

EXPLORER'S GAZETTE

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Uniting All OAEs in Perpetuating the Memory of United States Involvement in Antarctica
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WORDING ON MEMORIAL:
A Tribute by Indiana
To The Hallowed Memory
Of the Glorious Dead Who
Served in the World War



—Photo by Elaine Hood

World War I Memorial on the Grounds of the American Legion Headquarters

LAST CALL FOR ANTARCTIC DEEP FREEZE ASSOCIATION

*Story by Elaine Hood
Edited by Billy-Ace Baker*

The final Antarctic Deep Freeze Association (ADFA) reunion, celebrating 60 years since the Seabees first deployed to Antarctica, was held 12–14 May 2015, in Indianapolis, Indiana.

I've been struggling for almost two months to come up with a more catchy introduction to this article, but each one sounded too morose and the reunion was anything but

morose. However, it was poignant as we all realized that this biennial fun gathering would no longer occur.

But let's talk about the fun part.

Organized by the indefatigable Bill Stroup (DF-I&II, LAV) and family, with endless help from Dave Grisez (DF-I&II, McM) and his wife Sharon, about 50 ADFA members convened one last time to share memories, drink some beer, and enjoy the sights of Indianapolis.

Continued on page 4

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Laura Snow—OAEA President

FELLOW OAEA MEMBERS: During this quarter, there were no board business discussions.

The deadline for OAEA scholarship applications is 6 July 2015. In 2014, the scholarship committee awarded three scholarships of \$1000 each. It has not yet been determined how many awards will be made this year.

Your suggestions, recommendations, and constructive criticism are always welcome.



Laura Snow

OAEA President
snowlg@cox.net

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Winter-Over Medal Changes

In 2015 the United States Antarctic Program will introduce winter flights from Christchurch, New Zealand to McMurdo Station, with flights planned for April, June, and July.

All civilian participants who deploy to an Antarctic research station or vessel and remain south of 60 degrees latitude for at least 10 days are eligible for an Antarctica Service Medal (ASM). In addition, the NSF presents those who winter-over with a **wintered over bar** for the first three winters (bronze, gold, silver, respectively) and a **lapel pin** for each winter.

To qualify as a winter-over, the NSF defines two criteria:

- The participant must be south of 60 on Midwinter's Day (the austral winter solstice, 21 June or 22 June)
- The participant must be south of 60 at least sixty days surrounding Midwinter's Day

With the current schedule of winter flights, some people may be on station during winter months without qualifying as a winter-over. For example, someone who arrives in April and leaves in July is considered a winter-over; someone who arrives in July and leaves in October is not.

Send your questions concerning the ASM to the POC in Denver: Kathy.Flanagan.contractor@usap.gov.



GROWLERS & BERGY BYTES

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

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DISCLAIMER STATEMENT

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ANTARCTICA

By JO2 Harding Ellis DF-1



A land of frozen mountains
Lies beyond the polar seas;
Her glance is filled with loneliness
And brooding mysteries,
Her feet are touched with frostbite,
No flowers wreath her head,
Her heart, untouched by sympathy,
Is long since cold and dead.
They call this land Antarctica,
And speak her name with dread.

No song-birds singing nesting songs,
No maples ringed with moss,
Are found within this frozen land
Beyond the Southern Cross.
From lands across the earth they come
To court this haughty queen;
They bring the torch of knowledge,
And enthusiasm keen,
This cruel land, Antarctica,
Ignores their friendly mien,

Alone, aloof she stands beyond
The friendly southern seas;
Where days and nights are six months long.
She guards her mysteries.
Man does not tarry here for long
On her unfriendly shore
At Satan's Southern door.
And so she stands, Antarctica,
Alone forever more.

ADFA Last Call From Page 1

Bill's son Robert manned the hospitality room from dawn to the wee hours at night. It was the place to be if you weren't out for a meal, on a tour, or at a presentation.

Wednesday 13 May was our day to be tourists. First thing in the morning we traveled downtown to the American Legion National Headquarters. We were warmly greeted by the communications manager who escorted us to the

National Executive Committee room, where there were desks for each US state's representative. A short informational presentation reminded us about the mission of the American Legion and the activities it supports such as American Legion Baseball, Boys State and Boys Nation, US flag education and protection, and other programs many of us grew up participating in.

This was followed by a visit to the art gallery and museum. You can take a virtual tour of the museum here: www.legion.org/virtualtour.

The American Legion Mall is a sunken garden located behind the National Headquarters building. It contains a stately memorial dedicated to the Hoosiers who died in WW-I. The mall connects to the city Mall, with many more monuments. Did you know Indianapolis is second only to Washington, DC, in the number of war monuments inside city limits?



All Attendees

Photo by Sue Huffer



American Legion Communications Manager Welcome Aboard Talk

The afternoon tour took us to the world famous Indianapolis 500, location of the largest single-day sporting event in the world. The Hall of Fame Museum, located in the center of the Speedway grounds, contains 30,000 square feet of racing history. Hot rods dating back to the origins of the famous race can be viewed closely. About 75 such cars are on display.

Our visit was about two weeks before the big race, so we were able to

see many of the famous contestants doing laps around the 2.5-mile track. For me, this was the highlight as it was unbelievable how fast they were zooming by.



Liberty Painting in American Legion Museum



Indianapolis Speedway

Thursday 14 May was our day of Antarctic-themed presentations.

I gave the first presentation that described the South Pole Traverse. The U.S Antarctic Program has been making two routine round-trip traverses between McMurdo Station and the South Pole, and plans to make three this next season. The Traverse is now the primary method of transporting fuel to the Pole. This presentation showed the equipment, the terrain, and explained why the traverses are now considered necessary. By using the traverse to



Photo by Sue Huffer

All Attendees (continued)





The Grisez & Stroup Families

Photo by Sue Huffer

deliver fuel to Pole Station, this allows the limited number of LC-130 missions to be dedicated to supporting deep field science.

The second presentation was a documentary movie, *The Ends of the Earth, Finn Ronne's Antarctica*, produced by Jim Sayegh. This short documentary movie tells the history of Finn Ronne in Antarctica. Born in Norway, Ronne's father was a friend of Roald Amundsen, providing the tent that was left at the South Pole. After becoming a U.S. citizen, Finn accompanied Admiral Byrd on two of his early expeditions. After WW-II, the Ronne Antarctic Research Expedition explored the Weddell Sea coastline by dog sled. His wife Edith and another woman, Jennie Darlington, were the first women to winter-over in Antarctica. Ronne then led the Operation Deep Freeze II expedition to build Ellsworth Station. This documentary includes video clips of the expeditions, early interviews of Ronne, and commentary by some of our contemporaries. The movie is available for sale from Jim Sayegh. You can contact Billy-Ace Baker for more information.

The third presentation was a documentary made by Dr. Ed Ehrlich, the first doctor at Little America V. He

shot the film on his trip down from Davisville, RI, in 1955, through the Panama Canal, and then on to the Ross Sea. It was great fun to watch with Ed's commentary.

I must mention an unscheduled, but equally fun to watch, presentation made in the hospitality room on Wednesday evening by Cliff and Jean Dickey. They showed Cliff's movies of his trip to Antarctica where he spent the 1957 winter at the South Pole as a member of the first winter-over party.



Jean & Cliff Dickey Waiting To Show Cliff's Movies

This is where I will insert my personal comment that I find it such a great honor to be able to say that I am friends and acquaintances with all these men from the early Deep Freeze years. Only eighteen men and one dog can claim they spent the first winter at the geographic South Pole. That's a pretty elite club. I never tire of the stories by Dave Grisez, Jim and

George Rooney, Ken Waldron, Bill Stroup, Barney Halloran and Bob Snow, Dick Bowers, and all the other men I have come to know about their time at the other IGY stations. It is so much fun to hear their accounts of this historic event first hand.



Photo by Sue Huffer
Oldest & Youngest Navy Equipment Operators Tony DeLeon DF-58, & DF-63 & Carol Applegate DF-86 Thru DF-89

Thursday evening we enjoyed a delicious buffet dinner, followed by a raffle give-away of various collectable items. In previous years, the annual funding of the Antarctic Deep Freeze Association was paid for by the hilarious and highly competitive bidding conducted during this auction. But this, the final meeting of the Association, had no reason to raise funds, so instead gave away everything from autographed photos and posters to pins and hats. I'm quite sure no one left empty-handed.



Bevilacqua, Marty, & Baker Waiting For Their Table To Be Called

Due to declining attendance, the members felt this, the 60th anniversary reunion, should be the last one. The core members of the group are aging and many are unable to continue the work to organize the reunions. On 14 May, the ADFA members voted to dissolve their not-for-profit charter, with remaining funds to be donated to the Seabee Museum and Memorial at Davisville, Rhode Island. For information about the museum click here: www.seabeesmuseum.com



Photo by Sue Huffer
Raffle Prizes



Photo by Sue Huffer
Some More Raffle Prizes



Dick Prescott & Sharon Grisez
Calling The Raffle Numbers

It was a fun reunion, albeit sad to know Bill and Robert will no longer be serving cocktails in hospitality rooms around the nation.



Richard Stroup & His Penguin Hat

Editor's Note: Speaking of door prizes, I took home the penguin hat being modeled by Richard Stroup.



Photo by Sue Huffer

One Of The Raffle Items Was This Photo Of The South Pole Construction Crew Taken On 24 December 1956 By Paul Siple. The Photo Below Is Of The Surviving Construction Crew Members Who Were At The Reunion



Photo by Sue Huffer

Parry Williamson, Dick Bowers, Charlie "CB" Bevilacqua, Dick Prescott

OAEA

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Billy:

FYI LtCol Tim Morrow who was in the "In Memory" column of the Apr-Dec 2014 issue of the *Gazette* served during the DF-61 and DF-62 Seasons.

Capt John Hickey

Editor's Note: Thanks to John I was able to track Tim Morrow down and found the below photo in the Task Force 43 DF-61 cruise book.



At a semi-serious ceremony in the VX-6 hanger a homemade medal is presented to Capt Thomas "Tim" Morrow, USMC, by leading chief AECM Joseph Mihalcik, for piloting out a UC-1 Otter from a crevassed area on the Ross Ice Shelf.

Billy-Ace:

Regarding use of the term OAE in the Presidents Column in the Jan-Mar issue of the *Gazette*: I recall when I first went to Antarctica in 1956 as part of the IGY that we young scientists scorned the term "OAE" because of blowhards such as Finn Ronne and Richard Byrd. This term has always seemed derogatory throughout my Antarctic career.

Cheers,

John Behrendt

Editor's Note: I know that a lot of the Navy personnel who served during DF-I and II shared those sentiments.

Billy-Ace,

I always look forward to receiving my *Gazette* in the Email. You do a great job as the editor. I receive a few different newsletters but none match the quality that you have attained. How do you do it?

The reason I ask is that the National Chief Petty Officers Association (NCPOA) is still exclusively publishing by printing and mailing their Newsletter called "The Chief", while the Florida CPOA uses Email with the exception of non-Email members who receive a mail out. I am involved with both Chiefs associations, as you may know. The NCPOA has recently created an Email contact list for Outlook from its membership application files and is almost ready to start using Email as you do.

What I would like to see is both Chief's Associations have a quality Email PDF version as you have for us OAEA members, especially the pictures. Fuzzy pictures really detract from what others send me; while your pix print appear clearer.

So what's the secret? Do you have a program that you use? Would you share it with us fellow Chiefs?

For your comparison the Chief's recent newsletter is on www.goatlocker.org/ncpoa while the FLCPOA is on www.flcpoa.org so you can see the difference.

Sincerely

Bob McCauley

Editor's Note: Thanks for the kudos. I don't have any secrets. I use MS Word for creating the Gazette and Adobe Acrobat for creating the PDF file. I edit photo's in Corel Paint Ship Pro.

Billy-Ace:

Thank you for your efforts to promote our association and fill the *Gazette* with great remembrances.

Steve Tobey
VXE-6 69-71

Billy Ace:

Great job. Thank you.

Samuel R Cash CM2
W/O DF-72.

Billy-Ace

I ran across some old photos a few weeks ago while going through a box in one of my closets. Thought you might enjoy this one:

Left to right: Bob Boyd, biolab manager; Nartsiss Barkov, glaciologist; ETC John Penafeather; Greg Lafyatis, COSRAY technician; Jack Steinman, USARP mechanic. Probably sometime in July 1975 at the Berg Field Center. Back then, Nartssis looked old to me. Not so much now.

Also, you once asked to see a current photo of me. Here's one, taken last month on a skiing trip to Colorado

Jim Mathews



One Russian, Three SARP's, & One Navy Dude



Jim Mathews on Copper Mountain

Editor's Note: Besides wintering-over during DF-75 Jim was the head honcho in the recovery of LC-130 BUNO 321. I don't remember why I asked him for a recent photo.

Billy:

Excellent issue of the (Jan-Mar 2015) *Gazette*. Even with my two humble letters. LOL. Take the praise you deserve & pass on thanks to others who put it together. Loved the pictures and story of the Que Sera Sera, 1st plane to land at the South Pole. I was long gone north when that happened. In 1955, DF-I the R4Ds (DC-3s) had to abort before getting to the Ice. Glad DF-II was kinder to them.

The comment that Adm. Dufek was not the boss man of DF-I is wrong in the eyes of this Coastly Snipe. The USCGC *Eastwind* was Flag during part of the operation and Dufek did indeed have things in his very capable hands. RADM. Byrd was also on the *Eastwind* when Flag was shifted but it appeared for photo ops & PR and not to get the job done. RADM Dufek in fact took time to explain to me what Father Linehan was doing out on the Ice. An Admiral taking time to converse with an EN2 was high cotton.

Dave Hoff

Editor's Note: In his newspaper interview, John Strider, stated that RADM Byrd Died and was replaced by RADM Dufek. However, when President Eisenhower announced in March 1955 that America would take part in the International Geophysical Year he gave the US Navy the job of supporting US scientists and named Rear Admiral Richard E. Byrd as Officer in Charge. Rear Admiral George Dufek was appointed Commander of Task Force 43 and Commander US Naval Support Forces Antarctica. In other words the highly respected polar explorer was the OIC in title only.

Dear Billy

What a wonderful continuation of the interest in Antarctica! Thanks very much for keeping me on the list. I saw a list of donors, but I did not see in first reading-skimming where to send donations do we make them out to "OAEA"?

Sincerely yours,

John Lenkey III

Editor's Note: My bad. Thanks for pointing that out. I had enough room on the donor page to list the details for making donations, but I overlooked it. Make your donation check payable to the OAEA, and mail it to:

Ed Hamblin
OAEA Database Manager
3104 Deepspring Drive
Chesapeake VA 23321

You can designate where you want your donation to go: Scholarship Fund, Memorial Plaque Fund, General Fund.

Billy-Ace:

In response to the member's request regarding a translation of the characters on the box that held his JARE pin. (See photo below)



I do work sometimes for the US office of a large Japanese construction company. One of the guys I work with translated the characters and the design.

記念品Souvenir for appreciation
 日本南極地域観測隊Japanese Antarctic Research Expedition
 日本Japanese
 南極地域Antarctic
 観測Research
 隊Expedition

FYI, the red tag/line on the box is often time used for "celebration".

There was more information than just the translation. The dark red and white ribbons are traditional "celebratory" colors in Japan and the little box with the design in it also accompanies gifts, etc. There's a lot of symbolism in their culture that doesn't correlate well with our society.

The guys I work with at the company amaze me sometimes. "Tat", the guy who did the translation, speaks nearly flawless English. When he's talking to us in meetings, he'll sometime take notes of what he's saying but writes them in Japanese. That is really hard to do, especially in languages that are completely different from one another.

Jim Mathews

Billy-Ace,

When Tom Henderson started his Ice Eagles project, I recalled the R4D at McMurdo called "Charlene the wingless wonder" used as a sometimes taxi. I dug up some old photos I took on my visit to McMurdo and Byrd in 1959-1960 courtesy of the US Navy. I recently did a little more research on this R4D and came across her story on 'Puckered Pete's Antarctic Newseum webpage. Don't know how many color photos were taken after the 'surgery' but here are the two I took. Regards,

Jules Madey K2KGJ



BA

I Have a new scanner that does slides etc. I just did a quickie to see what it does of some of my old VX-6 slides.

My favorite experience of my time down there (65-66 season) was the Kiwi dogs. Ya hafta been to Scott Base to appreciate them.

Not the best results I might hafta do some editing to get a better quality picture.

RD



RD at Scotch Base With The Dogs

NAVAL COMMUNICATIONS UNIT CHRISTCHURCH

A long time ago in a land far away there were a group of black-shoe radiomen and electronics technicians attached to the Christchurch Naval Communications Unit (NCU). Most of them never went to the ice. They were CHCH Commandos in the true sense of the term. A few OAEs, like myself augmented the NCU after wintering-over. The below email messages are from one of the CHCH Commandos who became a friend of mine while I was TAD at the NCU.

Billy:

I have attached a photo of the NCU crew taken in 1968. Sad to say that many of the guys in this picture are no longer alive. I keep in touch with Mike Sobieski who was a young RM2. He read me off a list of one that had passed along with his NZ wife and I was shocked. Also, many you see in the picture that were married are no longer.

I know I have been blessed to be married over 49 years!!! Let me see if Mike Sobieski can help me on the names. He knew most of the younger guys because they were single at the time and they all partied together often!!!

Mike Sobieski returned my call a couple of days ago but did not leave a message. I tried calling him back but no luck. I am sure he is calling to go over the names on the picture. Hopefully I will email you the info this weekend. Did I send you this attached picture? It is Chief Howard Gable, me in the background and Miss USA 1968 and I think her name is Dorthy Anslett. Maybe you remember? She was talking to the guys wintering over in this picture. She knew very well about saying "over".

Mike Wagoner.



Dorothy Anstett Miss USA 1968

Billy,

Here is the list of names from left to right.

- Back Row: RM3 Doug McMillan, RM3 T.R. Carrol, RMSN Steve Finley, RM1 Harold Phillips, ETN2 J.H. Summers, ETR2 G.T. Meyer, RM2 B.W. Hardesty, ETN2 Kenny Westfall, SK1 John Long, RM3 Rick Foster
- Middle Row: RM3 Bill Mathany, ET2 Bill Hicks, RM3 R.A. Brigham (spelling), YN2 L.B. Hopkins, RM1 Mike Wagoner, RM2 Gordon Ormsby, RM3 Dale Taylor, RM2 Mike Sobieski, RM2 Don Pyle
- Front Row: Civilian Bill Anderson (He won the NZ lottery about 15 years ago), RMC Walters, RMC Reinehl, LCDR Phillips, RMC Howard Gable ETC A.C. Kniese (maybe misspelled)

Maybe you know some of these guys and can smooth out the spelling of their last names better than Mike and I could.

Mike W.



LIONEL WAFER: HIS LIFE AND TIMES

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

G'Day Ship, Mates, This is your old friend Lionel Wafer, skipper of ye *Dead Rat*. My sea story for this issue is the tale of Adolph Hitler and the Hollow Earth.



As the Allies were closing in on Berlin in April 1945, Adolf Hitler and his squeeze, Eva Braun, left the city in a war-battered Fieseler



Eva Braun in All Her Radiant Beauty

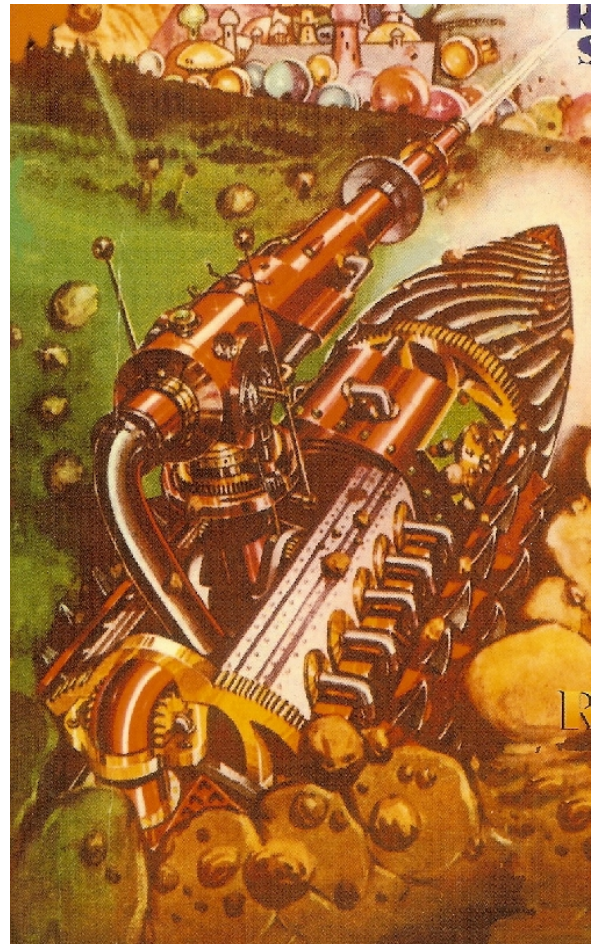


The Fieseler Storch That Hitler and Eva Flew Berlin in



Eva and Hitler With Their Dogs at the Unspecified Port. They had to abandon the Dogs When They Embarked on the U-Boat Bound for Antarctica

Storch, which set them down at an unspecified European port, where they hopped a passing U-boat on its way to the South Pole. When they arrived at the Pole, they went into a hole—the Hole in the Pole. They are still there, the Hole in the Pole Gang. Look, folks, there are people out there who really believe this shit. They are the same people who subscribe to the Hollow Earth theory. It wasn't just Eva and Adolf who made the trip, apparently. It was also 2000 German and Italian scientists and a million regular citizens. It has not been accurately determined how a million people got to the South Pole in 1945.



Hitler's Hollow Earth Tunneling Machine At Work

The main mission of Operation Highjump, 1946-47, was to root out and destroy the Nazi menace in Antarctica, but Admiral Byrd couldn't find them. Perhaps what he took for penguins were really Nazis. However, this is unlikely, as penguins have a sense of humor and are cute.



The Hole In The Pole Gang. Hitler & Eva On The Far Left

In the 1950s, the U.S. dropped three atomic bombs on Hitler's lair. But did these destroy the Fuhrer? Probably not. There have been some deaths, of course, in the last 70 years, but most of the million original settlers are still alive. Rumor has it that in 1957 Gus Shinn was invited to dinner in the Hole in the Pole by Hitler himself, but, at the time this article went to press, that rumor had not been substantiated.

Editor's Note: But what became of Hitler? I think he died of natural causes. According to the book Hitler's Ashes Seeds of a new Reich the following poem was found in a bronze box retrieved from an Antarctic ice cave.

In a box of wood
 With a graven hood
 And in a silver urn
 There part me
 Beyond the sea
 Aft my ashes burn.
 But bring me back
 A score and four
 When a century turns
 To nine or more,
 The future keys
 To a golden door.

ACHTUNG! SAMISDAT NEWS BULLETIN
SAMISDAT HOLLOW EARTH EXPEDITION \$9999.00
IN SEARCH OF HOLES IN THE POLES

Flight path of proposed 1979-1980 Antarctic Expedition.

ANTARCTICA

\$5.95 + 1.00

Our Model No. 1 in flight, called "Flügelrad" by the Nazis.

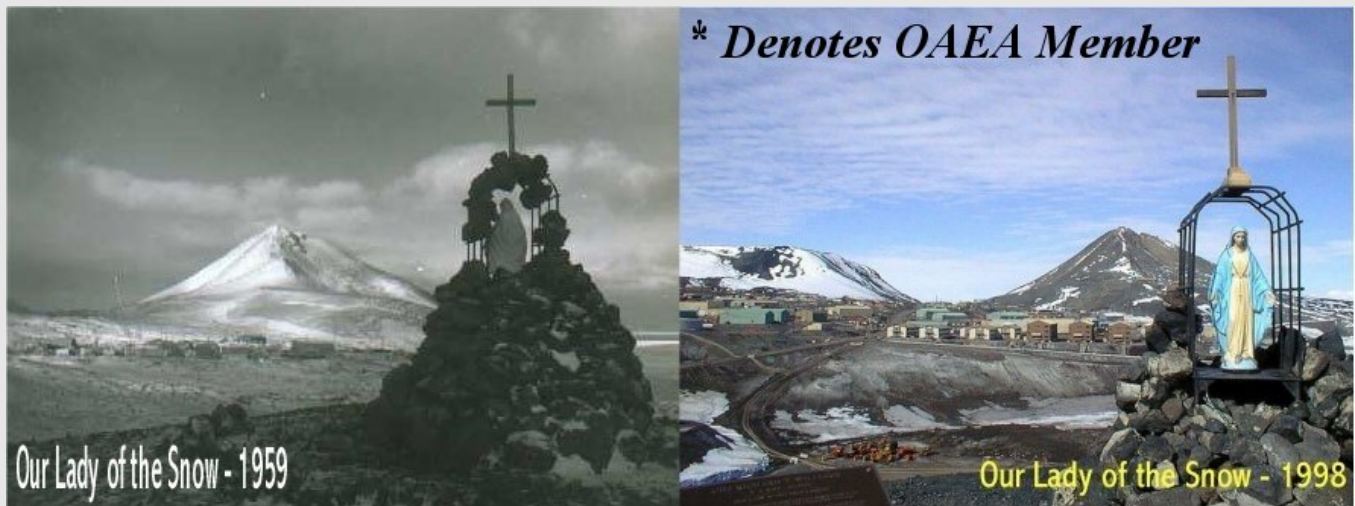
\$2.95 + 0.75

Specialty-designed "Samisdat-Saucer" Frisbee based on Nazi German Flying Disc designs.

Fig. 44 in the South Pole.

SEARCH FOR HITLER'S ANTARCTIC U.F.O. BASES

1979 Poster



IN MEMORY

OAE Guy J. Arno, 89, died on 1 June 2015, in Hampton, NH. Guy served as an Ensign on the USS *Mount Olympus* during Operation Highjump.

OAE Aaron "Jim" Baker, 80, died on 12 June 2015, in San Louis Obispo, CA. Jim visited Antarctica as a tourist.

OAE Shirley M. Baker, 82, died on 26 April 2015, in Greenville, OH. Shirley visited Antarctica as a tourist.

OAE HMC Orman Bennett Berg, USN (Ret), 83, died on 2 April 2015, in Columbus, OH. Orman served during DF-I. Unit unknown.

OAE CAPT Charles F. Bird, USN (Ret), died on 26 May 2015, in St Louis, MO. Charles served as the NSFA staff meteorologist during DF-68. Bird Bluff is named in his honor.

OAE Nels Bjarke, 97, died on 31 May 2015, in Seattle, WA. Nels visited Antarctica as a tourist.

OAE Thomas John Brady, 71, died on Wednesday, May 13, 2015, in Holly Springs, NC. Thomas visited Antarctica as a tourist.

OAE Marietta M. Bretz, 90, died on 5 June 2015, in Mayfield Hts, MI. Marietta visited Antarctica as a tourist.

OAE COL Dewey R. Bridges, USAF (Ret), died on 24 May 2015, in Summerville, NC. Dewey made two deployments to Antarctica as the CO of the Ninth TCS during DF-IV and DF-60

OAE Smith Wildman Brookhart III, 80, died on 4 April 2015, in, Branson, MO. Wildman made two deployments to Antarctica as a Navy Ensign. Unit and years unknown.

OAE Daniel Ray Bryan, 55, of Mount Pleasant, South Carolina and Pigeon Bay New Zealand, died on 28 May 2015, in Mount Pleasant, SC. Dan served with the USAP for over 20 seasons. He worked in communications at McMurdo, for the Navy and the contractor.

*OAE CAPT (SC) Cyril Henry Buehler, Jr., USN (Ret), 84, died on 15 April 2015, in Laguana Woods, CA. Cy served as the NSFA Comptroller from 1973-75. Cy served as the OAEA Treasurer from 2008-2014. He was also a member of the OAEA West Coast Group.

OAE CWO Robert Burns Carey, RAF (Ret), 65, died on 29 April 2015, in Tallahassee, FL. Robert served as a C-130 flight engineer in the Falkland Islands.

OAE Doug Cartwright, 50, died on 12 June 2015, in St. John's, NL. Doug was involved with ocean mapping in the Arctic and Antarctic. Year(s) unknown.

OAE Harland "Harly" Caswell, 84, died on 18 May 2015, in Bradenton, FL. Harly visited Antarctica as a tourist.

OAE Paul Vincent Cavanaugh, 78, died on 15 May 2015, in Morris Township, NJ. Paul served as an EN3. Unit and year(s) unknown.

OAE William Ladner Chapin, 61, of Rockville, MD, died on 3 June 2015, while traveling on business. William worked with the Navy in Antarctica. Year(s) unknown.

OAE Richard Hudspeth Chiles Jr., 91, died on 1 April 2015, at his home near Bois D' Arc, MO. Richard visited Antarctica as a tourist.

OAE James P. Coady, Jr., 89, died on 24 June 2015. James served as an RM1 during Highjump.

OAE CEC Robert Owens Cobb, USN (Ret), 76, died on 10 April 2015, in Spring, TX. Robert AKA "Straight Arrow", served in the Navy Nuclear Power Unit at McMurdo. Robert wintered over during DF-67 as a CE1 as a member of the PM-3A Crew VI, and as a CEC during DF-71 as a member of Crew X.

OAE John J. Chambers Crowell, PhD, 98, died on 13 May 2015. John was a geologist at McMurdo in 1966-67. Mount Crowell is named in his honor.

OAE N. Armen Debejian, 87, died on 18 April 2015, in Liverpool, NY. Armen served during Highjump.

OAE John Davis "JD" Dickens, 93, died on 10 May 2015. JD served during Highjump as a AD1 and was a flight engineer. Dickens Peak is named in his honor.

OAE CAPT Raymond "Bud" Dolber, USCG (Ret), 91, died on 24 June 2015. Bud made two deployments (DF-68 & 69) to Antarctica as the CO of the USCGC *Southwind*. Mount Dolber is named in his honor.

OAE CDR George William DuPree, USCGC (Ret), 63, died on 2 May 2015, in Juliette, GA. George served on the USCGC *Glacier* as the diving officer and navigator, and on the USCGC *Polar Star* as the XO. Years unknown.

OAE Joseph Thomas Fahey, 94, died on 30 May 2015, in Temple Hills, MD. Joseph was involved in Geological Survey mapping projects in Antarctica. Year(s) unknown.

OAE Diana Richards Francis died on 8 May 2015. Diana visited Antarctica as a tourist.

Jeanne Lagasse Gamache, 86 died on 13 May 2015, in Tewksbury, MA. Jeanne was a secretary for Operation Deep Freeze in the mid 50s.

OAE LANTFLT MCPOC John W. Gannon, USN (Ret), 83, died on 23 April 2015, in Leeds, MD. John served in Antarctica. Unit and year(s) unknown.

OAE PO1 James Edward Gavin, USN (Ret), 82, died on 3 May 2015, in Camarillo, CA. James served with NSFA. Year(s) unknown.

OAE Cynthia M. Gazvoda, 98, died on 24 May 2015, in Phoenix, AZ. Cynthia visited Antarctica as a tourist.

OAE Andrea Saunders Gereighty, 76, died on 15 May 2015, in Metairie, LA. Andrea visited Antarctica as a tourist.

OAE Audrey Esther Geschke, died on 25 April 2015. Aubrey visited Antarctica as a tourist.

OAE LTCOL Stan Giles, USAF (Ret), 70, died 12 June 2015, in Louisville, TN. Stan served as the NYANG Chplain. Year(s) unknown.

OAE Helen Marcy Golde, 52, died on 11 May 2015, in Washington, DC. Helen visited Antarctica as a NOAA scientist. Year(s) unknown.

OAE Robert Lindner Goodrich, 79, died on 27 June 2015, in Fort Myers, FL. Robert made four trips to Antarctica as a tourist/wildlife photographer.

OAE John Joseph Grant, 93, died on 1 June 2015, in Old Orchard Beach. John visited Antarctica as a tourist.

OAE Ruth Haner-Cremeen, 89, died on 1 May 2015, in Wichita, KS. Ruth visited Antarctica as a tourist.

OAE Mary Helen Hamilton, 80, died on 30 June 2015, in Baton Rouge, LA. Mary Visited Antarctica as a tourist.

OAE CAPT Layne Horace Harwell, USN (Ret), 80, died on 25 June 2015, in Fort Worth, TX. Layne served in VX-6 as a P2V pilot during DF-63.

OAE Inta Sarma Macs Hasenkamp, 75, died on 11 April 2015, in San Francisco, CA. Inta visited Antarctica as a tourist.

OAE Gerald B. Hedges, 75, died on 4 April 2015. Gerald served on the USCGC *Eastwind* and made two deployments to Antarctica. Years unknown.

OAE James Francis Hennessey, 98, died on 26 May 2015. James visited Antarctica as a tourist.

OAE PHC Lee Edward Henning, USN (Ret), 75, died on 29 March 2015, in Deer Park, WA. Lee served in NSFA during DF-80.

OAE Howard "Howie" Benjamin Hofacer, 55, died on 21 May 2015, in Oscoda, Howie made two deployments to Antarctica with the USAP. Year(s) unknown.

OAE Florence Filomena Infante, died on 4 June 2015, in West Orange, NJ. Florence visited Antarctica as a tourist.

OAE Rebecca Robin Jackrel, 43, died on 3 May 2015, in San Francisco, CA. Rebecca visited Antarctica as a wildlife conservation photographer.

OAE Dr. Carol Virginia Johnson, 87, died on 10 June 2015. Carol visited Antarctica as a tourist.

OAE Laura Johnston, 84, died on 4 May 2015, in Oklahoma City, OK. Laura visited Antarctica as a tourist.

*OAE LCDR Edward Gordon Jolly, USN (Ret), 80, died on 15 May 2015, in Port St. Lucie, FL. Ed wintered-over at McMurdo during DF-63 as a PH1.

OAE Francis "Mike" Kearns, USN (Ret), 94, died on 23 April 2015, in Epping Forest, MD. Mike served on the USS *Mount Olympus* during Highjump.

OAE COL Charles W. Kern, USAF (Ret), 84, died on 16 June 2015, in Westover Hills, TX. Charles visited Antarctica as a tourist.

*OAE George P. "Pat" Kraker, died on 14 June 2015, in Denver, CO. Pat first deployed to Antarctica on the USS *Curtiss* during DF-II as a IGY technician. During DF-80 he was the facility engineer at Palmer Station. During DF-82 he was the South Pole Station Manager. And in 1985 he was the NSF Rep aboard the first voyage of the RV *Polar Duke* to the Antarctic Peninsula.

OAE Dr Malcolm Gordon Laird, PhD, 80, a New Zealander, died on mid-winter day (21 June 2015), in Machu Picchu, Peru. Between 1964 and 1983 Malcolm made five deployments to Antarctica with the NZ Antarctic Program as a geologist. He later made several trips to Antarctica serving as a lecturer on tourist vessels. Cape Laird, and Laird Plateau were named in his honor.

OAE John "Jack" Thomas Lamping, Sr., 76, died on 8 April 2015, in St Louis, MO. Jack wintered-over at South Pole Station during DF-61 as the USARP Seismologist. Lamping Peak is named in his honor.

OAE Peter John Linn, 73, died on 21 June 2015, in Westerville, OH. Peter visited Antarctica as a tourist.

OAE Elisabeth "Betsy" Faris Looney, 88, died on 8 April 2015, in Chapel Hill, NC. Betsy visited Antarctica as a tourist.

OAE Priscilla "Pat" G. Lorenz, 92, died on 16 June 2015, in Cambria, CA, Pat visited Antarctica as a tourist.

OAE Emily Ortega Mahler, 88, died on 3 June 2015, in Brea, CA. Emily visited Antarctica as a tourist.

Belva "Libby" E. Mathieson, 97, died on 20 June 2015. Libby worked for the USWB and was involved in the mental screening of personnel assigned to duty in Antarctica. Year(s) unknown.

OAE Mary Ruth Green McKibben, 92, died on 17 April 2015, in Pasadena, CA. Mary visited Antarctica as a tourist.

OAE Virginia "Ginny" Montgomery McLain, 84, died on, 1 May 2015, in Fort Worth, TX. Ginny visited Antarctica as a tourist.

OAE Gene Norman Melvin, USN (Ret), 90, died on 6 June 2015, in Laurel Hill, FL. Gene served during Highjump.

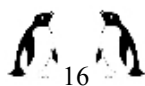
OAE CAPT. Peter A. Morrill USCG (Ret), 85, died on 30 April 2015, in Jackson, MI. Peter served on the USCGC *Westwind* during DF-67. Morrill Peak is named in his honor.

OAE John Arthur "Jay" Morrison, 61, died on 11 June 2015, in Cleveland, OH. Jay served as the second mate on the RV *Hero* in 1988 and he also wintered-over at South Pole Station in 1980.

OAE Jerry Dean Nelsen, 77, died on 9 June 2015, in Wasilla, AK. Jerry served with the Seabees during DF-I and II. As a member of NAVSUPPUNIT THREE.

OAE Robert "Bob" Leighton Nichols, 88, died on 8 May 2015. Bob visited Antarctica as a tourist when he was 80 years old.

OAE Dean Guy Nielson, 83, died on 14 May 2015, in Pocatello, ID. Dean visited Antarctica as a tourist.



- OAE Eileen Kearney Ort, 84, died on 28 April, 2015, in Missoula, MT. Eileen visited Antarctica as a tourist.
- OAE Dr. Bernard Wayne Palmer, Md, 80, died on 23 June 2015, in San Antonio, TX. Bernard visited Antarctica as a penguin lecturer.
- OAE Robert Woodrow Perkins, 96, died on 22 April 2015, in Long Beach, CA. Robert visited Antarctica as a tourist.
- OAE Sheila Catherine Hamilton Ramus, 75, died on 27 May 2015, in Rockford, IL. Sheila visited Antarctica as a tourist.
- *OAE ATC Albert D. Rogers, USN (Ret), 68, died on 28 June 2015, in Pensacola, FL. Al served in VXE-6 from 1983–86. He was also a member of the OAEA Gulf Coast Group Chapter.
- OAE David James Roy, 70, died on 18 April 2015, in West Palm Beach, FL. Davis served on the USS *Mills*. Year(s) unknown.
- OAE Keith Shackleton, 92, died on 17 April 2015. Keith visited Antarctica as a wildlife painter on the MV *Lindblad Explorer*.
- OAE Mary Jane Sikes, 86, died on 12 April 2015. Mary visited Antarctica as a tourist. She was an adventurer, animal rescuer, optometrist, photographer, and occasional tap dancer. She took her leave from this world to explore others.
- OAE MGEN Harold I. "Hank" Small, USA (Ret), 83, died on 5 May 2015, in Poquoson, VA. Hank visited Antarctica as a USAP contractor. Year(s) unknown .
- *OAE Herschel Smith, Sr., 86, died on 15 June 2015, in West Warwick, RI. Herschel served as a SH3 on the USS *Philippine Sea* during Highjump. He was also a member of the OAEA New England Chapter.
- OAE Kenneth Russell Smith, 81, died on 25 May 2015, in Santa Cruz, CA. Kenneth served on the USS *Staten Island* during DF-II.
- OAE David Leo Spooner, 82, died on 29 April 2015. David visited Antarctica three times as a tourist.
- OAE Sally Ann Hiddinga Stebbins, 64, died on 25 May 2015, in Harbor Springs, MI. Sally visited Antarctica twice as a tourist.
- OAE Dr. Lydia Alina Stefanescu, 66, died on 18 June 2015, in Tuscaloosa, FL. Lydia visited Antarctica as a tourist.
- OAE Robert A. Stevens, died on 6 April 2015. Robert served in Antarctica with the US Navy. Unit and year(s) unknown.
- OAE Frances J. Storlie, PhD, 89, died on 11 June 2015, in Oregon. Frances visited Antarctica on a medical mission.
- *OAE ADC John P. "Phil" Strider, USN (Ret), 85, died on 2 April 2015, in Martinsburg, WV. John served in VX-6 during DF-I and II. Strider Rock is named in his honor. He was also a member of the OAEA NE Chapter. See cover story in the Jan-Mar 2015 issue of the *Gazette*.
- OAE Marion Lois "Doris" Tomlin, 91, died on 16 June 2015, in Odessa, TX. Doris visited Antarctica as a tourist.
- OAE John David Triplett, 79, died on 26 February 2015. John, who was a USMC SSGT, made two deployments to Antarctica as a LC-130 navigator. Year(s) unknown.
- OAE Andrew David Tyson, 46, died on 10 April 2015, when the small plane carrying Andy, two coworkers, and the pilot crashed in central Idaho. Andrew visited Antarctica on a mountaineering expedition. Year(s) unknown.
- OAE David R Underhill, 70, died on April 26, 2015, in Bonita Springs, FL. David visited Antarctica twice as a tourist.
- *OAE Fredrick Carl Walters, USCG (Ret), 75, died on 10 June 2015, in Poland ME. Frederick served as a SK2 on the USS *Arneb* from 1958–60. He later joining the USCG and served on the USCGC *Eastwind* during DF-67 as an AE3. He was a member of the OAEA NE Chapter and the Antarctic Society.
- OAE William "Willie" Whalen, 64, died on 15 April 2015. Willie served in Antarctica with the US Navy. Unit and year(s) unknown.
- OAE COL Robert Edward Whiting, Sr., USAF (Ret), 87, died on 14 June 2015, in San Antonio, TX. Robert visited Antarctica as a tourist.
- OAE John A. Wright, 87, died on 3 April 2015, in Sebring, FL. John served in Antarctica with the US Navy as a radarman third class (RD3). Ship and year(s) unknown.

Chaplain's Corner

Johnnie Draughon—OAEA Chaplain

This morning the temperature in McMurdo is listed as minus 17°F. The expected high today in Virginia Beach is 101. This contrast in temperature reminds me of my own exposure to temperature extremes while serving in the Navy. On a quick turn-around to Pole in 1976 the temperature dropped to minus 89°F. Since we were going to be stuck in town for a while several of us decided to join the 200 degree club—you know, crank the thermostat in the sauna up to 120°F, sit there for a few minutes and they run outside the dome and around the world—very quickly—wearing nothing but a pair of bunny



boots. In 1988 we used to jog around the deck of a destroyer in the south end of the Red Sea when the temperature was up to 120°F. And I wonder why my metabolism is so messed up? Like the Apostle Paul said in 1 Corinthians:

Everything is permissible—but not everything is beneficial.

Everything is permissible—but not everything is constructive.

Perhaps many of my decisions in life have been neither permissible nor constructive. As you read this edition of the *Gazette* the winter-over crews for 2015 will be winding down their operations and preparing to receive the summer visitors to The Ice. Please keep them in your thoughts and prayers that their decisions might be wise and that the end of their deployment might be safe and successful.

May the blessings be!

NUMBERS GAME

By Peter Rejcek, Antarctic Sun Editor

2015 South Pole Winter-Over Crew Includes New Records For Youth And Longevity



Photo by Marissa Goerke

Members of the 2015 South Pole Station winter-over crew remove the flags that encircle the ceremonial pole for the winter. The flags represent the original 12 nations that signed the Antarctic Treaty.

Spending a winter in Antarctica is just as challenging as it sounds. For the 45 people who remain at South Pole Station through the cold and dark months this year, winter is a unique experience shared by a rare few.

In fact, only 1,454 people have wintered over at the South Pole since the first station was built in 1957, according to Bill Spindler's annual tally on his website at www.southpolestation.com. The unofficial historian of South Pole, Spindler wintered over three times at 90 degrees south, the first time in 1977 "I do continue to enjoy it," Spindler says of the annual compilation. "I'm a long-time student of the station population dynamics and interaction."

Each year, Spindler updates his voluminous list of South Pole winter-over stats, beginning with the latest winter-over crew, usually around the time when the sun sets for the first and last time of the year due to the station's extreme southern latitude. This year sunset was at 2:13 p.m. local time on 23 March. It won't fully reappear until 5:03 p.m. on 21 Sept.

The 2015 winter-over team consists of 37 men and eight women. Nine of this year's crew have wintered at least once, and this winter includes two who have each wintered a record 11 times—Robert Schwarz and Johan Booth. This year Schwarz also tied the record for consecutive winters at five, joining Joseph "Jake Speed" Gibbons, who was the only other Polie to accomplish the feat back in 2000–2004.

A few other new records also emerged this winter, Marissa Goerke, one of two research associates on station is the youngest women to winter at Pole. She turned 23 in February. A couple of new nations are also represented this winter: facilities engineer Nizar Hashemi was born in Iraq and meteorologist Supria Calvert-Reisner was born in Thailand.

The 2015 crew is a little larger than recent years, though far short of the record 86 people who wintered in 2005 during construction of the new research station. The first winter crew in 1957 included 18 men and one dog, Bravo.

The percentage of women wintering this year is near the average of about 15 percent, as only 214 women have wintered over at the South Pole. The first woman, Michele Raney, didn't achieve that mark until 1979. Heidi Lim holds the record for the most winters at Pole for a female at five.

Booth is tied for the all-time record of winters in Antarctica with George Lampman, who works at McMurdo Station. Both men are spending their 17th winter in Antarctica. The record-holder for women, Angela Garner, is not far behind, with 14 winters, all of them at McMurdo.



SKUA JUNK

McMurdo residents find second-hand treasures while cleaning up station

From a Story By Brad Greer

“Hey, that was mine!” exclaimed Travis Groh, Waste Management supervisor, as he spied a blue-and-white striped hooded sweatshirt being pulled out of a box. He brought the garment to the Ice more than three years ago, and he was pleased to see it turn back up in skua.

A scavenger bird of the Antarctic, skua is also the adopted name for the collection of miscellaneous items that



Photo Credit: Kira Morris
Senior materials person Joseph Singleton organizes work boots left behind by summer staff.

SKUA 101

Noun: the world’s southernmost flying bird and a relentless hunter.

Noun: the adopted name for the collection of miscellaneous items that USAP participants leave behind for use by current and future residents.

Verb: to put in or receive an item from the skua recycling system. “I skuaed that last year.” “I’m skuaing this shirt.”

Adjective: describing an item that was acquired from the skua system. “This is my favorite skua shirt.” “This is a skua hat.”

Unclaimed quality items were placed back in boxes for future residents.

Skua is a primary way for USAP participants who operate and maintain this remote, frigid town at the end of the world to acquire personal effects.

“I found some new running shoes, so my workouts have been going better,” said work order scheduler Rebekah Osgood. “I also found two bars of chocolate. Personally, that might be the highlight of the event.”

U. S. Antarctic Program (USAP) participants leave behind for use by current and future residents.

More than a thousand USAP participants pass through McMurdo Station during an austral summer season, so the collection of available skua is never greater than at the beginning of the winter, just after the summer flights conclude and the population is pared down almost six-fold.

Groh, his fellow waste department staff, and about 50 volunteers gathered in the Waste Operations work center last month to sort, evaluate, and, of course, claim various goods. This year, there were more than 600 cubic feet of skua piled into 16 large cardboard boxes.

The volunteers eagerly pulled on work gloves in anticipation of the opportunity to dig for skua treasures. As an upbeat play list sounded from the background, they began rifling through the open boxes. The skua sorting party was underway.

What followed was high-energy, organized chaos.

Items were passed from person to person and names were shouted across the room as people sized up and identified potential owners of high-quality, reusable boots, base-layers, coats, hats, gloves, costume pieces, sauces, spices, teas, electronics, decorations, toys, books, and even home furnishings.



McMurdo and the other stations boast a strong recycling culture, where people take the idea of conservation seriously, with the USAP recycling at least 60 percent of its waste. Skua is just one manifestation of that culture, acting as an internal materials recycling system that significantly reduces the volume of items that might otherwise have ended up in landfills back in the United States.

"We went from 16 boxes of unsorted goods, to eight boxes of good skua," Groh reported after the event. This means half the items that might otherwise have become waste were identified as potential candidates for reuse. The rest either went home with the volunteers or deemed rubbish. From the standpoint of most of the volunteers, however, the value of skua is found in the objects themselves.

"I found a water-filtering pitcher complete with three replacement filters," said senior materials person Joseph Singleton. While the drinking water at McMurdo is of high quality, Singleton was excited to have a filtered pitcher to keep cold water in his dormitory refrigerator.

"I found a few books, a Finding Nemo hat, and a box I put in skua last year that I use as a table for doing crossword puzzles in my room," said Kyle Morrison, the station's network engineer. Morrison, like Groh, has worked here enough seasons to see some of her own skua being recycled, or even to reclaim it again for herself.



Photo Credit: Peter Rejcek/Antarctic Photo Library

Don't let this scene of domesticity fool you: The skua is a relentless, if beloved, scavenger seabird of Antarctica.

A couple participants good-naturedly haggled over a set of costume elf ears while others held up unusual decorative pieces, imagining how they might look in their rooms. In this way, skua is also a manifestation of the unbridled creativity of McMurdo residents and helps define the culture of the small town.

"I found an Antarctic skirt a friend of mine made years ago for McMurdo's craft fair. I always wanted one. So, I was excited not only to find the exact thing I wanted but also to see something made by a past winter friend," said research associate Elizabeth Widen.

Skua party scores tended toward a mix between the practical and fun, the risqué and the ridiculous. Santa hats, Valley Doll hot sauce from the Virgin Islands, Christmas lights, a Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtle laundry basket, and SmartWool socks were among the cache of claimed treasures this year.

"Each year, our boss puts this flamingo hat back into skua. Then we find it and give it back to him when he returns for summer," said a smiling Natalie Brechtel, a fuels operator who is wintering over at McMurdo this year. "It's become a tradition, an ongoing joke."

Life on the seventh continent can be tough. This may be especially true in winter, as the light recedes and the temperatures drop. But the act of skua-ing, whether one gives or receives, is a kindness that USAP participants pay to one another. Finding a small slice of home in a decorative basket, donning a jacket worn by a friend from a previous season or noticing someone find joy in an object you no longer need, are all ways that residents bond in a place often devoid of comforts, on a cold island, far far from home.



Photo by Kira Morris

McMurdo Station residents sort through 16 large cardboard boxes of skua, miscellaneous items left behind by others that may prove to be another person's treasured possession.

WEST COAST GROUP

By Bob Gaboury
OAEA VP

We had a great OAE West Coast Group Get Together luncheon on 13 June at Mangia Italiano in Chula Vista, CA. We had a moment of silence in memory of Cy Buehler.

We broke bread and Gabby could not shut up, he was on a roll for most of the meeting. He blames that on a small pill that his sleep apnea doctor gave him.

*Foot note from Gabby
I really don't need a
pill to get me going.*



Mangia Italiano

The next meet up will be on 10 October at Polly's Pies in Laguna Hills, CA, Mark your calendars for 10 October 2015. I will be sending out RSVPs as we get closer to the date.

If anyone is interested in becoming a member of the OAEA West Coast Group you can contact Bob (aka "Gabby" at bobgaboury@gmail.com.



West Coast Group Meeting

Back Row L to R: Bob Gaboury "Gabby" WO DF-75 PP&L -- Richard Pillsbury WO DF-70 Byrd Station -- Bill Rouzer DF-74 Supply

Middle Row L to R: Jim Eblen WO DF-IV, SS 60-62, 65-67 VX-6 -- Roy Allen 76-80 VXE-6

Front Row L to R: Ruth Eblem -- Linda Gaboury -- Faith Maybury -- CoCo Rouzer, Ron Stone 57-59 VX-6 R4D Pilot -- Jack Kane 76-80 NSFA

PICTURES AND STORIES FROM DAYS GONE BY

by Billy-Ace

Photo from an unknown newspaper

Circa 1957-58

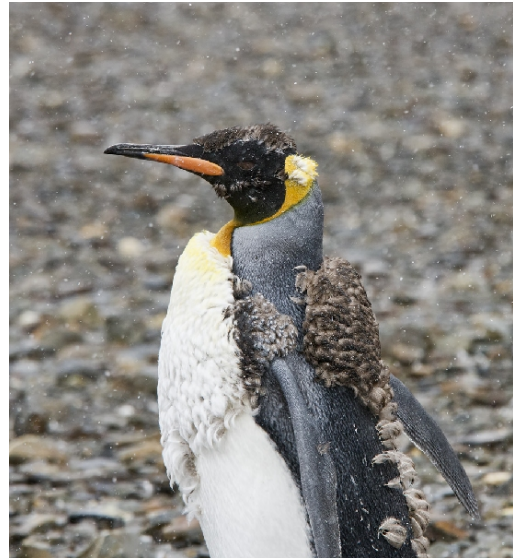
ASPERGILLOSIS? Hector, the educated penguin, looks shocked at what he reads in a medical journal. Eleven fellow penguins have died from aspergillosis, a lung infection, but Hector was revived by a new amphotericin drug when he was found half dead. The axe and rope? To climb on the sofa of course.

Editor's Note: Having read a few books about penguins I did NOT recall reading anything about Aspergillolsis, so I asked the OAEA penguin expert and his reply follows:

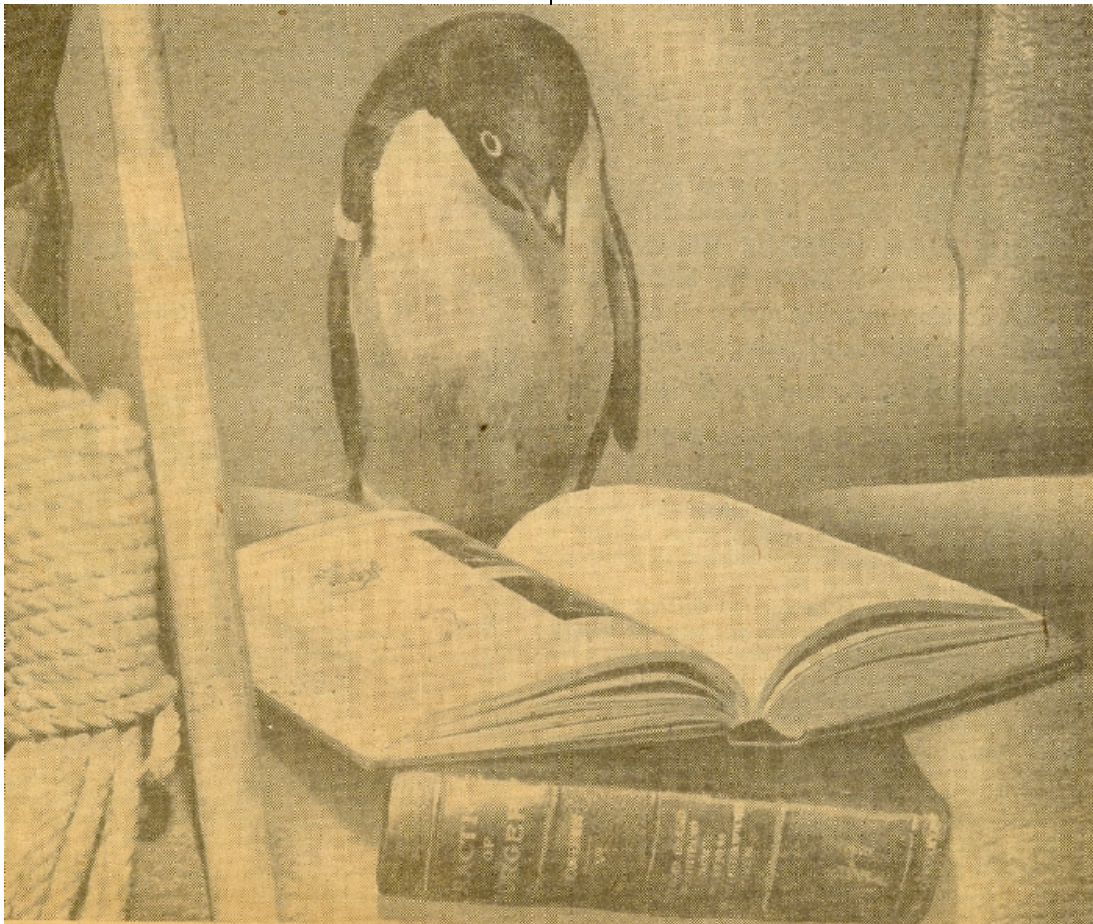
Billy-Ace,

I know that aspergillosis can be prevalent among penguins in zoos, particularly ones whose environment is warmer, more humid than what they are used to. When I was a grad student in Baltimore, the Baltimore zoo was trying to deal with this with Humboldt and Jackass penguins. But I'm not up on the veterinary literature to have any insights into its in and outs. Regards,

David Ainley



Was This Bad Molt Caused By Aspergillosis?



Hector The Educated Penguin Brushes Up On What It Is

ELEPHANT ISLAND & BEYOND

The Life and Diaries of Thomas Orde Lees

Reviews edited by Vik Offshodefor

BOOK REVIEW



Elephant Island & Beyond. The Life and Diaries of Thomas Orde Lees, by John Thomson, Bluntisham Books The Erskine Press, 2003, United Kingdom 339 pages, illustrated with black and white photos and drawings, acknowledgements, bibliography, and index, hardback in dust wrapper. Available from Amazon.com.

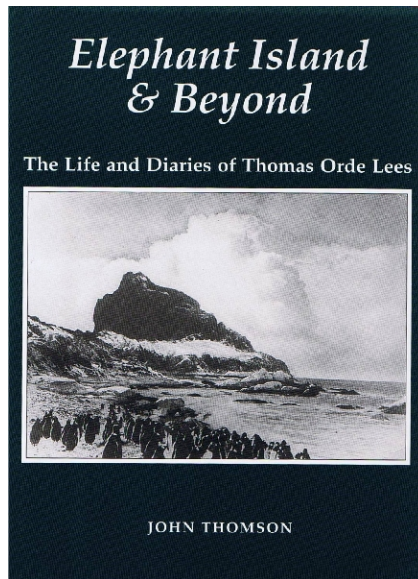
About the Author

John Bell Thomson is a retired journalist living in New Zealand. He had a 50-year newspaper and news agency career in New Zealand, Australia, Britain, and East Africa. This is his third book, and the second concerning members of the Shackleton expedition of 1914–16.

Orde Lees returned from Shackleton's 1914 expedition with the reputation of being the least popular and most criticized of the men involved with the *Endurance*, and his sullied reputation continued up to his death in 1958. Heavily castigated in most published accounts of Shackleton's adventure (but, curiously, not by Shackleton himself) he was called cowardly and lazy. That Orde Lees diary remained unpublished until 2003 undoubtedly denied him the opportunity of speaking up for himself. This belated and most welcomed book is, therefore, a boon to revisionist historians, and is a redemptive testament to a much misunderstood and unfairly maligned man. Joe O Farrell is a historian and writer on Polar matters and the above was taken from an article in which he gives his own personal top-ten favorite polar books that have given him the greatest reading pleasure. *Elephant Island and Beyond* was No 6 in his list.

—Nimrod *The Journal of the Ernest Shackleton Expedition* Autumn School, October, 2007 Joe O Farrell.

History has been particularly unkind to Orde Lees. The professional marine recruited as the expeditions motor expert has been widely portrayed as a pompous, ingratiating snob who, rumor has it, was the first on the list of men to be killed and eaten by the starving men marooned of Elephant Island if Shackleton had not succeeded in rescuing them. That he was



unpopular is indisputable. Yet his willingness to shoulder the burden of quartermaster was key to their survival. The slurs that have tainted Orde Lees memory are given short shrift in John Thomson's brilliant revisionist study of the polar explorer who was later decorated for his bravery in pioneering the development of the parachute as a lifesaver for aviators. Merging biographical narrative with the most complete version of [his] oft-plundered diaries to be published, Thomson reveals a man at odds with the image that has been created; a man far more tolerant and forgiving of his companions than they ever were of him. To read his Antarctic diary entries is to be astonished by the ingenuity and

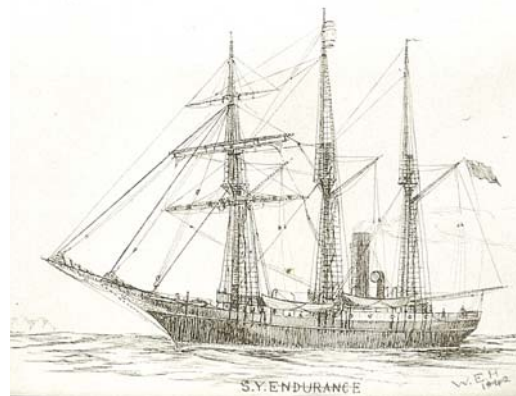
awed by the sheer resolution and steadfastness under the most trying conditions imaginable.

—Eastern Daily Press, July 2003

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With the recent upsurge of interest in Sir Ernest Shackleton's Imperial Trans-Antarctic Expedition on board *Endurance* (1914–17), which has manifested itself in books, documentaries, and feature films, the details of that expedition will be known to many readers. To summarize, the expedition sailed from England on board *Endurance* on 8 August 1914 with the aim of crossing Antarctica from the Weddell Sea to the Ross Sea. The ship became beset in the ice of the Weddell Sea on 18 January 1915 and was crushed and sank on 21 November. The entire ship's company (28 men) drifted north in a camp on the ice, until they took to



By Walter How

Endurance Drawn In 1942 For Commander Frank Worsley

three of the ship's boats at 72° S. After traveling northward some 110 km, they landed on barren, inhospitable Elephant Island on 15 April. The party improvised a shelter from two of the overturned boats, and on 24 April Shackleton, with four companions, set off to sail the third boat, *James Caird*, to South Georgia.



Orde Lees In His Uniform As A Lieutenant Commander In The Imperial Japanese Navy

A theme common to most recent accounts of the expedition is that Thomas Orde Lees, a captain in the Royal Marines hired primarily to look after the expedition's motor transport (motor sledges and an aero-sledge), was the least popular member of the expedition. Having been put in charge of stores once the ship became beset and subsequently during the ice-drift, the boat journey, and the protracted sojourn on Elephant Island, Orde Lees kept the party on tight rations, and for this reason alone he was less than popular, especially among the crew. As the only serving officer in H.M.'s forces, he tended to be "on the outside," not fitting in well with any of the groups that tended to form; he was mockingly referred to by other members of the expedition as "the Colonel." But as Thomson stresses, various accounts by expedition members, including Shackleton's own account, *South*, or Frank Worsley's *Endurance: An Epic of Polar Adventure*, do not denigrate Orde Lees to any noticeable extent. Unfortunately, later writers have seized upon a few biased and unfair comments in unpublished diaries and have highlighted them. Probably the most extreme example (noticeably unsupported by any references) is to be found in an article by A.G.E. Jones, according to whom Orde Lees "had shown himself to be lazy and cowardly" during the boat journey to Elephant Island (Jones, 1992:383). The truth, as Worsley pointed out, was that despite hating small boats—and being probably the most prone to seasickness of any member of the party, which meant that he was vomiting and retching for most of the boat voyage—Orde Lees bailed

steadily, and thus did more than his share to help keep his boat, the *Dudley Docker*, afloat.

Thomson's stated objective in publishing Orde Lees' diary is "to move the focus by which Orde Lees deserves to be remembered from the emotional and negative factors so glibly recorded and recycled to his most excellent contribution, in particular the journal which he left, the only personal day-by-day account of the expedition from the first day out from England to the rescue from Elephant Island two years later".



Orde Lees Friggin With the Riggin

To this end, as an entree to the diary, Thomson provides a detailed picture of the man's background, including the little-known fact that he was illegitimate, a fact that was carefully concealed by his father (Chief Constable of Northamptonshire and later the Isle of Wight), his father's wife, and Orde Lees' biological mother, who, remarkably, remained a close friend of the family. As Thomson points out, this fact alone goes a long way to explain why he should have tended to be aloof and secretive, traits for which he has been often criticized.



Orde Lees In Back Seat



Orde Lees Puppet

Thomson makes it clear that the diary as presented here is not complete. The surviving sections of the diary (part in the Alexander Turnbull Library in Wellington, New Zealand, and part in the Dartmouth College Library in Hanover, New Hampshire) total over 1000 manuscript pages. Thomson has eliminated the entries covering the early stages of the expedition (from the departure from England to the point where the ship became beset in the Weddell Sea), as well as those following the rescue of the party from Elephant Island by the Chilean tug *Yelcho* on 30 August 1916. At various points where there was little of interest in the journal, Thomson has summarized the material.

Given his upper-class background and education (Marlborough, Royal Academy, Gosport, and the Royal Naval College), it was scarcely surprising that Orde Lees felt himself superior to other members of the party. But to his credit, he had the sincerity to recognize that this might cause ill feeling, and although he might find an individual objectionable, he was ready to acknowledge that person's good qualities. Thus he found the carpenter, MacNeish, "a perfect pig in every way", "objectionable and cantankerous" and a "horrid old man", with "an exceptionally offensive manner", but with reference to his skills in building a sledge to carry one of the boats, acknowledged that "he certainly is a brilliant workman". Of the crew as a whole, he commented:

"individually they are good enough fellows, but collectively they are beneath contempt". However he was aware of his own shortcomings and acknowledged that it was "a good thing to accommodate oneself to ideas and ways less refined than one's own". Later, during the long wait on Elephant Island, he confided to his diary: "I think perhaps that at times I may be rather tactless, even rather snobbish; I fear I may have aired my superior education etc. to some who have not had the same advantages as myself, and it is not unnatural that others resent it".

Orde Lees held Shackleton in the highest regard, and the journal entries are full of laudatory comments, noting for example his "calm and resolute dignity with which he bears his paralyzing reverse", when *Endurance* became solidly beset, or the way in which "he laughs and jokes with each of us, good humouredly as ever" despite the mental strain of waiting while they drifted north with the pack. It is noticeable that Orde Lees invariably refers to Shackleton as "Sir Ernest" and not "the Boss," as everyone else called him. Undoubtedly his manner towards Shackleton must have appeared quite subservient. Other members of the party saw this as toadying, and on one occasion Dr. McIlroy gave an impersonation of Orde Lees "groveling" to Shackleton. It is to Orde Lees' credit, however, that he related the incident in some detail in his diary and noted: "Still, all said and done, there is no smoke without fire and perhaps the broad hint will do me good". Thomson's assessment is that this "toadying" "will have been to Orde Lees no more than an officer's well drilled respect for his commander". He also noted that Orde Lees had solid grounds for being grateful to Shackleton, who relinquished his own bunk in his well-heated cabin to Orde Lees when the latter was suffering from sciatica, even "making me a cup of tea during the night if I happened to say that I was thirsty".

Perhaps we owe our greatest debt to Orde Lees for the detail and high caliber of his diary entries. His description of the final agonies of *Endurance* when the ship was crushed makes a powerful impression, and some of his portrayals of the skies or the ice are very poetic. His description of the sunset as seen from Elephant Island on 6 June is particularly evocative. Jones, in typically acerbic vein, commented that this was an occasion when "Lees forgot his customary gloom and became almost literary" (Jones, 1992:384), failing to recognize that this was only one example of Lees' many powerful descriptions, revealing a sensitive and artistic soul.

During the long, tedious months of waiting on Elephant Island, Orde Lees found himself engaged in a strange battle of wills with Frank Wild, Shackleton's second-in-command, who had been placed in charge of the party left on the island. Given their precarious food situation, Orde Lees argued that all seals and penguins that came ashore should be killed for food and fuel, anticipating that few, if any, would come ashore once winter arrived. Wild, on the other hand, felt that the men might get despondent if they thought that preparations were being made for a wintering. For example, when 200 penguins came ashore on 9 May, Wild would

allow only 50 to be killed, and on 10 May when 300 landed, only 30 were allowed to be killed. Orde Lees' view was that "we do not need to be bolstered up and encouraged with optimistic utterances [as to an early rescue] which more often than not have not so far been realized", and "I think it culpable not to secure the food when providence sends it like this. It is taking quite unjustifiable risks". In an editor's note, Thomson comments very sensibly that "Wild's decision not to kill everything in sight for a food reserve seemed a triumph of optimism over commonsense". The result was that on 26 August, only four days before the Chilean tug *Yelcho* arrived to rescue them, the party had only eight days' food left. There would probably have been even less of a reserve, or even none at all, without Orde Lees' nagging. It says much for both men that despite these tensions, Orde Lees noted that "on other matters we often argue amicably". And it says even more for Orde Lees that after the rescue he wrote a glowing tribute to "our splendid, capable leader, Wild, who by his buoyant optimism, dogged determination, unrivalled experience and calm demeanor, had pulled us through these trying months of waiting".



Thomas Orde Lees & Hisako At The Time Of Their Marriage In 1932

The edited version of the diary ends with the rescue from Elephant Island, but by then it is abundantly clear that Thomson has duly achieved his objective of restoring Orde Lees' unfairly tarnished image, and has effectively focused attention on one of the most impressive journals from the history of polar exploration.

In the final chapters, Thomson describes Orde Lees' later life; this presumably represents the "and beyond" of the title. Joining the Royal Flying Corps in 1918, he became a pioneer

in parachuting, and despite stiff and protracted official opposition, he finally persuaded the RAF to provide parachutes for its pilots by the end of World War I. In 1921, he was a member of a British mission to Japan to teach Japanese naval pilots and to pursue some rather vague intelligence function. In 1941 he moved to New Zealand, where he lived for the rest of his life in relative poverty and died in 1958.

Thomson devotes an entire chapter to the widely disseminated story that just before the party was rescued from Elephant Island by the *Yelcho*, its members (or at least the majority of them) had decided that they would have to resort to cannibalism imminently, and that Orde Lees was the first who would be killed and eaten. The reader of this review will have to read the book to find out the truth of this persistent story.



An Artist's Impression Of The Parachute Demonstration Just Off The Statue Of Liberty In 1919

With this book, Bluntisham Books and the Erskine Press have contributed an impressive new addition to their Antarctic collection. The book is handsomely produced, and I found no typographical errors. It represents a major contribution to the literature of the Heroic Age of Antarctica, and, importantly, it shows Orde Lees in his true colors for the first time.

—William Barr
The Arctic Institute of North America
University of Calgary, Alberta, Canada

NEW OAEA MEMBERS

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

Thanks to John Lamont West, Chuck Fegley, Ed Hamblin, GCG Chapter, and NE Chapter, 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.

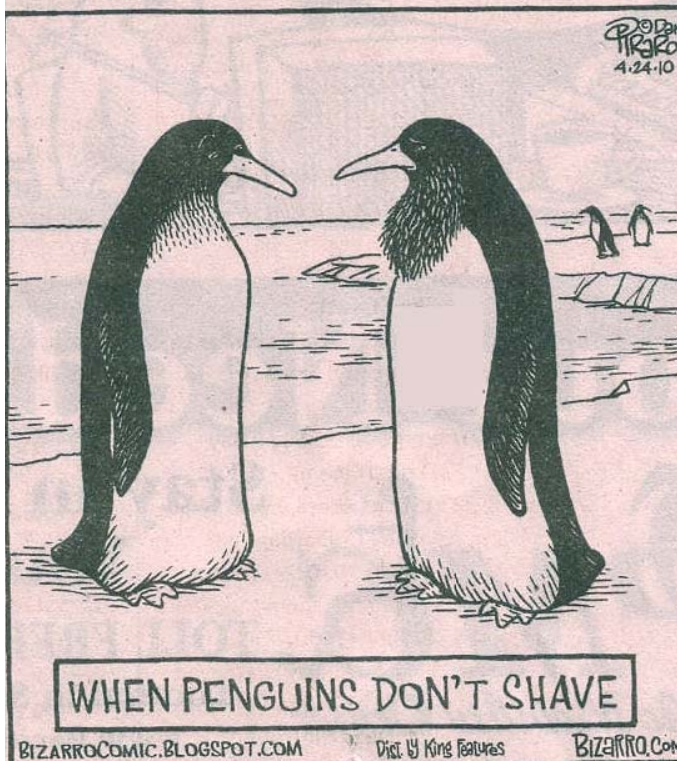
*Denotes Associate Member

§Denotes Upgrade to Life or Renewal of Annual Member

ΦDenotes Upgrade to Regular Member

Ainley, David, CIV	§Life	NSF 68-08
Brooks, Russell UCCM	Life	WO Byrd DF-64
Laurie, John CIV	Life	Russian Icebreaker
Mattern, James ABCM	Life	NSFA SS 70-74
Porcello, Denise CIV	§*Annual	NE Groupie
Tache, Arthur UTP3	Life	ASA SS McMurdo & Byrd 60-62
Walwrath, Ron BMSN	Life	USCGC <i>Eastwind</i> 62-63

Bizarro by Dan Piraro



REUNION & MEETING INFORMATION

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

MCB-1: Port Hueneme, CA: 15-18 October 2015. POC Peter Dowd, 89 Edward Rd, Marshfield, MA 02050, by phone at: 781 837 0393, or by email at: danang1966@hotmail.com. MCB-I served during DF-II, III, IV, and DF-62.

USS Mills (DE/DER-383): Beaufort, NC. 29 October through 2 November 2015. POC Ben Laurens 252 504 3733, or by email at: nrviver@ec.rr.com. The *Mills* served during DF-65, 67, and 68.

USS Wilhoite (DER 397): Mobile, AL. 5-8 October 2015. POC: Email at: canerday@centurytel.net, phone 379 968 1236, or www.usswilhoite.org. The *Wilhoite* served during DF-61.

Burton Island Association: Pigeon Forge, TN 17-21 August 2015. POC: Robert Sanchez, 505 550 8495 or rjssr52@comcast.net. The *Burton Island* served during DF-III, 60, 62, 64, 68-70, 73, 75, and 78.

USS Yancey (AKA-93): Nashville, TN. 24-28 September 2015. POC: Phone: 708 425 8531, or email at clifs@ameritech.net, or www.ussyancey.com. The *Yancey* served during Highjump.

USS Glacier (AGB-4): Norfolk, VA, 23-27 September 2015. POC: Gordon Wagoner, by phone: 952 935 1107, or by email: gdwagon@comcast.net. The *Glacier* served from DF-I through DF-87

American Polar Society: La Jolla, CA, 3-6 November 2015. POC: Charles Lagerbom at aps@bluestreakme.com

VX/VXE-6: Pensacola, FL, 4-8 November 2015. POC: Dan Knox, by phone at: 850 516 3301. VX-/VXE-6 served from DF-II through 99.

OAEA: Norwich, CT, 10-14 October 2016. POC Billie and Larry Hunter, billiehunter52@yahoo.com, 310 Bitgood Road, Griswold, CT 06351, or 860-376-4790.

Cargo Handling Battalion Six: Mount Pocono, PA, 11-13 November 2015, POC CMC Vito Motisi 197D Ramapo Road, Garnerville, NY, 914 629 7622, or vbmotisi@yahoo.com.

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.

- I have duplicate Deep Freeze cruise books in my collection that I would like to trade for cruise books that I do not have.

DUPLICATE BOOKS

<u>UNIT</u>	<u>YEAR</u>
TF-43	DF-II
TF-43	DF-III
ASA/VX-6 WO	DF-III
USS <i>Staten. Island</i>	DF-IV
USS <i>Arneb</i>	DF-60
ASA/VX-6 WO	DF-60
TF-43 (All Units)	DF-60
TF-43 (All Units)	DF-61
USS <i>Arneb</i>	DF-61
MCB-1	DF-62
USS <i>Eastwind</i>	DF-63
USS <i>Arneb</i>	DF-63
TF-43	DF-64
ASA (SS&WO)	DF-66
USS <i>T. J. Gary</i>	DF-67
VX-6	DF-68
VXE-6	DF-75
NSFA	DF-77
NSFA	DF-81
NSFA WO	DF-85
NSFA & VXE-6	DF-86
VXE-6	DF-87

I have not listed the cruise books that I need because the list would be too long and I know that there were some years that units participating in Deep Freeze did NOT publish a cruise book. I am especially interested in Antarctica Support Activities, NavSuppForAntarctica, VX/VXE-6, and icebreaker cruise books. If anyone has books to trade please let me know. My contact info is at the top of this column.

- Andy McMinn is looking for anyone who wintered-over with his dad, Anderson Nolan McMinn, at McMurdo during DF-61. Andy can be reached by phone at (home) 719-784-9269 or (cell) 719-371-5712, or by mail at 500 Shadow Pl Florence CO 81226, or by email at: anmm@bresnan.net.

- Eugene Campbell is trying to locate Raymond Smith who was involved in Operation Deep Freeze in the early 1970s. Raymond was in VXE-6 with the rank of PH2 (Photographers Mate Second Class). Eugene can be reached at: 55a Englefield Road Northwood, Christchurch, New Zealand. By phone at: +64 21 053-062, or by email at: eugeneccampbell@outlook.com.

- Allison Berger is looking for Charles Harris, who went by the nickname "Slim". He served in Christchurch, New Zealand during September/October 1973 with Operation Deep Freeze, and was assigned to VXE-6. He was from Atlanta, Georgia and was of African American Descent. She is trying to find any information for her partner, who has never met his father. Her partner's mother's name is Patricia "Pat" Budd; she was traveling at the time with her sister Pamela "Pam" Budd. The two of them were in Christchurch for a couple of months, and then returned home to Sydney. Pat thought she was told that he was part of the Seabee construction team of VXE-6, or that was where she was to send letters. The below photo of Pat was taken around that time, or a couple of years later. Allison can be contacted by mail at: 16 Ashby Street, Kingsgrove, NSW. Australia 2208, or by email at: allison.berger@amfbowling.com.au.

Editor's Note: I do not have access to a squadron cruise books for that time frame, but I do have one for VXE-6 for DF-75 (1974-75) and in the list of assigned personnel there is an Aviation Storekeeper Third Class. (AK3) Charles H. Harris. He is probably the man in question. I could not find a photo of him.



Patricia Budd Circa 1975

New England Chapter Summer 2015 Meeting



By Marty Diller

New England Chapter Secretary-Treasurer

The New England Chapter visited a new restaurant for their Summer meeting—Capone’s, in Peabody, MA. A total of 59 members and guests attended the meeting (second-largest ever for a summer meeting), which totally filled the dining room at Capone’s. Merchandise Coordinator Dave Hazard was unable to attend this meeting—a fortuitous coincidence, because there would have been no room for his merchandise table and wares in that room.



Marty

Chapter Business

Before commencing the business portion of today’s event, Chapter member At-Large, Tom Henderson, presented a film trailer for a documentary he is making about Antarctic aviation history: *Ice Eagles*—“An Account of American Aviation in Antarctica.” (See page 3 of the Jan-Mar 2015 edition of the *Explorer’s Gazette* for more details.) The Chapter’s Board of Directors had asked Tom to explain his project to the members in hopes that the members would support Tom’s project with a donation. After Tom

answered questions about his project, a quick business meeting was conducted.



Tom Henderson

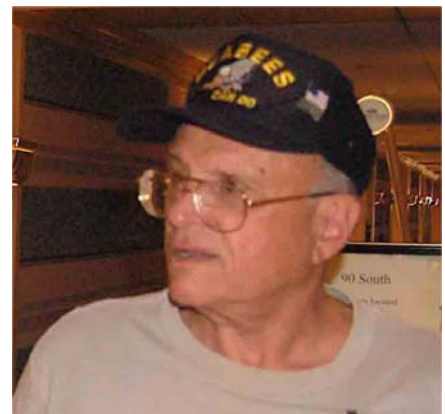
During the meeting, the members voted to donate \$500 to Tom’s *Ice Eagles* documentary. Tom thanked everyone for the donation, and said he would use it to extend his research into Antarctic aviation history. Indeed, while in New England for the next few days, Tom’s plan was to interview some former members of the Navy’s VX-6 squadron. In other Chapter business:

- Members approved the creation of a reunion checking account for the 2016 OAEA Reunion Committee;
- Director Fred Santino introduced an Antarctic History Questionnaire form intended to gather information from members about their Antarctic experience. He plans to use the information to compile an Antarctic history booklet about our Chapter members; and
- Member Charlie ‘CB’ Bevilacqua advised attendees of an opportunity to have first class postage cancelled at South Pole Station during the coming austral summer. For a small fee to cover postage and handling, attendees who bring

letters to the Fall meeting can seal them in special envelopes that will be carried to the South Pole for subsequent mailing via the USPS.



Fred Santino



“CB” Bevilacqua

Fundraising

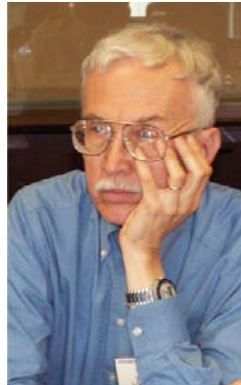
Raffle winners included:

- Bob Berube: penguin throw
- Barry Chase: book *Antarctic Wildlife*
- John Clough: 2012 OAEA Reunion pin
- John Drews: homemade pumpkin bread loaf, book *The Fifth Man*
- John Giro: Williams Field plaque

- Fred Gladstone: pumpkin bread loaf, Sharpe Hill white wine
- Guest Richard Gutman: pumpkin bread loaf, DVD *Antarctica – A Year On Ice*
- John Hollo: pumpkin bread loaf
- Billie Hunter: glass penguin paper-weight
- Larry Hunter: set of two scented candles
- Jules Madey: small stuffed penguin
- Nancy McKenna: book *Deception Island*
- Francis Molla: Penguin candle, watercolor of a park
- Jim Rooney: Chapter-logo T-shirt
- George Smith: book *March of the Penguins*
- Marilyn Smith: glass penguin figurine
- Guest Art Tache: *Dirty Dancing* DVD, Chapter-logo T-shirt
- The big door prize, a free meal at a future Chapter meeting, was won by George Smith, Topsham, ME.



Billie Hunter



Jules Madey



John Hollo



John Drews



Jim Rooney



Nancy McKenna

Meeting Schedule

The next OAEA-NE Chapter meeting is scheduled for 1pm on Saturday, 26 September 2015, at the *Bull N' Claw* restaurant in Wells, ME.

Editor's Note: When Marty told me that no one had taken any photos at the meeting I dug up a few old file photos from the archives of some of the people he mentioned. Sorry I couldn't find a photo of everyone.



Gulf Coast Group Chapter Happenings

by Billy-Ace Penguin Baker

Saturday 4 April 2015 GCG Chapter Meeting

—24 Members and guest showed up for the first meeting at Ollie's Neighborhood Grill.

We did not have a guest speaker, but first time attendee, Jan Fietz, spoke a few words about her Antarctic experience. Jan was in NSFA from 1994 through 1998.



Jan Fietz NSFA 1994-98

After Duck said a few words the drawings were held. Keith Lambert who took home \$46 as his share won the 50/50 drawing. Duck and Raine Talbert won the door prize drawing. The door prize consisted of a bag of goodies from the Norfolk reunion meeting donated by the Preston's, who were not at today's meeting.



Keith Lambert



Raine & Duck, The Door Prize Winners

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned. Thanks to the wait staff and our head waitress Sunshine who took good care of everyone. Also thanks to Lennie for taking the photos used in this report. Also thanks to Duck and Pam for distributing the raffle/door prize tickets. Our next meeting will be at Ollie's on 2 May.



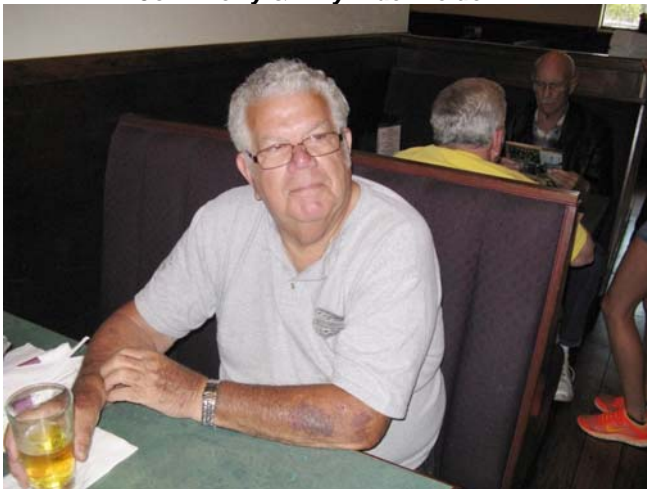
Al Rogers & Pam Landy

Saturday 2 May 2015 Meeting—17 members and guests showed up for our second meeting at Ollie's. Not much of a turn out.

In spite of the poor attendance we still had a 50/50 raffle and a door prize drawing. Mike Kovacs who took home \$36 as his share of the pot won the 50/50. John Perry Blackwelder won the door prize, consisting of a Penguin Vodka pin, and a box of penguin paper clips.



John Perry & Billy Blackwelder



Mike Kovacs

Since our glorious leader, Duck Talbert, was out of town attending the NNPU reunion in New York there were no announcements and no chapter business, so the meeting was adjourned. Thanks to everyone who helped out. Our next meeting will be on 6 June at Ollie's.



Liz Konrad—Should I order a wrap or the Drunken Catfish?

Saturday 6 June 2015 Meeting—For the second month in a row only 17 members and guest showed up for our June Meeting. Another poor turn out.

Our guest speaker was Olaf Talbert who spoke about his recent transfer to Pensacola and his duties at CNET. Following his talk Duck spoke briefly about the NNPU reunion.



Olaf Talbert

After Duck made a few announcements the drawings were held. I won the 50/50 and took home \$26. The door prize, an Antarctic connection tote bag and a color OAEA coin was won by Duck's son.



You'd be Grumpy Too If You Only Won \$26 in the 50/50 Raffle!

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned. Our July meeting will be at Ollies Neighborhood Grill on a date to be determined.