



EXPLORER'S GAZETTE

Published Quarterly in Pensacola, Florida USA for the Old Antarctic Explorers Association
Uniting All OAEs in Perpetuating the Memory of United States Involvement in Antarctica
Volume 14, Issue 1 Old Antarctic Explorers Association, Inc Jan-Mar 2014



—Photo by Peter Rejcek

USCGC Polar Star at McMurdo Ice Pier – January 2014

POLAR STAR SEA STORIES

by Zoe Eppley

The *Polar Star*, a USCG Polar class icebreaker, returned to McMurdo this January, its first trip to the ice since 2006. It resumed its Operation Deep Freeze duties, clearing a channel through the ice so re-supply ships could reach McMurdo. Reading about the *Polar Star*'s return got me reminiscing about my first Antarctic deployment in 1985—a month long cruise on said ship.

At the time I was working for a professor who studied seabirds and had projects in the Arctic and Antarctic. The National Science Foundation, which sponsored his research, offered him the opportunity to put people on an oceanographic cruise from McMurdo to New Zealand. He sent me and a graduate student (AKA “The Other Bird Lady” TOBL). We would census birds while steaming between stations. We headed to McMurdo to join the ship.



—Photo from *DF-85 cruise book*

Polar Star at McMurdo Ice Pier – January 1985

Continued on page 4.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Laura Snow—OAEA President

FELLOW OAEA MEMBERS: During this quarter, the board voted on a resolution to appoint Bob Gaboury as chair of the OAEA Election Committee for the 2014 election of officers. As a result, Bob will once again serve in this capacity. An announcement soliciting volunteers to run for office has been promulgated via the OAEA topica.com and OAEA yahogroups.com bulk email systems. See page 15 in this issue for more information about the election.



Notification of the scholarship opportunity for the 2014–2015 academic year was made. Life Members and Annual Members with membership through 6/30/15 are eligible to sponsor a student who will graduate from high school in the class of 2014 and has been accepted to an accredited college or university. Additionally, applicants currently attending an accredited college or university may apply. See page 3 for details regarding the OAEA scholarships.

The dates of the 7th National Old Antarctic Explorers Reunion were announced: 12–14 November 2014, in Norfolk, Virginia. The reunion will be held at the Sheraton Waterside in downtown Norfolk. See page 3 for more information on the reunion.

Your suggestions, recommendations, and constructive criticism are always welcome. I look forward to seeing everyone in Norfolk in November.

Laura Snow

OAEA President
snowlg@cox.net



Sheraton Waterside Hotel Norfolk



GROWLERS & BERGY BYTES

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

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SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

by Ed Hamblin

It is time to start thinking about scholarship awards for the 2014–2015 school year. To be eligible for consideration for receipt of an Old Antarctic Explorers Association scholarship award, an individual must be graduated from high school or graduating in the Spring of 2014 and accepted for undergraduate enrollment at an accredited college or university; or presently be attending an accredited college or university. Applicants must be sponsored by a current member of the Old Antarctic Explorers Association (for the 2014–2015 school year, all Life Members, and Annual Members with membership through 6/30/2015 are eligible to sponsor).

For a scholarship award application, contact Ed Hamblin at: 3104 Deepspring Drive Chesapeake VA 23321, by email at: chamblin74@verizon.net, or by phone at: 757 405 3362. The cutoff for receipt of applications will be 30 June 2014.

~~~~~\$~~~~~

## 2014 OAEA REUNION INFORMATION

The 7<sup>th</sup> National Old Antarctic Explorers Association Reunion is set for 12–14 November in Norfolk, Virginia at the Waterside Sheraton in downtown Norfolk. The hotel is accepting reservations at event rates (\$109.00 + taxes). In order to make reservations, telephone 1 800 325 3535 and mention the Old Antarctic Explorers 7<sup>th</sup> National Reunion.

We are several weeks away from the special reunion edition of the *Explorers Gazette* with the reunion information, which will include the actual reunion registration sign up and tour information and local area information. The reunion will include an icebreaker reception, several guest speakers, and a final banquet. Tours planned include Naval Station and Naval Air Station Norfolk with lunch; Colonial Williamsburg and the Williamsburg Outlet Mall, Military Aviation Museum in Virginia Beach with lunch, and an evening dinner cruise on the Spirit of Norfolk.

The reunion hotel is situated in downtown Norfolk on the Elizabeth River with over 30 downtown restaurants and a downtown shopping mall all within walking distance. The hotel is approximately 1/2 mile from Nauticus, home of the USS *Wisconsin*. Easy to get to, Waterside Sheraton is 1/2 mile from the Amtrak station, 20 minutes from the Norfolk airport; and for those driving in it is two blocks off I-264 with adjacent covered parking for autos. Remote RV parking is also available with shuttle service to/from the hotel. Information about the hotel itself is online at <http://www.sheratonnorfolkwaterside.com/>.

We are ready to be good hosts, and looking forward to seeing you in November.

Ed Hamblin  
7<sup>th</sup> National OAEA Reunion Chairman





**Polar Star From Page 1**

We were lucky flying from Christchurch to McMurdo. Only twice did we have to suit up in our Antarctic Extreme Cold Weather Gear and spend hours wilting in the summer heat, until released in the late afternoon to find a cool pub to rehydrate. On the second day we got as far as boarding the plane, squeezing our parka-clad bodies into the web jump seats. On the third day, the weather at McMurdo looked good enough to try and we took off.

As a "fengee" (FNG), I was somewhat alarmed to see a crewman walking around tightening screws and looking out the window—when I asked, he said he was checking to see if the props were still turning. We were half an hour out from McMurdo when the weather window closed and the pilot turned back—a boomerang flight, lasting nine hours rather than the five hours direct to McMurdo, and of course putting us back in the waiting room in Christchurch. I've heard the record is seven consecutive boomerang flights.



**DF-85 Cruise Book Cover**

On the fourth day, we landed at McMurdo. McMurdo reminded me of Alaska—impressive scenery, similar looking denizens and buildings, patchy

snow on scoria, and the scent of diesel. The plane would fly back the next morning, taking the last of the summer people; then the station would be officially closed for winter. At the time Mac Town was much smaller, relied on US Navy support personnel for logistics, and women were even more rare than now. For the day we were there, the TOBL and I significantly increased the female population.

We found the *Polar Star* and settled into our stateroom. The ship would sail the next day, so in great maritime tradition, we went into town to find the bar. It was packed—going away parties, dejected couples, and hordes of young men hoping to get lucky or fight. We identified a bevy of our shipmates by their uniforms and settled among them. We all got back to the ship at the end of the night, none the worse for wear.

The ship was commanded by Capt. J.P. Flaherty, Jr. There was a crew of 158, including the helo detachment AVDET 105, an officer from the New Zealand Navy, and one from the Australian Navy. The ship was halfway through a six-month deployment. They had been working in the McMurdo vicinity for a month, breaking a navigation channel, escorting the fuel tanker USNS *Maumee* and the supply ship MV *Greenwave* to the ice pier, and supporting a short scientific cruise. The ship had a total population of ~170 people, including five women—three scientists and two Coast Guard officers—LTJGs.

Dr. Ted Foster was the Chief Scientist. He coordinated four projects involving twelve scientists from five institutions. There were projects investigating ocean physical structure, chemistry, and phyto- and zooplankton.

Seabirds were at the top of the food chain, and we would get complementary data on their abundance relative to hydrographic structure, productivity, and type of ice. Although the waters off Wilkes Land

had received little previous study, it was thought to not support large krill aggregations.

We enjoyed the gracious hospitality of the officers during our work from the pilothouse and the wonderful meals in the wardroom. We explored the whole ship. It didn't take us long to discover that the helo guys had the best coffee.

Knowing we would be on the ship for Valentine's Day, we had brought a few packages of those little candy hearts with mottos on them. We passed the hearts out to all we met in the passageways. The recipients were pleasantly surprised and said we reminded them of sister, cousin, girlfriend, daughter... luckily not mother, as we weren't that old yet.



**CG AVDET 105 Helos on ice**

One evening, the crew held an arm-wrestling contest in the mess. Opponents would be drawn from the entries; winners advanced. I entered. I was a gym rat and fit but compared to these guys, I was a pipsqueak. Mostly I did it for comic relief. My opponent was formidable with an intimidating scowl and biceps larger than my thigh. He was none too pleased to have to wrestle a woman! I did have a large cheering section. Surprisingly, I lasted several seconds, my arm arcing slowly down to the table rather than an instantaneous collapse. A combination of me giving it my all and him being a gentleman? Since he did not crush my hand, I suspect the latter.

Soon the ship reached the research area, between 70°S and 65°S. We would make five transect lines, running

from deep water, across the shelf, and as far into the ice as the ship could go. The bird counts required a moving platform, so we were sidelined while at sampling stations. The oceanographic work required hours on station to collect samples and complete experiments. It was fortunate that we brought beautiful yarn in NZ and TOBL was teaching me to knit. Knitting turned out to be an effective distraction from waiting and seasickness.

While steaming along the transects, we found small numbers of many bird species in deep water but nothing in ice-free areas of the shelf. Things really picked up at the ice edge, but fell off in dense pack ice. All we found were scattered groups of molting penguins and the occasional seal.



**Molting Penguin and Polar Star**

Penguins and seals hauled out on solid pack ice don't expect danger. Many times they would crack an eye to see the gigantic red hull approaching, and then go back to sleep. This necessitated a panicked escape, as the ship got close. Just like in the movies, rather than moving a short distance to the side, they scrambled unnecessary distances in front of the ship before turning away to safety.

After weeks of seeing nothing but molting penguins, we wondered if we

were missing something. Our survey design limited counts to within 300m of the ship. There was just no way to tell if birds were using areas besides the path the ship threaded between towering icebergs. One day when help ops were planned, we obtained permission to ride along and check the tops of the icebergs. Indeed, we did find birds there—molting penguins. We had found the fabled molting “ground” of the penguins.

A problem with a deck crane prohibited further sampling, so the ship turned north towards Wellington. We continued censusing birds. At the Convergence, cold Antarctic water meets warmer Sub-antarctic water, causing a lot of upwelling, attracting krill and their predators. Bird numbers were overwhelming as we crossed the Convergence. In our small sample area of 300m—there were at least 20 different species, some of them difficult to tell apart, and each going a different direction. We saw more birds in one hour than we saw in the previous weeks. We were “bird sick”. Days later, Wellington came into view—blue waters, sailboats, green hills, flowers, people, land birds that didn't need counting! It was like San Francisco Bay without the fog.

There was a problem about the ship coming into port. New Zealand is a nuclear-free zone and the authorities wanted assurance that ours was not a nuclear icebreaker (as, for example, the Russian heavy icebreakers are), or armed with nuclear weapons. Our authorities thought information about the ship's diesel engines and lack of armaments should remain closely held. Perhaps our visiting New Zealand naval officer put in a good word for we were soon at anchor.

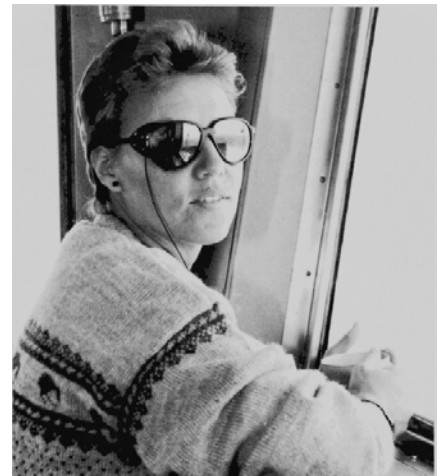
The ship would remain in Wellington for six days, and then begin its return trip to Seattle with port calls in Sydney, Fiji, and Honolulu. Everyone was excited to go ashore. Those of us ticketed to fly home soon were particularly excited as an airline strike disrupted all travel plans.

Once we got ashore, we were surprised to see the town plastered with signs warning the locals that

Americans carried AIDS. There was much to see and do in Wellington—see travel agents, ride the cable car up the hill to the botanical garden, consume good pizza and beer, and find the most delicious steak I've ever eaten—in a puddle of peanut sauce.

Soon, TOBL and I waved goodbye to our mates, flew to Auckland, eventually to the States and home. Knitting eased the anxiety of standby status, and made the hours in airports pass quickly. I arrived home with a complete, though lopsided, sweater.

Little did I know that I would make four longer trips to the Ice, that this would be my shortest wait for air transport, and not the only airline strike I'd encounter on my way home—only next time complicated by carrying frozen samples.



**Zoe The Bird Lady Observer 1985**

### About the Author

Zoe is a Life Member of the OAEA. She lives in King George VA. She wrote the article ‘Tribute To Bruce Sidell’ that appeared in the Apr-Jun 2011 issue of the *Gazette*.

Zoe also created the OAEA Northern Virginia Group aka Mid-Atlantic Group. Meetings of the group were held in September 2011 (Jul-Sep 2011 *Gazette*) and in October 2012 (Oct-Dec 2012 *Gazette*)

In addition to being on the *Polar Star* and at McMurdo in 1985 she was also at Palmer Station and on the *MV Polar Duke* between 1989 and 1997.



# COASTAL EROSION



**Tip of Hut Point calves off near site of Scott's Discovery Hut**

*by Peter Rejcek*

Less than a month after a windstorm in McMurdo Sound destroyed the ice pier at McMurdo Station the tip of Hut Point Peninsula calved off from Ross Island. The small chunk, above, broke off at the beginning of March. Joseph Levy, a research associate at the University of Texas at Austin's Institute of Geophysics, said the event looks like thermo-mechanical block failure, the kind of coastal erosion that now commonly occurs in the Arctic, particularly after large storms in areas with open water. Levy is currently studying permafrost melt in Garwood Valley, located across McMurdo Sound from Ross Island in the McMurdo Dry Valleys. He said further investigation would be required to determine the exact nature of the break. "It is very Garwood-like", Levy said.

Hut Point is an Antarctic Specially Protected Area under the Antarctic Treaty System due to the historic significance of the site. Robert Falcon Scott built a small expedition base on Hut Point in 1902 during the National Antarctic Expedition. A memorial cross also sits on the knob of Hut Point, dedicated to George Vince, who lost his life in McMurdo Sound on 11 March 1902. The New Zealand Antarctic Heritage Trust recently undertook conservation measures to protect Discovery Hut.



*Photo Credit: Peter Rejcek*

## **Hut Point Peninsula in 2007**

The surface of the ice pier began to deteriorate before the February storm due to wave action unimpeded by sea ice. The storm pinned the *Maersk Illinois* to the pier until a window opened in the weather on 7 February, allowing the cargo vessel to ease its way out of Winter Quarters Bay. The winds continued on and off through 9 February before they finally abated. By then, the pier had been battered and broken into six pieces.



*Photo Credit: August Allen*

**A storm in February lashes the cargo ship Maersk Illinois while it is tied up at the Hut Point Ice Wharf, which eventually broke into a half-dozen pieces due to the increased wave action.**



**Ice Wharf 2014**

# OAEA

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Billy-Ace:

I enjoyed the most recent *Gazette*, but found one small error in the section where you published my photos from Europe. The photo of 321 being excavated is actually from early 1978, when an inspection was made, not 1986 when we were out there.

Here's a shot of the nose during the excavation (12/19/86, about a week before we pulled it out). That's George Cameron, who wintered at Pole and McMurdo, by the plane. He's probably the most successful member of our group—now a millionaire rancher in Yakima, Washington. He made most of his money in the tax business in the 1990s—he and his wife own about 40 H&R Block offices.

I went to see *Antarctica, a Year on Ice*, at a film festival near my home last month. Very good photography of summer and winter at McMurdo, although I found many of the people he interviewed boring. The film is by Anthony Powell, a New Zealander who worked for the USAP contractor for many years and spent several winters at McMurdo. He and his wife got married there, which is recorded in the film footage. I talked to a guy while waiting in line who'd been with VXE-6 in the early 1990s. He was wearing one of their baseball caps.

Jim Mathews



321 in December 1986

*Editor's Note:* I don't remember where I got the photo that was in the Oct-Dec issue. Thanks to Jim for correcting me and sending the correct photo.

Hi, Billy-Ace!!

Each of the *Gazettes* are outstanding publications and each one out-does the one before it. Clearly, you and your editorial staff are experts at creating these marvelous sources of history, news, and communications. The photographs are beautiful and, as always, we're delighted to see Gus (Shinn) in GCG Chapter reports (as well as so many others!).

We do thank you so much for all you do.

Buz & Sam Dryfoose

Billy:

I just saw the picture in the *Explorer Gazette* of those Army types. I knew they were involved in radio signals and I thought maybe ELF, but didn't press them. We had discussions on books. They rode the *Eastwind* down from the States. They were listed as Privates. And an Army Capt. Paul Nefstead I thought was in charge. We had some super cargo onboard for DF-1 and we even had Admirals Dufek and Byrd at times. Hard to keep up but I'm looking at the *Eastwind's* Christmas dinner roster. The Army Capt. was King Neptune's queen, (see picture)

Dave Hoff



King Neptune and his Court

*Editor's Note:* The only information regarding US Army Captain Paul Nefstead that I can find is that he was on board the USS *Atka* during the 1954-55 voyage to Antarctica. Maybe our readers can supply some additional information about him.



Aloha Billy-Ace:

I found this color Post Card (3 1/2" X 5 1/2") of a C-124 unloading an LH-34D at McMurdo circa 1960, in an antique store. Text from back:

McMurdo Sound, Antarctica

A Navy helicopter, specially painted for high visibility, is disgorged from the cavernous belly of an Air Force Globemaster onto the runway at McMurdo Sound, Antarctica.

According to Barry Chase the BUNO for the HUS-1 (aka LH-34D) on the postcard was 144661 (JD23)

Bruce DeWald



*Editor's Note: Good find! That photo, also in color, is in the TF-43 DF-61 cruise book, but with the following caption: "Air Force Globemaster disgorges Air Devron Six helicopter flown from U.S." Below is a b/w photo, with caption, from the book "50 Years of US Air Force Airlift in Antarctica."*



**The first helicopter ever carried to the Antarctic inside a MATS C-124 is unloaded at the Naval Air Facility, McMurdo Sound Antarctica on 8 October 1959.**

Billy-Ace

Very nice edition, I am saddened to read that Bob Archer passed away. He always kept in touch and was the best friend that the USS *Glacier* ever had.

On another note I will respond to the inquiry from Greg Sundborn concerning his Father J.J. Skocik. I have a photo of him.

Regards H.J. Ayers

*Editor's Note: I am always very pleased when I receive notification that someone has responded to an entry in the 'Locator Column'.*

Dear Editor:

The Navy made a video of the delivery of the PM-3A Nuclear Power Plant being delivered to McMurdo while I was there. You may recognize some shipmates in the video. I was disappointed I wasn't in it however; they may have caught my hand operating a speed key.

Here us the web site for the video. I thought you would be interested:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rF8egSkX5Fc>

Richard Barnard

Billy-Ace:

I enjoyed the *Gazette*. Thanks.

Bruce Raymond

Billy-Ace:

Tony Heaney emailed me stating he was in Florida but on the East coast. He said he would be traveling towards Pensacola on 19 March and if we could meet. He missed the planned exit in Ocala so he gave me a call on his cell telling me where he was. I jumped into my car and we met at an exit on I-75 between Ocala and Gainesville. He said we saw each other in Vietnam but I don't remember. The last time I remember seeing Tony was when we left the ice. I guess you could say it was a last minute meeting. Tony flew from California with his dog to purchase a used RV in the Tampa area. He was on the east coast looking for waves. I guess he likes to surf. So when I left him on the interstate Tony was headed for Panama City, then onto Pensacola and from there ????? on his way back to California. We both wintered with VX-6 Det Alfa at McMurdo during DF-61.

Bob Woods



**Two old salts, Tony Heaney and Bob Woods met at an exit on I-75 between Ocala and Gainesville Florida. Heaney lives in Santa Cruz CA and Woods lives in Ocala FL.**



# Mawson Hut Replica Brings Adventure To Tasmania

by Marion Wheatland  
OAEA Life Member

## The Hut

A piece of Antarctic history has been brought to life in Hobart Tasmania with the installation of a replica of the hut used by Australian explorer Sir Douglas Mawson.

The full-scale wooden hut has been installed near the city's waterfront.



**The Mawson Hut Replica is lowered into place near Hobart Waterfront**

Hobart traffic was stopped to allow sections of the hut to be driven several hundred meters along the waterfront and then craned into place.

The replica is the exact dimensions of the original hut in Cape Denison on Commonwealth Bay used as the base for Mawson's 1911 expedition.

The timber has been sourced from the same Scandinavian supplier used more than 100 years ago.

Once the three sections have been joined together, items will be added to create a museum.

The Mawson's Huts Foundation hopes it will generate funds for further preservation work on the real huts.

The foundation launched the replica hut museum on 2 December, which marked 102 years since the Antarctic explorer set out from Hobart.



**Flag raising ceremony in Antarctica during 102<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary Ceremony**



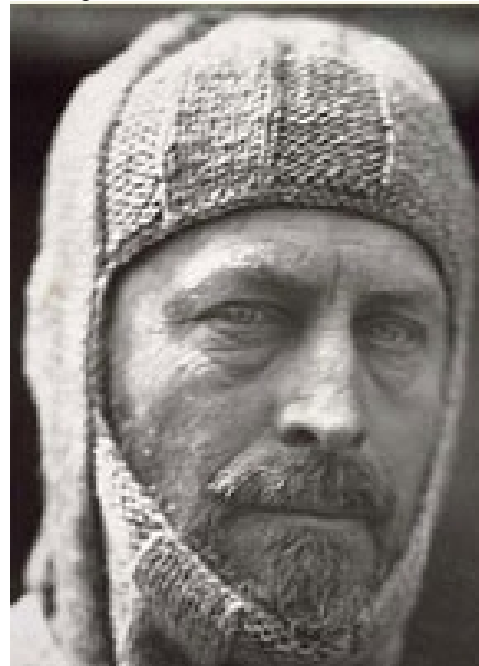
**Construction of the original Mawson Hut at Cape Denison**

A geologist, Sir Douglas Mawson led Australia's first major scientific expedition to Antarctica in 1911.

The expedition is credited with many scientific advances, particularly in cartography, meteorology, geology, biology, and marine science.

Mawson is remembered for his courage as he struggled alone on the trek back to base following the deaths of his two companions in 1913.

He was also instrumental in the push to have sub-Antarctic Macquarie Island declared a wildlife sanctuary.

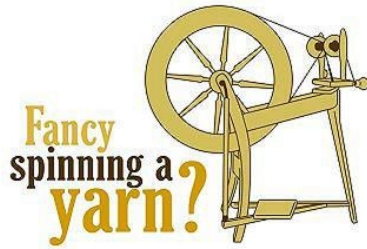


**Sir Douglas Mawson**

## The Adventure

In December last year, the Mawson's Huts Foundation opened the Replica Museum in Hobart. So I flew down (with my trusty spinning wheel). It was so exciting to be there for the short ceremony, and to be in the company of Antarctic people again.

The Replica museum itself is fabulous! Built to the original plans, and using wood supplied by the same company that Mawson used! And I can truly say that, having seen and stood in the original at Cape Denison, this replica is exact and stunning. I took pictures on the same angle as the ones I took in Antarctica—and it is the same! The only thing missing is the ice.



**Marion in front of the original Mawson Hut**

Although, not really.... because when I spoke to the local supermarket about my project of spinning yarn at the Replica, the manager saw the importance of it straight away and presented me with six boxes of crushed ice, to put on the ground of the Hut (in Hobart) so that I could SPIN ON ICE... which I did...in my parka and boots, in 26 degree C heat, (about 79 degrees F), with my toy penguin by my side.

Located where it is in Hobart, on Argyle and Morrison that is the main thoroughfare to the centre of the city, I think every vehicle and every truck that went by the corner that day waved at me and cheered me on. It was lovely. And I spun "Husky", in honour of the Sled Dogs.



**Marion in front of the Replica Hut**

So now the OAEA is connected with the only person in the world who has spun yarn, on a wheel, in both the Original and the Replica Mawson's Huts...

Do you think?

**Editor's Note: See 'Spinning an Icy Yarn' by Marion in the Jul-Sep 2011 issue of the Gazette.**



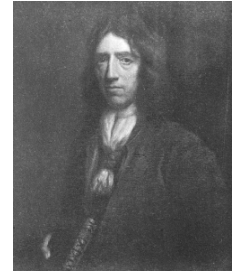
**Panoramic view of the Replica Hut**



# THIS QUARTER IN HISTORY

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

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



**Lionel Wafer**

**JANUARY:** They're the Gaston Islands now, those two islands and off-lying rocks about a mile of the NW tip of Reclus Peninsula, off the Danco Coast. But they have a history. The Belgian expedition landed on one of the islands on 28 January 1898, and they charted it. De Gerlache, their leader, named it Ilot Gaston, for his brother, who was later a major in the Belgian Carabineers, and who died of wounds received in WW-I. Arctowski, on his map of the same expedition, calls it Gaston Islet. Dr. Frederick Cook, again on the same expedition, thought the group might be "the supposed Larsen Islands", i.e. those islands discovered by Carl Anton Larsen a few years before. The British, in 1898-1900, mapped the individual island as Gaston Island, but the group as the Gaston Islands. However, the French, in 1903-05, charted the main island as Ile Gaston. Gaston Islet appears on a British chart of 1948, and that was the name accepted by the Americans in 1952. That is the name that appears in the 1955 British gazetteer. It appears on a 1947 Argentine chart, as Isla Gaston, and that is the name accepted by their 1970 gazetteer. After more detailed study by the British in the 1950s, the UK named the whole group the Gaston Islands, and did away with the name of the individual islet. The Americans followed suit. However, the name Isla Gaston for the main island appears on a Chilean chart of 1962, and that is the name accepted by the Chilean gazetteer of 1974.



**Baron Adrien de Gerlache**

**FEBRUARY:** "Refugio" is the Spanish word for "refuge". The word speaks for itself. Sometimes a Refugio will be expanded into a scientific sub-station, or even a full-fledged base. The Chilean refugio, Yelcho, was built on 18 February 1962, at South Bay, ten meters above sea level and ten meters from the coast of Doumer Island, between Wiencke Island and Anvers Island, 3 km from Palmer Station. It was officially opened in the 1962-63 summer, and, after it had been expanded into Sub-base Yelcho, it could accommodate a maximum of nine persons in four buildings.

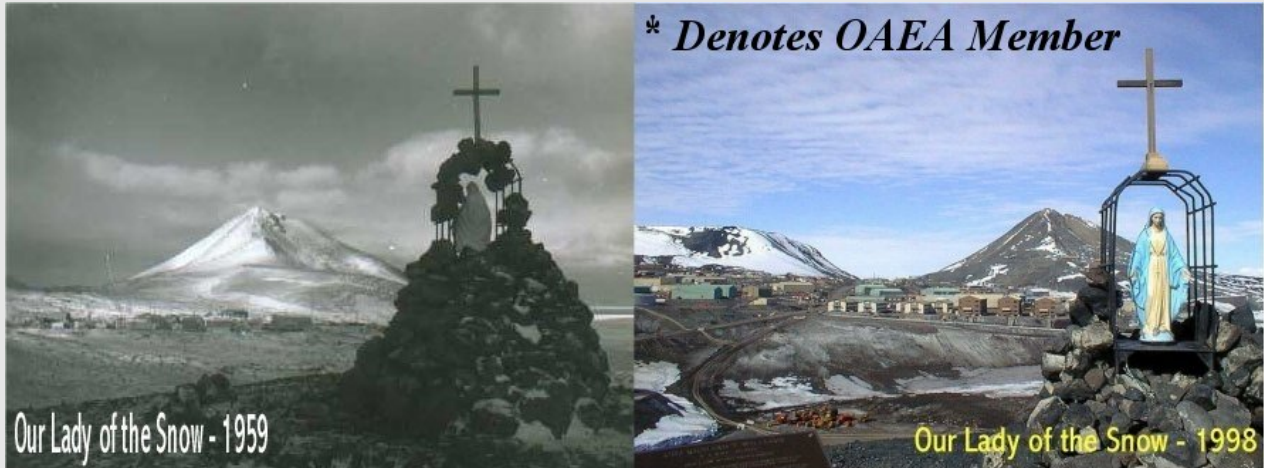


**Chilean Yelcho Base**



**Whale Catcher in heavy seas in the Southern Ocean**

**MARCH:** The *Sacra* was a British whale catcher, built in 1912, and owned by Christian Salvesen's South Georgia Company. Before Salvesens bought her, she had been the *Sirda*, the *Congre*, and the *Formosa*. On 29 March 1923, under the command of Capt. Hans Winge Sorensen, she struck rocks at the entrance to the Neumayer Channel, and sank in ten minutes. The crew took to the lifeboats, and were rescued by their sister catcher, the *Scapa*.



## IN MEMORY

OAE Kenneth William Allen, 83, died on 19 March 2014, in Orono, ME. Kenneth was a USARP grantee and spent several months on the RV *Hero*.

OAE John W. Alley, 81, died on 25 February 2014, in Milwaukee, WI. John made four trips to Antarctica as a photographer. Years unknown.

OAE Rev Paul J. Antos, USN (Ret), 86, died on 29 September 2013, in Niskayuna, NY. Father Antos served with ASA. Year(s) unknown.

OAE Leroy H. "Skeeter" Ash, 62, died on 10 January 2014, in Alamogordo, NM. Skeeter visited Antarctica in support of the National Science Foundation.

OAE POC Albert Ashe, Jr., USN (Ret), 81, died on 18 January 2014, in Seattle, WA. Albert served on the USS *Staten Island*. Year(s) unknown.

OAE Lloyd Gordon Blanchard, 64, died on 10 February 2014, in San Miguel de Allende, Mexico. Lloyd was assistant editor of the *Antarctic Journal of the United States* from 1973 through 1978. Blanchard Nunataks are named in his honor.

OAE Charles A. Bonney Jr., 73, died on 7 March 2014, in Alton, IL. Charles served in Deep Freeze as a USN Medical Officer. Unit and year(s) unknown.

OAE F. David Buist, 81, died on 1 January 2014, in Palm Beach, FL. David visited Antarctica as a wildlife photographer.

OAE Victor A. Casebolt, 79, died on 11 February 11, 2014, in Paradise Valley, AZ. Victor visited Antarctica as a tourist.

OAE Robert B. Churn, died on 6 January 2014, in Sparks, NV. Robert visited Antarctica as a tourist.

OAE Dr. LeNelle U. Cittadin, 88, died on 9 January 2014, in Fullerton, CA. LeNelle visited Antarctica as a tourist.

OAE Baron Gage Cronin, 52, died on 6 March 2014, in Delanson, NY. Baron was a member of the NYANG and served in Antarctica and Greenland. Year(s) unknown.

OAE Francis "Fran" Leo Crotto, 71, died on 6 January 2014, in Palm Coast, FL. Fran served on the USS *Glacier* from 1961 through 1965.

\*OAE SKCS Clair Edwin Cunningham, USN (Ret), 84, died on 5 February 2014, in Millinocket, ME. Ed served in Antarctic Support Activities during DF-66. He was a member of the OAEA NE Chapter.

OAE Major William Joseph "Joe" Daniels, USAF (Ret), 80, died on 23 February 2014, in Pineville, LA. Joe visited Antarctica as a tourist.

OAE Cecil Albert Davis, 86, died on 26 March 2014, in Naples, FL. Cecil served on the USS *Philippine Sea* during Highjump

OAE Elizabeth "Betsy" Fay de Poincy, 76, died on 1 March 2014, in Memphis, TN. Betsy visited Antarctica as a tourist.



- OAE Betty Louise Buttram Douglas, 81, died on 12 February 2014, in Woodstock, GA. Betty visited Antarctica as a tourist.
- OAE Elizabeth Doe, 95, died on 12 March 2014, at the Per-Rideau Veterans' Home in Ottawa, Canada. Elizabeth visited Antarctica as a tourist.
- OAE Hazel Redford Drebus, 90, died on 20 January 2014, in Riverside, CA. Hazel visited Antarctica as a tourist.
- OAE David "Bud" Duncan, 87, died on 4 March 2014, in Port Angeles, WA. Bud worked in Antarctica as an electrician. Unit and date(s) unknown.
- OAE John E. Euller, 88, died on 21 February 2014, in Bethesda, MD. John authored three books about Antarctica and visited Antarctica as a guest of the US Navy. John was a member of the American Polar Society.
- OAE Stella Evans Farwell, 74, died on 27 January 2014, in New Orleans, LA. Stella visited Antarctica as a tourist.
- OAE James "Jim" Cedric Fiola, died on 16 February 2014, in Christchurch, NZ. Jim served in Antarctic DevRon Six from 1975 through 1978 as an Aviation Electronics Technician.
- OAE Holly Grasso, 92, died on 9 March 2014, in San Antonio, TX. Holly visited Antarctica as a tourist.
- OAE Lin Hugh Griffith, 90, died on 8 March 2014, in Hughson, CA. Lin visited Antarctica twice as a tourist.
- OAE Edward R. Hahn, 72, died on 7 February 2014, in Marshfield, WI. Edward visited Antarctica as a tourist.
- OAE William John "Bill" Halchuk, 75, died on 16 February 2014, in Myanmar, . Bill visited Antarctica as a tourist.
- OAE Stuart Halperin, 83, died on 10 March 2014, in Corona, CA. Stuart visited Antarctica as a tourist.
- OAE Noella Hatch, 94, died on 3 February 2014, in Modesto, CA. Noella visited Antarctica as a tourist.
- OAE CAPT J.C. Hayes, USN (Ret), 87, died on 17 January 2014, in Redlands, CA. J.C. served during Highjump.
- OAE LCDR Howard "H3" Hayden Hudgins USCG) (Ret), 73, died on 19 December 2013, in Jacksonville, FL. H3 served in Antarctica. Unit and date(s) unknown.
- OAE Sylvia Ruth Jones, 85, died on 13 February 2014, in Calgary Alberta, Canada. Sylvia visited Antarctica as a tourist.
- OAE Roger Bruce King, 74, died on 13 March 2014, in, Sacramento, CA. Roger visited Antarctica as a tourist.
- OAE Bertrand Antoine Kramer Jr., USN (Ret), 80, died on 3 January 2014, in Chula Vista, CA. Bertrand served in Antarctica. Unit and year(s) unknown.
- OAE Roy H. LaBarre, 79, died on 15 February 2014, in Washington Township, PA. Roy served in Antarctica with the US Navy. Unit and year(s) unknown.
- OAE Joseph Lampazzi, 79, died on 31 January 2014, in Myrtle Beach, SC. Joseph served in Antarctica with the US Navy. Unit and year(s) unknown.
- OAE Sean "Stanley" Leary, 38, died on 23 March 2014, in Zion National Park, UT. His body was found following a BASE-jumping accident. Stanley pioneered new routes up peaks in Antarctica.
- OAE Bernhard Lettau, 75, died on 14 December 2013, in Annandale, VA. Bernard served as a National Science Foundation Office of Polar Programs director for 31 years from 1976 through 2007. During his tenure, he made 25 trips to Antarctica. Lettau peak is named in his honor
- \*OAE EOC John Edward Lipski, USN (Ret), 82, died on 21 March 2014, in Biloxi, MS. John was in MCB-1 during DF-II (1956-57), and wintered-over at McMurdo during DF-68 as an EO1 with ASA. He was also a member of ADFA.
- OAE Oscar Benjamin "Benny" Love, 67, died on 15 February 2014, in Savannah, GA. Benny served in Antarctica with the Seabees. Unit and year(s) unknown.
- OAE Wadsworth W. "Mac" McDaniel, 85, died on 27 February 2014, in Chillicothe, OH. Mac served on the USS *Edisto* as the assistant engineering officer, during DF-63 and 65.
- \*OAE James Elkins "Maddog" Maddox, USN (Ret), 75, died on 23 February 2014, in Lancaster, CA. Maddog served in VX-6 from 1966-70 as an AE1. He was chairman of the 2005 Oxnard, CA reunion and the 2012 San Diego, CA OAEA reunion committees.
- OAE Steven Leroy McIntire, 73, died on 11 February 2014, in Lake Odessa, MI. Steven served in VX-6. Year(s) unknown.

OAE Luigi Michaud, 40, died on 23 January 2014, in Antarctica during a diving accident at the Italian research station Mario Zucchelli, on the coast of Terra Nova Bay in the Ross Sea.

OAE Arline Graybill Miller, 94, died on 16 January 2014, in Hartford, CT. Arline visited Antarctica as a tourist.

OAE Helena Smith Moynihan, 84, died on 16 February 2014, Georgetown, MD. Helena visited Antarctica as a tourist.

OAE Susan "Sue" (Morris) Muncy, 79, died on 17 February 2014, in Portland, OR. Sue visited Antarctica as a tourist.

OAE Herman August "Doc" Ogren, 86, died on 12 January 2014, in Lake City FL. Doc visited Antarctica in 2001.

OAE Betty Wilson Ostrom, 92, died on 26 October 2013, in Belvoir Woods, VA. Betty visited Antarctica as a tourist.

OAE Ella Wilson Peer, 94, died on 31 December 2013, in Modesto, CA. Ella visited Antarctica as a tourist.

OAE Cameron LaFayette Reeves, 68, died on 14 January 2014, in Douglasville, GA. Cameron served in Antarctica with the US Navy. Unit and year(s) unknown.

Dr Warren H. Reynolds, 90, died on 19 January 2014, in Bethesda, MD. Warren worked in Antarctica in 1959 while working for the US State Department. Reynolds Ridge is named in his honor.

OAE Maragret "Peggy" Rice Rosenblum, 83, died on 10 January 2014, in Las Candelas, AZ. Peggy visited Antarctica as a tourist.

OAE Gerard Tobin Rote, Jr., 79, died on 19 February 2014, in Puerto Iguazu, Argentina. Gerald visited Antarctica as a watercolor artist on the MV *National Geographic Explorer*.

OAE Eberhard "George" Schirmacher, died on 29 December 2013, in Millwood, VA. George made five trips to Antarctica as a topographic engineer with the USGS between 1969 and 1975. Schirmacher Massif is named in his honor

OAE Robert Simonton, 77, died on 13 November 2013, in Orlando, FL. Robert served as a BU3 with MCB(Special) at Little America V during DF-I. He was a member of the ADFA.

OAE Philip "Phil" Meek Smith, died on 16 February 2014, in Santa Fe, NM. Phil made numerous deployments to Antarctica between 1956 and 1971. During DF-II (1956-57) as an Army LT he developed crevasse-crossing techniques vital in establishing the Army-Navy Trail from Little America V to Byrd Station. During DF-III he was on the Ross Ice Shelf conducting ice deformation research. From 1959 through 1971 he directed polar and oceanographic research at the National Science Foundation. Smith Bluffs and Smith Glacier were named in his honor. He was a member of the ADFA.

\*OAE ADCS Walter Ray Smith, USN (Ret), 78, died on 4 March 2014, in Milton, FL. Walter served in VX-6 as an ADR2 from 1964-67. He was a member of the OAEA GCG Chapter.

OAE Edward A. "Eddie" Stanhope, 71, died on 5 February 2014, in Portland, ME. Eddie made three deployments to Antarctica with the US Navy between 1961 and 1965. Unit unknown.

OAE John A. Sviderskis, 85, died on 17 March 2014, in Shrewsbury, CT. John served in the US Navy during Highjump.

OAE Gerald "Gerry" George Tharp, 82, died on 20 March 2014, in Austin, TX. Gerry was a USAF C-124 navigator during the IGY.

OAE Nancy Cale Thompson, 73, died on 18 January 2014, in Guilford, CA. Nancy visited Antarctica as a tourist.

OAE Paul R. Turnbull, 75, died on 11 Marcy 2014, in Greenfield, MA. Paul served in Antarctica as a Photographers Mate. Ship and year(s) unknown.

OAE RMC Charles Conrad Wandersee, USN (Ret), 85, died on 23 November 2013, in Waterville, MN. Charles wintered-over during DF-IV.

\*OAE ABCS Farrell Willard "Whit" Whitney, USN (Ret), 84, died on 12 March 2014, in Southwick, MA. Whit served in VX-6/VXE6 at McMurdo and Christchurch from 1958 through 1972. Whitney Island is named in his honor. Whit was a member of the OAEA NE Chapter.

OAE Harry T. Wilks, 89, died on 11 March 2014, his 89th birthday, in Cincinnati, OH. Harry visited Antarctica as a tourist.

OAE SCPO George "Skip" Wrightington, USN (Ret), 71, died on 11 March 2014, in Plymouth, MA. Skip served on the USS *Atka* during DF-64.





## 2014 OAEA ELECTION

The time for election of new officers is upon us once again. Bob Gaboury, who chaired the last three OAEA Election Committees, has volunteered and has been appointed to chair the 2014 Election Committee. So far Bob has done a great job and we expect the same in 2014.

The OAEA Board of Directors has authorized the Election Chairman to solicit volunteers to run for office from the regular membership to ensure that all members get a chance at a leadership position in the OAEA. This year, there will be an election for the offices listed below:

President  
Vice President  
Treasurer  
Two Directors

The President and Vice President terms are for two years and the Treasurer and Directors terms are for six years.

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

Once completed, the form (the entire page) should be mailed to the OAEA Elections Chairman, Bob Gaboury at: 159 Via Rosal, Camarillo CA 93012 by 30 June 2014.

It should be noted that only **Regular Members** can hold an office in the OAEA. (Associate Members are NOT allowed to vote or hold office.) You can run for only one office and you can only nominate yourself.

If you have problems with the Vote OAEA web site you can contact Bob Gaboury at: [BobGaboury@gmail.com](mailto:BobGaboury@gmail.com)

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

## Tidewater Group October Get-Together

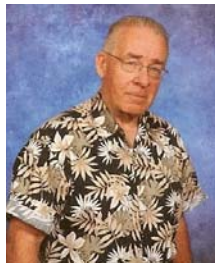
by Ed Hamblin

Our January meeting wasn't much of a meeting as things go. As previously mentioned, we lost our long time meeting place. The owner passed away, and his daughters couldn't keep it going. So, like gypsies, we moved a bit...the next-door bar and grill in the same strip mall had a back room that was designated as a non-smoking meeting room and dining area. Well imagine our surprise that Saturday in January when we showed up and found out the meeting room was no more and was now a room with a couple of pool tables. So now we are rudderless, drifting at sea...

Nonetheless, we tried to make the best of a bad situation. There were enough chairs around that we could sit down; reminded me a lot of musical chairs. It wasn't very accommodating, and things broke up really very quick.

Most of what transpired was reunion-centric. Ed Hamblin and Brad Miller brought the group up to speed with what is going on as far as reunion preparations are progressing. That was the main business discussion. After a long absence, Wayne Rogers was able to come, and being one of the few Highjump veterans he always brings some interesting and entertaining stories from a time none of the rest of us were in the Navy. An interesting side note: Wayne is also a member of VUMS (Veterans of Underage Military Service), and was deployed with Highjump while still in his middle teens.

A new addition to our local group, newlywed Tammy Thompson came down from Richmond area with her husband Charlie Thompson (VXE-6, 75-78).



Besides those already named, we also saw Herb Schaefer, Bill Raymus, Bill Murray, John Draughon, Manny Perry, Jim Silverstorf, and Robert Kello at the January meeting.

A reminder about the Norfolk reunion...set up for 12-14 November 2014 at the Waterside Sheraton in Norfolk; here is a website that tells a bit about the hotel: <http://www.sheratonnorfolkwaterside.com/>. The number you can use to make reservations is 1-800-325-3535; mention Old Antarctic Explorers Association reunion. We will be coming out around April with the *Explorers Gazette* Reunion Special Edition with the registration forms, tour sign-ups, and other information. Although we are still costing out some items before we finalize budget, anticipate reunion registration in the \$80.00 range per person to cover costs.

So, between now and the next get together, we have to find a place for our Tidewater gatherings. We will have our next one on Saturday, 5 April; place TBD. See you down the road.



Pictured, left to right: Herb Schaefer, John Draughon, Robert Kello, Bill Raymus, Brad Miller, Charlie Thompson, Tammy Thompson, Jim Silverstorf, Wayne Rogers, Manny Perry.

# ALONE IN ANTARCTICA

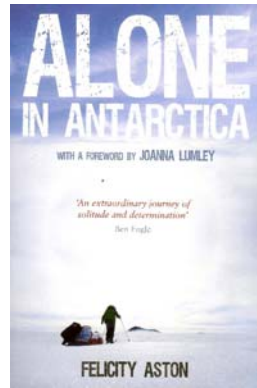
## Taking the World To The South Pole

reviewed by Laura "Stella" Snow

### BOOK REVIEW



*Alone in Antarctica*, by Felicity Aston, Summersdale Publishers Ltd, West Sussex, UK, 2013, 250 pages, paperback \$13. Also available from Amazon.com and Barnes and Noble.



Felicity Aston's first experience on the Antarctic continent was the twenty-eight months she spent at Rothera Research Station. She was assigned to the British Antarctic Survey base on the Antarctic Peninsula as a meteorologist. Upon her return to England, rather than getting a "real job" Aston began organizing expeditions to polar regions, particularly Iceland, the Greenland icecap, and Lake Baikal in Siberia, as well as writing guide books about the remote non-polar locations to which she traveled. She also competed in the Polar Challenge, the 360-mile race to the magnetic North Pole. In 2009, Aston led the eight-woman Kaspersky Lab Commonwealth Expedition to the South Pole, a journey of thirty-eight days. As she left Antarctica for the second time, Aston knew she would return to the frozen continent. She wondered if she could ski across the *entire* continent—alone. *Alone in the Antarctic* is the story of this endeavor.

Aston describes the route between the Ronne Ice Shelf and the South Pole as "relatively straight-forward." However, skiing from the South Pole to the Ross Ice Shelf is more difficult.



Completely covered to keep her face from freezing



Camp on the Leverett Glacier. The route up the Plateau is to the far left

The costs of logistical support are higher. Traveling through the Transantarctic Mountains is difficult. The routes made famous by earlier expeditions were too dangerous for a lone skier to attempt. She referred to this side of Antarctica as the "wrong side". Only two people had successfully crossed the Antarctic continent alone, both of them Norwegian men. They had used kites and parasails, but they had chosen longer routes. Finally, it was a chance conversation in Reykjavik in 2011 that provided her with the answer: the Leverett Glacier would be her route through the mountains.



Tweeting via SMS on the Iridium phone was a one-way form of communications but became psychologically important.

Aston was unsure as to what would be the more difficult aspect of the expedition: skiing 1700 kilometers or being alone. She learned the answer soon enough: the hardest part of the expedition was the "alone-ness." She had been warned by a friend at the Royal Geographic Society that the



Thiel Mountains, the first geographic feature that Felicity saw in more than 800 kilometers.



numerous people who had attempted such a journey were “different”, but not in a positive way, when they returned.

As the Antarctic Logistics and Expeditions (ALE) aircraft that dropped her off at her starting point grew smaller as it retreated into the distance, she realized how alone she was. She was too far from the ocean to see any wildlife; there were no horizons and a two-month journey of 1700 kilometers lay ahead of her.



**A perfect Antarctic day with clear skies and no wind, making it warm enough to be able to sit outside and enjoy the view in a rare moment of calm.**

At times during the next two months, Aston experienced practically every human emotion from fear and anxiety to elation. When Aston finally completed the 1744-kilometer journey in 59 days, she realized she had reached her personal limit. Aston learned from the journey that humans do not

give themselves enough credit—they are much more able to deal with difficulty than they give themselves credit for.

*Alone in Antarctica* is an outstanding book. It provides a fascinating look into the mind of a brave and highly motivated woman who urges others to reach out for their personal best. The descriptions of Aston’s geographic surroundings are exemplary. Of great interest is the author’s description of her reactions to the “alone-ness.”



**Reaching the geographic South Pole for the third time in her life.**

## PENGUIN LAYS GOLDEN EGG

A penguin at Torquay’s Living Coasts has apparently laid a golden egg.

The macaroni penguin, named Yoyo, laid the egg at Living Coasts, Torquay’s coastal zoo, on 31 March.

The charity’s Executive Director Simon Tonge—a bird expert and former zookeeper—said: “The eggshell has a real golden sheen—it is rare but not unheard of. I have been around birds for 35 years and this is only the second one I have seen.”

Living Coasts Operations Manager Clare Rugg said: “Sadly, the egg is definitely not made of solid gold! It is a first egg, so it may not be fertile—we shall have to wait and see. The metal in the shell can make it harder for the chick to break its way out of the egg, so we will need to keep a close eye on this one.”

Visitors are flocking to the English Riviera to see the rare egg, but she has no concerns about security. “It’s certainly not worth stealing—there will be very little actual gold in the egg—and penguins peck!”

One theory is that a bird lays a gold-colored egg because it has consumed trace amounts of gold, brass, or copper. Penguins are attracted to shiny objects—some African penguins have been found hoarding candy wrappers and small pieces of metal in their burrows. Eggshells contain calcium that comes from the bird’s diet—it’s thought the metal gets into the shell in the same way.



**Yoyo examines her golden egg**

In addition, there may be a link between egg color and the intensity of a macaroni penguin’s yellow feathers and beak, which help attract a mate. Macaroni penguins breed in colonies on rocky coasts. Two eggs—usually off-white—are laid, but the first rarely hatches. Incubation takes about 33 to 37 days.

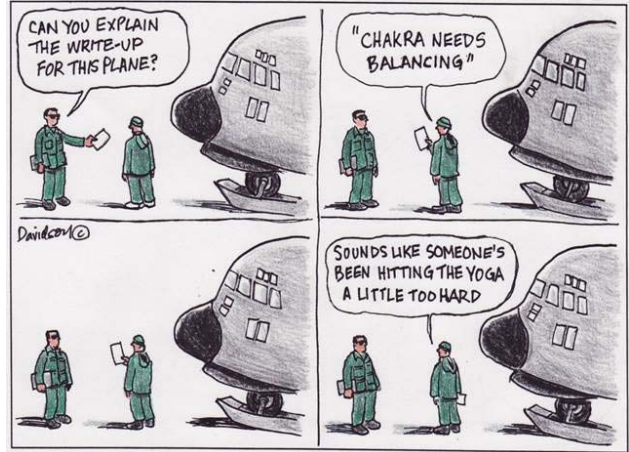
The story of the goose that laid the golden eggs is one of Aesop’s Fables from ancient Greece. Ornithologists suggest that the original story was based on a true account of a bird laying an egg similar to the one at Living Coasts.

## NEW OAEA MEMBERS

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

Thanks to Peter Rejcek, Mike Walsh, Christina DiGregorio, Bruce DeWald, Mike Kovac, Ashley Badger, Quentin Risher, Joe Gogel, Bob "Gabby" Gaboury, Jim Bain, and Steven Walton 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 or Renewal of Annual Member

ΦDenotes Upgrade to Regular Member

|                        |          |                                                       |
|------------------------|----------|-------------------------------------------------------|
| Alexander, Lloyd SK2   | Life     | NSFA Det 2 CHCH<br>1962-65. Made 2 trips to McM       |
| Bates, John CN         | Annual   | ASA SS DF-70                                          |
| Everett, Lawrence CW02 | Life     | USCGC <i>Glacier</i><br>1974-76                       |
| Graham, Ian CIV        | Life     | USARP Contractor<br>McM/Pole 1979-84                  |
| Hartman, Susan NOK     | §ΦAnnual | Daughter of Hoot                                      |
| Lewis, Kenneth AG1     | Life     | ASA Det C 1969-71                                     |
| Liso, Michael CEW2     | §Life    | CBU-201 DF-67                                         |
| Moncrief, Kenneth ADJ2 | Annual   | VXE-6 1971-73                                         |
| O'Leary Camellia NOK   | Life     | Surviving Daughter of<br>CECS Dick Masters            |
| Porcello, Denise CIV   | §Annual  | NE Chapter Groupie                                    |
| Prehn, Glenn CIV       | Annual   | Surviving Son of<br>LCDR Fritz Prehn                  |
| Proseus, Charles RD1   | Life     | USS <i>Arneb</i> 1958-60                              |
| Ruehl, Robert AG2/CIV  | Annual   | NSFA SS 1982-85<br>USAP Contractor<br>1998-2000       |
| Shepherd, Billy AMH3   | Life     | VX-6 1962-64                                          |
| Shoemaker, David SKSN  | §Life    | ASA WO DF-67                                          |
| Snee, Emerson, MIL     | Life     | USCGC <i>Eastwind</i><br>1964-65                      |
| Stetz, Elias, CDR      | Life     | VX-6 1960-61                                          |
| Wade, George, CEC      | Life     | WO Palmer DF-70                                       |
| Wales, Harry PRINCE    | Life     | South Pole Station<br>2013 Wounded<br>Warriors        |
| Walters, Fred SK2/AE3  | Life     | USS <i>Arneb</i> /USCGC<br><i>Eastwind</i> 1958-60/67 |
| Walton, Steven AGCM    | Life     | NSFA WO & SS/NSF<br>1978-79, 82-86, 98-99             |
| Watkins, Gary ATN2     | Life     | VX-6 Det McMurdo<br>WO DF-66                          |

### REUNION & MEETING INFORMATION

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

**USAF 63<sup>rd</sup> Troop Carrier Wing:** Greenville, SC, 11-14 April 2014. POC Shirley Holmquist. Phone: 864 226 6869, or by email: [keshi@charter.net](mailto:keshi@charter.net). The 63<sup>rd</sup> Troop Carrier Wing served during DF-II and III.

**USS *Atka* (AGB-3):** Plainfield, IN, 24-27 April 2014. POC Carl Brown. Phone: 616 308 4846, or by email: [browncarlione@aol.com](mailto:browncarlione@aol.com). The *Atka* served during 1954-55, DF-II, III, 60, 62, 64 and 66.

**USCG Icebreaker Muster:** Laughlin, NV, 18-23 May 2014. POC Rick Greene. Phone: 530 842 3937, or by email: [coastiegreene@nctv.com](mailto:coastiegreene@nctv.com)

**OAEA:** Norfolk, VA. 12-14 November 2014. POC Ed Hamblin. Phone: 757 835 4282, or by email at: [ehamblin74@verizon.net](mailto:ehamblin74@verizon.net),

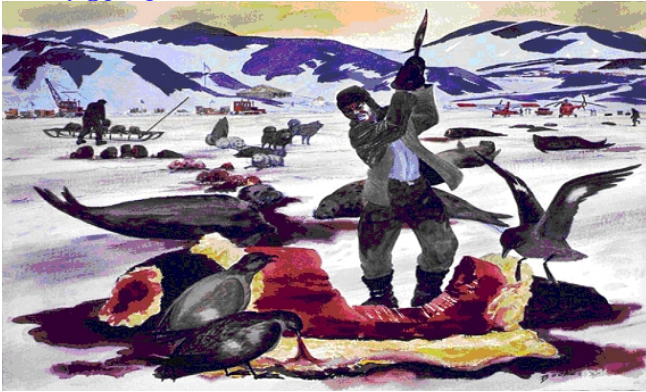
**NNPU/PM-3A:** Goshen, NY. 4-9 May 2015. POC Bob Berkowitz. Phone: 845 782 5539, or by email at: [fixitbob3@optonline.net](mailto:fixitbob3@optonline.net). NNPU/PM-3A served from 1962 through 1979.



## OAE LOCATOR

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

- David Ainley wants to get in touch with anyone who can help him quantify the number of seals killed in the US program to feed sled dogs during DF-I (1955-56) and the following years. He already has good data on the number killed by the NZ program. David can be contacted at: 105 Headlands Court, Sausalito, CA 94965, or by email at: [dainley@penguinscience.com](mailto:dainley@penguinscience.com).



*The artist's dramatic depiction of the seaman in mid-swing makes this scene appear somewhat barbaric, but in actuality, killing seals in order to feed the sled dogs was a regular, necessary task. Task Force 43 had twenty-eight huskies as part of the crew. They were on hand for rescue and reconnaissance and were used where heavy track vehicles would bog down in snow and ice. (The Antarctic Butcher. Standish Backus #52. Watercolor on paper. 1956)*

- Mihai Tanase is looking for information about Walter Bonattis who was on the ice during November and December of 1976. Walter was a Mountaineer, but was on the ice as part of the Italian Antarctic program working with the Kiwis in the Dry Valleys. Mihai can be contacted at: [mihai\\_tinase\\_50@yahoo.com](mailto:mihai_tinase_50@yahoo.com).

- John Champion is looking for personnel who wintered-over with him at the water distillation plant at McMurdo during DF-75. If anyone has any contact info for: BT1 Buck Rogers, UT3 Elmo Clark, or UT3 Dan Brock please let John know. John can be contacted by: phone at: 541 230 0298, or at: 3320 Highway 2 #2, Albany OR 97321



**BT2 John Champion DF-75**

- Glen Harris is looking for MS2 William "Bill" Brown who served in VX-6 during 1970. Glen can be reached at: 8136 Imperial Drive, Pensacola FL 32506, or by email at: [glen60@cox.net](mailto:glen60@cox.net), or by phone at: 850 455 4101.

- John Bates is looking for anyone who worked with him at McMurdo at Grounds Maintenance during DF-70. John can be reached at: 2 A Nassau Ave Schenectady NY 12304, or by email at: [seabeeslusn@nycap.rr.com](mailto:seabeeslusn@nycap.rr.com), or by phone at: 518 701 1577.

- Ed Holton is looking for anyone who was attached to NSFA Summer Support Medical Department from 1987 through 1991. Ed spent his last deployment as senior enlisted Medical Dept. rep in Christchurch. He was the only x-ray tech on the Ice and the last one permanently assigned. Ed can be contacted at: [ed\\_deb00@msn.com](mailto:ed_deb00@msn.com).

- James "Doc" Durham is looking for RM3 Michael "Matt" Matthias. Doc and Matt lived in the same hut at McMurdo during the DF-67 winter-over. Anyone knowing the whereabouts of Matt can contact Doc at: [retirednavy1978@aol.com](mailto:retirednavy1978@aol.com), or 954 573 7449.



**HM2 James "Doc" Durham DF-67**

- Web Based Business for sale: Tom and Gloria Hutchings the owners of AntarcticConnection.com would like to thank all OAEs who have supported them. Their web based business and/or inventory is up for sale. Any serious inquires can be directed to Gloria Hutchings at: [manager@antarcticconnection.com](mailto:manager@antarcticconnection.com), or: 603 383 6282.





# The Penguin Man

*By Karl Sackman*  
27 July 1941–30 March 2010

"I am the penguin man,  
he said without a smile.  
I can make you smarter,  
if you care to talk awhile."

My mind told me to walk away,  
without ever looking back,  
but in my heart of hearts I knew,  
the penguin's words were fact.

So I sat down upon the ground,  
and told him I would listen,  
His poker face devoid of change,  
but his eyes began to glisten.

He told me tales of far away,  
where daylight was forsaken,  
where frigid winds cut like a knife,  
and many good lives were taken.

"Many men like me and you,  
have ventured there, he told,  
But only those with special metal,  
were captured by its soul."

"Now I lived there and saw it all,  
he said without emotion,  
And though I'm old with frozen bones,  
I still have got the notion."

"That this here life is but a test,  
filled up with many choices,  
and I'd do it all just the way I did,  
for I still hear the voices."



"I'd tell you what the voices say,  
but you could never understand,  
For to gain that much enlightenment,  
you would have to touch the land."

"You know young man I've touched the land,  
where no other human's trod.  
And when I did I was forever changed,  
as if by the hand of God."

"The mighty blow of the killer whale,  
the screech from the Skua's beak,  
The swift attack of the Leopard Seal,  
are the essences of which I speak."

"I will tell you this thing son,  
as sure as you'll find snow,  
The best of the best in Antarctica,  
is really the penguin you know."

"See can't nobody quite figure out  
where all the penguins stay,  
When the night sneaks up and steals the light,  
and the polar winds have their way."

"What gives a man his purpose boy,  
what keeps him true to his word,  
at the end of the worst that the winter can send,  
is to gaze once again on that bird. – the penguin"

His speaking was obviously done,  
The lesson I guess had been learned,  
But as he walked away, as quick as he's come,  
My curiosity burned.

"Say, what do I call you my teacher,  
If I should chance to see you some place?",  
And though he never once looked around,  
The south wind whispered "Billy-Ace!"

## Gulf Coast Group Chapter Happenings

by Billy-Ace Penguin Baker

### Saturday 4 January 2014 GCG Meeting—31

Members and guest showed up for the meeting on a cold, but sunny day. First time attendee was Glenn Prehn who has been on the GCG list for several years. Glenn signed up as an Annual Regular Member at the meeting. His father LCDR Fritz Prehn served in VX-6 during DF-67 and 68. Welcome aboard Glenn. Snow Birds, from Godfrey, Illinois, Warren McGowan and his wife Jean were in attendance. Warren served on the USS *Mount Olympus* during Operation Highjump (1946-47). The meeting was almost over when they arrived. Warren said that he read it in the Pensacola News Journal around noon.



**New Member Glenn Prehn**

By the time everyone got through eating it was after 12 so Pam started selling 50/50 tickets as soon as she finished her lunch and Sean Baker distributed the door prize tickets. The 50/50 raffle was won by Amy Preston and she donated back \$20 from her \$63 prize. We held two door prize drawing the first was a Massage Pillow donated by Bob Mozesky and it



**Amy counting her winnings**

was won by Carl Jackson. The second door prize was a penguin ice bucket that was donated by Les Liptak and it was won by George Griffin.

For the last two meetings we have been hearing rumors that the Shrimp Basket was going to be torn down and rebuilt, so I asked the manager and he confirmed that it was true and the building will be torn down and rebuilt starting in March. He said that there will not be a barroom in the new building. So it looks like we may be looking for a new meeting place.

Griff asked for the floor and he told a story about getting stuck in the ice during his deployment on an icebreaker as part of a helo detachment.



**Griff telling his sea story.**

Following Griff's presentation the meeting was adjourned. The next meeting will be on 1 February at the Shrimp Basket unless otherwise directed (UNODIR).

Thanks to Pam and Sean for taking care of the raffles and thanks to Sean for taking the meeting photos.

**Saturday 1 February 2014 Meeting—25** members, guests, and visitors showed up for what might be our last meeting at the Warrington Shrimp basket. They are supposed to start demolishing the building some time in March. Several places for holding our monthly meetings have been recommended by our members. These will have to be checked out to see if they meet our needs and if they are willing to have us.

Warren and Jean McGowan will be heading back to their home in Illinois in March, so we won't see them for at least another year.

Doyle (LHJ) and Becky McClung were in attendance after being absent for several meetings. Becky has been undergoing Chemo and Radiation treatment.

We had two first time attendees. One was ENCS Ken Henry, USN (Ret) who is an OAEA Life Member. Ken, AKA Pig Pen, AKA Big John lives in the Armed Forces



Retirement Home in Gulfport MS. He wintered at Eights Station during DF-63 and at McMurdo Station during DF-67. Ken spoke to the group briefly about his Antarctic Experience and his experience in the "Old Sailor's Home". Ken is the author of two out of print books; *When Violence Erupts*, a survival guide for emergency responders, and *Gallant Lady*, a biography of the USS *Archerfish*. The last time I saw Big John was about 10 years ago when Gus Shinn and I went to his book signing at Battleship Park in Mobile Alabama. The other first time attendee was Alan Murray who has never been to Antarctica, but read about our meeting in the Pensacola News Journal. Alan said he would like to make a trip to Antarctica and he was interested in joining the OAEA, so I gave him a membership application.



**Left: EN2 Ken Henry aka "Big John Henry" at Eights Station during DF-63 WO. Right Big John aboard the USS Drum at Battleship Park in Mobile Alabama.**

Following John Henry's talk Duck Talbert talked about the PBS special mini-series about Shackleton's boat journey after the sinking of the *Endurance* (see Editor's Note) and Bill Fazio gave us an update on Walter Smith's medical situation. Basically Walter only has a short time to live and he requested that he be allowed to go home to finish out his remaining days.

Following the announcements the drawings were held. The 50/50 was won by Amy Preston. Amy took home \$50 as her share. There were cries of foul since this is the second month in a row that Amy has won the 50/50 raffle. Amy must have felt guilty because she asked for an OAEA Membership Application. The door prizes, a copy of the book: *To Love Is To Fly* and a 6-inch 3-D penguin ruler were won by the McClung's.



**Doyle (aka LHJ) and Becky McClung**

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned. The March meeting will be at a yet determined place and date.

Thanks to Duck for selling the 50/50 tickets and distributing the door prize tickets and thanks to Lennie Bourgoise for taking the meeting photos.

*Editor's Note: Copies of Chasing Shackleton can be ordered from PBS by visiting <http://www.shopPBS.org>, or by calling: 1 800 646 4727*

**Saturday 1 March 2014 Meeting**—During the last week of February I found out that the Shrimp Basket would be open during March and "the penguins" were on the calendar for our meeting. When I arrived at the Shrimp Basket just before eleven a.m. Pam Landy, Ken Pye, and Glen Harris were waiting in the parking lot. Twenty-three members and guests showed up for chapter meeting. Due to the *Mardi Gras* parade I expected that fewer would show up. First time attendees were Gary and Ellen Watkins from Fremont Michigan. Gary and Ellen found out about the OAEA and the GCG Chapter meeting from someone who they met at a car show. Gary wintered-over as an ATN2 at McMurdo with VX-6 during DF-66. Before the meeting was over Gary asked for an application and joined as a Life Member and purchased an OAEA GCG Chapter ball cap.



**Gary and Ellen Watkins**

Back after a long absence was Mary Lou Platt. Mary Lou said she had been in a car wreck and had been in a



recovery mode. She presented me with a pin for my ball cap depicting a penguin drinking from a cocktail glass.



**Mary Lou wearing Mardi Gras beads enjoys her lunch**

The last attendee to arrive was Tessa Talbert, granddaughter of Duck and Raine Talbert. Tessa had been playing in a basketball game and someone dropped her off after the game. She told me she was starving and she said that her team won the game.

After just about everyone was finished eating their lunch Duck started selling 50/50 raffle tickets and Pam distributed

the door-prize tickets. Before the drawings were held Duck made a few announcements. The major item of concern was where our next meeting would be. I had asked the duty manager and she told me that they would still be open during the first week of April and May, so we are good for at least two more meetings. Duck introduced our new member, Gary Watkins, and he made a few comments about his tour with VX-6. Bill Fazio asked for the floor and he spoke briefly about Walter Smith's medical condition. Following the announcements the drawings were held. Tessa Talbert was asked to draw the tickets and the 50/50 was won by her grandparents who took home \$33 as their share of the drawing. The door prizes consisting of a color OAEA coin, an OAEA decal, and a 3-D penguin bookmark were won by Bill Fazio.

Following the drawings Mary Lou asked us to pose for a group photo and after that was done the meeting as adjourned. The next meeting will be on 5 April.

Thanks to Duck and Pam for helping with the raffles. Thanks to Lennie and Mary Lou for taking the meeting photos.

*Editor's Note: Walter Smith died on 4 March. The following thank you note was received from his children:*

*"Thank you all so much for being such great friends to Dad and for being such an important part of his life".  
Stephanie, Delila, and Walter Jr.*



**Group photo of everyone who was there except for the cameraman.**

*Photo Credit: Mary Lou Platt using Lennie's camera*

## OAEA Donor Awards as of 2/25/2014

*compiled by Billy-Ace Baker  
from data supplied by Ed Hamblin*

Asterisks indicate new donors, or donors who have reached the next level. Donations to the OAEA are tax deductible.

### BRONZE ADELIE CLUB

Donations of \$100  
2010 Memory Book Donors  
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Baker, Jamie (deceased)  
Baker, Sean  
Baker, Tracey  
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Cordes, Fauno (deceased)  
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\*Soulia, George  
\*Splain, Vincent F.

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Donations of \$1,000  
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Biery, Roger  
OAEA New England Chapter  
VX/VXE-6 Para-Rescue Team

### EMPEROR CLUB

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### COMMUNICATOR CLUB

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Communicator Group Fund

BY SCOTT HILBURN

