the extent of the ice breakup nearly reached the road to the Pegasus airfield and fuel tanks that are located on the road. Heavy equipment operators from the Fleet Operations department, working on Pegasus road, said they could hear cracking noises under the ice along the road near places where cracks were starting to form.

The newly built ice pier also took a pummeling at the end of last season, eventually breaking apart for the second year in a row.



**Ice Pier Construction During WINFLY**

The February earthquake that rocked Christchurch, New Zealand, also struck at this time while about 600 USAP-ers were in the country. It took about a week before everyone was located and confirmed safe.



**Christchurch Cathedral Following the Earthquake**



**The South Pole airdrop from the inside of the C-17  
(credit: Chief Master Sgt. Jim Masura)**

The winter settled in over Antarctica and things remained quiet until shortly after midwinter when a Kiwi working for the USAP became ill and had to be medevaced. A USAF Globemaster III from Joint Base Lewis-McChord in Washington State made the evacuation without any difficulty.

Meanwhile, the usual winter activities continued, along with grooming of a new road to Pegasus airfield and construction of a new ice pier. Unseasonably warm weather slowed work on the latter.

The first flight of WinFly, carrying nearly 120 passengers aboard a C-17 Globemaster III, landed on the ice runway at Pegasus airfield shortly after noon on 20 August to coincide with the first sunrise of 2011. A total of seven flights eventually arrived with new personnel, scientists and cargo, though nasty weather in McMurdo prolonged WinFly for nearly a week.

The freshly reinforced Fleet Operations department kept busy creating a road out to the site of a new Ice Runway to be built before the summer Mainbody season begins in early October. There is a giant crack in the sea ice that forms each year in front of McMurdo. Historically, it has been a manageable crack for vehicles to cross, but this year it is so large that an end-run road around the crack is required to get to a newly surveyed site for the runway.

A couple of science groups arrived during WinFly. Among the groups is a team led by Adam Marsh from the University of Delaware. They are

diving under the ice to collect a marine worm for research related to its climate-driven genetic adaptations. Jody Deming's team from the University of Washington is searching for frost flowers, delicate ice-crystal structures of high salt content that form on the surface of the sea ice around McMurdo. Deming wants to test a hypothesis that says wind-borne frost flowers transport marine bacteria over long distances.

The Air Force added an additional mission during WinFly with an airdrop at South Pole Station to deliver necessary medical supplies.

The airdrop was added to the third WinFly flight, which involved landing at McMurdo in the dark using night-vision goggles (NVGs), a capability the Air Force first tested during the winter of 2008. Station personnel set up highly reflective cones along the runway to outline the airfield. The plane's lights reflect off the cones, which the night-vision goggles pick up.

The C-17 refueled at McMurdo and flew on to South Pole, about 800 miles away. Again, the crew used NVGs to spot the drop zone, which was outlined using burn barrels that personnel at the South Pole had set up. The Air Force has practiced doing airdrops during the summer with the C-17 since 2006.

The United States routinely performed midwinter airdrops for more than 15 years at both McMurdo and



**Receipt of airdrop cargo at South Pole (credit: Steffen Richter)**

South Pole before they were eliminated due to cost.

The South Pole crew had to build wooden wicks for the burn barrels, which were 55-gallon drums cut into thirds. Personnel used GPS coordinates to place each barrel at a precise location

for the drop zone, located about two miles from the main station. The operation went as planned. Two bundles of 200 pounds each landed without incident after two passes by the C-17.

WinFly had proceeded as scheduled despite concern that the USAP would not be able to field an icebreaker for the 2011-12 field season. However, at the end of August, the NSF signed a one-year contract, with an option for additional years, with the Russia-based Murmansk Shipping Co. to use the icebreaker *Vladimir Ignatyuk*. Canadian-built in 1983, *Ignatyuk* currently provides ice-breaking service to other national Antarctic programs including India. The USAP requires the services of an icebreaker each year to cut a channel through the annual sea ice that fronts McMurdo Station on Ross Island.

For decades, U.S. Coast Guard icebreakers supported the USAP.

However, in recent years, the Coast Guard's two heavy icebreakers, the *Polar Sea* and *Polar Star*, have been largely inoperable. The Coast Guard plans to decommission the *Polar Sea* in September, while the *Polar Star* is undergoing an extensive refit with hopes of going back to sea by 2014.

For the past several years, the NSF had contracted with the Swedish government for the icebreaker *Oden*, which also doubles as a research vessel. But the Swedish

government decided that the *Oden* was needed at home after two harsh winters disrupted shipping lanes in the region.

So, the 2011-12 seasons will proceed as planned, with the first C-17 for Mainbody scheduled for 3 October. A total of 63 C-17 flights are planned for the season. The New York Air

National Guard LC-130s will fly scores of missions to the South Pole Station, as well as the deep field. Two overland traverses from McMurdo to South Pole are planned for this season as well to transport fuel and cargo using tractors.

South Pole Station promises to be particularly busy this austral summer with all manner of tourists and adventurers planning to make a pilgrimage on the anniversary year of the famous Race to the South Pole between Norwegian Roald Amundsen and Briton Robert Falcon Scott. Plans are still under way for the celebrations, but the USAP expects several dignitaries to visit on the two



**Russian Icebreaker Vladimir Ignatyuk.**

anniversary dates of 14 December and 17 January.

Meanwhile, the big news many are awaiting will be the announcement of a new contractor to take over the Antarctic Support Contract, which has been delayed for two years. The NSF said it would make an announcement in mid-November.

Just another typical year in the USAP.

*Author's Note: McMurdo Station's Ryan Wallace contributed to this report.*



**Peter Rejcek OAE Hero Shot**

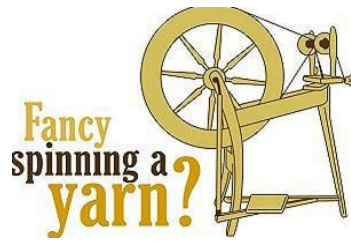
## SPINNING AN ICY YARN: ANTARCTICA

*Special to the Explorer's Gazette  
By Marion Wheatland*

Antarctica is the only place on Earth where you can walk into history and actually *be* there! It is a pioneer place preserved by God, and Ice, in the exact same way the Historic Age Explorers saw it and lived it. Their buildings are still there, lone and forlorn, a testament to the Human Spirit.

As Spinners, we preserve a pioneer skill, one with practical application and with loving connections to the people of the past. With that in mind, What better place to show that connection than to physically return to the location of the last century and offer my own pioneer skills for Australian Antarctic History? To spin the yarn to knit a replica of Sir Douglas Mawson's balaclava, and have it auctioned to raise funds to help with the restoration of the Huts and historic sites!

The spinning propellers of the Expedition cruise ship *MV Orion*, guided us out of Dunedin Harbour into a rough 3m swell. Four days of voyage provided many opportunities for learning about our destination, its wildlife, history, and science.



Gradually closer to Antarctica, the seas calmed until we glided into Commonwealth Bay on a mirror sea and on which the Zodiacs zipped unconcernedly around flotillas of welcoming penguins and 'bored' meetings of Weddell seals.

As the Hut rose from the rocks and snow of the harbour area, a stark pyramidal shape in antique weather-beaten wood, we remembered that, like us, the men of the Australian Antarctic Expedition came from diverse occupations and various parts of the world, to a place so isolated and so far from civilization that there could never be any hope of rescue, should there need to be one. Those men came to do a job, in the cause of science and for King and Country. They were so determined, so committed as to endure the often cyclonic isolation and barely livable low temperatures of this barren landscape, which came to be known as the "Home of the Blizzard". We came to identify with them, in some small way.

Still half buried in ice and snow, the wooden hut, designed in part by Sir Douglas Mawson, and which took them a few weeks to erect, was smaller than I imagined. Having first to blast into the bedrock to make foundations, and bolt it down, then load it with all their supplies brought from the ship, (the *Aurora*), the Expedition team of 18 men moved in to its now small living space, ready to face the long, dark, sunless winter.



**Close-up of Hut With Visitor. Hello There!**



**Panorama View of Hut**

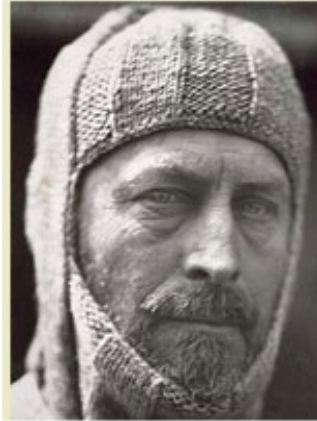
A bunk for each man, named and decorated by him, only Sir Douglas, as leader could claim an extra space, a buffer against the enclosed and confined area. It was a place to plan and to think. The stove kept the hut warmer than the outside, staving off the onslaught of freezing wind and interminable cold, the acetylene assembly adding its comfort. Inside the hut the temperature was rarely above minus 10 degrees Celsius (plus 14 F).

This day, the Living Room, larger than the workroom, is not quite as cold as that, yet still in a state of knee-deep, ice-covered protection. And all around us (the modern explorers) the books are still on the shelves, the clothes still hang on the pegs, the canned food is still in the crates, the bottles are still

on the bottom bunk and the stove still has its marks of constant use. Frank Hurley's darkroom still has his chemicals. Visible evidence of history is everywhere. The everyday tools and equipment, the ghosts of seals and penguins—shadows of the past—tried to communicate their stories to us, if only we would listen. And over it all—a faint, unfamiliar “flavour”, a smell somewhat animal and somewhat faint and definitely old—the smell of burned smoky blubber...

As we breathe in, filling our lungs with the clean air of the icy continent, we breathe in the atmosphere of 1911. Time has stopped here, paused, awaiting the return of the explorers.

When we arrived on shore, the sun was high in the sky. I gathered all my equipment: Backpack, Majacraft Double Treadle Little Gem spinning wheel (provided for this trip), spinning bag, Dyed blue Corriedale Wooltop, snowboots, extra clothes in case I was cold while sitting, deck chair borrowed from *Orion* and camera, whew!) and stepped carefully over the ice, around the penguins, away from the seals and carried all the stuff on up to the Hut. About to start the physical production of the project that will add to the history of this very spot, I paused, mindful of my surroundings and the crisp, clear air. I was really here.



Back on board, I peeled off the layers of Antarctic clothing and donned my less bulky dinner clothes, ready to demolish the next sumptuous, 5-star meal—well earned and well deserved!

In contrast to the *Aurora*, Sir Douglas Mawson's wooden ship, fully laden and tossed on the Southern Ocean for weeks of travel to Macquarie Island and to the Cape, we made our way to Antarctica in the most modern of icebreaker ships, with satellite navigation, daily weather reports, and luxurious appointments. Yet, we trod their same ground, we saw their same living place

and we breathed their same atmosphere. We witnessed first hand the Heroic Age of Antarctic Exploration and experienced the 1911 history...

Some of us even made our own history....

The replica Balaclava will be auctioned as part of the Celebrations at the Mawson's Huts Foundation/Australian Antarctic Division Centenary Dinner in Hobart on 1 December. Proceeds will go to the restoration of the Huts at Cape Denison. The Mawson's Huts Foundation web site is located at: [www.mawsons-huts.org.au](http://www.mawsons-huts.org.au).

You too can be part of History! Come to the Dinner, witness the opening of the REPLICA HUTS at Constitution Dock, bid for the auction.

For More information about the trip, the balaclava, or the spinning, visit: [www.SpiningYarninAntarctica.com](http://www.SpiningYarninAntarctica.com)



**Marion Surrounded by Penguins**

Watched in puzzlement by the other *Orion* passengers, I assembled the wheel and set out the fibre. Observed from afar by the multitude of local penguins and seals, I filled bobbin after bobbin. Visited by one bravely curious Adelle penguin, this little guy made sure I was spinning correctly before he left my company for that of his own family. By the time I had completed the fibre I had set myself to do, the overcast sun was still high in the sky—it was my watch that had moved to 930pm! God's blessing of no wind and zero degrees, (instead of probable blizzard and minus 18 degrees, which is the Antarctic Summer) gave me six hours to spin, my tired legs and stiff fingers happy enough to leave in the last Zodiac back to the ship. *I had done it!*



**Marion Wheatland**

*Editor's Note: Marion was born in Canada in 1957. Her father was in the Army and the family moved to Australia in 1970. She has two children.*

## PM-3A REPORT

*By Thom Wilborn  
OAEA Life Member*

**29 AUGUST 2011, ALEXANDRIA, VA**—Sen. Richard Blumenthal (D-Conn.) has joined Sen. Sherrod Brown (D-Ohio) in requesting the Navy and Department of Veterans Affairs review possible radiation exposures caused by the PM-3A nuclear reactor at McMurdo Station from 1962 to 1973 that may have caused cancer among veterans serving there during Operation Deep Freeze.

In a letter earlier this year to then Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates, Sen. Brown said that veterans stationed at McMurdo have made numerous disability claims to the VA for cancers they suffered, only to be denied. Many died before their cases could be fully decided.

“This is a classic issue of the bureaucracy perhaps ignoring some legitimate and important questions,” said Blumenthal.

The question the Senators are asking is whether years of radiation leaks from the faulty reactor could be related to the cancers that numerous McMurdo vets have suffered. The Navy contends there is no evidence of any connection.

“The possibility that service members may have been adversely affected by exposure makes addressing this issue a high priority,” said Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness) Clifford L. Stanley in a 2 May reply to Sen. Brown.

“The Department will work with the VA, the Veterans’ Advisory Board on Dose Reconstruction and other relevant parties to evaluate the interactive radio epidemiological program’s methodology with regards to workers (sic) at the McMurdo Station and other locations,” Stanley said.

Since then the Navy says the McMurdo reactor final report concludes that radiation surveillance data, “as analyzed, indicate no significant increase in activity in the McMurdo Station area due to the operation of the PM-3A nuclear power plant.”

The Navy stands by its conclusions that the reactor did not present a threat, despite operating problems and radiation leaks.

“Personnel were monitored in accordance with the applicable requirements and no personnel exceeded the federal or naval exposure limits,” said Lt. Paul Macapagal. “The Navy takes the health of its members very seriously and we are not aware of a link between the operation of the PM-3A reactor and any subsequent health problems of active-duty Navy members.”

The United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission (USNRC), however, considers “cancers that may develop as a result of radiation exposure are indistinguishable from those that occur naturally or as a result of exposure to other carcinogens,” said Brown. “We owe it to our veterans to err on the side of caution and support the claims of those whose cancer we cannot legitimately determine was not caused by radiation exposure at McMurdo Station.”

The Department of Defense has submitted its records, both public and classified, concerning the PM-3A reactor to the VA, where they are under study.

VAs head of Compensation and Pensions, Tom Murphy, recently said the department is reviewing very complex information. He said the investigation is in a very early process and the VA is trying to identify McMurdo veterans who have filed claims.

“We need a list of who was exposed and their health concerns,” he said. “More time is needed to look into it.”

The delays since Sen. Brown made the first inquiries have frustrated some McMurdo veterans. The VA is giving priority to reviewing a large number of new claims of presumed service-connected diseases associated with Agent Orange. With a million new claims submitted to VA each year, the claims backlog continues to grow, leaving the veterans of McMurdo in the dark as to whether there is an association between their illnesses and the PM-3A reactor.

The VA is urging that any veteran submit a claim for any disease or disability that may be associated with their military service, notwithstanding diseases associated with the PM-3A reactor. A VA spokesman recently said that they would welcome claims from Antarctic veterans in hopes of resolving the questions posed by the members of the Senate.

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*Editor’s Note: The 24 August letter from VA Secretary, Senseki to Senators Brown and Blumenthal was not available to Thom when he submitted this article. The text of the letter is quoted in the President’s Corner on page 2.*

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**Thom Wilborn Circa 2009 and Thom in 1971**





# OAEA

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Billy-Ace:

Just another super great issue. Thanks for all you do for the OAEA.

Jim Wallace

*Editor's Note: Jim Wallace AKA Doctor Penguin passed away on 31 August 2011. Jim and his wife always wore their penguin hats at the reunions.*

Billy Ace,

Great *Gazette*. I totally enjoyed reading and seeing old friends who attended the VXE-6 reunion. Damn, Pete Underwood and Dick Spaulding have aged.

Jerry Schleining



*Editor's Note: Standby by for pay back.*

Billy-Ace:

You are doing a good job. Things to remember—"The key to flexibility is indecision", and "a day off the ice is a day off the ice".

Bill Turkington

*Editor's Note: INT WTF0?*

Billy:

I just finished reading the latest *Gazette* and was really sorry to hear that J.P. Burns had passed away. I still remember when all of us checked into the facilities in Washington DC to begin our processing. Again, I'm really sorry to hear of his passing.

Butch Suchland

*Editor's Note: Butch is talking about our screening for DF-67 Winter-Over. I also wintered with J.P. during DF-63. JP at right in McMurdo SSB Room.*



Dear Editor:

I haven't read many of the articles in the *Explorer's Gazette* (shouldn't that be "*Explorers' Gazette*"?) but I recently started with the year 2001 editions.

The possibility exists that a researcher might rely on the *Gazette* as a research source so it's incumbent upon those who contribute articles to get their facts straight.

In Volume 1, Issue 3, Jim Eblen in the President's Column identified the PBM-5s used on Operation Highjump as *amphibious* aircraft—which they were not. Six PBM-5 *seaplanes* operated from two seaplane tenders.

Your article in Volume 1, Issue 4, contains several factual errors and a serious and false statement concerning "rumors" that members of the crew ignored the plight of co-pilot Frenchy LeBlanc and that their neglect was a contributing factor in the subsequent amputation of both his legs.

It was his feet that froze and were amputated along with his legs midway to the knees. You slander his crew when you suggest they neglected him in any way. Kearns spent the first few days after the crash staying with Frenchy in the fuselage and feeding him. They all thought that Frenchy had little chance of survival but they pulled and pushed the sled they put him in over ten miles of pressure ridges and crevasses to get him to the rescue plane.

The factual errors concern the ranks of the pilots involved. James Ball was a LTJG. Kearns was also LTJG at the time as was Frenchy LeBlanc.

Gene Litz



*Rescue Plane Flies Over George I Wreckage*

*Editor's Note: I had to refresh my memory on something I wrote ten years ago.*

*First of all the name of the OAEA newsletter, Explorer's Gazette is the accepted "corporate" name. I even wrote an article about the name that appeared in the Summer 2004 issue of the Gazette.*

*The error you point out in Volume 1, Issue 3 in which Jim Eblen mistakenly referred to the PBM-5 seaplanes as amphibians was actually lifted from a Navy Times article on the US Navy in Antarctica. I was NOT the editor of the Gazette at that time, but if I had been I probably would have missed the error since I am not an Airedale.*

*In my article, 'Aircraft Accidents in Operation Highjump', in Volume 1, Issue 4, I do not know why I referred to LTJG James Ball as a Captain. The part in my story was not meant to reflect discredit to the crew in their care of Frenchy LeBlanc. The part about the rumors was lifted from Assault on Eternity by Lisle Rose. If you have a copy it is on page 96. In hindsight I probably could have cited who was circulating the shipboard rumors, but at the time I did not think it significantly degraded or slandered the crew because I did mention that Kearns and Robbins were decorated for bravery for pulling LeBlanc from the cockpit.*

*The article was written before Kearns' book When Hell Freezes Over was published so there was no reference made to it.*

Billy-Ace

Which MIG did Neil Boudreaux fly? (See: page 20 in the Apr-Jun Gazette). Great Issue of Gazette! Keep up the good work. Aloha.

Bruce DeWald  
Pima Air Museum

*Editor's Note: See photo.*



*Neil in the cockpit of the MIG-25 Foxbat that he flew to 24,000 ft at mach 2.4 in 1979.*

Dear Editor:

I would call you Ali-Ben, but then no one would know whom I was talking to.

Is it true that you have a three-legged cat that sleeps with penguins?

Maynard Slick Wick  
AKA Guhor

*Editor's Note: My wife Flo had a three-legged cat by the name of Hopalong Catsaday or Hoppy for short. Hoppy was born with three legs. Actually the foot on one of his hind-legs was missing when he was born. One of the claws from the missing foot was on a lump on the end of his tail. Which was very handy because he could scratch the top of his head with his tail. Later Hoppy was in an accident and had most of the same leg amputated. When Hoppy was born his mother tried to eat him so Flo adopted the kitten. After Flo died I kept Hoppy. He was mostly an outdoor cat and he disappeared in June just before I went to the ADFA reunion. Below is a photo of Hoppy sleeping with a bed full of penguins.*



*Hoppy sleeping with Penguins, but cuddling the Duck*

Dear Editor:

I thought you might be interested to know that the USA Eric Hoffer Awards listed my book *Antarctic Eye* as a winner with an honorable mention in their Legacy Non-fiction section of their awards for independent publishing.

Lynne Andrews

*Editors Note: I was going to do a book review on Lynne's book, but I haven't read it yet. Maybe I'll get to it before the next issue, or perhaps a reader will review it for me*

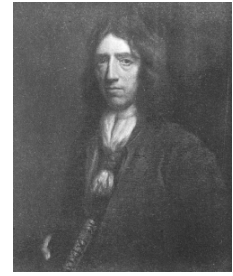


*Cover of Lynne's Book*

# 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

**JULY:** On July 16, 1838, the John Balleny expedition left London bound for Antarctica. We all know about this famous Enderby Brothers expedition, BUT, no one has ever discovered the fate of Captain Balleny—until, that is, John Stewart's *Antarctica: An Encyclopedia*, 2nd Edition.

After the expedition, Balleny went to work for Fenwick's, of London and Newcastle, and unexpectedly took over from John Ryle as skipper of the eight-year-old *Acasta*, just before that bark sailed from London on 26 February 1842, bound for Madras, where she arrived on 15 July. She then ran up to Calcutta, and on the return passage, on 2 October, off the Juggernaut Pagoda, on the coast of Cuttack, the *Acasta* foundered in a tremendous gale and sank in 18 feet of water, Balleny with her. In a letter to the *Times*, written on 7 August 1845, Charles Enderby lamented Balleny's death.

*Editor's Note: Balleny Islands, Balleny Basin, Balleny Sea Mount, and Balleny Trough were named for John Balleny.*



**Balleny Islands. A group of heavily glaciated islands, volcanic in origin, and near the Antarctic Circle.**

**AUGUST:** On 1 August 1940, Malcolm Chetwods Douglass was recovering after a rather quaint display of anti-heroics. Malcolm walked out of West Base during USASE (United States Antarctic Service Expedition) on 26 July 1940. His mission—to commit suicide. He returned 44 hours later, a “weird, shuffling, half-frozen wraith of a figure”. That fairly typical bit of self-indulgence cost Malc a toe. It wasn't his first attempt to off himself, by any means. One of his colleagues in Antarctica, Jack Richardson, said of him, “His early home life was not a normal one”. That's an understatement. He was a big boy in the Boy Scout movement. One can guess the rest. He had a “most unhappy love affair”—hmmm—not so much who with but what with—and on 9 January 1937 was in a car smash. Bust himself up pretty bad. Then, when the crash failed to kill him, he tried it with the old carbon monoxide in the car routine. Failed again. Sucked when he should have blown, or possibly the other way around. But then, that was Doug's problem. It was Paul Siple, fellow Scout, who got him onto USASE as dog driver and assistant met man. On 12 January 1941, he again threatened to kill himself, and had to be locked up on the USS *Bear*. You should see the report on him made by the three doctors on the expedition. Boy, Malcolm was one hell of a screwed up dude. On 22 September 1951, police found a car parked 100 feet from the Flatbrookville Road, in Wallpack, near Malc's home in east Orange, NJ. There was a hose, one end of which was in the exhaust pipe. The other end was in Malcolm's mouth. He was dead.

**SEPTEMBER:** William George Gawronski, known as Billy, was born on 12 September 1910, in Bayside, Queens, NY, son of Rudolph Gawronski, a recent immigrant Polish seaman and his wife Frances. Billy, when he was 17, was all fired up to join Byrd's 1928–30 expedition to Antarctica, swam the Hudson River at night, and stowed away on the *City of New York*. However, they caught him, and threw him off the ship. Undeterred (as they used to say in the old novels which this resembles), he made his way to Norfolk, and stowed away on the *Eleanor Bolling*, Byrd's other ship. It wasn't until they cleared the Panama Canal that he was found, high on the after-mast, and only came down when Captain Brown took a rifle and threatened to speed up his descent. They made him mess boy and coal passer.

He didn't winter over, but he did both halves of the expedition. In between halves, he toured America, and became famous as the Antarctic stowaway. The venture inspired him to make the sea his career, and he worked his way up to captain, skippering several Merchant ships during WW-II. He was living in Cape Elizabeth, Maine, when he died on 18 May 1981, in Portland.



**Eleanor Bolling in Pack Ice.**

## Tidewater Group September Get-Together

by Ed Hamblin

**F**OLLOWING ON THE HEELS OF Hurricane Irene and the Labor Day weekend, a few of us were able to get together at our quarterly session at House Of Eggs. Jean and Cliff Dickey, Brad Miller, Herb Schaefer, Neil Sugermeyer, Jim Silverstorf, and Ed Hamblin showed up for quick bite and to socialize a bit.



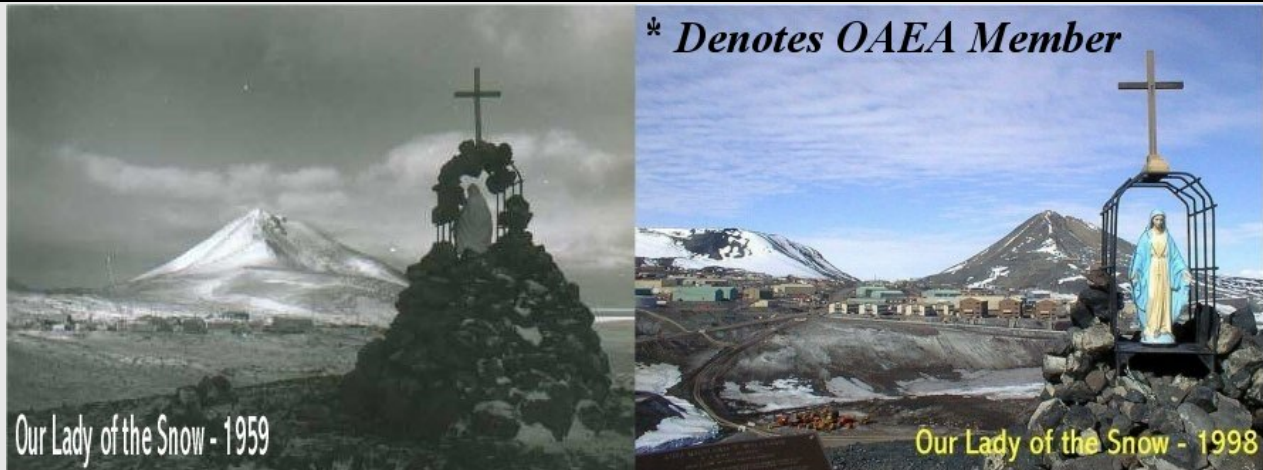
After sharing the updated ice news about the early WinFly and Pole flight this year, there was a quick discussion about our preparation for our area hosting the 2014 Old Antarctic Explorers Association Reunion and Symposium. There is a very talented pool of people who are going to work to bring a quality event to Norfolk. It will be held at the Norfolk Waterside Sheraton on 12 through 14 November in 2014, and we are excited to be able to showcase the area.

All of us locally that are OAEA members had been contacted about the establishment of a formal Mid-Atlantic area Old Antarctic Explorers Association chapter. Zoe Eppley in Northern Virginia has taken on the challenge of organizing a chapter, which is something we have never done here although it had been discussed in years past. Zoe's first meeting was on 24 September. For those of you who have felt we were too far out of mainstream Virginia down here in our Tidewater corner and too informal, a chapter closer to the Beltway is just the ticket to stay involved.

Our next House Of Eggs Saturday "thing" will be on Saturday, 3 December at the Norfolk House Of Eggs Restaurant on Military Highway, 3 PM/1500. Hope to see you there. If you aren't on the Tidewater area e-mail tree and want to be added so you get reminders, drop Ed Hamblin, an e-mail or phone message at: [ehamblin74@verizon.net](mailto:ehamblin74@verizon.net), or 757 405 3362.



Photo ID from left: Jean Dickey, Cliff Dickey, Brad Miller, Herb Schaefer, Neil Sugermeyer, Jim Silverstorf, Ed Hamblin



## IN MEMORY

OAE Roy "Bill" Bailey, 88, died on 12 May 2011, in Darbyshire, UK. In 1947 Bill was the manager of the Ionospheric Measuring Station at Port Stanley in the Falkland Islands. While there he spent several weeks at Port Lockroy on the Antarctic Peninsula on the four-man base run by the Falkland Islands Dependencies Survey (which later became the British Antarctic Survey).

OAE Mary Elizabeth "Betty" Banks, 79, died on 25 March 2011, in Spokane, WA. Betty visited Antarctica as a tourist.

OAE CAPT Albert Frederick Betzel, USN (Ret), 92, died on 19 May 2011, in Torch Key, FL. Albert served as the NSF Rep Palmer Station, Antarctic Peninsula, and the RV *Hero* manager for a number of years during the 1980s. He was awarded the Silver Star for gallantry aboard the USS *Aspro* (SS-309) during WW-II.

OAE Nolan John Bordelon, 88, died on 17 August 2011, in Coldspring, TX. John served on the USS *Mount Olympus* during Highjump.

OAE Dr. Leonard E. Brady, Jr., 83, died on 5 September 2011, in Findlay, OH. Leonard served during Highjump as a Radioman.

OAE Capt James F. Brodie, Jr., USCG (Ret), 71, died on 13 August 2011, in Ft. Lauderdale, FL. From 1969-71, he served as Operations Officer aboard the USCGC *Glacier*. During that period, he made three deployments to Antarctica.

OAE Harold Kelly Brooks, PhD, 86, died on 35 September 2011, in Gainesville, FL. Kelly served in Antarctica as a NSF Grantee.

OAE Gisela Addy Bulle, 89, died on 1 September 2011, in Kingsport, TN. Gisela visited Antarctic as a tourist/wildlife artist.

OAE Merla Johnson Cline, 91, died on 27 July 2011, in Pittsboro, NC. Merla visited Antarctica as a tourist.

OAE Susan B. Cormack, 67, died on 16 July 2011, in Philadelphia, PA. Susan made several trips to Antarctica as a tourist.

OAE Lucille Leonore Fuhrman, 87, died on 25 March 2011, in Los Angeles, CA. Lucille visited Antarctica as a tourist.

OAE Rosario "Sarino" Giarratano, 77, died on 27 September 2011, in Wethersfield, CT. Sarino who was also known as, Jerry the Barber and Mr. Haircut served on the USS *Glacier* during DF-IV.

OAE CDR Stephen Gregory Gardner, USN (Ret), 59, died on 3 September 2011, in Middleburg, FL. Stephen was the CO of VXE-6 from May 1994 to May 1995.

OAE John B. Garrett Jr., 86, died on 27 April 2011, in Bryan, TX. John visited Antarctica as a tourist.

OAE Thomas Michael Gill, 82, died on 22 August 2011, in Gaylord, MI. Thomas served on the USS *Pine Island* during Highjump.

OAE Alan Grout, 68, died on 30 April 2011, in Auckland, NZ. Alan visited Antarctica as a tourist.

\*OAE ABFC Don I. "Buggs" Guy, Sr., USN (Ret) 75, died on 12 July 2011, in Oklahoma City, OK. Don served in VX-6 during 1960 and 1965. He was awarded the Bronze Star for gallantry in Vietnam.

\*OAE LCDR Thomas S. Hale, USN (Ret), 81, died on 8 August 2011, in Arvada, CO. Tom served as a pilot in VX-6 during DF-60, 61, and 62.

OAE Ronald E. Hanze, 72, died on 4 August 2011, in Canton, OH. Ronald served USCGC *Westwind* during DF-III.

OAE CAPT Vivian Jean Reese Harned, USCG (Ret.), 91, died on 17 July 2011, in Arlington, VA. Vivian visited Antarctica as a tourist after she retired from the Coast Guard.

OAE Mary Hewitt, 94, died on 19 March 2011, in Naples, FL. Mary visited Antarctica as a tourist in the 1980s.

OAE Gene Holley, 93, died on 18 March 2011, in Newcastle, CA. Gene visited Antarctica as a tourist.

\*OAE Bernard Hudson, USN (Ret), died on 20 August 2011, in Roanoke, VA. Bernie served in CHB-3 during DF-I, II, and III, CHB-1 during DF-IV, 60, and 61. TAD to ASA Det One CHCH during DF-62 and PCS to ASA Det One CHCH from 1963–66. Bernie was also a member of the ADFA.

OAE Christopher Joyner, 63, died on 10 September 2011, in Annandale, VA. Chris the leading expert on Antarctic legal matters. He was the co-author of *Eagle Over the Ice: The U.S. in the Antarctic*.

OAE Andrei Kapitsa, 80, died on 2 August 2011, in Moscow, Russia. Andrei was a member of four Soviet Antarctic Expeditions in the years 1955–1964 as a geographer. Based on observations Andrei suggested the presence of the Antarctic subglacial Lake Vostok.

OAE Lt. Joseph H. Kellogg, USN (Ret), 78, died on 30 September 2011, in Cohoes, NY. Joseph served on the USS *Edisto* during DF-I.

OAE David J. Knoedler, 86, died on 28 April 2011, in Schofield, WI. David served with MCB(Special) at McMurdo during DF-I.

OAE SCPO Theodore “Ted” Kobziak, USN (Ret), 73, died on 6 September, in Mesa, AZ. Ted served in VX-6.

OAE CAPT Ronald J. Koss, Dental Corps, USN (Ret), 78, died on 3 July 2011, in Virginia Beach, VA. Doctor Koss served as the winter-over dentist at McMurdo during DF-62.

OAE Vel Kurjakovic, 57, died on 9 July 2011, in Corning, NY. Vel served in Deep Freeze in the USN as a LCDR.

OAE Donald P. Landfried, 78, died on 9 April 2011, in Leeper, PA. Donald served in Deep Freeze as a LTJG.

OAE Milton Lee, 70, died on 27 July 2011, in Great Falls, MT. Milton served on the USS *Burton Island* during DF-66.

OAE D. Earl Lewis, 74, died on 3 July 2011, in Bucyrus, OH. Earl served during DF-IV (1958-59).

OAE Mildred Helen Marcus, 94, died on 19 March 2011, in Oakland, CA. Mildred visited Antarctica as a tourist.

OAE Donald Charles McClosky, 84, died on 7 September 2011, in Fort Lauderdale, FL. Don visited Antarctica as a tourist in January 1986. On 31 December 1985 the aircraft that he and his wife were on crashed in the Beagle Channel near the tip of the Antarctic Peninsula. Twenty people were killed in the crash, but Don and his wife went on to finish their trip to the ice.

\*OAE [CDR Ronald K. McGregor](#), USN (Ret), 93, died on 4 July 2011, in Bethesda, MD. Ronald served as CASA from 1961 through 1963. McGregor Range is named in his honor.

OAE Kenneth Raymond McKnight, 72, died on 11 September 2011, in Tabernash, CO. Kenneth visited Antarctica as a tourist.

OAE Jean Heininger Miculka, 90, died on 27 April 2011, in El Paso, TX. Jean visited Antarctica as a tourist on a sailing vessel.

OAE J T Middleton, 83, died on 6 September 2011, in Abilene, TX. J.T. served in Highjump.

OAE Wilburn L. “Will” Mills, USAF (Ret), 79, died on 24 July 2011, in Dallas, TX. Will served in DF with the USAF.

OAE Joseph P. Miori Jr., 74, died on 8 June 2011, in Seattle, WA. Joe served on the USCGC *Northwind* during DF-III.

OAE Roger Leroy Moore, 71, died on 3 September, in Fairbanks, AK. Roger wintered over at McMurdo during DF-64 in the VX-6 Det as an ATR2.

OAE Carl Norris, 59, died on 3 September 2011 in Kerikeri, NZ. Carl worked at the McMurdo Telephone Exchange at McMurdo. Between 1984 and 2009 he wintered-over seven times and summered numerous times.



OAE John Albert Olsen, 91, died on 17 September 2011, in Westerly, R.I. John served on the USCGC *Northwind* as a helicopter pilot during Highjump.

OAE Earl R. Potter, 86, died on 27 July 2011, in Bradenton, FL. Earl served during Highjump on the USS *Canisteo*.

OAE James R. Powers, 84, died on 16 July 2011, in East Long-meadow, MA. James served during Highjump.

OAE Eldon Hakes Randall, 91, died on 20 April 2011, in Pine, AZ. Eldon visited Antarctica as a tourist.

\*OAE CMS Ted Howard Rhyne, USAF (Ret), 84, died on 14 July 2011, in Hickory, NC. Ted served with the Air Force during DF-60 and 61.

OAE Robert A. "Bob" Rogowski, 82, died on 30 July 2011, in Southbury, CT. Bob served during Highjump on the USS *Brownson*.

\*OAE ABC Richard "Dutch" Schultz, USN (Ret), 77, died on 30 September, in Pensacola, FL. Dutch served in VXE-6 during DF-70 through 73 as Cargo Chief and Senior Loadmaster. Dutch was a member of the OAEA GCG Chapter.

\*OAE SKCS James Franklin Scott, USN (Ret), 59, died on 6 September 2011, in Carrollton, TX. Jim served in NSFA Det One ChCh as an SK2 during DF-63 through DF-67.

OAE LCDR Theodore M. Slabey, USN (Ret), 87, died on 22 September 2011, in Mansfield, PA. Ted Wintered-over during DF-III at McMurdo as the Communications Officer.

OAE Stanley E. Smith, 74, died on 11 June 2011, in Tempe, AZ. Stan worked in Antarctica with his son, a Marine Biologist, in 2002.

\*OAE CUCM William Randolph ("Rudy" or "Bill") Statler, USN (Ret), 74, died on 1 September 2011, in Pace, FL. Bill served in CHB-1 during DF-III and was in the ASA WO Party during DF-63. He was a member of the OAEA GCG Chapter.

OAE Charles Thomas "Tom" Steffens, 80, died on 29 March 2011, in Dover, NJ. Tom visited Antarctica as a tourist.

\*OAE [CAPT Francis G. Stokes, USN \(Ret\)](#), 78, died on 28 September 2011, in Chicago, IL. Frank wintered over at Little America V as the Communications Officer during DF-III as a LTJG/LT. Frank was a member of the OAEA GCG Chapter. He was also a member of the APS and the ADFA.

OAE James Garfield "Jimmie" Sullivan, 76, died on 14 August 2011, in Louisburg, .Jimmie worked in Antarctica as a USARP geologist in McMurdo during 1961. Sullivan Nunatak is named in his honor.

OAE Paul Reed Toomey, 74, died on 23 April 2011, in Sanibel Island, FL. Reed visited Antarctica as a tourist and climbed icebergs.

OAE Inger "Bess" Urbahn, 90, died on 5 July 2011, in Machias, ME. In 1948 Bess married the late OAE Col. Bernt Balchen, USAF (Ret). They were divorced in the mid 60s. Bess visited Antarctica when she was 76.

OAE James Robert Vaughan, 72, died on 19 June 2011, in Redding CA. James served in Antarctica in 1984 with the USGS.

OAE Ralph John Vonesh, 97, died on 12 January 2011, in Sarasota, FL. Ralph visited Antarctica as a tourist.

\*[OAE Jim D. Wallace](#), died on 31 August 2011, in North Richland Hills, TX. Jim, AKA Doctor Penguin, served with USARP at McMurdo during the summer of DF-63 doing weather research using Nike Rockets.

\*OAE Tom Williams, 85, died on 18 May 2011, in Antioch, TN. Tom served on TF-43 Staff during he IGY. He was also a member of the ADFA.

OAE Dr. Edwin L. Williams II, MD., 77, died on 30 June 2011 in Roanoke, VA. Edwin served in Antarctica. He was a member of the Antarctic Society.

OAE Joyce Fincher Wilson, 83, died on 31 July 2011, in Oklahoma City, OK. Joyce visited Antarctica three times as a tourist.

OAE Charles R. Winther, 59, died on 29 May 2009, in Beach Haven, NJ. Charles wintered-over in DF-70 as a UT3 at McMurdo with ASA.

\*OAE ABFC John Alvin Yeckley, USN (Ret), 75, died on 3 July 2011, in Pace, FL. John was on the YOG-70 crew during DF-I and wintered-over at McMurdo during DF-II with MCB(Special). He was a member of the OAEA GCG Chapter and the ADFA.

## 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Roald Amundsen's Reaching the South Pole 21-22 November 2011 Collins Center for the Arts, University of Maine

The Climate Change Institute at the University of Maine is hosting a celebration of the 100th Anniversary of Roald Amundsen's Reaching the South Pole at the Collins Center for the Arts on Nov. 21 - Nov. 22, 2011. Our keynote speaker (Nov. 21 7:00 - 8:00 PM) will be Dr. Olav Orheim, Executive Secretary of the Norwegian International Polar Year. All OAEs are cordially invited to attend this celebration.

Dr. Olav Orheim is a distinguished glaciologist, climatologist, and polar expert who



**Olav Orheim**

has spent more than thirty years studying the effects of global warming in the Polar Regions. He was Managing Director of the Norwegian Polar Institute from 1993 to 2005. From 2005 he has been managing polar research at the Research Council of Norway. He is Chair of the board of the *Fram* Museum in Oslo, which houses the ship that carried Roald Amundsen to the Antarctic in 1911/1912. *Funding support generously provided by the Norwegian Embassy.*

## A LEGEND IN HIS OWN TIME 96-year-old Anthony Wayne and his Claim to Fame



by John Stewart aka Black Jack of Ballarat  
**CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS**

July 26, 2011

Dear Chief Warrant Officer Wayne:

On behalf of the men and women of the United States Navy, please accept my belated wishes for a happy 96th birthday. Our Sailors around the world join me in thanking you for your distinguished service to our Navy and Nation.

We draw strength today from the legacy of service passed on by patriots like you who answered the call when our Country needed them the most. As a proud Officer, your service during World War II helped make our nation prosperous and secure. Your contributions to our Navy are timeless and can never be overstated.

Since December 23, 1775, the United States Navy has utilized the extensive knowledge and talents of its Warrant Officers. The commissions granted to those trusted technical experts have allowed our Nation to develop our Navy into the superior force it is today,

Again, thank you for your outstanding service. Happy Birthday, Shipmate.

Sincerely

**G. RONGHEAD**  
Admiral, U.S. Navy

CWO Anthony Wayne, USN (Ret)  
Kingsway Assisted Living Facility  
357 Kings Road, #320  
Schenectady, NY 12304

In case the significance of the above letter eludes the reader, the top Navy man in the country wrote it to "The Last Man". Although we all know that the term "The Last Man"

is a sobriquet, we also know that Anthony W. Kelczewski, alias Tony Wayne, has recently become famous not only for his phenomenal war record but also, and perhaps primarily, for being a part of his friend Admiral Byrd's United States Antarctic Service Expedition in 1939.

And in case any reader has been vacationing on Mars for the last year and missed the news here on Earth, Mr Wayne has been the subject of a continual stream of newspaper, magazine, and Web articles, as well as appearing on TV, and being the star of Tom Henderson's wonderful documentary movie, *The Last Man*.



**CWO Tony Wayne**



**Tony Wayne and Tom Henderson**





**Jerry Mullins (USGS) and Tony Wayne**

Lord Byron once said that he woke up and found himself famous. But, then, Byron was a very young man at the time. One can cite, say, Sydney Greenstreet, who awoke and found himself a celebrity at 62. Much was made of that at the time. But there's a lot of difference between 62 and 96. What does it do to a guy of 96, who wakes up and finds himself famous?

I asked that question to Mr Wayne the other night. He told me he didn't know the answer to that one. I said, "Well, Mr Wayne, YOU woke up at 96 to find yourself famous". And he expressed surprise that I should say that. I continued, "Mr Wayne, if thousands and thousands of people know who you are, recognize you from the TV, read about you all the time in the papers, and watch you on the movies, may I suggest you're perhaps famous". But Mr Wayne's just a regular guy—got his head screwed on pretty safe—he seemed skeptical about this fame thing, but I hope I made him think about it—just a little maybe.



**Jerry Mullins, Tony's Niece Lorraine Zorichak and her Husband Don Stand behind Tony at his 96<sup>th</sup> Birthday Party.**

What does it do to a guy like Mr Wayne? Is he going to get carried away by it all? I doubt it. Is he going to become a drug addict? Shouldn't think so. Are the women going to start rushing him? Well, they've been doing that forever, and they still do, so what difference would that make? Will it increase his self-esteem? This is a guy who's done so many things in his life, and is still doing them, that his self-esteem, which has obviously been well-intact all his life, probably ain't going nowhere.



**Tony Holding the Framed Photo of Wayne Head, Antarctica**

Just the other month, the US Antarctic Place Names Committee (Department of the Interior) decided to name Wayne Head, a rocky headland in Antarctica. Normally, these guys send out a very nice letter to the honoree, with a map showing the feature. In Mr Wayne's case, however, Jerry Mullins, the chairman of US-ACAN, felt that was inadequate—that he should get on a plane bound for Schenectady and give it to Mr Wayne in person. And he did. At 10 a.m., on Wednesday, 29 June 2011, a ceremony took place in Tony Wayne's hometown. The press and TV were there, and a big deal was made of it, as it should have been.

The *Schenectady Gazette*: "I couldn't believe it when I heard", said Wayne, "That they would name something like that after me".

But they did do it.

So, what does sudden fame do to a guy of 96? That's a sociological question perhaps, one that can't be answered until a case study has been done. In Mr Wayne's case—although an extraordinary case of an extraordinary man—I'll keep you posted over the next thirty years or so.

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*Editor's Note: Thanks to Lorraine Zorichak, Tom Henderson, and Laura Snow for providing the photographs for this article and thanks to Laura Snow for coordinating with Lorraine and Tom.*

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## NEW OAEA MEMBERS

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

Thanks to Joe O'Connor, Bruce DeWald, Dave DuBois, Ed Hamblin, Kathy Licht, Tom Regina, Bill Lokey, John "Black Jack" Stewart, Burke Richards, Dave Bresnahan, Lee Grant, John Spletstoeser, Joe Hollern, and Al Synowicz, 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) or 850 456 3556.

\*Denotes Associate Member  
 §Denotes Upgrade to Life Member  
 ΦDenotes Upgrade to Regular Member

Barks, Larry ADCS	Life	VXE-6 67-70
Barnett, Brien CIV	Life	RPSC South Pole/ McM 03-07
Blankenship, J. H. PRCM	Life	VXE-6 81-84
Bowers, John CAPT	Life	VX-6 63-65
Burlock, Jim BU2	§Life	ASA WO DF-62 Byrd
Dill, Matt EA2	Life	CBU-201 68-69
Donelson, James AK1	Life	VX/VXE-6 66-69
Duke, Byron MM3	Life	MCB(Special)/ YOG-34 DF-I
Fenton, Ernest LT CEC	Life	WO OIC Palmer DF-71
Hobbs, James LTJG	Life	Ellsworth WO DF-III
Hobbs, Ronald SK3	Life	WO McM DF-70
Janson, Vincent HM2	Life	WO McM DF-70
Johnson, Robert BMC	Life	USS <i>Bear</i> /USASE 39-41, Highjump, Wind Mill/46-48 USS <i>Burton Island</i> BPRC Ohio State
Kissel, Laura CIV	§Life	WO McM DF-70
Lehman, James CS2	Life	USARP 61-62
Linder, Harold CIV	Life	MCB-1 DF-I & ASA McM WO DF-68
Lipski, John EOC	Life	VXE-6 SS 76-79, 82-86, & 90-93
Mabley, Bruce E9	Life	USARP 1966-70 WO Byrd DF-67, & WO Vostok DF-69
Maish, Mike CIV	§Life	WO McM DF-70
McGrath, William ACC	Life	CASA DF-62 & 63
McGregor, Ronald CDR	Commem	VX-6 60-62, 66-69
McKinnis, Joe ATC	Life	WO South Pole DF-69
Miles, Roderick RM1(SS)	Life	NSF DF-80 Artist
Molenaar, Dee CIV	Life	MCB(Special) Det B WO LAV DF-II
Molla, Robert CM2	Life	NSFA SS 74-76
Rouzer, William LT	Life	ASA WO DF-66 South Pole
Shepard, Danny CEP2	§Life	USAP 85-86/88/90- 92/96/99-01/03-04/ 09-10
Warren, Stephen CIV	Life	



## 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 *Cacapon*** (AO-52). Bloomington, MN, 14-18 Sep 2011. POC Bill McReaken, 952 809 0102, [cacapon@q.com](mailto:cacapon@q.com). USS *Cacapon* served during Highjump.

**USS *Curtiss*** (AV-4). Washington, DC, 7-10 Sep 2011. POC Bruce Snider, [bruceusscurtissav4@rgv\\_rr.com](mailto:bruceusscurtissav4@rgv_rr.com), 956 423 3314. The USS *Curtiss* served during DF-II.

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

**USS *Wyandot*** (AKA 92). New London, CT, 17-21 Sep 2011. POC Fred Gladstone, [fvgladstone@yahoo.com](mailto:fvgladstone@yahoo.com), 508 942 4077. The USS *Wyandot* served during DF-I, thru DF-IV and DF-64, thru DF-72

**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.

**All Seabee Reunion:** Gulfport, MS, 11-14 Oct 2011. POC Robert P. Smith, [smithrp@cablone.net](mailto:smithrp@cablone.net), 228 424 1185, or 12416 N Oaklawn Lane, Biloxi MS 39532.

**USS *Sennet*** (SS-408): Galveston, TX, 9-12 October 2011. POC John McMichael, 409 770 3106, RR 8, Box 10, Galveston, TX 77554, or [macm@airmail.net](mailto:macm@airmail.net). The *Sennet* served during Highjump.

**USS *Yancey*** (AKA-93): New Orleans, LA, 6-9 Oct 2011. POC George Clifton, [clifs@ameritech.net](mailto:clifs@ameritech.net), 708 425 8531. The USS *Yancey* served during Highjump.

**OAEA:** San Diego, CA, 24-27 Oct 2012. POC Jim Maddox, 661 945 0469 or [jmadflynav@aol.com](mailto:jmadflynav@aol.com).

## 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.

- Jack Hunt is looking for information on Jerry Wayne Smith and the location of Smith's family. Jerry was an Aviation Supply Officer in VX-6 during DF-74 and was on the Para-Rescue Team. He was killed in a skydiving accident in Pensacola Florida in the late 70s or early 80s while serving in the NAS Pensacola Supply Department. Jack and Jerry were stationed together at NAS Saufley Field in 1970-71. Jack can be reached at: 713 206 8460, or 3 Heritage Court, Houston, Texas 77024, or by email at: [jhunt@kriconsultants.com](mailto:jhunt@kriconsultants.com).

*Editor's Note: In the Letters to the Editor in the Jul-Sep 2010 issue of the Gazette on page 9 there is a photo of the Para-Rescue members, including LCDR Smith, who made a jump at the South Pole on Christmas Day 1973.*

- Ruth Boere is looking for anyone who knew her mother, Colleen Maude Wallis, in Christchurch in 1962-1963. Colleen was around 20 or 21 years old at the time and worked as a jeweler's apprentice. Colleen was dating an American with Operation Deep Freeze. He was about 23 years old and may have been Storekeeper or an Aviation Boatswain Mate. Ruth was conceived during this courtship and she was born in August 1963. Ruth does not know her father's name but hopes that if someone remembers her mother that they will also remember her father. Ruth can be reached at: [hansandruth@actrix.co.nz](mailto:hansandruth@actrix.co.nz), or 75 Candia Road, Swanson, Waitakere, Auckland, NZ phone (09) 8337031.

- Maury "Moe" Sanders served in NSFA as part of Det. C from 72-75. Moe was at Hallett Station 72-73; McMurdo/Byrd/Pole 73-74; and McMurdo 74-75. He is looking for any other AGs from that time frame. He can be contacted at: [sandersmoe@gmail.com](mailto:sandersmoe@gmail.com), 2429 28th St., Lubbock TX 79411, or 806 749 5433

- Skip Johnson is looking for ET2 Joseph B. Yeaton who wintered-over at Little America V Station during DF-III (1957-58). Skip also has a number of envelopes (philatelic covers) signed by Dufek, Gould, Siple, Wexler, and others that were mailed from the DF-II winter-over stations. He would like to know if any DF collectors might be interested in the covers. Skip can be contacted at: 859 223 1309, [skiplex@insightbb.com](mailto:skiplex@insightbb.com), or 3563 Juliann Circle, Lexington, KY 40503.

- Clark Knowles served on TF-43 during DF-III and IV. He would like to hear from anyone else who served on staff during that time frame. Clark can be reached at: [dotdotknow@yahoo.com](mailto:dotdotknow@yahoo.com) 2 Links CT, Chico CA 95928-7359, or 530 345 4434.

- Burke Richards is looking for Terry Levesque who wintered during DF-69 in ASA as an RMSN. Burke can be contacted at: 40195 Waha Glen Lewiston ID 83501, or [forestelk@cpcinternet.com](mailto:forestelk@cpcinternet.com).

- Woodrow "Woodie" Anderson would like to hear from any of his shipmates who served on the USS *Arneb* during DF-II and III. Woodie can be reached at: 316 945 8261, [coraandwoody@sbcglobal.net](mailto:coraandwoody@sbcglobal.net), or 814 N Hoover Rd, Wichita, KS 67212-2741.

- Dave Taylor is looking for crewmates who served on Herks with him during DF-87 through DF-89. Dave can be reached at: [hercguy@comcast.net](mailto:hercguy@comcast.net), or 393 Bayhead Dr, Lot 97, Tallahassee, FL 32304-83

- Royce Holland is looking for anyone who served with him in VX-6 during 1956 through late 1957. Royce can be reached at: [roycel@comcast.net](mailto:roycel@comcast.net), 334 677 5927, or 452 Moore Rd, Dothan, AL 36301-5556

## GLOSSARY OF SNOW AND ICE

*Compiled and edited by Billy-Ace Baker*



**Glaciated** — Land covered in the past by any form of glacier is said to be glaciated. Norwegian equivalent: *Glasiert*.

**Ice Cake** — A floe smaller than 20m across. French equivalent: *Glacon*.

**Old Snow** — Deposited snow whose transformation into firn is so far advanced that the original form of the ice crystals can no longer be recognized. German equivalent: *Alt scene*.

**Ram** — A horizontal underwater projection of ice from an ice front, ice wall, iceberg, or floe. French equivalent: *Eperon sous-glacie externe*.

**Valley Glacier** — A glacier which flows down a valley. Spanish equivalent: *Glaciar de valle, ventisquero*.

## Northern Virginia OAEA Group Meeting

*By Billy-Ace Baker*

Around mid-June Zoe Eppely, a new OAEA Life Member, contacted me via email and asked about starting an OAEA Chapter in Northern Virginia. Zoe knew about the Tidewater Group in Norfolk but felt that was too far away (150 miles) from where she lived. At first I thought that two OAEA Groups in the same state would create a conflict of interest, but after checking with the Tidewater Group honcho, Ed Hamblin, I found that he had no objections, so I told Zoe to go for it.

Zoe informed me that she had checked the email roster on the OAEA web site and found fifty members who lived within a 50-mile radius from a spot she picked in Northern Virginia that would be conveniently located for an OAEA Northern Virginia meeting.

The next step was for Ed Hamblin to prepare an updated spreadsheet of OAEA members who lived in VA, DE, MD, DC, PA, VA, and WV. This included the contact information for current members only. Later a small list of delinquent members in these states was also provided to Zoe.

Because Zoe had significant work/travel commitments during July and August, she planned to organize a meeting in early fall at a location convenient to I-95, where conventional fare is available. Her final choice was the Cracker Barrel Restaurant located on Dumfries Road in Dumfries, VA.

She sent the first email announcement out in the summer to OAEA members in the states listed above. Members without email addresses were contacted by telephone or US Mail. The introductory email informed the addressees that the OAEA Northern Virginia/Mid-Atlantic Chapter would hold a meeting on Saturday 24 September at 1:00 PM



**Clockwise from left: Bill Raymus, Kelsey Goodman, Pete Bermel, Bill Spindler,**

In August, Zoe sent out the final invitations to 100 people by email and 25 by USPS letters. She invited everyone to join her for the first meeting of the OAEA Northern Virginia/Mid-Atlantic Chapter. Everyone was instructed to meet up on the restaurant front porch at 1:00, and proceed inside to lunch after everybody assembles.

Zoe reported that between her initial email notice and the scheduled date she received a lot of email responses and about half the people who responded said that they had a schedule conflict or they said that they would be there. On the scheduled date fifteen OAEA members and five companions met at the Cracker Barrel in Dumfries, VA on 24 September 24, 2011. She reported that "we had a great time and we hope to meet again in the future".

Those in attendance were:

- |                |  |
|----------------|--|
| Zoe Eppley     | USAP McMurdo 85, Polar Star 86 Palmer 89/90, 90/91, 95, and 97 |
| Harry Lenchitz | Zoe's Husband  |
| Larry Amos     | Unknown 69, 70   |
| Peter Bermel   | USARP 60-61, 62-63   |
| Tony DeLeon    | ASA SS 58-61, WO DF-63   |
| David Feinman  | NSFA DF-IV, 60, 61   |
| Jim Golden     | VX-6 DF-III, & IV  |
| Carol Golden   | Jim's Wife   |
| Kelsey Goodman | NSFA 69-76   |
| Paul Grimes    | DF-II & 65   |
| David Hawtin   | NSFA SS DF-74 & 75   |
| Ruth Hawtin    | David's Wife   |
| Rex Hoover     | PM-3A DF-64 & 65. WO DF-66                                     |
| Patty Hoover   | Rex's Wife   |
| Steve Kauffman | TF-43 Staff 64/66  |
| Jeff Kauffman  | Steve's Son  |
| John Perry     | ASA WO DF-68, NSFA SS 69-73                                    |
| Bill Raymus    | ASA/NSFA WO DF-71 & 74   |
| Bill Spindler  | USAP WO South Pole 05 & 08                                     |
| David Stowman  | VXE-6 SS 75-78   |



**Left to right: David Feinman, David Stowman, Steve Kauffman, Larry Amos, Pete Bermel, Bill Spindler. John Perrv. Zoe Eppley**

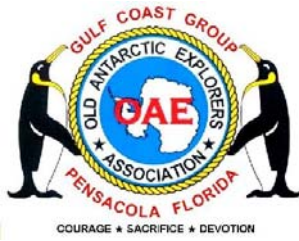
**Editor's Note: Zoe Eppley and her husband Harry contributed to this article.**

## Gulf Coast Group Chapter Happenings

by Billy-Ace Penguin Baker

### Saturday 02 July 2011 OAEA GCG Chapter Meeting

Hot, hot, hot. That was the word for the 2 July GCG Chapter meeting at the Warrington Shrimp Basket Restaurant. Things slowly got under way with my arrival at around a quarter to eleven. Next to arrive was Walter Smith followed by Jim and Pam Landy. Surprisingly Mary Lou Platte showed up very early and she even commented that she had been sitting outside reading the newspaper. Mary Lou is usually the last person to arrive and at times she barely makes it. Mary Lou, along with Lennie, are best known for the candid photos they take at the meetings. However, she suffers from extreme volunteerism and that is why she cuts her arrival at the meetings so close.



Mary Lou

Attendance was not the best we have seen due to the Independence Day long-weekend. Twenty-five members showed up. There were no guests in attendance, but OAEA Life Member Guy Sublet was visiting from Mariposa, CA. Guy did two tours in the squadron (VX/VXE-6) from 1971-73 and 76-78. Guy and his wife have been staying at the Navy campgrounds on NAS and the Blue Angel Recreation Park (old Bronson Field) for several weeks.



Guy Sublet

No guest speaker was scheduled, but Terry Latino, WO DF-67, was in attendance and I asked him to tell the story about how he found out that there was a mountain in Antarctica named for him. After he spoke I passed around a copy of *Geographic Names of Antarctica* so anyone interested could check to see if they had something named for them that they did not know about.



Terry Latino

I also spoke briefly about metal DF license plate frames that I would be ordering if there was enough interest. Lennie asked about the availability of the frames at the June meeting and I found a company that would make them for us.



Lennie Holding Deep Freeze License Plate Frame

Following my comments Les Liptak made some announcements and follow-up about the museum and *Que Sera Sera*.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned and the drawings for the 50/50 and the door prize were held. The 50/50 raffle was drawn by one of our waitresses, Natalie Sexton, and was won by the Fazio's. Bill and Mary took home \$38 as their share. The door prize, consisting of the USAF Deep Freeze book and CD, was won by myself, but since I already had a copy I gave it back and I was asked to draw another ticket. This time the book and CD was won by Guy Sublet.



Ashlee and Jamie Baker

Thanks to Pam Landy for selling the 50/50 tickets and distributing the door-prize tickets and thanks to Lennie and Mary Lou for taking photos.

**Pensacola, Florida 6 August 2011—Thirty Six** members and guests showed up for the monthly GCG Chapter meeting. Out of town member Bob Conner, NSFA WO DF-74, and his Fiancée Barbara Meyers drove up from Lake City to attend the meeting and spend the weekend in Pensacola. Bob has attended GCG meetings in the past, but this is the first time that Barbara has been in attendance. I think we had another Antarctic First—Peggy Skaar made her first appearance at a GCG meeting. Gary has been a regular attendee for numerous years, but this is the first time that Peggy accompanied him to a meeting.



**Barbara Meyers and CWO Bob Conner, USN (Ret)**



**Peggy Skaar and Captain Gary Skaar, USN (Ret)**

Both our present leader and immediate past leader, Duck Talbert and Les Liptak were absent, so Chuck Miner man volunteered to be the Duty MC. After Pam finished selling the tickets for the 50/50 raffle and Sean Baker distributed the door prize tickets Chuck took the floor and did his thing.

Chuck made some comments about recent achievements of Life Member Jimmie Baker of the Young Eagles. He recognized out-of-towners Bob and Barbara and after Bob

made a few comments Chuck introduced the speaker Life Member Art Ellison. Art is a retired RMCS and spent four winters at McMurdo. Art recently moved from Las Vegas to Pensacola.



**Art Ellison Eating at Billy-Ace's Wedding Circa 1964**



**Art Ellison Eating 2011**

Art spoke briefly about his Antarctic Experience including Field Party Communications, equipment changes over the years, playing chess with the soviet exchange scientist, and last, but not least he went into great detail about white-outs. Which was like preaching to the choir since many of the attendees were ex-VX/VXE-6 members. However, Art's presentation was well received and he answered several questions from the attendees regarding his career and changes in communications equipment used on the ice.

Following Art's presentation Chuck announced that the next meeting would be on the second Saturday in September instead of the first Saturday.

Following the speaker and the announcements the drawings were held. Guest Gari Lowery was asked to draw the tickets.

The 50/50 drawing was won by Ticket-Master Pam Landy who took home \$69 as her share. As usual screams of foul play were voiced by the losers.

Bob Conner won the door prize, consisting of two \$5 coupons for KFC. My daughter-in-law, Life Member, Tracey

Baker, the manager of the KFC Buffet on Mobile Highway here in Pensacola, donated the coupons.

Congratulations to the winners, and better luck next time to the losers.



**Chuck Minerman MCing**

After the drawings I made an announcement about the search for information about the LCDR Jerry Smith who died in a parachute jump here in Pensacola. (See the Locater Column in this issue). I didn't expect any feedback based on what little info I knew about Smith. However, Jimmie Baker said that a building at NAS Pensacola was named for him after he was killed.



**Kiwi Pam Has the Winning 50/50 Ticket**

Following the Jerry Smith discussion the meeting was adjourned. Thanks to Pam and Sean for distributing the raffle tickets, and thanks to Lennie and Gari Lowery for taking photos during the meeting. Thanks also to Tracey Baker for donating the KFC coupons, thanks to our waitresses Brittany and Melody, and last but not least thanks to Chuck for MCing the meeting.

**Pensacola, Florida 10 September 2011—When**

I arrived at the Shrimp Basket about 15 minutes before opening time I thought I was late—I am usually the first one there, but this time Gary Skaar, Larry & Sharon Preston, and Paul & Judy Dickson were already there. Gary had picked up Gus Shinn's birthday cake and it was sitting on the end of the bar. As soon as I got through the door with my box of goodies Larry Preston took the OAEA GCG flag from the box and hung it in the customary place. As soon as I had dated the Muster Sheet Sharon Preston took it and passed it around to the other early arrivals. In the end forty-three members and guest showed up to wish Gus Shinn a happy 89<sup>th</sup> birthday.



**Gus's Cake: PUCKERED PETE SAYS.....  
AN AUGUST OCCASION  
REQUIRES A SHINN DIG  
HAPPY BIRTHDAY, POPS!!!**

Albert Marretta, former NCIS Special Agent (DF-76), who had not attended a meeting since we held our meetings at Seville Quarters, was in attendance. Al ordered an OAEA GCG Chapter nametag and said that he intends on being a regular attendee in the future. Welcome back Al.



**Guest Speaker Suzy Hutchinson Tells all about Her Recent Heart Attack**

Suzy Hutchinson was the scheduled speaker and she got started a little early because of the surprise birthday celebration for Gus. Suzy gave a very interesting presentation about her recent heart attack and how she used her laptop computer to figure out what was happening to her before she called 911. After her presentation she answered a few question and then turned the floor over to me. One of the positive things about her experience is that she stopped smoking and she deserves credit for doing that as I can speak from personal experience that it is not easy to give up smoking.



**Gus and His Cake**

Billy and Joyce Blackwelder arrived around noon with Gus in tow and I made an announcement about Gus's birthday and his recent eye surgery. Everyone wished Gus a happy birthday and Laura Snow took over the floor and presented Gus with his present, a copy of John Stewart's *Antarctica an Encyclopedia. Second Edition*. After Gus unwrapped the book, which is two volumes and very heavy, Laura passed out information sheets for anyone who might



**Watching Gus Unwrap His Presents**

be interested in buying a copy for themselves. In order to make sure the book arrived before the meeting Laura ordered the book, which cost \$500, using her personal funds and solicited the OAEA GCG members for donations to help pay for the book. She received a total of \$605 in contributions—

enough to pay for the book and also get a birthday card prepared for Gus for everyone to sign. The remaining money (\$105) was donated to the OAEA Scholarship Fund.

While Suzy was making her presentation Sean Baker circulated through the crowd selling 50/50 raffle tickets. When Gus had finished unwrapping his presents I asked him to draw a ticket for the raffle that was won by Laura Snow. Laura donated her share (\$53) back to the GCG Chapter.

Jody Livesay passed out the door prize tickets and as soon as the 50/50 raffle was completed I asked Ella Hoffmaster and Mr Corderoy (her Teddy Bear) to draw a ticket. Judy Dickson won the door prize consisting of a complimentary copy of *Hell Bent to the Pole*, donated by the author Geoffrey Lee Martin.

Following the drawings Billy Blackwelder cut the cake and passed out a piece to everyone who wanted to indulge in such decadence.

That just about wrapped it up so the meeting was adjourned. The next meeting is scheduled for Saturday 1 October at the Shrimp Basket. Thanks to Walter Smith who donated \$60 to the *Gazette* Printing and Mailing Fund. Thanks to Laura for donating her share of the 50/50 to the GCG Kitty. Thanks to Lennie and the Blackwelder's for taking the meeting candid photos. Thanks to Sean and Jody for distributing the tickets for the 50/50 raffle and the door prize drawing. And last but not least thanks to Melody our outstanding waitress.



**Gus Examines his Present From the GCG Chapter. While Wade Jeffrey and Laura Snow look on**

Epilogue: After I got home from the meeting I was called by Gus and he thanked me for his surprise birthday party. I had to tell him that I had very little to do with it. Most of the credit goes to his daughter Connie, who lives in Charlotte, NC, who called and asked me if we would honor his birthday at our next GCG meeting.

Credit also goes to everyone who contributed to his present and everyone who attended the meeting to wish Gus a happy 89<sup>th</sup> birthday.