



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

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P2V Memorial Plaque

Antarctic Memorial Immortalizes Tragic Plane Crash From 50 Years Ago

Tragedy at Wilkes in 1961

*by Bill Burch
From Sep 2011 Aurora*

9 November, 2011, marks 50 years since an overnight refueling stop at Wilkes, for a United States (US) Navy Neptune aircraft on its way back to McMurdo from the Russian station at Mirny turned to tragedy. It crashed on take-off. The five men who had been seated around the supplementary long-range fuel tank, in the belly of the plane, were incinerated; but remarkably, the four cockpit crew walked from the burning wreck and survived.

I first wrote the story of that fatal visit in *Aurora*, June 1996 (Volume 15, Number 4, "The All American Boy", after hearing a more recent Wilkes veteran recounting an inaccurate version to a friend at a midwinter dinner. Clearly the oral history had not been well transmitted. It saddened me also, then, to realize that the wreckage was rapidly disappearing under the accumulating snow on the plateau and, that before long there would be no visible evidence to stimulate thoughts and reflection in future expeditioners. That point had also been noted by Darryn Schneider, when

See: P2V Crash on page 4.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

James "Jim Da Retired Cop" Heffel—OAEA President

TO ALL OAEs—The 2012 OAEA Election Committee has been extremely busy. The volunteers (nominees) for the various offices are in and the ballots were printed and mailed out to all Regular Members. If you have not received a ballot you may download one from <http://voteoaea.com>. The Election Committee must receive all ballots on or before 1 October 2012. See page 24 of this issue for more election information.



In the Jan-Mar 2011 issue of the *Gazette* it was announced that the OAEA BOD had passed a resolution to fund a memorial plaque for a P2V that crashed at Wilkes station in 1961 and to create a Memorial Plaque Fund. The plaque for the P2V has been procured and installed. I wish to extend my thanks and congratulations to everyone who helped with that project. And to Bill Burch and Peter Rejcek for their articles that make up the plaque cover story in this issue.

In the last issue of the *Gazette* I mentioned that the guest book on the OAEA web site had disappeared and that the web master, Billy-Ace Baker, was looking into finding an alternate guest book. I am happy to announce that a new guest book is up and running. Thanks to Bob Gaboury for coming to the rescue and creating the new guest book.

The OAEA National Reunion to be held in San Diego, California 29–30 November 2012 is just around the corner. The Reunion Committee is doing a great job getting the word out. See the Reunion Special Edition of the *Explorer's Gazette* for information on hotel reservations & rates, a reunion registration form, and many other details. The special edition may be downloaded from our website at: <http://www.oaea.net> or from <http://oaeareunion.com>.

To all those who have lost loved ones, please accept my sincere condolences. My prayers are with you. To those under the weather, I wish you a speedy recovery.

I solicit your recommendations and suggestions on those areas of the OAEA that you perceive as going well and on those areas where you feel we can do better. Please feel free to contact me at:

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

	Page
Cover Story— P2V Memorial Plaque	1, 4
§	
Sturgeon Bay, WI— My Favorite Ice Story	3
§	
Here and There— Letters to the Editor	9
§9	
West Jefferson, NC— This Quarter in History	11
§	
Norfolk, VA— Tidewater Group Meeting	12
§	
Here and There— In Memory: Obituaries	13
§	
Tulsa, OK— Chaplain's Corner	16
§	
Brunswick, ME— New England Chapter Meeting	16
§	
Pensacola, FL— New Members & Reunions	18
§	
Here and There— Locator Column	19
§	
Pensacola, FL— Glossary of Snow & Ice	19
§	
Boston, MA— Investigative Reporter Honored	20
§	
Pensacola, FL— GCG Chapter Meetings	21
§	
Lancaster, CA— OAEA Southwest Group Meeting	24
§	
Pensacola, FL— 2012 OAEA Election Update	24

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My Favorite Ice Story

Special to the Explorer's Gazette by David Hirn

Dear Diary,

I just came back from the McMurdo Station movie theatre. The movie listing came out a couple of weeks ago and the station has been all astir. *Barbarella* was listed as being shown tonight.

You can imagine a couple of hundred sailors at the bottom of the world without sight of a woman in months. The thought of seeing a scantily clad Jane Fonda caused some sleepless nights of anticipation.

After weeks of waiting and much aching, the evening arrived. Bags of food and snacks made their way into the theatre and everyone got their favorite seat amongst their favorite comrades with a couple of beers tucked in their jacket pockets. Two hours early so as to get a seat. Duties were switched and all was ready for the glimpse of an inner thigh and spiked boots. The moment arrived. The minute hand of the watch struck 7:00 p.m. No movie. "Where is the projectionist?" "Go find the projectionist." After about half an hour, the projectionist stumbles his way to the projection booth upstairs. 15 more long minutes and a couple of beers later, the AFRTS previews start. Then the movie begins. "What", "WTFO", "Are you f'ing kidding me?" "Who the F is *Arabella*?" No, it was not Jane Fonda but Virna Lisi. No, it was not *Barbarella* but *Arabella*. A cruel and thoughtless joke perpetrated on several hundred young sailors who put their lives in jeopardy.

The group was not happy. Voices were raised. Tempers flared. A fight broke out. A beer bottle was thrown, catching me in the forehead. Now blood slowly trickles down the side of my nose. That is going to leave a scar.

No, I did not see *Barbarella*. In fact, I have never seen *Barbarella*, not then and not since.

Editor's Note: David Hirn was in summer support at McMurdo during DF-72.



P2V Crash

From page 1

he and a small party from Casey visited the crash site, late in 1996. Only the tip of the tail was protruding from the snow.



Crashed P2V Tail Section

The ultimate solution was to have a bronze plaque cast, recording the tragedy, and to have it mounted on the hilltop, overlooking Wilkes, beside the graves of Hartley Robinson and Reg Sullivan, Australians who had died in accidents, in 1959 and 1968 respectively.

An ex-US Navy fellow from Operation Deep Freeze at McMurdo, Billy-Ace Baker, had contacted me for a copy of my story about the crash, to go on his website. He was also an active member of the Old Antarctic Explorers Association (OAEA), and he became the liaison person, to bring a memorial plaque to reality.

It has been a long, drawn out process, but fulfilment of this project is almost complete. The OAEA has generously sponsored production of the plaque here in Australia, with a \$1000 donation. Minor supplementary costs were borne by members of the Wilkes 1961 party.

Thanks to the logistic support of the Antarctic Division, through Rob. Wooding and Robb Clifton, the finished plaque is in Kingston, Tasmania, and awaiting shipment to Casey station. If all goes well, Dave Buller, and his team at Casey, will

build a stone cairn, ready to take the plaque, this summer season.

Originally it was hoped the plaque could be in place for a small dedication ceremony, on 9 November this year, to coincide with the 50th anniversary of

the disaster, but that seems unlikely now, unless there is an early C-130 flight in from McMurdo.

Our 61 crew will be holding a 50th reunion in Hobart, late in October, during which we hope to have our own little ceremony around the plaque, before it goes south. There's a good

chance we will be joined for the occasion, by the original copilot, Ernest Hand, who is planning to fly out from the US. His presence will give a special poignancy to the event.

§

NOT FORGOTTEN

*By Peter Rejcek
Antarctic Sun Editor*

Ernst Hand recalls the gasoline fireball filling the plane up to his ankles. He had managed to bring the U.S. Navy P2V-7LP Neptune back to the edge of the ice shelf before the crash landing that sent the converted bomber skidding across a half-mile of ice.

“While we were sliding, things were blowing up. There were a lot of hydraulic cylinders, oxygen bottles, that kind of stuff,” says Hand, the co-pilot that day more than 50 years ago.

“When it came to a stop, I opened the escape hatch and rolled out. I was on fire from one end to the other,” he adds with a strong Southern drawl that makes the story sound so matter-of-fact. “A lot of things go through your mind: Shall I run and get away from this thing, because it kept blowing up. But I stopped and thought, ‘I better put myself out.’ So I did.”

Hand, 75, somehow survived with three other men when their plane caught fire on 9 November 1961,

shortly after taking off from Wilkes Station on the coast of East Antarctica. Five others weren't so lucky, including four members of the Navy's VX-6 squadron and a U.S. scientist.

Until recently, the incident was a fading memory, remembered by a handful of men who had witnessed the tragedy. Time was consuming the wreckage itself, as snow drifts buried the parts of the aircraft that had been left at the site.

“Clearly, in [a] few years time, there'd be no trace of the tragedy visible, to serve as a stimulus for reflection on the event,” says Bill Burch.

Burch had witnessed the accident from the ground. Also, as the station's “official photographer,” he shot stills and video of the takeoff. Later, he would write an essay about the tragedy called “The All American Boy,” a homage to AMH1 William W. Chastain, one of the Navy men who perished in the crash.

“I felt it would be a loss to the history of the region if there was not some basic permanent record of this accident,” says Burch, 73, via email from Australia.

Eventually, he joined forces with Billy-Ace Penguin Baker and the OAEA, a U.S.-based non-profit organization founded to preserve the memories and experiences of those who have been involved in Antarctica.



Unveiling the Memorial Plaque at the Wilkes 61 Reunion

Baker arranged for the OAEA board of directors to donate \$1000 toward a bronze plaque that would commemorate the crash. Burch and

some of his Wilkes crewmates added another \$300.

On 21 April 2012, members of Australia's Casey Station held an official dedication ceremony the day after the plaque had been placed on a large boulder overlooking Vincennes Bay near memorial crosses for two Australians who had also died on the continent.



Mark Hunt at Wilkes Grave Site

"Standing there, it certainly feels poignant and appropriate," says Casey Station leader Mark Hunt, who helped arrange for the delivery of the plaque to the Ice and oversee the memorial service.

Jubilant Atmosphere

The opportunity to live and work in Antarctica had been a boy's dream comes true for Burch after listening to the exploits of a fellow countryman who had been "down south." Thanks to a basic science degree in physics and electronics—and apparently a dearth of applicants for a geophysicist position—he joined the 1961 Wilkes crew at age 22.

Wilkes Station was one of seven research bases established by the United States during the 1957–58 International Geophysical Year (IGY), a scientific campaign that involved dozens of nations in a variety of research fields, with special emphasis on the polar regions. In 1959, the United States turned over Wilkes Station to the Australian government, which about a decade later built a new

base a couple of miles away and named it Casey Station.

Most of the 24 men who had arrived at the coastal research station in 1961 were Australian, though the contingent included five Americans, as part of the spirit of cooperation fostered by Antarctic research.

One of the Americans was Stan Wilson, a budding marine biologist who later switched careers and specialized in remote sensing in oceanography, retiring from NOAA last year after stints in both the Office of Naval Research and NASA.

Wilson recalls the jubilant atmosphere that prevailed on 8 November when the P2V landed at Wilkes. It had been 10 months since they had seen anyone other than each other.

"The camp was absolutely humming with excitement," Wilson says. "It was absolutely the high point of our year. New stories; fresh faces; interesting conversation."

A Rough Landing

The plane, piloted by LT Elias J. Stetz and LTJG Ernie Hand, had arrived from Mirny, a Russian coastal base, after being delayed several days by a blizzard. The purpose of the mission was for geophysicist Edward C. Thiel to conduct an airborne magnetometer survey over the continent. The flight was to cover some 3,500 miles from and back to McMurdo Station, the United States' main logistics facility for Antarctic operations.

The Americans had also brought about 600 pounds of mail to Wilkes, according to Hand, further endearing the flight crew to their hosts.

"They treated us like royalty. They wine and dined us," he says.

Before joining the fete, Burch had volunteered to help refuel the P2V. That's when he met Chastain, whom he described in detail in his "The All American Boy" essay:

"His teeth I remember most about him. An absolutely perfect set kept totally visible through the mobile shutter of a mouth that rarely closed as he chewed gum and talked, simultaneously. A tricky maneuver that demanded great facial mobility. He was in every way the epitome of what movies and early TV had taught me to think of as "The All American Boy." Six foot something, crew cut hair, big beaming smile, looked to be barely twenty. His mother must have been very proud of him!"

Burch goes on to mention how Chastain remarked on the roughness of the Wilkes landing strip—a stretch of ice that had been flattened down by a D4 tractor before the plane arrived. The men finished loading the P2V with gasoline and joined the party.

And a Rougher Takeoff

The next morning, with most of the Wilkes crew nursing hangovers, only a few people turned out to see the P2V off, including Burch and Wilson. The



Burning Wreckage at Wilkes

plane was fully loaded with fuel, about 3,350 gallons across the wings, and another 1,500 gallons in a tank located near the aft of the plane in the bomb bay.

"The flight to McMurdo from Wilkes was a long way," Hand explains. "That's why we had [gasoline

in] everything that you could put gasoline in."



Memorial Plaque Ceremony

That made the plane extremely heavy.

"It was a rough takeoff," Hand recalls. "With all of the bottles of JATO burning—and we had [six]—I did not think we were going to get off the ground. But at the last second [the plane] became unstuck and we were flying."

The jet-assisted takeoff bottles, or JATO rockets, provided the airplane the boost it needed to lift off. But the bruising ride over the uneven snow surface had apparently broken or knocked loose the shackles holding up the fuel tank in the bomb bay. The tank broke loose and high-octane fuel started to spill out, streaming out the tail where the JATO rockets were burning.

The JATO bottles turned into blowtorches, scorching and melting the fiberglass tail. And then the flames raced back to the source of the fuel. The tank exploded, according to Hand.

"It blew the top and the bottom out of the airplane. Why it didn't separate, only God can tell you," he says. "It filled the whole airplane with flaming gasoline."

Hand had taken the controls after Stetz had apparently become overcome by the smoke and passed out. He managed to put the plane down and escape out the hatch, along with AE1 Jack C. Shaffer and AT2 Clarence C. Allen. One of the men had stepped on Stetz's shoulder when crawling out of the cockpit, waking the pilot, who also fled the still-exploding aircraft.

Wilson and the station doctor, the late Dr. Noel Orton, were the first to arrive at the crash scene.

"We saw these four guys standing there, and the first thing you thought was, 'Gee, how did they get out of that,'" Wilson says, adding that the crew's cold weather gear had partly protected them from the fire—except for their faces and hands.

The men were severely burned and injured. Wilson was assigned to take care of Hand until an evacuation flight could be arranged.

"I was essentially Ernie's nurse," Wilson says. "I sort of had a special bond with Ernie because of that."

A couple of days later, a C-130 aircraft from McMurdo Station arrived at Wilkes to transport the injured men. Comments made almost 40 years later by one of the men on the crew who flew with the C-130 rescue mission, Buz Dryfoose, attested to the roughness of the landing strip.

Nothing could be salvaged from the wreckage. "All below the snow line was pretty much in tact and all above the snow line looked like a skeleton," Dryfoose wrote.

The four survivors convalesced at McMurdo for several days before heading to New Zealand, where they spent two weeks, according to Hand. The men eventually ended up at Tripler Army Medical Center in Honolulu, where they underwent numerous skin grafts.

Risks and Rewards

So, what happened to Hand after that?

"The next year, I went down there and flew my fanny off," he says, mildly scoffing at the idea that the accident would keep him away from flying again.

"I was back in the cockpit as soon as I was able," he says from his home near Knoxville, Tenn. "If you have a wreck at the end of the street, you don't quit driving. Life goes on."

Life kept Hand in the Navy for almost 12 years, two of them in the Antarctic, an adventure that he still remembers fondly despite the tragedy.

"We did things that you wouldn't even think about doing here [in the United States]," he says. "We were good. We were dedicated to what we did. It was no slipshod operation, believe me."

It was certainly a more dangerous time in those early pioneering years of



Memorial Plaque Site

the U.S. Antarctic Program, then known as the U.S. Antarctic Research Program, which was managed and funded by the National Science Foundation. Four men were killed in a separate P2V crash during a whiteout near McMurdo on 18 October 1956. Six men died two years later when a U.S. Air Force C124 went down in the Admiralty Mountains. On 2 February 1966, an LC-47 crashed and killed six VX-6 personnel.

In fact, more than 50 people were killed between 1955 and 1999, the years when the Navy was in operational control of Operation Deep Freeze, the military's umbrella name for Antarctic support. Some died in helicopter crashes, others in crevasse accidents.

The OAEA has established a memorial fund for the placement of future plaques, according to Baker, though some areas are probably too remote, far from field camps or research stations.

"Some of them you wouldn't be able to put a plaque up," says Baker, who visits Chastain's grave in the Barrancas National Cemetery at the Naval Air Station in Pensacola, Fla., at least once a year. In addition, all of those killed during the Navy years are Memorial Members of the OAEA and their names are read aloud during the organization's bi-annual reunions.

Reunion and Remembrance

In April 1997, Hand retired after flying with Delta Airlines for 32½ years. The whereabouts of the other survivors is unknown at this time.

Around the time Hand was preparing to retire, Darryn Schneider and some friends who were working at Casey Station visited the crash site near old Wilkes Station; itself mostly covered by ice, and discovered that almost the entire plane was buried by snow. Mother Nature would soon erase any visible signs of the tragedy.

"It turned out to be one of the last times the aircraft was visible," he says.

Schneider served as a physicist with the Antarctic Australian Division in the mid-1990s, and later as a scientist and

program manager for neutrino experiments under way at the U.S. Antarctic Program's South Pole Station. He had become interested in Antarctic history while at Casey, and even started an Antarctic website, with a section on the Wilkes tragedy.



Ernie Hand at Wilkes 61 Reunion

"With my connection to both [the] Australian and U.S. programs, I was able to put some of the right people in contact with each other, which was my very small contribution to the memorial," he says over email. "It is up to the people who live and work in Antarctica to document and preserve their own history, and any enduring memorials are up to us to establish."

Burch and Baker had hoped to have the plaque in place by 9 November 2011, on the actual anniversary date, but things don't always work out as planned in Antarctica.

Meanwhile, Burch, Wilson and their fellow Wilkes veterans reunited for the 50th anniversary of the 1961 expedition in Hobart, Australia, in late October. Wilson had convinced a special guest to attend—Ernie Hand.

"I was absolutely floored, pleasantly surprised, when he replied, 'Yeah, I'd like to do that,'" Wilson says.

So, Hand joined the 11 Wilkes veterans and their partners for a three-day reunion in Hobart. They held their own special ceremony to unveil the plaque, which had been draped with an

American flag. About 50 people attended the gathering on 25 October including Hunt, the Casey Station leader.

"First, I screened the video I had made of the whole tragedy, then Stan Wilson conducted a small dedication ceremony, including a very emotional speech from Ernest, who then lifted the flag to reveal the plaque," Burch says. A moment of silence followed.

Six months after the Wilkes reunion, the plaque was finally put in place, with a brief ceremony.

"I'm glad the plaque is there. I hope it will be there perpetually, because it is part of history," Hand says.

§ Antarctic Air Crash Victims Remembered

A ceremony has been held at Wilkes station in East Antarctica to commemorate the victims of a fatal plane accident at the site 50 years ago.

The American plane a *Neptune P2V* crashed during take-off on 9 November 1961, killing five of the nine people on board.

The plane crashed after fuel leaked from the plane's fuselage tank causing a massive fire.

At the time the crew was returning from a geomagnetic survey to Russia's Mirny station as part of Operation Deep Freeze and had stopped overnight at Wilkes.

Recently Australian expeditioners wintering at nearby Casey station laid a plaque at Wilkes to remember the men who lost their lives in the tragic event.

Casey Station Leader Mark Hunt said the plaque was presented to him at the Australian Antarctic Division's headquarters in Hobart late last year by the *Neptune's* surviving co-pilot Ernest Hand.

"Mr. Hand was still deeply moved by his memories of the accident and his time in Antarctica, so I am pleased we are able to honour him and those who died by holding this ceremony," Mark Hunt said.

"The plaque has been affixed to a rock cairn overlooking Newcombe Bay and the old Wilkes station and lies next

to other men who have died on the icy continent.”

“I think it’s important to have a permanent memorial here so as time erodes the physical evidence of the crash, snow and ice now covers the majority of the remains of the plane, it is still remembered long into the future,” he said.

Wilkes was an American station that had been handed over to Australia in 1959. Australia used the station until 'Repstat', eventually renamed Casey, was built on the Bailey Peninsula in 1964. The current Casey station was officially opened in 1988.

§

An Email From Mark Hunt to Bill Burch

I just wanted you to know that we have done it, end of summer rather than the beginning but still in the 50th anniversary season. I also wanted you to know when we would be holding the ceremony in case you or others of your colleagues may wish to observe your own remembrance at the same time. I am sorry I couldn't give you more notice but I know you understand the vagaries of Antarctic weather and the need to take a window when it presents.



Mark Hunt Casey OIC

It will take some time to get the video back to Australia, but I will send

you some photos tomorrow evening. Please give my regards to Ernie and the other guys if you are speaking or corresponding with them.

We have placed the plaque at Wilkes, on a large boulder; overlooking the bay just a little way from the memorial crosses for Hartley Robinson and Reg Sullivan. I had hoped to place it so that a person could read the plaque and look up from it towards the plateau but I was unable to find a suitable spot. I hope the site we have chosen is suitable from your point of view. Standing there, it certainly feels poignant and appropriate.

Tomorrow we will head over to Wilkes and unveil the plaque officially and have a small ceremony. I intend for us to leave station at 11.30 am. I envisage the ceremony will run from 12.15-12.30, perhaps 12.45. As well as

saying a range of things of which I trust you would approve I intend to recount my experience meeting you and the others—and Ernie—in Hobart in November and I will read your “The All American Boy”. As you know we will film the whole thing (I understand my sister at the ABC has already interviewed you).

Editor's Note: When the OAEA BOD established the Memorial Membership category for personnel who died or where killed in Antarctic the cover of the Explorer's Gazette Oct-Dec 2005 issue featured a color photo of the tail section of BUNO 140439 in front of the burning wreckage of the rest of the plane.

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BOD ESTABLISHES MEMORIAL MEMBERSHIP CATEGORY

BY A UNANIMOUS VOTE, THE OAEA BOD HAVE CREATED two new categories of membership. On 17 August 2005, OAEA President John West announced to the BOD that the resolution to create the Memorial Membership and the Commemorative Membership categories had passed. The Memorial Membership category is for those OAEs who were killed or died in Antarctica beginning with Operation Highjump in 1946 and ending in 1999 when the OAEA was established. Sixty qualifying OAEs, 55 Americans, four New Zealanders, and one Australian, were inducted into the OAEA in this category. The Memorial Members include OAEs from both the military and civilian communities. Commemorative Members shall be OAEs who, if living,

would be eligible for Regular Member status in the OAEA. Any person may submit applications for this membership category without consideration to their membership in the OAEA. There are no fees or membership dues required for Commemorative Memberships, but tax-deductible donations are welcome. There are currently eight Commemorative Members in the OAEA.

It is planned that the names of the Memorial Members will be engraved on a symbolic ice barrier to be created on the OAEA web site.

1 See also President's Corner on page 2.

OAEA

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Chief Baker:

I enjoy the *Gazette* and was glad to see photos of my DF-68 ASA Det Alfa winter-over mates, Chief Art Ellison and RM3 Richards.

Enclosed is my \$50 donation for printing and mailing the *Gazette* to me.

George Purcell

Editor's Note: Thanks for the Donation.



RM1 George Purcell

Billy-Ace:

I thought you might want to know that I completed the video biography of Jules Madey, the teenager who was a legendary amateur radio operator serving the men in Antarctica during the IGY. I now have a website for my small company: <http://www.gwillow.com>. If you go to the Videos page on the website, the Madey film is the only one there at present. I am offering the 2-DVD set for \$27.00 (includes shipping). There are probably a number of OAEA members who ran phone patches through Jules and might be interested in this. I have the 6-minute introduction to the film available for viewing online on that page.

Incidentally, this is also where the video biography of Robert Johnson will be posted when it is ready. That is next on the "to do" list so hopefully I can have it ready some time in September. I have not forgotten about "The Last Man" either. I am gradually locating and acquiring replacement music for the copyrighted original music and I should have it available in the last part of this year.

Best regards, Tom Henderson

Dear Editor:

My name was on the list of expired annual dues in the Jan-Mar issue. I thought I was a life member?

Robert "Boats" Johnson

Editor's Note: Woops, we have two members by the name of Robert Johnson. Robert D., who lives in NZ, is the one with the expired dues. Sorry about that.

Dear Editor:

Thanks to the information in Decembers *Gazette* on John Stewart's *Antarctic Encyclopedia* I discovered that the New Zealand Geological Survey Antarctic Expedition had requested a mountain peak be named after me for my VX-6 R4D-8 crew's work with them during the 1961-62 summer season. I sent a message to John Stewart's publishing company on 1 Feb this year asking about information on his book, as it is pretty expensive. Within the hour I received a call from John Stewart telling me that he knew who I was because I was in his book. It was a complete surprise, as the Navy hadn't told me about the honor as I assume they should have. My family and I were very pleased but a little upset that I could have gone my whole life not knowing and that I hadn't contacted the New Zealand Survey Team to thank them for the honor. Have been in touch with the New Zealand Society to pass on my thanks but there may not be any one still around from that Survey team of 50 years ago.

I was with VX-6 from March 1959 until March 1962 and did spend the 1960 winter with our detachment at McMurdo. I left the Navy in 1967 and spent the next 28 plus years flying for Delta Airlines but will always cherish my time on the ice.

Jim Weeks

Editor's Note: This happened to a lot of people. Mainly because the certificates were sent to the Naval Support Forces Antarctica History Division (PAO) and if you had been transferred, like most people had, they just filled everything in boxes. I wrote an article in the Gazette about the lost certificates a few years ago when some of them surfaced.

I was never notified when something was named for me, but I saw a list of names in the Navy Times so I wrote a letter to the Board on Geographic names and they sent me the details and a photo. This was back in 1968.

Billy-Ace

Thanks for putting me in the 'OAE Locator' column in the Jan-Mar edition, but we need to make a change. The correct phone number is 360-691-3686.

Thanks, Gordon Williams

The below email was sent to Marty Diller who forwarded it to me:

Marty:

I got a smile from Bruce DeWald's story in the Oct-Dec 2011 issue of the *Gazette* about "Det C" with the stamped envelope from Byrd. I had the stamp [cachet] made for my last year at Byrd. The stamp is somewhere in my pile of "stuff". I don't even know if I have an envelope for myself. I do remember doing some covers for Bruce and sending them to him at the McMurdo Weather Office. Lots of memories

Jim Kelly

Editor's Note: The Byrd Surface Camp envelope in the Det C article is from my personal cover collection. Bruce DeWald was NOT on the ice when I prepared the cover (envelope). Bruce did not supply the photo of the cover, or the other photos, with his story. Billy-Ace

Dear Editor AKA Billy-Ace Baker:

In the Jan-Mar 2012 issue of the *Explorer's Gazette* there was a great article by Peter Rejcek about successful Cargo Operations in the last supply season. But I would be remiss in not stating that before the NSF contractor took over operations in Antarctica the Navy Department was primarily in charge of operations including (air and sea logistics) with the assist of the other branches of the military and the U.S.Coast Guard. This period was of course a different time with many unknowns in Antarctica.

On page 5 the article states "For decades, U.S. Coast Guard Icebreakers supported the USAP". It should be remembered that in the days before the middle 60s The US Navy was there every year to take on the channel to McMurdo with Both the Navy and Coast Guard Wind Class breakers, the USS *Glacier* was the work horse that did the heavy work breaking the way. This was when there was no ice pier and most cargo was off loaded onto the ice, about 8 to 10 miles out, and towed on sleds by Caterpillar's, D8's and such and fuel was pumped over the ice with intermediate pumping stations for fuel delivery to holding tanks at McMurdo. At least one driver was lost in these endeavors

The Navy ice breakers including the *Glacier* did surveys of area's never seen or investigated before. Their operations and Navy pilots and crews of VX-6 achieved great things and made it easier for the late comers to handle from then forward.

BMC Barry L Lease USN (Ret)
USS *Glacier* AGB-4
(06/14/1959 to 06/26/1963)

PS. I think it's about time Congress breaks lose some money for more Ice Breakers, It doesn't seem right for the USA to lease ice breakers from foreign countries in some cases who are not that friendly to us!

Dear Editor:

I have noticed that the "In Memory" section of the *Gazette* is always three pages long. Is there any reason for this?

Pig Pen Henry

Editor's Note: The "In Memory" section could be a lot longer, but I edit out some of the tourist obits in order to hold it at exactly three pages.

Dear Billy-Ace,

I am the US Liaison for The Imperial Trans-Antarctic Centenary Expedition 2014 (ITACE). It will follow Shackleton's planned route and finish what he started 100 years ago. I would be most grateful if you would put a notice about ITACE in your forthcoming OAEA newsletter. The web site is located at:

(<http://www.south2014.com>). Many thanks in advance.

Glenn Marty Stein

Billy-Ace,

I looked at the Life Member list in the last issue of the *Gazette* and I didn't see my name. Did I fall through the crack or am I not a Life Member? I was sure I signed-on as a Life Member years ago.

Stan Foster

Editor's Note: There was no Life Member list in the Gazette. The New Member section only lists those members who joined during the reporting period that the Gazette covers. In this case it covered those who joined between Oct-Dec 2011.

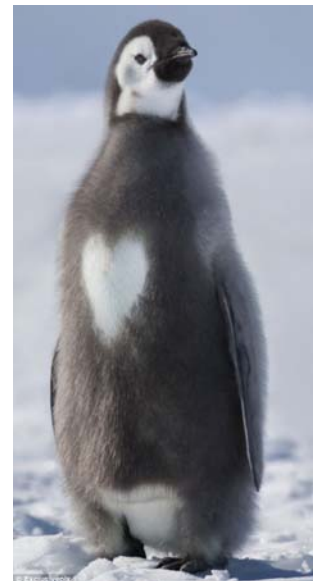
Billy-Ace

I thought this photo would be interesting to your readers.

While most of us might wear our hearts on our sleeve, this little chap shows it off in just the right place. He is an Emperor penguin chick whose change of plumage into adulthood was blessed by Mother Nature.

The white heart-shaped patch on his chest is a natural formation due to the molting of his feathers.

John Korn



Billy-Ace,

You've outdone yourself! I rate this issue of the *Gazette* (Jan-Mar 2012) as your top production.

You even got in my feeble review of John Stewart's *Encyclopedae!*

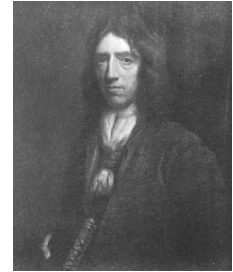
Why don't you take the rest of the day off?

Doc Abbot

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

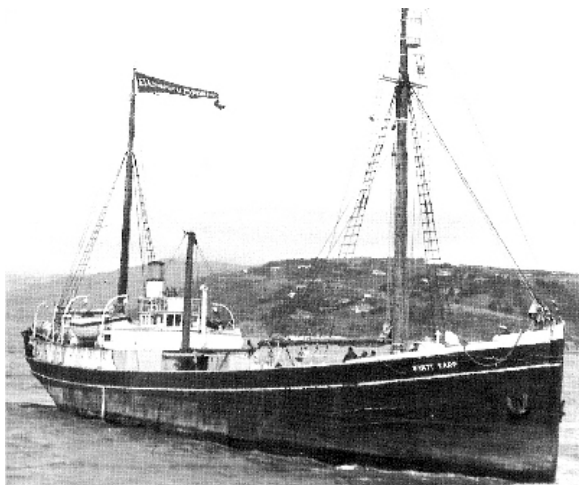


Alan Sharman With Pups

APRIL: On 23 April 1959, Alan Sharman was killed in a freak fall while walking on the rocks near Base G, the FIDS station at Admiralty Bay. Broke his skull. Alan had just completed the 1958 wintering-over there as a meteorologist. He was 22. He was the ninth Fid to die on the ice. Sharmon Rock was named in his honor, however, it was later found not to exist.



Brazilian Navy Holding Mass as Alan Sharman's Grave



Wyatt Earp

MAY: Bruce Stinear's ANARE party was exploring the edge of the plateau ice on the coast, at the northeast extremity of the Vestfold Hills, when, just under a kilometer south of the Wyatt Earp Islands, they found a group of prominent rock exposures on 10 May 1957. They uncovered records wrapped in a copy of the Australian geographical magazine *Walkabout*, just as they had been left there by Sir Hubert Wilkins, whose party had been the first to land on these rocks, on 11 January 1939, off the ship *Wyatt Earp*, during Lincoln Ellsworth's last expedition to Antarctica. Bruce named the rocks Walkabout Rocks.

JUNE: On 17 June Kaare Friis-Baastad married Babbis Blauenfelt, the writer, who then became Babbis Baastad. Friis Baastad was born without a hyphen, poor baastad, and later in life had an operation to correct that. Oh, by the way, he was a member of the Norwegian-British-Swedish Antarctic Expedition of 1949-52.



Norwegian flying unit. Friis-Baastad (First Pilot), Sigvard Kjellberg, Josef Jensen, Anders Jacobsen, and Walter Andreassen

Tidewater Group June Get-Together



by Ed Hamblin

A few of the Virginia Tidewater OAEs gathered at Norfolk House of Eggs Restaurant in early June for the regular quarterly social “high tea”; one dozen, to be exact. Our once-a-quarter social outings pretty much follow a very simple format—come in, introduce yourself, find a seat at the table, order, and jump in the conversation. If there are pictures, we show them around. If we have stories, they get told; and if there are new visitors, then the old stories get retold. About the only thing of a business nature is that the Tidewater *ad hoc* 2014 reunion group brings the new folks up to speed on what is going on.

One of the newest Life Members of the Old Antarctic Explorers Association, Jerry Gustin and wife Karen, were able to come down from Gloucester, VA. This was their first opportunity to meet up with some of the local crew. Jerry was better known to many of us as Capt. Gustin (US Army), the Terminal Operations Officer at McMurdo from 1972–1974. Jerry and Karen’s e-mail address includes the phrase “Gustin Land and Cattle” and, even though they assure me otherwise, I have visions of the South Fork Ranch in Dallas. Another new guest at our gathering was John Draughon, a



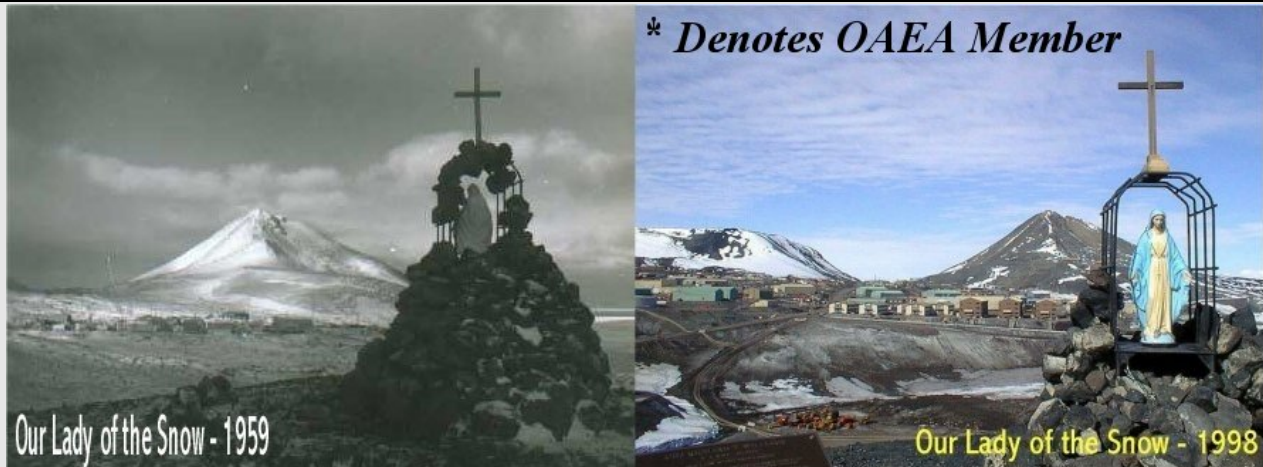
local OAE, who spent several summers on the ice from 1973–1977. John was one of the high visibility NSFA Journalists who always seemed to be in on all the ice action—if he didn’t know about it, it probably wasn’t important. John now works at Landstown High School in Virginia Beach, VA, doing audio/visual. An OAEA Life Member since 2004, John is a great storyteller and brings that to our table. Some of you may remember meeting him at the 2006 Reunion in Rhode Island. Jerry, Karen, John—welcome to the crew.

Besides the Gustins coming down from Gloucester, we also had Cliff and Jean Dickey from Williamsburg and Herb Schaefer from just above Williamsburg. What makes it very difficult for the people who come from those areas is that of the three ways to get into Norfolk from that direction, you don’t have many choices—1 bridge or 2 tunnels. Tunnel traffic can be a major deterrent, so it is always a pleasure to see the OAEs from “across the water”.

Our next outing will be same place, Norfolk House of Eggs on Saturday, 8 September at 3pm/1500. We are always set up in the no-smoking side room. Food is cheap. Pictures and stories always welcome. If you aren’t on the Tidewater area email tree and want to be added so you get reminders, give Ed a phone call at: 757 405 3382, or an email at: ehamblin74@verizon.net.



Standing left to right: Jean Dickey, Cliff Dickey, Karen Gustin, Jerry Gustin, Brad Miller, Herb Schaefer, Robert Kello, Manny Perry. Seated left to right Bill Raymus, John Draughon, Garrett Johnston.



IN MEMORY

OAE Betty Jean Adamson, 92, died on 26 May 2012, in Fort Wright, KY. Betty Jean visited Antarctica as a tourist.

OAE Henry Arthur Ambler Jr., 85, died on 21 February 2012, in Ann Arbor, MI. Henry visited Antarctica as a tourist.

OAE Margaret M. "Marge" Ambry, 93, died on 3 May 2012, in Denville, NJ. Marge visited Antarctica with her husband.

OAE Harry Bachtold, 85, died on 15 March 2012, in South Lake Tahoe, CA. Harry was a member of MCB(Special) during DF-I and II (1955–56/1956–57). As a CE3 and CE2 he helped to build Little America V, and Byrd Stations. Bachtold Glacier is named in his honor. He was a member of the Antarctic Deep Freeze Association (ADFA).

OAE Kathie A. Baker, nee Hill, 53, was killed on 2 June 2012, in Whidbey Island, WA. She was apparently murdered. Her husband, Al Baker, was ordered jailed in connection with the beating and strangulation death of Kathie. Kathie wintered twice at South Pole Station. Her first winter was in 1993 with a NOAA wind profiling radar project. Her second winter was in 1995 as a meteorologist with the Antarctic Support Associates contractor. In 2002 Kathie was hired as the permanent RPSC Meteorology Coordinator, as such she hired and trained the met people and visited all of the stations frequently. Kathie married OAE Al Baker in 2007.

OAE Carmen Becker, 89, died on 31 May 2012, in Pompano Beach, FL. According to the Guinness Book of World Records Carmen and her husband Robert were the most traveled couple in the world for several years running. Together they visited over 300 countries and territories and were the first couple on a civilian expedition to the South Pole. During the 1987–88 they traveled from Patriot Hills to South Pole Station on a Twin-Otter becoming the first couple to reach the South Pole as tourists. During the 1992–93 season the Becker's added a number of firsts to their list while on the Russian icebreaker the MV *K. Khlebnikov*. They visited Crozet Islands, Kerguelen Islands, Heard Island, and the next year they were aboard when the ship made the first icebreaker cruise into the Weddell Sea with tourists. *Editor's Note: John Spletstoeser contributed to Carmen's obituary.*

OAE Ronnie Bedford, 90, died on 1 June 2012, in the UK. Ronnie went to Antarctica with the British Antarctic Survey.

OAE Bryant Eugene Blackburn Jr., 56, died on 10 May 2012, in Las Vegas, NV. Bryant visited Antarctica as part of a film crew with a VIP party in the 1980s.

OAE Donald Edward Carey, 83, died on 21 May 2012, in Camarillo, CA. Donald served on the USS *Edisto* during Operation Windmill (1947–48).

OAE Marion Sarah Cilker, 94, died on 20 May 2012, in Los Gatos, CA. Marion visited Antarctica as a tourist.

OAE Lesley Claire 64, died on 27 February 2012, in Napa, CA. Lesley visited Antarctica as a tourist.

OAE EMC Marvin Maynard Corner, USNR (Ret), 78, died on 25 March 2012, in Coopersville, MI. Marvin served on the USS *Atka* during DF-II as an Electricians Mate.

OAE Stephen "Bonk" Michael Delaney, USAF (Ret), 61, died on 15 April 2012, in Colorado Springs, CO. Bonk and his wife visited Antarctica as tourists.

OAE Teresa "Terri" Arlene Dial, 62, died on 28 February 2012, in Miami, FL. Terri visited Antarctica as a tourist.

OAE Flossie B. Dobson, 91, died on 13 June 2012, in Nampa, ID. Flossie visited Antarctica as a tourist.

OAE MC James Charles Evans, USN (Ret), died on 15 April 2012, in Fairfax, VA. James served in Antarctica.

OAE Mary Louise Fazekas, died on 11 March 2012, in Sylvania, OH. Mary visited Antarctica as a tourist.

OAE DR John Michael "Mike" Fitzsimons died on 20 May 2012, in Baton Rouge, LA. Mike served as a USARP biologist at McMurdo in 1966. Fitzsimons Nunataks is named in his honor.

OAE Marjorie Fountain, 98, died on 18 April 2012, in Alameda, CA. Marjorie visited Antarctica as a tourist. She was a member of the Northern California Explorers Club. Her husband Gordon was a member of Admiral Byrd's 1933-35 Antarctic Expedition.

OAE James Anderson "Jim" Foutz, Sr., 83, died on 23 May 2012, in Virginia Beach, VA. Jim served in Antarctica on a Coast Guard icebreaker.

Julie Ann Gnewuch (Nee Lickteig), 72, died on 4 May 2012, in Green Lake, WI. Julie Ann was a renowned dietician. She was affiliated with dietetics on all seven continents, culminating in two expeditionary trips to Mt. Everest. Julie Ann planned and organized food and menus for the first Women's Expedition to the South Pole in 1992-93.

OAE Peter James Gormly, 74, died on 24 March 2012, in Hobart, Tasmania. Peter wintered at Casey Station in 1973 and at Mawson Station in 1977.

OAE Alan Charles Hawker, 82, died on 19 April 2012, in Dimboola, Australia. Alan wintered-over in 1954 at the ANARE base on Macquarie Island as a radio operator. In 1957 he wintered-over at Davis Station. Hawker Island is named in his honor. 73s and 88s—VA dit dit.

OAE ACC Billy M. Hayes, USN (Ret), 87, died on 20 April 2012, in New Bern, NC. Billy served in Antarctica as an Air Traffic Controller.

OAE Barbara Ann Hickman, 79, died on 11 April 2012, in Chamblee, GA. Barbara visited Antarctica as a tourist.

OAE John Hnatiuk, 81, died on 13 April 2012, in Calgary, Canada. John visited Antarctica as a tourist.

OAE ADC Howard Hoffman, USN (Ret), 84, died on 9 June 2012, in Milton, FL. Howard was an ADJ1 in VX-6 during DF-61 and served as a crewmember on C-130 BUNO 321.

OAE Barbara Kline Hopper, died on 16 May 2012, in Kenwood, CA. Barbara Visited Antarctica as a tourist.

OAE Charles Richard "Dick" Hoskins, died on 8 March 2012, in Visalia, CA. Dick visited Antarctica as a tourist.

OAE CDR Wayne Alton "Al" Jones, USN (Ret), 74, died on 4 April 2012, in Virginia Beach, VA. Al served as the OIC of the Naval Support Force, Antarctica, Detachment Christchurch, New Zealand in 1985-86.

OAE Charles Robert "Bob" Jordan, 83, died on 6 March 2012, in Athens, GA. Bob visited Antarctica as a tourist with his wife Sandy.

OAE Francis "Frank" Kaminski, Jr. died on 1 April 2012, in Palmetto, FL. Frank served a total of 17 months in Antarctica.

OAE Walter P. Kashuba, 83, died on 5 April 2012, in Utica, NY. Walter served during Highjump.

OAE Alan Leonard Keyworth, 82, died on 24 May 2012, in Thornhill, ON, Canada. Alan visited Antarctica as a tourist.

OAE H. William "Bill" Kruse, 85, died on 14 April 2012, in Poquito Bayou, FL. Bill visited Antarctica as a tourist.

OAE Marian Elsie (Hansen) Leach, 85, died on 13 April 2012, in Danvers, MA. Elsie visited Antarctica as a tourist with her husband when they were in their 70s.

OAE CAPT Douglas W. Madison, USN (Ret), 86, died on 4 November 1911, in Ft Myers, VA. Douglas was on CTF-43 Staff from 1961-64 as a LCDR. He served as the admiral's aide and PAO. Mount Madison is named in his honor. One of Captain Madison's major accomplishments was raising the first fifty star flag over the South Pole in 1960.

<http://www.southpolestation.com/trivia/igy1/50starflag.html>

OAE James B. "Jim" McAdam, 42 died on 18 April 2012, in Sugar Land, TX. Jim served as a contractor with Antarctic Support Associate during the 90s and served as the winter-over station facility engineer.



- OAE Larry W. McCormick, 68, died on 13 April 2012, in St. Joseph's Place, NY. Larry served on the Deep Freeze picket-ship the USS *Thomas J. Gary*, during DF-66 and 67 as an MR2.
- OAE Darrell Leo McCullough, 56, died on 8 April 2012, in Sioux City, IO. Darrell worked in Antarctica as a welder with the USAP contractor.
- OAE Robena Claire Henley Medbery, 88, died on 14 May 2012, in Charleston, SC. Robena visited Antarctica as a tourist.
- OAE Bruce Wesley Miller, 89, died on 4 March 2012, in Dorris, CA. Bruce visited Antarctica as a tourist.
- OAE Dennis D. "D.D." Miller, 75, died on 9 May 2012, in San Diego, CA. D.D. served on Naval Support Force Antarctica Staff during Deep Freeze III (1957-58) as a Navy Journalist Third Class (JO3).
- OAE John Aubrey "Jack" Miller, 79, died on 4 June 2012, in San Jose, CA. Jack visited Antarctica as a tourist.
- OAE Peter B. Murphy, 74, died on 10 May 2012, in Brewster, MA. Peter served as a USARP civilian on the USS *Edisto*.
- OAE Richard Lovejoy Narver, 89, died on 27 May 2012, in Laguna Beach, CA. Richard visited Antarctica as a tourist.
- OAE DR Geoffrey Newton, MD, 81, died on 16 May 2012, in Bretby, England. Geoff wintered over with ANARE at Mawson Station in 1960 as the medical officer and photographer. Mount Newton is named in his honor.
- OAE Reverend J. Robert "Bob" Nicholas, 89, died on 20 May 2012, in Derby, KS. Bob visited Antarctica as a tourist.
- OAE Arthur D. Nyberg, USAF (Ret), 90, died on 29 May 2012, Erie, PA. Arthur served on the USS *Philippine Sea* during Highjump.
- OAE Jesse Greye Eagle Peterson, 27 died on 25 May 2012, in a canoeing accident on a remote lake in the Sangre de Cristo Wilderness in Colorado. Jesse wintered-over as a carpenter at South Pole Station in 2011.
- *OAE Emil Thomas Policay, 85, died on 5 June 2012, in Ithaca, NY. Emil served on the USS *Merrick* during Highjump.
- OAE CAPT Philip W. Porter, Jr., USN (Ret), 92, died on 13 August 2011, in Norwell, MA. Philip served as the CO of the USS *Glacier* during DF-60 and 61. Porters Pinnacles is named in his honor.
- OAE Robert Carl Pratt, 69, died on 2 May 2012, in Martinsburg, OH. Robert served in Antarctica with the SeaBees.
- OAE Steve Romeo, died on 14 March 2012, in Grand Teton National Park in Wyoming. Steve was killed in an avalanche.
- OAE Allan Vincent Shappell, 84, died on 8 June 2012, in Mesa, AZ. Allan served in Highjump.
- OAE Roxane Page Ruhl "Roxy" Simmons, 99, on 29 March 2012, in Gwynedd, PA. Roxy visited Antarctica as a tourist at the age of 93 with her son and daughter-in-law; Charles and Carole.
- OAE Alyce Spinosa, 88, died on 16 June 2011, in Vero Beach, CA. Alyce visited Antarctica as a tourist when she was 80.
- OAE Herman Christian Stegen, 86, died on 16 April 2012, in Palatine, IL. Herman served on the USS *Pine Island* during Highjump.
- OAE Vic William Visceto. 71, died on 13 June 2012, in Worcester, MA. Vic served in MCB-1 during DF-61.
- OAE Wendy Wayne, 64, died on 17 June 2012, in Bakersfield, CA. Wendy visited Antarctica as a tourist in 2008 on her 60th birthday.
- OAE Eugene Williams, 88, died on 2 May 2012, in Farmington, NM. Eugene visited Antarctica as a tourist. He lost his first wife, Annie on a wildlife and birding cruise to Antarctica in 1995.
- OAE YNC Michael "Mike" Williams, USCG (Ret), 69, died on 7 April 2012, in Oklahoma City, OK. Mike served in Antarctica with the Coast Guard.
- OAE Homer B. Wilson, Jr., 87, died on 29 March 2012, in Huntsville, AL. Homer and his wife Mary visited Antarctica on a Russian icebreaker in 1990.
- OAE Robert "Bob" Franklin Wilson, 85, died on 18 February 2012, in Kingman, AZ. Bob wintered-over at Casey Station in 1973 as a USGS geologist.

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Denis Casey—OAEA Chaplain

I thought that a few light comments might brighten up the chaplain's column for this issue. May I begin with the Senility Prayer?



SENILITY PRAYER

God grant me the senility to forget those people I never liked anyway, the good fortune to run into those I do like, and the eyesight to tell the difference. Amen.



- Sacred cows make the best hamburgers
- All I ask is a chance to prove money cant make me happy
- I was born a pessimist, my blood type is B negative

New England Chapter Spring 2012 Meeting

By Marty Diller

New England Chapter Secretary-Treasurer

For the first meeting of 2012 (31 March) for the New England Chapter, it was back to Pelly's 19th Hole restaurant in North Kingstown, RI, as 85 OAEs and their guests came together for the first meeting in six months. Spring at Pelly's has become a tradition for the Chapter, as we have now met there four times over the last five years with an average attendance of 81 people.



Photo by Fred Santino

Jim Kelly speaks on PM-3A radiation exposure

Featured Presentation

The VA/DODs meeting of the Veteran's Advisory Board on Dose Reconstruction (VBDR) in San Antonio, Texas took place the week before our meeting, so the subject of reported leaks in the McMurdo Station PM-3A nuclear power plant during its operation in the 1960s and 70s was once again the primary discussion topic. At the VBDR meeting, the Board was expected to come out with their "McMurdo radiation dose exposure assessment". Two ex-VXE-6 and OAEA members, Bill Vogel and Jim Landy, were among the veterans who publicly spoke to the VBDR Board during the public comment period on behalf of McMurdo veterans.

Marty Diller shared post-VBDR meeting information that was provided by email from Bill Vogel, and Jim Kelly

briefed attendees on other VBDR information which is now available on the VBDR.org website. From Bill Vogel:

- The VA is acknowledging that radiation exposure did occur at McMurdo and is now willing to go forward in addressing claims.
- Veterans who have had the VA deny a medical claim need to keep it in appeal; veterans who have not submitted a claim and need medical help should file a claim now.
- It is important that the VA knows about affected veterans since they plan to start looking into this matter much more than they have in the past.
- Another VBDR meeting is expected to be scheduled in six to nine months.



Photo by Dave Hazard

Don Germain (MCB-1, DF-II) and Quentin Risher (USS Arneb, DF-II, III, IV) greet one another. Quentin's crackerjacks still look good on him

At the VBDR meeting, LCDR Gregory Fairchild (Naval Dosimetry Center, Bethesda, MD) presented the 'Review of the Navy's PM-3A Dose Reconstruction Effort' report. Jim Kelly—who was cited as a McMurdo veteran who

contributed to this initial assessment report by Fairchild—shared his thoughts on the challenge the Board will face in attempting to accurately calculate a dose assessment for individual McMurdo personnel who were not monitored. (Only the operators of the nuclear power plant were issued dosimeters—and the Navy is missing a large number of those). Individual dose exposure data is needed to assist the VA in adjudicating claims and providing benefits to affected veterans. Jim mentioned that during his discussions with the people working on the McMurdo assessment, they made it clear that they are still accepting information from veterans who worked at McMurdo—so if you feel that you have anything to offer, you still have a chance to tell your story by contacting any of the three people mentioned at the end of the VBDR Preliminary Report. Now that the initial report has been released, all the information that went into making the initial report is forwarded to a committee of four experts from the medical/scientific community. They each review all the facts, data, eyewitness accounts, etc., and develop their findings that go into a Final Report. It is expected that the Final McMurdo Dose Assessment report will be released by late summer on the VBDR site.

tireless efforts to pressure the DOD to investigate the severity of PM-3A radiation exposure to McMurdo veterans.



Photo by Fred Santino
On the left, front to back: Chet Thomas, John Hollo, Tony Richards, and Matt Dill. On the right, back to front: Lorry Dill, Sarah Morris (Tony's fiancée), Gloria Hollo, and Cora Thomas.

In other news, the Chapter has now established a link on our website to our MeetUp.Com webpage. Meeting and reunion announcements are on this webpage, and people can upload photos and sign-up to attend meetings by joining MeetUp. MeetUp is also accessible via Facebook, and we hope that taking our OAEA-NE "group" into the social media arena will increase awareness of both the OAEA and the Chapter.



Photo by Fred Santino
L to R, front to back: Paula Hall, Dave Killian (waving), and Sal Puccia. L to R, back to front: Joan-Marie Lodge, Nick & Mary Pellegrino, and Pat Benardello.

Chapter Business

The Chapter conducts its election of officers every four years, and in 2012 all officers except the Secretary/Treasurer are up for re-election. Members will be receiving nomination forms and ballots through the U.S. mail.

In business from the floor, a proposal was made to donate all money received for the day's raffle ticket drawing to Bill Vogel and the Landy's, who spent hundreds of dollars out of pocket to attend the VBDR meeting in San Antonio on behalf of McMurdo veterans. That proposal passed unanimously; afterwards, a hat was passed around to augment the raffle amount and over \$250 more was collected. In total, over \$600 was collected, split evenly, and sent to Vogel and the Landy's with our thanks for their

Fundraising

Raffle winners included: Joe Angerome, Barbara Chase and Jim Kanen (each won a *March of the Penguins* book); Bill Bertrand and Hoot Hartman (un-numbered OAEA-logo belt buckles); Charlie Bevilacqua (*Antarctic Journeys to the South Pole* book); Bob Busch (*Happy Feet* penguin puzzle); Barry Chase (*Antarctic book No Horizon is So Far*); Joyce Drews (Eagle table lamp); Paula Hall (mahogany USS *Ohio* submarine model); Jack Jennings and Jack Swenson (NAS Quonset Point patches); Jim Pedone and Quentin Risher (\$10 Dunkin' Donuts gift cards); Ken Proctor (NYANG Ski-Herk poster); Elizabeth Raky (*Antarctic fiction* Deception Island*); Quentin Risher and Joe Stravinsky (US Navy ceramic mug); and Quentin Risher (Penguin sweatshirt).

* The Chapter thanks one of its newest members—Judy Boss, author of *Deception Island*—for donating her book, which she wrote after a cruise to the Antarctic Peninsula, for the raffle. Also, Judy sold a number of her books during the meeting and donated \$5.00 to the Chapter's general fund for each book sold.

Meeting Schedule

The next OAEA-NE Chapter meeting is scheduled for 1:00pm on Saturday, 2 June 2012, at *Princeton Station* restaurant in North Chelmsford, MA.

NEW OAEA MEMBERS

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

Thanks to American Legion, Michael Spencer, Jack Weihaupt, Tom Bates, Gene Van Reeth, Ken McPherson, Dave Bresnahan, Elaine Hood, Maggie Knuth, Chuck Minerman, and Ed Hamblin 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 or 850 456 3556.

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

Andrews, Earle MIL	Life	USCGC <i>Eastwind</i> 1964-65
Bernstein, Fred CAPT	Commem	NSFA COS 67 & 68
Bernstein, Wendy CIV	Life	Surviving Daughter
Brodeur, Thomas SN	Life	USCGC <i>Eastwind</i> 1960
Burton, Albert PRCM	Life	VXE-6 84-85
Cameron, Andrew CIV	Life	USARP H&N 77-80
Cook, Michelle, CIV	*Annual	NE Chapter Groupie
Courville, Zoe CIV	Life	CRREL 03-04/08-10
Cox, Lynne CIV	Life	Author of <i>Swimming to Antarctica</i> 2002
Curran, Francis HT2	Life	MCB-71 1973-74
Danahy, Philip LTJG	Life	USCGC <i>Eastwind</i> 1954-57
Dipell, Neville CIV	Life	ANARE Wilkes/ Mawson 1968/70
Donigan, Richard PHC	Life	VXE-6 1970-72
Evans, Daniel SK3	§Life	NSFA SS/WO 76-78
Femstrom, W. ETCM(SS)	Life	USS <i>Glacier</i> DF-I & II
Gladstone, Fred RMSN	Life	USS <i>Wyandot</i> DF-IV
Gilchrist, Ronald CE3	Life	CBU-201 1971-73
Grant, Glenn CIV	Annual	USAP Contractor, Palmer, WO McMurdo WO South Pole 95-08
Greenwood, G.C. PN1	§Life	NSFA 81-83
Henderson, Tom CIV	§Life	USARP/USAP TOPO 79-80/81-82/97-98
Holley, Bobby ABH3	Annual	VX-6 1965-67
Hudson, Shirley NOK	Life	Surviving Spouse
Katsufarakis, John CIV	Commem	USARP 1963-80
Knuth, Margaret CIV	Life	MV <i>N. B. Palmer</i> 2004 CRREL 2008-12
Kooyman, Gerald CIV	Life	USARP/USAP 1961- 2012 Scripps Institute
Lynn, Thomas E6	*Life	USCGC <i>Northwind</i> (Arctic only)
Lonneman, Marcel LT	§Life	NSFA SS 72-74
MacLennan, Neil BM3	Life	USCGC <i>Eastwind</i> DF-II, DF-60
Mann, Alan EO3	§Life	MCB-71 71-72
Mastro, Jim CIV	Annual	USAP McM 82-97
Mastro, Lisa CIV	Annual	USAP McM 82-97

Meland, Seimer ABH3	Annual	VX-6 1968-69
Moore, Michael CIV	Life	MV <i>Celebrity Infinity</i> 2012
Morin, Theresa, CIV	§*Life	Companion
Nichols, Roger YN3	Annual	USCGC <i>Eastwind</i> 1965-68
Panza, William PH2	Life	USCGC <i>Eastwind</i> DF-I
Porcello, Denise CIV	*Annual	NE Chapter Groupie
Rarick, Ronald AG2	Life	USCGC <i>Eastwind</i> 1960-62
Read, David CIV	Life	USARP DVDP 74-75
Schultz, Alice NOK	Life	Widow of Richard
Simon, Ken CIV	*Annual	PPHSGB
Speck, Joan CIV	§*Life	Spouse
Unger, Pat LT(MC)	Life	MCB(Spec) LAV DF-II
Virginia, Ross CIV	Life	USAP 1989-2012
Waller, William ENS	Life	USS <i>Henderson</i> Highjump 1946-47
White, Michael EO1	Life	NSFA WO DF-87
Wolak, Richard CIV	§Life	USAP, McM, South 1972-80, 1992-94

REUNION & MEETING INFORMATION

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

USS Curtiss (AV-4): Plano, TX, 5-8 September 2012. POC Bruce Snider, bruceusscurtisav4@rgv.rr.com, or phone: 956 423 3314. USS *Curtiss* served during DF-II.

USS Henderson (DD-785): Colorado Springs, CO, 18-22 September 2012. POC Albert Meeds, 704 995 2974, or xaramco@carolina.rr.com. The USS *Henderson* served during Highjump.

USS Wilhoite (DER-397): San Antonio, TX, 25-28 September 2012. POC. canerday@suddenlink.net. USS *Wilhoite* served as an Ocean Station Vessel during DF-61.

NMCB-1: Nashville, TN, 5-6 October 2012. POC Bill Annett, 615 447 5593, or seabeebill@cox.net. MCB-1 served during DF-II, IV, and 62.

NMCB-8: Las Vegas, NV, 26-29 September 2012. POC Ron Sabbatos, 831 359 0073, 606 Capitola, CA 95010, sabagus@charter.net. MCB-8 served during DF-63 & 64.

USS Yancey (AKA-93): San Diego, CA, 4-7 October 2012, POC George Clifton, clifs@ameritech.net. 708 425 8531. USS *Yancey* served during Highjump.

NMCB-71: Las Vegas, NV, 3-6 October 2012. POC Jerry Montecupo, 412 373 3096, 2548 Pitcairn Rd, Monroeville, PA 15146, jmontecupo@verizon.net. MCB-71 served during DF-72 & 73.

OAEA: San Diego, CA, 28-30 Nov 2012. POC Bob Gaboury, 805 322 3955 or bobgaboury@gmail.com, or 159 Via Rosal, Camarillo, CA 93012.

OAE LOCATOR

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

- Art Ford is looking for info on a helo that crashed in the Wright Valley on 22 Nov 1962. A friend of Art's who worked in the Dry Valleys on a project studying polar soils in 1962-63 had a Navy helo drop in (on his tent) for a visit Art's friend was Bela Csejtey, a Hungarian who died in January. Bela was given a citation by RADM Tyree for his part in rescuing the helo crew. Art would like to see a copy of the citation plus the helo accident report. Any help would be appreciated. Art can be contacted at: abford@aol.com, 400 Ringwood Ave., Menlo Park CA 94025, or 650 323 3652.



- AGC Joseph Gogel, USN (Ret) is compiling a roster of all Aerographers and Met Officers who served in Antarctica during Operation Deep Freeze (1955-1999). Please provide Joe with the following information: Name, Dates of Service, Rate/Rank at that time, Station of service. Note whether summer support or winter over. Provide your current address and e-mail address if you have one. If you know others that served during that time along with you, please include information if known. Send to Joe by email at: cemetery@psci.net, or 34 W. 9th Street, Ferdinand, IN 47532-9263, or by phone at: 812 367 2142.

- Judith Boss is taking oral histories of OAEA members. If you are interested in having your Antarctic Memories preserved you can contact Judith by email at: jbgentoo@aol.com, or 30 Brookridge Dr., Exeter RI 02822, or by phone at: 401 295 7478.

- Eric Berg is looking for any information/pictures/stories about his father Michael Berg who wintered over at McMurdo during 1976. He was young, straight out of high school, wore glasses, worked in weather with balloons and data collection, had a radio show, and played darts. Eric can be contacted at: bergys@gmail.com.

- Richard Calsetta, Jr. is looking for information about his father Richard "Dick" Calsetta who served with MCB-6 and was in the original landing party to the South Pole. Rich can be reached at: #56 32nd Ave. NE, Great Falls, MT 59404, or papacalsetta@hotmail.com, or by phone at: 406 453 7456.

- Richard Temple served during DF-II (1956-57) with MCB-1. He participated in building Ellsworth Station in the Weddell Sea area during the IGY. He would like to contact any one who has information on that mission. Richard can be contacted by email at: retemp@comcast.net, 136 Patton Drive, Aliquippa PA 15001, or by phone at: 724 375 3721.

- The Northern Virginia/Mid-Atlantic OAEA Group is planning another luncheon/meeting. If you are interested in attending you should contact Thomas Ballard, at: 2600 Briggs Chaney Rd., Silver Spring, MD 20905, or by phone at: 301 384 0840, or email at: ballardt@verizon.net. The location and time will be published at a later date.

GLOSSARY OF SNOW AND ICE

Compiled and edited by Billy-Ace Baker



Ice Island — A form of tabular berg. Ice islands often have an undulating surface that gives them a ribbed appearance from the air. French equivalent: *Ile de glace*.

Ice Sheet — A mass of ice and snow of considerable thickness and large area. Ice sheets may be resting on rock or floating. Spanish equivalent: *Sabana de hielo*.

Second-Year Ice — Floating ice that has not melted in the first summer of its existence. It stands higher out of the water than first-year ice. Bare patches and puddles are usually greenish-blue. German equivalent: *Zweijähriges packeis*.

Snowdrift — An accumulation of wind-blown snow deposited in the lee of obstructions or heaped by wind eddies. French equivalent: *Banc de neige poudree*.

Snow Line — The line or zone on land that separates areas in which fallen snow disappears in summer from areas in which snow remains throughout the year. Spanish equivalent: *Linea de nieve*.

Investigative Reporter Honored by Thankful McMurdo Veterans, Families

by Thom Wilborn,

Usually tough investigative reporters who cover the most difficult stories in Journalism wiped tears from their eyes at a national conference in Boston on 12 June when they heard the stories of Antarctic veterans and their families about the illnesses they suffered from what they contend is radiation exposure from the PM-3A nuclear reactor at McMurdo Station during the 1960s and 70s.



Wilborn at the South Pole

Elaine Swinney recounted her husband, Charles', battle against cancer in which he far outlived his expected lifetime, thanks to her dedicated and compassionate care. She told the story how her husband, on his deathbed, asked her to continue the fight for service-connected disability for cancers caused by radiation exposure. "It is a promise I will keep," she said.

Swinney and several Antarctic veterans attended the E. W. Scripps Investigative Reporters Conference in Boston to

extend their thanks to Cleveland WEWS-TV investigative reporter Ron Regan for his extensive reporting on the possible radiation threat to McMurdo veterans. His reporting has garnered Peabody, Edward R. Murrow, and Emmy awards—among the most prestigious awards presented to broadcast journalists.

Veterans and their families expressed their appreciation for his award-winning work, which has drawn the attention of the nation to the hazards McMurdo veterans experienced. "I was completely surprised when they came out," said Regan. "Their stories show the great service these veterans performed for our country, and no one even knew what dangers they were exposed to."

McMurdo veterans who attended included James Landy and his wife, Pam, from Pensacola Florida, Fred Santino of Boston, and Thom Wilborn, Assistant National Director of Communications for DAV in Washington, D.C.

Since Regan's reporting began, the Navy acknowledged last March at a meeting of the Veterans' Advisory Board on Dose Reconstruction that McMurdo veterans suffered low-level radiation exposure and that it contaminated the station's water supply. The panel is completing a dosage reconstruction report that is due to be submitted to the board in late 2012.



Pam Landy, Jim Landy, Ron Regan, Elaine Swinney, Fred Santino, and Thom Wilborn

Gulf Coast Group Chapter Happenings

by Billy-Ace Penguin Baker

Saturday 07 April 2012 Meeting

—26 Members and guests showed up for our day before Easter meeting. A first time attendee was Michael Moore. Mike visited Antarctica for a week in February of this year on the MV *Infinity*. Mike joined that



Mike Moore

homeless to be distributed before the summer sets in. I hope to have more info on this that I can run by the membership at a later date.

After Gary finished his presentation our President Roger "Duck" Talbert made several announcements that included GCG members on the binnacle list and the forthcoming 2012 OAEA Election. He then asked if anyone had anything that they would like to announce. I mentioned the 2012 OAEA Reunion in San Diego and that I hope to have the Reunion Special Edition of the *Explorer's Gazette* out in early May. Mike Moore asked if any one



Gary Lowery

had any information about large passenger ships being banned from Antarctica. He thought that the ban was already in effect, but he said the large ships were still there in



OAEA as a Life Member at Mike. Mike had a DVD with photos of his trip, but he did not bring his laptop and I did not have the GCG DVD player with me, so we did not have the pleasure of watching his Antarctic Adventure.

Gary Lowery was the guest speaker and he gave us an update on the Pensacola area homeless veterans. Gary mentioned that he is currently working on getting canned goods and batteries for the

February when he made his cruise. I volunteered to check with the International Association of Antarctic Tourist Operators and get back to him.

Following the speaker and discussion the 50/50 drawing was held. Bud Lowe who was on the USS *Pine Island* during Operation Highjump won the raffle and he donated his share of \$39 back to the GCG. This was the first meeting that Bud attended in almost four years. The door prize consisting of a copy of the coffee table book *Spirit of the Polar Regions* was won by Raine Talbert.



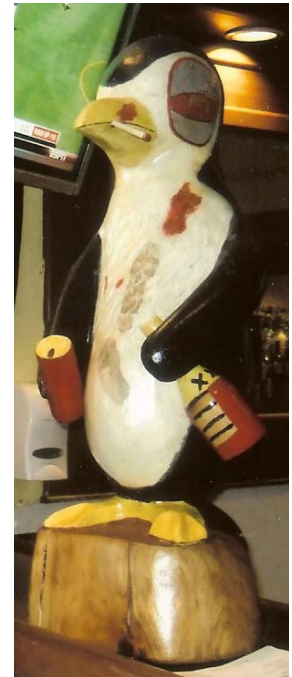
Bud Lowe



Al Rogers

For Show and Tell Al Rogers introduced us to his large carving of Puckered Pete. Al's wife had it carved for him for his birthday.

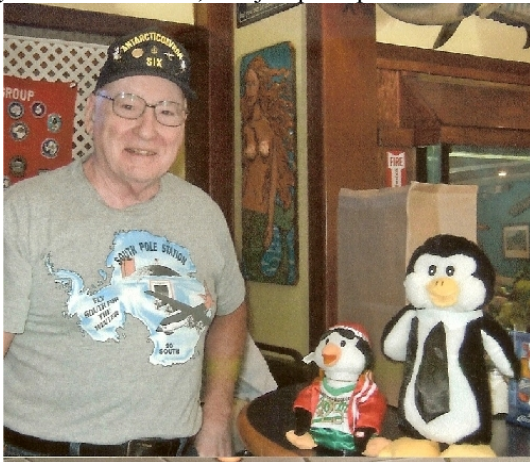
After the drawings the meeting was adjourned. The next meeting will be on 5 May. Thanks to Lennie and Mary Lou for taking candid photos of the attendees and thanks for Duck and Raine Talbert for selling and distributing the raffle and door prize tickets.



Saturday 05 May 2012 Meeting—Everyone must have been celebrating *Cinco de Mayo* or maybe they were down town at the Crayfish Festival because only 18 members plus three visitors were in attendance. The visitors were CDR

Larry Tauborino, Tom Stubblefield and, his wife. Larry and the Stubblefield's just stopped by for lunch and decided to eat in the bar. Since our monthly meetings are open to the public I made them welcome and told them a little bit about the OAEA.

Our President Duck Talbert was not in attendance and the VP Jim Landy was also absent, so I had to do the honors. We did not have a guest speaker and the only thing on the agenda was Lennie Bourgeois and his two animated penguins. In order to keep the meager group in attendance Pam decided to hold the raffles after Lennie's presentation that was brief and to the point. One of the penguins was a Rapper and the other one looked like a college graduate and he sang, *If You're Happy and You Know it*, and jumped up and down.



Lennie and His Animated Penguins

Following Lennie's presentation and an encore by the graduate penguin the drawings were held. Our waitress Britney was asked to draw the tickets. The 50/50 drawing was won by Jack McLendon who donated his winnings of \$36 back to the GCG Kitty. Jack also donated \$15 to the Kitty when he purchased his raffle tickets. Jack who is a fireman is usually on duty at the fire station when we have



On The Left Jack McLendon as he Appears now and on the right EN2 Jack McLendon NSFA WO DF-79 and USAP Contractor 1982 & 83

our meetings, so he is seldom able to attend, but he was on light duty and was able to make it this time. While Pam was selling the 50/50 tickets I passed out the door-prize tickets, and the door prize, two tote bags, were won by Helen Bourgeois.



Helen Proudly Displays Her Tote Bag Door Prize

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned. The next meeting is scheduled for Saturday 2 June 2012 at the Shrimp Basket UNODIR.

Thanks to Lennie and Mary Lou for taking candid photos and to Mary Lou for donating the Frozen Planet tote bag. Billy and Joyce Blackwelder donated the second tote bag at a previous meeting. Also thanks to Pam for selling the 50/50 tickets, our waitress Britney, for taking good care of us and for drawing the raffle tickets. A special thanks to Jack McLendon for making generous donations to the GCG Kitty.



Kathy and Charlie Mauck. The Last Meeting They Attended Was In 2010. They Live in Niceville

Saturday 2 June 2012 Meeting—27 Members and guests showed up for a nice day. After about a week of record-breaking high temperatures we had a cold front move in and it was a comfortable 72 degrees F. Judging by the

excuses I received from people who called or emailed me that they would not be able to make it I expected that we would have a smaller turn out than we did. Some of the better excuses were:

- It Was a Dark and Stormy Night
- My Wife "She"
- My Dog "It"
- I Had To Do My Laundry
- Bad Trip (on what?)

Our two visitors were Phil Liptak and Nick Horton. Phil previously attended a GCG meeting in February of this year. Nick is the son of OAEA Life Member Richard Horton (PH2 VXE-6 1976-80) and is a newly commissioned Ensign undergoing flight training.



Phil Liptak



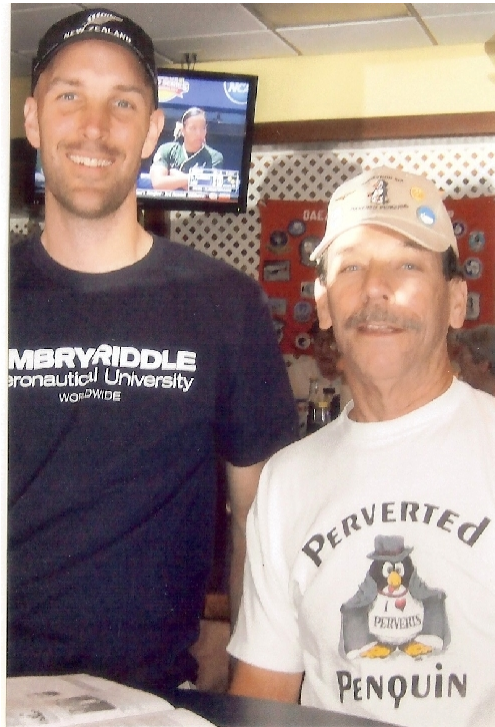
Ensign Nick Horton

We had an over-abundance of guest speakers. New Life Member Mike Moore showed his CD of photos that he took on his recent cruise to Antarctica. Mike took some really great photos of Penguins and scenery. His photo show run for about 30 minutes. After the meeting was over he showed me some stuff he had on his laptop and I think we may need to get him to do a dog-and-pony show at the next meeting. Bruce Mabley gave a talk about his recent trip to Christchurch to visit his children and he passed around some photos he had taken while there. Nick Horton spoke about his navy career and what it was like growing up with an OAE. Nick was an AD2 before he got his commission in the Seaman to Admiral program. He said that he wanted to fly C-130s, but now that the Navy no longer flies the Herks he is in the P3 program. We wish Nick all the best of luck.



Mike Moore

Both Horton and Mabley received a lot of questions and feedback from the attendees so I guess that is a sign that their presentations were well received.



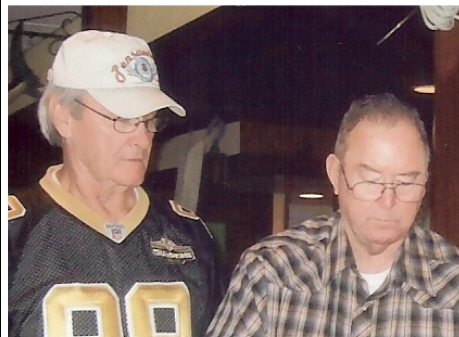
Brian Hoffmaster and Bruce Mabley

After the last speaker our President, Duck Talbert asked, if anyone had any announcements and John Janenish put in a plug for the June 2013 VXE-6 reunion.

Following the announcements the drawing were held. The 50/50 raffle was won by George Griffin. His share was \$40, and he donated \$20 for the Gazette Printing and Mailing Fund. The door prize, an aircraft book donated by Lennie Bourgeois, was won by Glen Harris.

Following the drawings the meeting was concluded. The next meeting is scheduled for 7 July.

Thanks to our waitress Britney for taking care of us. Thanks to Lennie and Ariane Talbert for donating door prizes. Also thanks for Lennie and Mary Lou Platt for taking photos of the meeting. And last, but not least, thanks to Glen Harris for selling the 50/50 tickets and Troy Warren for



Troy Warren and Glen Harris

helping Glen and thanks to Duck and Raine Talbert for distributing the raffle tickets. I don't know what I would do without everyone's help.



OAEA Southwest Group Meeting

by Jim Maddox

The OAEA Southwest group held it's May lunch at Polly's Pies in Laguna Hills. We enjoyed our lunch and time together. We reviewed the OAEA 2012 Reunion Special Editor of the *Explorer's Gazette* that Billy-Ace Baker put together for our group. We discussed how the reunion plans were going and asked for volunteers to help out with projects and tasks that will be required for a successful reunion for the OAEA members in November. Bob Gaboury asked for volunteers to help with counting the OAEA 2012 Election ballots. Jim Eblen and Cy

Buehler and their wives volunteered to help. Our next lunch will be at COCO's in Camarillo, CA on 6 October 2012.

Southwest members in attendance were, Bob and Linda Gaboury; Cy and Millie Buehler; Jim and Ruth Eblen; Ron Stone and Faith Maybury; Ralph Saukko, and Jim Maddox.

If any OAEA members would like to join us for our next lunch at COCO's in Camarillo. Please contact Jim Maddox at jmadflynav@aol.com or 661-945-0469.



2012 OAEA ELECTION UPDATE

by Billy-Ace Baker

The 2012 OAEA Election ballots were mailed out to all Regular Members on 26 June, so by the time you read this you should have received yours and hopefully you have voted and mailed your ballot to the 2012 OAEA Election Committee.

All ballots must be **signed** and they should be mailed in sufficient time to reach the election committee before 1 October 2012.

Since the ballots were mailed out I have received numerous questions from members. Such as "I don't know any of the candidates, so I don't know who to vote for". Or, "How come there are so many civilians on the ballot"? Most of us only know the people we served with on the ice and even then we don't remember a lot of them. We have members who were on the ice as early as the 1940s and members who are still going to the ice. For that reason, and

in order to help you decide who to vote for, we include a brief biography for each of the candidates that outlines their Antarctic Experience and any contributions they have made to preserve Antarctic history since they left the Antarctic program. The military members who volunteered to run for office only ran for the Director openings. In the past we have had both military and civilian volunteer to run for President and Vice President, but this time only the civilians stepped forward.

The bottom line is that everyone should do his or her part even if it is only to vote. If you have not received a ballot you can download one from: <http://voteoaea.com>.

