



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 15, Issue 4 Old Antarctic Explorers Association, Inc Oct-Dec 2015



South Pole Station Winter Site Manager Craig Knott, left, and Safety Supervisor John Caudle placed a surprise phone call from Amundsen-Scott South Pole Station to Gus Shinn on Christmas Day.

SOUTH POLE PHONE CALL

*Story by Elaine Hood
Antarctic Support Contract*

Gus Shinn, the first person to land an aircraft at the geographic South Pole, spoke briefly on the phone on 25 December with US Antarctic Program personnel at Amundsen-Scott South Pole Station.

Shinn, now 93, was a Navy Lt. Commander at the controls of a US Navy R4D-5 named *Que Sera Sera* when it landed at the Pole on 31 October 1956.

Craig Knott, the 2016 Winter Site Manager for South Pole Station, and a recently retired Navy officer, placed the phone call to Shinn along with John Caudle, Safety supervisor at Pole, who is a former Naval Submarine Petty Officer.

When Shinn was routinely flying to the South Pole in the late 1950s, the only form of communication with the “real world” was HF radio patched through to a long distance phone call courtesy of an amateur radio operator.

Things are a bit simpler today, although still not as simple as communication is for you at your home. While McMurdo and Palmer Stations have 24/7 phone and Internet availability, South Pole Station is still limited by lack of polar orbiting communications satellites. Phone calls are conducted using “voice over Internet protocol (VOIP)” technology, which means they are routed by up linking to a communications satellite, when it is visible. The phone calls originate out of Denver, Colorado, where the US Antarctic

Continued on page 4

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Laura Snow—OAEA President

FELLOW OAEA MEMBERS:

OAEA Treasurer Bill Rouzer has submitted the FY-2015 Financial Report. You will find the report on the last page of this issue of the *Gazette*.

Membership statistics for FY-2015 are listed at the bottom of the Financial Report. There has not been that much growth in our membership since last year. Membership growth is always a challenge. I would like to take this opportunity to challenge each of you to recruit a new member. The best way to do this is to contact Billy-Ace Baker, the OAEA Membership Chairman, and provide him with the name and contact information for the person you wish to recruit. Billy-Ace will mail an OAEA Information Package to the individual. You will be given credit in the New Member column whether the person joins or not.



As I mentioned in my last column, the OAEA will be holding an election in 2016 to fill the positions of President, Executive Vice-President, Treasurer, and three spots on the Board of Directors. Volunteers to fill these positions should contact the OAEA 2016 Election Committee Chairman, Bob "Gabby" Gaboury by email at: bobgaboury@gmail.com.

Ed Hamblin has promulgated details regarding the OAEA Scholarship opportunities for the 2016-2017 academic year. Life Members, and Annual Members with membership through 30 June 2017, are eligible to sponsor a student. The cut-off date for sponsoring a student is fast approaching. See page 3 for details regarding the OAEA Scholarship Program.

Your recommendations and suggestions concerning those areas that you perceive as satisfactory, as well as in those areas where you feel that the OAEA could be improved, are solicited by me, your President of the Old Antarctic Explorers Association.

To all those who have lost loved ones, please accept my heartfelt sympathy and my condolences as you pass through these tough times. My prayers are with you. To those under the weather, I wish you a speedy recovery,

Until next time, take care.

Laura Snow

OAEA President
snowlg@cox.net



GROWLERS & BERGY BYTES

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

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OAEA SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

*Editorial By Ed Hamblin
OAEA Scholarship Committee Chairman*

Now is the time to start thinking about the school year 2016–2017 scholarship nominations. Each year, the OAEA is able to provide limited scholarship assistance. All applications with enclosures need to be received by 6 July 2016; submissions will be reviewed and decided on by the Scholarship Committee and awards will be made by approximately 1 August. The scholarship program is funded solely by donations from the membership, and total award amounts are based on mutual fund earnings from the scholarship funds. For your convenience, an application is included in this issue of the *Explorers Gazette* on page 15.

To sponsor someone, the sponsor needs to be a Life Member of the association, or be an Annual member with membership paid up through 30 June 2017. The sponsor needs to include a statement as per the application; this is the most common omission, and without it, the application will not be reviewed.

Candidates need to be a graduating high school senior, or enrolled and attending college to be eligible.

The Scholarship Committee is headed by Ed Hamblin (ehamblin74@verizon.net, phone 757-405-3362). Send applications to;

OAEA Scholarship Program
3104 Deepspring Drive
Chesapeake, VA 23321-2448



Christmas Phone Call From Page 1

Program's civilian support contractor Lockheed Martin is located. Therefore, a phone call to Gus in Pensacola was simply a long distance phone call between Colorado and Florida.

Well, it would have been "that simple" had the satellite been visible (above the Polar horizon) to the South Pole satellite dish receivers, but unfortunately, it was not. So an Iridium phone call was placed. Iridium is the only telecommunications service available everywhere on Earth. US Antarctic Program personnel working at the South Pole rely on Iridium satellite phone coverage when communications satellites are not visible above the horizon.

"The phone call dropped initially, which is not uncommon when using Iridium from the South Pole," stated Pole Winter Site Manager Knott. "But we got reconnected and once Gus understood that we were calling him from the South Pole, we had a great visit. It is such an honor to get to talk to a great American hero like him. A lot has changed here at the South Pole in the past 59 years, but it is still an austere environment and the fact that planes routinely land here is a direct result of Gus Shinn doing it successfully the very first time."

Pam Landy and her daughter Maria Landy were hosting Gus and others for Christmas dinner. They were expecting the South Pole phone call, a planned surprise for Gus. "Gus was really surprised and pretty pleased with the call," Pam Landy explained. "After the

phone call was completed he was eager to get home to call his daughter to tell her that he'd received a phone call from the South Pole."



Photo by Maria Landy
Gus Talking To The South Pole

*****§§§§*****

ON THE OTHER END

By Billy-Ace

Here in Pensacola we had planned on finishing Christmas dinner in plenty of time to settle down in the living room and open our presents while waiting for the phone call. Gus would be seated in front of the fireplace, which had been decorated with an Antarctic theme. However Pam's Pavlova with whipped cream was so good that we were still in the dining room having second helpings.

When the phone rang Pam answered and announced that it was for

Gus. Since no one knew where Gus was he was perplexed and for some reason he thought the call was from his landlord.

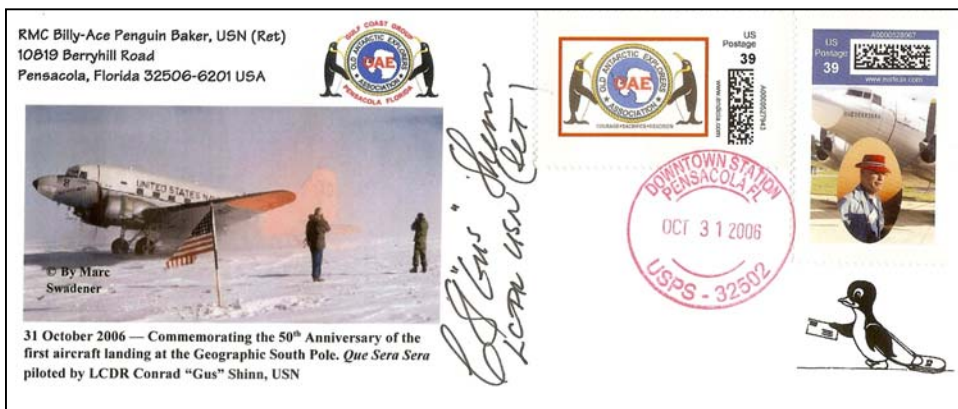
After the initial call was dropped Pam and I exchanged nervous glances, but after the phone rang again everything was "fivers".

During the conversation it was obvious that the participants at the South Pole did not know that Gus had been to the ice prior to Deep Freeze. He explained to them that he was part of Operation Highjump (1946-47).

Gus was thrilled with the phone call and on his behalf I would like to thank everyone who had a part in making the call possible.



Highjump Certificate Presented To Gus By The Commanding Officer Of The USS Burton Island



The Philatelic Envelope On The Left Was Created By The OAEA Gulf Coast Group Chapter To Commemorate The 50th Anniversary Of The First Aircraft Landing At The Geographic South Pole. We Tried To Get the USPS To Issue A Commorative Postage Stamp For The Event, But Our Efforts Were In Vain. In The End We Created Our Own Stamps That Were Approved By The Pensacola Postmaster

OAEA SCHOLARSHIP AWARD APPLICATION

To be eligible for consideration for receipt of an Old Antarctic Explorers Association scholarship, an individual must be at least a high school graduate /or graduating in the Spring of 2016, and be mentored/sponsored by a current member of the Old Antarctic Explorers Association (for the 2016–2017 school year, all Life Members, and Annual Members with membership through 6/30/2017 are eligible to sponsor). Eligible applicants must be accepted for undergraduate enrollment at an accredited college or university; or presently be attending an accredited college or university. Complete the application and attach the documents as requested.

School Year Applied For: 2016–2017

Applicant's Name: _____

Applicant's Home Address: _____

Applicant's Phone Number: _____

OAEA Sponsor's Name: _____

OAEA Sponsor's Address: _____

OAEA Sponsor's Signature: _____

Applicant's Statement of Authenticity:

I, _____, attest that the above information and the attached documentation is true and accurate, to the best of my knowledge. I understand that any deliberate misrepresentation of the information will preclude any OAEA scholarship eligibility.

SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT

DATE

Documentation to be provided by sponsor and applicant

Sponsor: Supporting statement of applicant's eligibility and financial need, including applicants work history if applicable toward payment of educational costs.

Applicant: High School/College GPA (Certified copy)

Applicant: High School Class Ranking (If available)

Applicant: SAT Score or ACT Percentile

Applicant: High School and College (if applicable) transcripts

Applicant: A career goals essay (200 words or less)

Applicant: Summary of any "breakout" items (academic awards, school/community activities, school or activity leadership positions, athletic participation) with signed letters or statements supporting these and any other achievements

Applicant: Proof of college acceptance/enrollment, including college contact information

Completed applications for the 2016–2017 school year need to reach the OAEA Scholarship Chairman by 6 July 2016 to be considered. Mail completed application packages to:

Old Antarctic Explorers Scholarship Program
3104 Deepspring Drive
Chesapeake, VA 23321-2448



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

G'day Billy Ace:

I have stuck my neck out once again, but I seem to have got hold of the wrong system.

At Wilkes in 1961, we installed what I had been told was our own Aussie radio gear in the new transmitter hut built on the rise a few hundred metres from the main base. It was a freestanding building that has for many years now served as an overnight hut, and named the "Wilkes Hilton". When Wilkes was closed in 1969, all the radio gear was moved out, but only some of it, to the old magnetometer hut back nearer the main station. I learned a while back that this hut had finally blown apart, leaving the stored radio gear fully exposed to the weather. In the belief it was Aussie apparatus and would make a good exhibit in a future national museum of Antarctica, I began pushing to have the units moved to Casey Station for eventual return to Australia (RTA). Last year's wintering crew very kindly did the deed, and a package of gear is sitting in storage at Casey. I am now informed by an

experienced former Wilkes radio-tech, that the photos I sent him showed US Navy transmitters.

1. Would you mind sending the below photo on to one of your old time expert radio techs to confirm the identity of the gear.
2. Do any detailed drawings of the structure/assembly exist to help decide what is what with the individual cabinets?

There's no plan to RTA this package before at least next summer, and as it is not really 'ours' there may be issues to resolve.

Any help you can give would be much appreciated.
Cheers,

Bill

William "Bill" Burch
2/81A Union Street
McMahons Point NSW 2060
Ph/fax:02 8065 5179
skype: bill.burch
email: burches@optusnet.com.au



Editor's Note: Hopefully one of our readers will be able to answer Bill's questions. In the meantime I passed the email and photo to Bill Spindler and I searched through several cruise books looking for Wilkes Station communications equipment. I sent the below email and photos to Bill Burch and Spindler.

Bill:

This is a photo from the DF-III (1957-58) cruise book of some of the communications gear at Wilkes Station. The section in the book is about a storm at Wilkes on 25 April 1858, with winds of 116 knots out of the North, that filled the garage and ET shop and tore the fabric off some of the Jamesway huts.

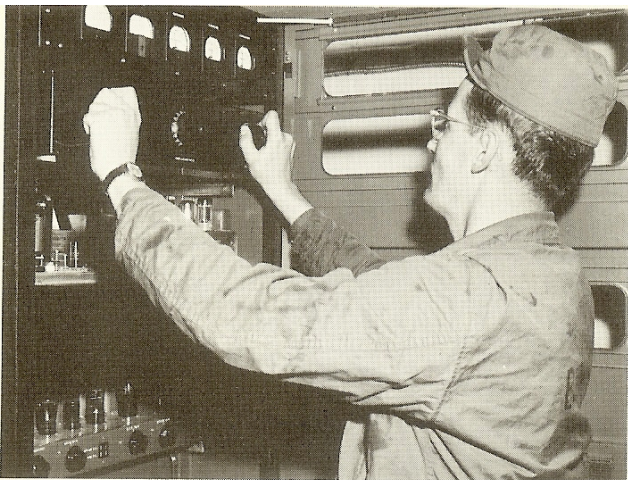
The caption on the top photo reads:

"All electronic gear was checked"

and the bottom photo reads:

"and radio service restored".

Billy-Ace



Billy-Ace and Bill:

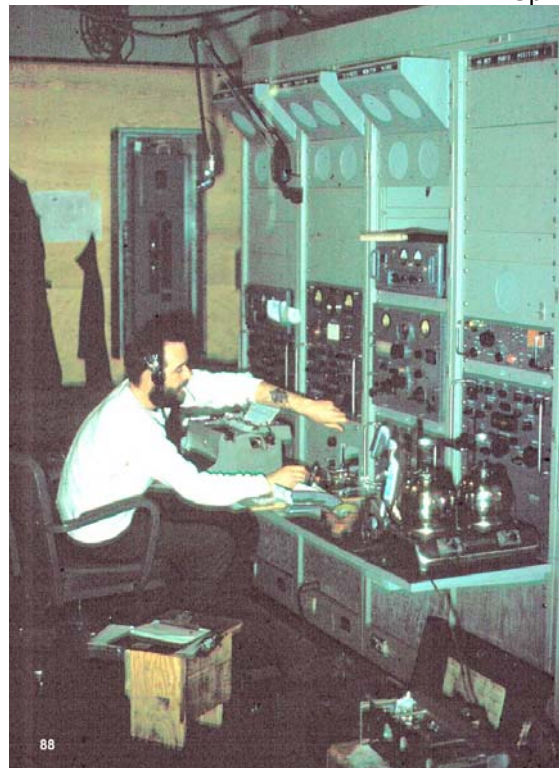
My first thought was that it certainly didn't look like any US communications equipment I'd ever seen. I then decided to poke around on the greatest Wilkes resource I know about, that co-created by good friend Darryn Schneider and linked from his website. After looking through all of the photo albums and some of the other pages on that site without finding anything, I then noticed that you (Bill Burch) and Darryn are the co-culprits in that Google Wilkes history site <https://sites.google.com/site/wilkesstationhistory/>, so you've obviously gone through all of that. I of course had to look at the Wilkes "Hilton" page, but none of that gear was visible.

I've seen photos of the South Pole comms equipment...one is attached, this is from friend PK Swartz who was the 1961 Pole OIC...just after the new comm center was constructed. None of this equipment looks anything like what is in that photo (I slightly edited it to adjust the color).

That said, I'd say that the US has absolutely no interest in that stuff, particularly as it was turned over to Australia as part of the station transfer.

Perhaps there is some documentation somewhere...but based on what I've learned about what has been documented about South Pole...I'm guessing that there MIGHT have been a rack drawing somewhere in one of thousands of unindexed boxes that the Navy kept about Deep Freeze...until that ended in 1997 and they presumably got rid of the lot.

Bill Spindler



Aloha Billy-Ace

Another great issue! Had more PC problems, but finally got it printed out and read. Keep up the great work!

Mele Kalikimaka!!
Bruce DeWald

Vik,

Excellent issue of the *Explorers Gazette*! Thank you for all you do to produce such an outstanding newsletter!

Stella

Editor:

Great issue. Very impressed with Cdr. Gibbs letter. I knew where he was coming from, DF-I, Byrd & Dufek.

Dave Hoff

Billy-Ace:

On Pg. 15 of the Apr-Jun issue you list LANTFLT MCPOC John W. Gannon as deceased on 23 April 2015 with his ice time unit and year(s) unknown. He served at McMurdo as an EO1, NNPU/PM-3A for summer support, Crew IV, DF-65, and winter-over Crew V, DF-66. We had lost track of him based on our latest database, 1 May 15, but we had listed him as "Deceased/unknown?"

Chuck Fegley

Billy-Ace

A while back I sent this message about a curious whispering in our neighborhood. Well, it happened again. Someone whispered "**Billie Sue**" out in the stillness and silence. Luckily, I had rigged a night wildlife camera and it captured this amazing picture. Mystery solved!

Meet **Billie Sue**. Isn't she a beauty! Pensacola Pete was obviously looking for love, and knew he needed to be in snow country to find someone.

Something mysterious is afoot. Last night a strange event occurred here, just before a late night snow-storm moved across our valley. To borrow from an old bit of poetry, the evening unfolded something like this:

*Once upon a midnight dreary,
while I pondered, weak and weary.*

*Over many a quaint and curious volume of
forgotten lore, ...*

*... there came a tapping, gently rapping at my
chamber door*

*... here I opened wide the door,
darkness there, and nothing more.*

*Deep into that darkness peering,
long I stood there wondering, fearing,*

*but the silence was unbroken, and the stillness
gave no clue,*

*... and the only words there spoken, were the
whispered words "**Billie Sue**"*

There were some rabbit and deer tracks across the yard, but I couldn't see anything else. This morning it was snowing fairly hard and all the tracks were covered. But, our motion surveillance camera had captured an image of this intruder. No tracks and no sign of the intruder this morning. I have no idea where he (or she) came from, and no idea why I heard someone whisper "Billie Sue"! Any thoughts?

Biggie



Billie Sue & Pensacola Pete

Editor's Note: Very strange. I think I will hold my thoughts until all our readers know the story about Pensacola Pete and his journey.

Billy-Ace,

Thanks for another interesting issue. I have just tried to respond to the request by Shaun O'Boyle for information about Troy Pewe's work but his email address appears to be incorrect, it "bounces back". I am forwarding a copy of my message to him to you. Perhaps you can pass it along. Thank you.

Henry Brecher

Editor's Note: Thanks for the atta-boy. Your email was passed to Shaun with assistance from Elaine Hood.

Billy,

Another outstanding publication. I just wanted to report, that Master Chief, (SS), Tom Koester, USN, Retired, passed away on 7 November 2015. He was at McMurdo in 1958 and did a winterover there with the Navy.

Best regards,

John Donnellon

Editor's Note: Thanks to John I was able to locate Tom Koester's obit and it appears in the 'In Memory' column in this issue.

Atten: Billy-Ace

Regarding Mo Gibbs' letter stating that George Dufek was Admiral Cruzen's Chief of Staff on Highjump, I have to disagree.

He was Commodore of the Eastern Group (Task Group 68.3). That Group was composed of USS *Pine Island*, USS *Canisteo*, and the USS *Brownson*.

He flew as an observer on the first exploratory flight of George One from the USS *Pine Island* to Cape Dart and return on 30 December 1946. Crew 1 (my crew) manned that flight.

Gene Litz

Hi Billy,

As always you did a fantastic job. Hope you had a good Thanksgiving.

Regards,

Rob Buettner
buettner1@earthlink.net

Billy-Ace:

I Wear my Bolo regularly...Love it. Gets regular comments as does my hat pins and vest I sewed up with all my patches. It is in fact my Uniform.

Fraternally Yours

Ken Meyer



Ken's Vest

Billy,

Can't give you much info on Slim but he was indeed a member of VXE-6 Supply the first two years I was in the squadron (73-74 and 74-75). He was indeed an African American and a good guy—however most of what I knew about him has left these memory cells as that was a number of years ago. I'll try to get in touch with a couple of the troops who were in the Squadron at the same time and see if anyone can remember where he was from and anything else that might be relevant.

Sorry I can't give you more but hey that was about 40 years ago if my computer is correct and these days it's difficult to remember what I had for breakfast (well not quite that bad). But I'm sure you get the gist....

Once again great job on the *Gazette* and I look forward to it being available to read on line. Full of good stuff and even though the years have passed way too quickly occasionally I do see a name that I recognize.... amongst them Billy Blackwelder stands out—if you knew Billy you will never forget him. LOL

Here's hoping that you and yours are having a great holiday season and I'll be looking for the next edition of the *Gazette*.....

Mel Vollbrecht
VXE-6 Asst Supo 1973 - 1976

Dear Old Antarctic Explorers Association,

I am writing to thank you for choosing me as one of last years' scholarship recipients. I am filled with absolute gratitude toward your generosity <SNIP>.

The scholarship has helped me pay for my first year here at Westfield, and by doing so allowed me to focus on my future career and worry less about how I'm going to pay for it. Since starting my studies here, I have declared a double major and will now be studying Spanish as well as Communications. Since this was my first semester, I took mainly core classes, as I will next semester. I am doing very well in college and I should be receiving all A's as the semester comes to a close. I am looking forward to continuing my studies here at Westfield and I will continue to work hard.

Thanks again for your contribution toward my education. I am on a path to achieving great things, and thanks to you, I can worry less about financing my goals.

With the sincerest gratitude,

Shauna Legsdin
Westfield State University
Class of 2019

Billy...

Thanks for all you do. Keeping track of our departed ice-mates is hard, but the memories they invoke are rewarding.

Mike Mudrey



LIONEL WAFER: HIS LIFE AND TIMES

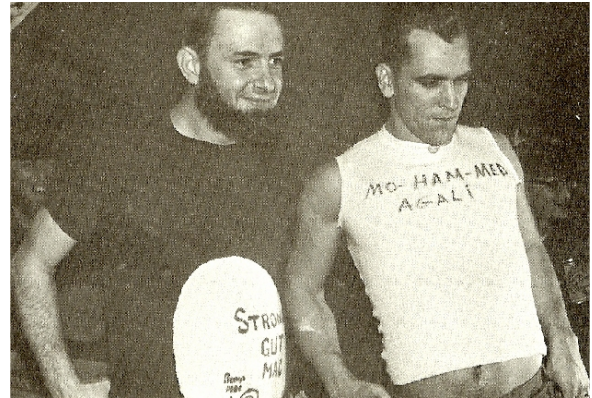
Ghost written by Black Jack of Ballarat

G'Day Ship, Mates, This is your old friend Lionel Wafer. My sea story for this issue embraces the 2020 Olympics.

With Antarctica being proposed as the venue for the 2020 Olympic weightlifting events, and plans for a new stadium in Queen Maud Land already on the drawing board, it may be as well to review the sport as practiced by men and women on The Ice.

All the disciplines will be represented—the press, the snatch, the squat, the low-hang, the high-hang, the clean and jerk.

The men's jerk has always been popular in Antarctica, especially at the Bulgarian station, where the men are known for their low-hang. The Bulgarians have always been ardent enthusiasts of the jerk, but now, with something to aim for, they are practicing day in and day out, barely taking time to eat or sleep. In the competent hands of such masters, the jerk should prove highly stimulating.



During The DF-67 Weightlifting Olympics Half Time Entertainment Was Provided By Belly Bumping Competition. Seen Above Are The Finalist. "Strong Gut Mac" And "Mo Ham Med Agali". The Records Do Not Show Who The Winner Was.

The women's snatch, up until now rather rare at Antarctic bases, should provide quite a spectacle for fans in 2020, as should the squat snatch, especially with its double knee-bend. Highest on everyone's list of favorites, though, will be the thrilling display of clean snatch, particularly by the Swiss women. Some of the male competitors, especially the Americans led by that great transgender lifter Justin Lightfoot, have been pressing to get on the program with a clean snatch of their own, but so far there has been no available opening. And finally the power snatch, so big among Bulgarian women competitors, looks all set to provide a grand climax to a thrilling two weeks of strenuous excitement.



Ivan Rilski Chapel At The Bulgarian Antarctic Station. The Chapel Was Named For The Bulgarian Jerk Champion. It Is Rumored That The Team Members Practice Inside The Windowless Chapel.

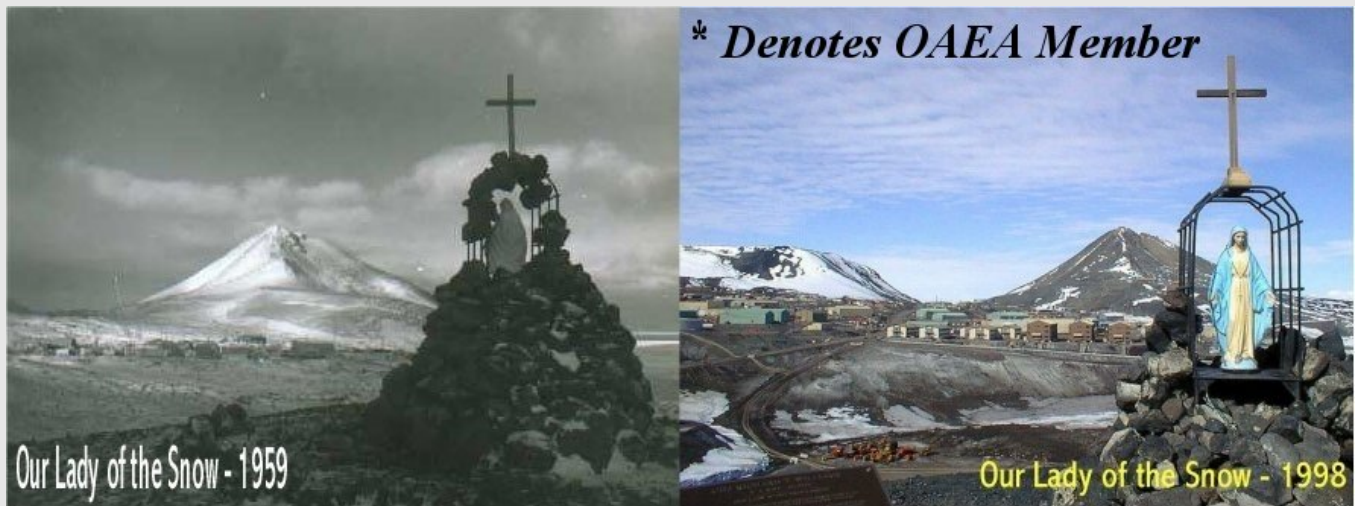
A much rarer event, the clean jerk, so far only performed at British bases, is said to be the coming trend, except, of course, at the Bulgarian station, where they prefer the old-fashioned straight jerk off a bench. The squat jerk, banned at McMurdo during the 1971 winter because one of the Navy chiefs damaged a body part while performing it, is set to make an exciting comeback.



The CPO Who Damaged A Body Part During The DF-71 Competition. It Is Unknown If The Injury Was A Result Of Performing The Jerk Or His Fall Into The Empty Snow Melter. In Any Event He Never Spilt His Drink.



Winner Of The DF-85 Women's Weight Lifting Competition



* Denotes OAEA Member

Our Lady of the Snow - 1959

Our Lady of the Snow - 1998

I N M E M O R Y

- OAE Dr. Hubert Alan Aronson, 85, died on 16 November 2015, in Pinecrest, FL. Hubert visited Antarctic as a tourist.
- OAE Arthur W. Baker, 81, died on 2 November 2015, in Delta Township, MI. Arthur visited Antarctica as a tourist.
- OAE Albina "Bea" Badalich, 87, died on 31 December 2015, in Torrence, CA. Bea visited Antarctica as a tourist.
- OAE Rev. Dr. David Lee Ballantyne, 72, died on 16 October 2015, in West Chester, PA. David made two deployments to Antarctica on the USCGC *Eastwind* as a cook during DF-65 & 66.
- OAE Edward M. Becker, 93, died on 5 November 2015, in Maumee, OH. Edward served in Antarctica during Highjump.
- *OAE James Berry, USN (Ret), 73, died on 28 December 2015, at the Northeast Regional Medical Center. James served in VX-6 as an Aviation Metal Smith (Heavy) (AMH2) during 1968-70.
- OAE Dorothy Louise Bilsing, 81, died on 9 November 2015, in Evergreen, CO. Dorothy visited Antarctica as a tourist.
- OAE Darlene Rose Brown, nee Schacherl, 75, died on 8 December 2015, in Oklahoma City, OK. Darlene visited Antarctica as a tourist.
- OAE Dr. Gilbert Hamilton Bryson, MD, 81, died on 23 November 2015. Gilbert served on the USS *Edisto* as a US Navy Medical Corps Lieutenant during DF-61
- OAE Virginia Hall Canfield, 91, died on 15 December 2015, in Endicott, NY. Virginia visited Antarctica as a tourist.
- OAE Richard "Dick" Cizek, 87, died on 23 October 2015, in Lewiston, ID. Dick visited Antarctica as a tourist.
- OAE DCCS James H. Cordock, USCG (Ret), 90, died on 30 November 2015, in of Groton, CT. James served in Antarctic with the US Coast Guard. Unit and year(s) unknown.
- OAE Ann V. Dick, 88, died on 1 November 2015, in Salt Lake City, UT. Ann visited Antarctica as a tourist.
- OAE Dorothea Leona DiGirolamo, 91, died on 11 December 2015, in South Bend, IN. Dorothea visited Antarctica as a tourist.
- OAE Capt. John F. Dobson, USN (Ret), 89, died on 25 October 2015, in Stevensville, MD. John was the OIC of a team that inspected the Navy nuclear power plant at McMurdo. Year unknown.
- *OAE CMDCM Daniel "Dan" Dompe, USN (Ret), 78, died on 3 November, 2015, in Hallsville, TX. Dan served in AIRDEVRON Six from 1965 through 1969 as an AFCM.
- OAE Dave "Pa" Drzik, 75, died on 5 February 2015, in Madison, OH. Dave served in Antarctica with the USN. Unit and year(s) unknown.
- OAE John Elashkar, 72, died on 8 October 2015, in Lansing, MI. John visited Antarctica as a tourist.
- OAE Dale Albert Ellsworth, 88, died on 31 December 2015, at the Ohio Masonic Home in Springfield, OH. Dale served during Highjump on the USS *Philippine Sea*.

OAE Lois Flick, 91, died on 8 November 2015, in Montecito, CA. Lois visited Antarctica as a tourist.

Yvonne Foreman, 75, died on 4 November 2015, in Yukon, OK. Yvonne was Don Foreman's wife. She was from New Zealand.

OAE CDR James Michael Forman, USN (Ret), 66, died on 15 December 2015, in Vallejo, CA. James visited Antarctica as a tourist.

OAE Dr. Daniel Wilkins Fort, MD, 57, died on 21 December 2015, in Charlottesville, VA. Daniel visited Antarctica as a tourist.

OAE Elizabeth "Beth" Woodson Fretz, nee Ragsdale, 93, died on 29 October 2015, in Merced, CA. Beth visited Antarctica as a tourist when she was 87.

OAE CPO Walter C. Gholson, Jr. USN, (Ret.), 70, died on 23 November 2015, in Millington, TN. Walter wintered over at McMurdo Station during DF-76.

OAE Sondra "Sandi" Joan Greenbank, 77, died on 12 December 2015, in Annapolis, MD. Sandi visited Antarctica as a tourist.

OAE Florence Hallum, 96, died on 1 November 2015, in Chicago, IL. Florence visited Antarctica as a tourist.

OAE Richard A. "Dick" Hartman, 85, died on 24 November 2015, in San Juan Capistrano, CA. Dick visited Antarctica as a tourist.

OAE COL Garn H. Harward, USAF (Ret), 96, died on 2 October 2015, in Salt Lake City, UT. Garn served in Antarctica with the US Air Force. Unit and year(s) unknown.

OAE Bruce Henry Hasenkamp, 77, died on 7 November 2015, in San Mateo, CA. Bruce visited Antarctica as a tourist.

OAE Oliver Thomas Hayes III, 73, died on 10 December 10, 2015, in Norwalk, CT. Oliver visited Antarctica as a tourist.

OAE CAPT (SS) James E. Heg, USN (Ret), 95, died on 21 November 2015, in Everett, WA. After retirement from the Navy he served with NSF in the Office of Polar Programs. Mount Heg is named in his honor.

OAE Olga Hirshhorn, 95, died on 3 October 2015, in Washington, DC. Olga visited Antarctica as a tourist when she was 85.

OAE Darrell M. Holland, 87, died on 22 December 2015, in Charlotte, SC. Darrell visited Antarctica as a tourist when he was 80.

*OAE David "Dave" Wayne Irby, 74, died in Mount Airy, NC. Dave served in Antarctica with the USN during DF-60.

OAE Alfred "Al" E. Irelan Jr., 80, died on 16 November 2015, in Groton, MA. Al served on the USS *Glacier* during DF-I.

OAE Jack Edward Jackson, 60, died on board the SS *Elf* which sank with no survivors during Hurricane Joaquin. Jack served in Antarctica as a merchant marine. Year(s) unknown.

OAE Betty Jean "BJ" Campbell James, 73, died on 23 December 2015, at St. Francis Medical Center in Monroe, LA. BJ visited Antarctica as a tourist.

OAE CDR George Janulis, USN (Ret), 86, died on 27 November 2015. George served in Antarctica as a pilot with VX-6 during DF-61. Janulis spur is named in his honor.

OAE Mary Catherine "Kay" Johnson, 86, died on 12 October 2015, in Modesto, CA. Kay visited Antarctica as a tourist.

OAE Arthur "Art" E. Jorgensen, 82, died on 30 October 2015, in Hilton Head Island, SC. Art wintered-over at South Pole Station during DF-III (1957-1958) as an IGY Meteorologist. Art's personal highlight was having raised the second Norwegian flag to fly at the South Pole since Roald Amundsen in 1911. Art was a member of The Antarctic Society. Jorgensen Nunataks is named in his honor.

OAE Camille McGrath Kennedy, 77, died on 16 October 2015, in Washington Crossing, PA. Camille visited Antarctica as a tourist.

OAE Billie Burt Kenyon, 92, died on 1 November 2015, in Austin, TX. Billie visited Antarctica as a tourist on a Russian icebreaker.



*OAE MCPO (SS) Thomas L. Koester, USN (Ret), 79, died on 7 November 2015, in Albuquerque, NM. Thomas served in Antarctica for a year as an Aviation Electronics Technician. Following his tour in Antarctica he went into the FBM submarine service.

OAE Thomas C. Lindsay, 69, died on 23 November 2015. Thomas served on the USS *Thomas J. Gary* during DF-67 as a Radioman Third Class (RM3).

*OAE CPO Clyde K. Long, USN (Ret), 84, died on 3 October 1915, in Northumberland, PA. Clyde served in VX-6/VXE-6 during the 60s and 70s.

OAE Frank Leonard MacArtor, 92, died on 1 October 2015, in Hockessin, DE. Frank visited Antarctica as a tourist.

*OAE CPO William "Bill" J. Maloney Jr., USN (Ret), 78, died on 29 November 2015, in Sacramento, CA. Bill Made two deployments to Antarctica with VX-6. He served on the OAEA Board of Directors from 2000 through 2006.

OAE William Darwin McCroskey, 87, died on 28 September 2015, in Carolina Shores, NC. William visited Antarctica as a tourist.

OAE Jack McHugh, died on, 24 November 2015, in Marblehead, NC. Jack served in Antarctica with Deep Freeze. Unit and year(s) unknown.

*OAE COL George McLaughlin, USMC (Ret), died on 8 November 2015, in Emerald Isle, NC. George served in VX/VXE-6 as an LC-130 pilot during the 1970s.

OAE CWO-4 Harvard Kevin Madigan, 67. USCG (Ret), died on 2 October 2015, Kevin served on the USCGC *Burton Island* Year(s) unknown.

OAE George Clifford March, died on 9 December 2015, in Rapid City, ND. George wintered-over during DF-73 as a Store Keeper Third Class (SK3).

OAE Lee Duffy Mazan, 86, died on 4 October 2015, in Raleigh, NC. Lee visited Antarctica as a tourist.

OAE Sister Marilyn Millar, 74, died on 8 November 2015, in Orange County, CA. Sister Marilyn visited Antarctica with the San Diego Woods Hole crew. Year(s) unknown.

OAE James Mitchell, died on 22 September 2015, in Hanson, KY. James wintered-over at McMurdo during DF-73 as a Builder Third Class (BU3).

OAE John Arthur "Jay" Morrison, 60, died on 11 June 2015. Jay served as the Second Mate on the RV *Hero*. He also wintered over at South Pole Station. Years unknown.

OAE Janice Braly Nelsen, 84, died on 19 October 2015, in Los Angeles, CA. Janice visited Antarctica as a tourist.

OAE James Edward "Jim" Orr, 70, died on 9 October 2015, in Lawrenceville, GA, Jim served on the USS *Atka*. Year(s) unknown

OAE Lee Austin Otterson, 98, died on 22 December 2015, in Palo Alto, CA. Lee visited Antarctica as a tourist when he was 90 years old.

*OAE RMC John Edward Overton, USN (Ret), 72, died on 23 December 2015, in Bremerton, WA. John, AKA Large John, served in NSFA summer support during DF-79 & 80 as an RM1.

OAE Helen Z. Pearl died on 4 October 2015, in New Britain, CT. Helen visited Antarctica as a tourist.

OAE CDR (CEC) Dick Pensyl, USN (Ret), died on on 2 October 2015, In Virginia Beach, VA. While serving on the Presidents staff at Camp David Dick accompanied Barry Goldwater to Antarctica.

OAE Donna Flint Pope of Ft. Lauderdale FL and Cohasset, MA, died on 16 November 2015. Donna visited Antarctica as a tourist.

OAE Dr. Paul Charles Racette, MD, 88, died on 5 December 2015, in Surrey, BC. Paul visited Antarctica as a tourist.

*OAE Micheal "Mike" Lee Rice, USN (Ret), 68, died on 28 December 2015, in Loma Linda, CA. Mike wintered-over at McMurdo as an RM2.

OAE Carlton L Rhoades, 86, died: on 6 December 2015, in Tacoma, WA. Carlton visited Antarctica on a Russian freighter.



OAE William C. Ritz, 78, died on 22, November 2015, in Greensburg, PA. William visited Antarctica as a tourist with his sons.

OAE Margery "Marge" A. Robinson, nee Haas, died in Freeport, IL. Marge visited Antarctica as a tourist.

OAE John E. Rogers, 82, died on 11 November 2015, in Orlando, FL. John visited Antarctica as a tourist.

OAE Gail Sachs died on 5 October 2015, in St Cloud, FL. Gail visited Antarctica as a tourist.

OAE Dr. John Robert "Bob" Schauwecker, 85, died on 9 December 2016, in Palo Alto, CA. Bob visited Antarctica with his wife as tourists on a Russian icebreaker.

OAE Phyllis M. Schultz, died on 30 October 2015, at St. Joseph's Hospital in Burbank, CA. Phyllis visited Antarctica as a tourist.

OAE Jane Serkland, 68, died on 24 December 2015. Jane visited Antarctica as a tourist.

OAE Virginia Nielsen. Smith, 85, died on 31 October 2015, in Livermore, CA. Virginia visited Antarctica as a tourist.

OAE Edward B. Smith, Jr., USN (Ret), 82, died on 2 November 2015, in Worcester, MA. Edward served in Antarctica with the SEABEES. Unit and year(s) unknown.

OAE Robert C. Steeneck, 77, died on 11 December 2015, in Cheyenne, WY. Bob and his wife visited Antarctica as tourists.

OAE Mary Frances Stinson Smith, 95, died on 20 December 2015, in Atlanta, GA. Mary visited Antarctica as a tourist.

*OAE Alfred Wright Stuart, 83, died on 1 November 2015, in Charlotte, NC. Alfred served in Antarctica as an IGY glaciologist during DF-60. Mount Stuart is named in his honor.

OAE James Tinsley, died on 20 March 2015, in Columbia, SC. James wintered-over at McMurdo as a Commissaryman First Class (CS1). Year unknown.

OAE John Bright Totten, AKA J.B., 90, died on 24 December 2015, in Los Angeles, CA. In 1949 J.B. signed on for a two year expedition to Antarctica on the *Discovery II*.

OAE Bonnie L. R. Tweedy, 83, died on 7 November 2015, at Stamford Hospital in North Attleboro, MA. Bonnie visited Antarctica as a tourist.

OAE Maurice Tyler, 84, died on 31 December 2015. Maurice visited Antarctica as a tourist.

OAE Merlyn Uhlenberg, 86, died on 4 November 2015, in Alameda, CA. Merlyn visited Antarctica as a tourist.

OAE Douglas D. Walls, 75, died on 28 November 2015, in California while visiting his daughter. Doug deployed to Antarctica with the USAF. Year(s) unknown.

OAE CDR. Cletus Joseph Walz, USCG (Ret), 87, died on 18 October 2015, in Sarasota, FL. Cletes served in Antarctica on USCG icebreakers. Ship(s) and year(s) unknown.

OAE John Blair Webster, 82, died on 28 October 2015, in Port Clinton, OH. John wintered-over at McMurdo during DF-62 as the station doctor. Mount Webster is named in his honor.

OAE EO1 Curtis J. Wicker, USN (Ret), 46 died on 21 November 2015, in Gulfport, MS. Curtis served in Antarctica with the SEABEES. Unit and year(s) unknown.

OAE Douglas Ralph Willis, 77, died on 15 December 2015, in Sacramento, CA. Douglas visited Antarctica as a tourist.

OAE LeGrand "Lee" Joseph Wolansky, 70, died on 5 November 2015, in Oak Island, NC. Lee deployed to Antarctica on the USS *Atka*. Year(s) unknown.

OAE Doris Woodruff, 81, died on 14 December 2015, in Mexico, MO. Doris visited Antarctica as a tourist

OAE Virginia Frances Zirpolo Bonafino Young, 81, died on 5 December 2015, in Cary, NC. Virginia visited Antarctica as a tourist where she danced with penguins.

OAE Florence G. Ziegler, 101, died on 8 December 2015. Florence visited Antarctica twice as a tourist.



Chaplain's Corner

Johnnie Draughon—OAEA Chaplain

In the beginning God ...” (Gen. 1: 1NIV)
 As you can probably guess I am a person who believes in the concept of “intelligent design” when it comes to the creation of the universe. I have discovered that when you engage in the debate about the beginning of all things that very few people are in the camp of pure evolution or an earth that is only about 6 thousand years old. Most of us fall somewhere on a continuum between solid science and complete wonder. In his book *The Pursuit of God: The Human Thirst for the Divine* A.W. Tozer states: “In the living, breathing cosmos there is a mysterious Something, too wonderful, too awful for any mind to understand. The believing man does not claim to understand. He falls to his



knees and whispers, “God.” The man of earth kneels also, but not to worship. He kneels to examine, to search, to find the cause and the how of things.” However you kneel—take time to enjoy the awesomeness of a universe too immense for us to even begin to imagine. The Bible reminds us in Genesis, “In the beginning God” In John’s Revelation we are reminded that in the end – God.

Thank you.
 May the blessings be!

Freeze Frames

by Matt Davidson

10 October 2015



BURIAL AT SEA

By Zeke Wright
The Newport Daily News

Final voyage

Burial at sea, while considered a last resort by many world religions, is increasingly becoming a first choice.

With oceans covering 71 percent of the Earth's surface, the sea is beginning to catch on as a popular final destination: It's the resting place of H. G. Wells, Janis Joplin, Alfred Hitchcock, and Robin Williams, to name a few.

Once cremated remains are scattered off the North American coast of the Atlantic, they find their way along the warm currents of the northerly traveling Gulf Stream. Remains scattered off the coast of New England today might figuratively rub elbows with John F. Kennedy Jr., whose cremated remains were scattered off Martha's Vineyard in 1999, or Neil Armstrong, scattered off the deck of the USS *Philippine Sea* in 2012.

"There are about 175 million Americans who live within 10 miles of the water," according to Brad White, a licensed ship captain and principle of New England Burials at Sea, a Scituate, Massachusetts-based company that offers sea burials from Miami to Maine. "Most people have some connection to the water."



Photo Courtesy of New England Burials at Sea

Eschewing a family funeral home while growing up in Boston, White found himself in the sea burial business by fluke in 2006.

"I was doing a tuna charter one day and someone said, 'Hey, can you spread my uncle's ashes?' I said sure."

Business has already doubled over last year. White describes his part as "the maritime piece" of accommodating individuals' last wishes; he works with and offers training to funeral directors along the East Coast, including Newport's Memorial Funeral Home on Broadway.



Spreading Ashes

Locally, White departs from Point Judith for scatterings. Regulations require that sea burials and scatterings occur at least three miles to sea, but a depth requirement of 600 feet means a vessel departing from Rhode Island needs to travel about 45 miles from shore to get beyond the continental shelf.

TRADITIONAL FOR THE NAVY

After her husband, Robert "Hoot" Hartman, donated his body to the Warren Alpert Medical School at Brown University, Janet Hartman of Warwick waited two years for his cremated remains. "During the interim, we had several events to honor him and celebrate his life," she said.

This summer, the Hartman children in California and New Hampshire traveled back to Rhode Island for a final service. A career Navy man and original Seabee, the scattering included full military honors. "They all stood at attention saluting as we pulled away from the dock, and we knew that Hoot would have been so overjoyed at this entire ceremony," Hartman said.



Burial at Sea Certificate

“It was a perfect-weather weekend and, by this time, the kids and I could handle the day with clearer heads, having had the two years to get past our loss,” she continued.

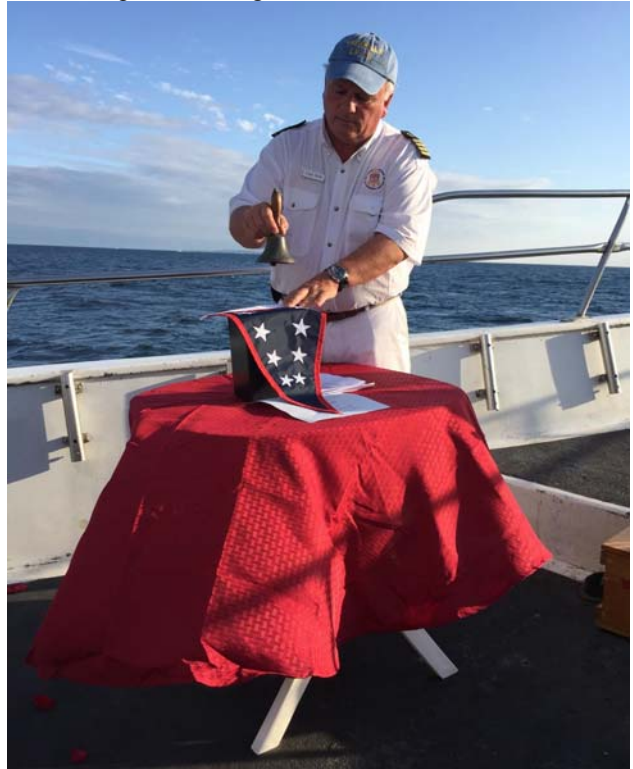
Departing from Point Judith, “out to sea we went, taking turns spreading the ashes while a lone seagull accompanied us. ... You couldn’t plan anything more fitting. All of us were thrilled to have completed everything my husband would have imagined and more. It was perfect.



Skipper Brad White

The US Navy performs 900 burial at sea ceremonies a year on deployed Navy vessels out of five homeports on the East and West coasts, according to data from Navy & Marine Corps Mortuary Affairs, but family members of the deceased are not allowed to be present. The commanding officer of the ship assigned to perform the ceremony will notify the family of the date, time, and longitude and

latitude after completion of the committal service. Active duty members of the uniformed services, retirees, honorably discharged veterans and their dependent family members as well as US merchant marine personnel of the Military Sealift Command are eligible for burial at sea. Most of the Navy’s burials at sea involve cremated remains with only about two percent being casketed decedents.



Captain Brad Rings The Bell Certifying The End Of The Watch

The majority of White’s business involves cremated remains, but full-body burials are also an option: Heavy-cotton “burial shrouds” are used instead of a traditional casket, and the body may be embalmed or not. (The amount of embalming fluid is negligible given the expanse of ocean, but forgoing the chemicals is best, environmentally speaking).



Folding The Ensign

With declining burial space and the equivalent of a Golden Gate Bridge's worth of steel made into caskets in North America annually, sea burial can be seen as a particularly ecologically sound way to go.



Rendering The Gun Salute

About half of his business includes a ceremony at sea with six to 35 guests aboard. "Our events are for everywhere from one to six people, or six to 300," White said. "It's beautiful because people get closure fairly quickly."



The Flag Being Presented To The Hartman Family



Hartman's Waiting To Get Underway

THE END OF A PERFECT DAY

Notes from Janet Hartman

Billy-Ace:

Thank you for thinking about Hoot again. I have included several photos from the day..., which was about as perfect as he could ever have wished for. The military went all out. I never expected a 3 gun salute or a live trumpeter... and a Commander to fold the flag! We were very touched by it all.

The Captain rang the bell and raised the flag that signifies "end of the watch". He added the Navy flag as well.

I think you know my daughter, Susan (oldest) and then Christopher and Hans.

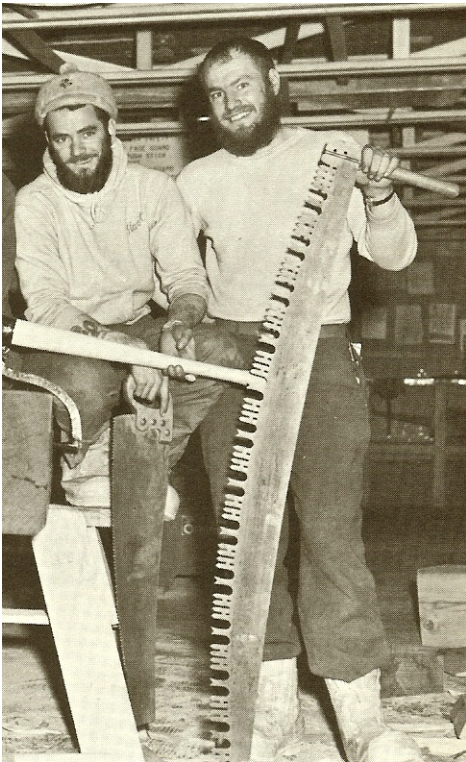
I have also enclosed a scan of Hoot's Burial At Sea Certificate. The ceremony was impressive and I was amazed when they stood at the bulkhead and saluted until the boat pulled away. Our arrangements were not so extensive, so I don't know who decided to throw in all the extras, but it was wonderful. Even the Captain of the boat said Hoot must have been special to have so much attention. Local police came and sectioned off our portion of the parking lot without charge as well. Maybe someone saw that he was a 20-year veteran or they had a special spot for Seabees or Penguins! I don't think I'll ever know, but we were all very much impressed.

I knew that you wintered over with Hoot and Glenn as well. I haven't been active in OAEA but I keep on top of things best I can.

I'll be looking forward to the story in the *Gazette*... as I'm sure my kids will be.

Janet

Editor's Notes: When Hoot wintered-over at McMurdo during DF-63, he was a Builder Second Class (BU2) working in the Carpenter Shop. At some point, after he left the ice, Hoot converted his rating to Parachute Rigger (PR) and ended up in AIRDEVRON SIX. He returned to the ice during DF-69 and DF-70 Summer Support and worked in the Para-Loft and was a member of the Para-Rescue Team.



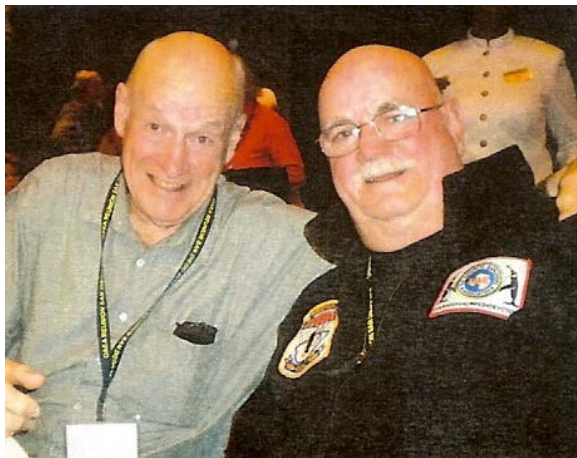
From The DF-63 Cruise Book
Hooter & BU1 John Shanks In The McMurdo Carpenter Shop



From The VX-6 DF-69 Cruise Book
Hoot Working In The McMurdo Para-Loft



Para Rescue Patch



Shanks & Hoot At The OAEA 2012 Reunion



Hoot and Daughter at The OAEA 2012 Reunion In San Diego

TIDEWATER GROUP JULY GET-TOGETHER

*By Ed Hamblin
Photos by Bill Raymus*

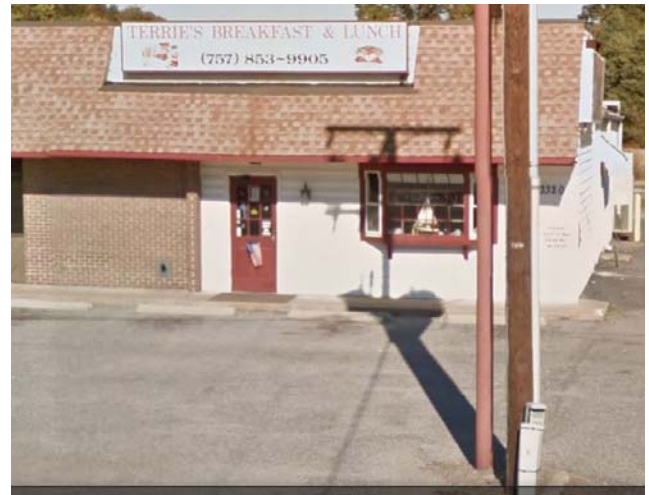
The Tidewater OAE social group got together at Terrie's Breakfast & Lunch restaurant in mid-October for a couple of hours. Usually devoted to sharing ice stories and pictures, this time Jerry Gustin brought and shared one of the more interesting "show & tell" items that has been seen. Jerry was the Terminal Operations Officer in the 73-75 timeframe, and when he left, his guys signed an Air Force Cargo strap. Jerry brought that in and unrolled it, and to some of us, many of the names on there were very familiar.



By the time this is posted, we will already have had the quarterly social in January. The next one beyond that will be Saturday 2 April at Terrie's Breakfast & Lunch; address is 3320 Military Highway, Norfolk, VA. People start showing up around 11:30 or so, and we are done by about 1:30; Terrie closes at 2. We get together in the back. If you aren't included on the e-mail reminders sent out by Ed Hamblin and want to be, drop an e-mail to him at ehamblin74@verizon.net. OAEA membership is not

required; our group is open to all. There are no dues or registration.

Also, in the last issue of the *Gazette*, there was an old picture of Terrie's included; that picture was dated and incorrect. She relocated to her present address and so courtesy of Google Earth, the corrected picture is included.



The Real Terrie's

Hope to see you all down the road.

Ed Hamblin
Chesapeake, VA



Pictured left to right standing: Ron Rooks, Manny Perry, Brad Miller, Bob Long, Karen Gustin, Jerry Gustin, Rob Kello; seated left to right: Bill Murray, Suz Anne Kello, Bill Raymus, Linda Hamblin, Ed Hamblin.

PICTURES AND STORIES FROM DAYS GONE BY



ABC TV PRESENTS DEEP FREEZE

Warner Brother Presents: *“Deep Freeze”* starring Charles Bronson as Vic, John Sheppard as Carl, and Allison Hayes as The Sub-Zero Girl. Tuesday 8 May 1956, 7:30 to 8:30.

Allison Hayes is a beautiful, but dangerous, visitor from another planet. Her race of aliens can't stand heat, and can live only in sub-zero temperatures.

A group of American scientists are installing a weather-recording machine in the coldest region of the Antarctic. Just then, this space-girl lands at their weather station, and that's when strange things begin to happen. First, a mysterious electronic force knocks out their radio transmitter, and then members of the expedition start disappearing. The cause of all this havoc is the female alien from space (Allison Hayes), wearing a short skirt, while the humans are freezing and wearing thick parkas.

Rerun numerous times, from 1959–1962, often listed as a “movie” on TV channels airing science fiction films. The basic theme was borrowed from the classic movie *The Thing from Another World* (1951), but with Allison being a sexy alien, as opposed to James Arness being a giant, scary alien.



Photos by ABC

Locked in the icy wastes of Antarctica, Vic and Carl are seemingly unaware Of impending disaster. The Sexy Alien Inset.

Editor's Note: I don't believe I have ever seen this show and I have tried to find it on a DVD, but so far no joy.

THE LAST WHITE RUBY

THE VANISHING POLAR CIRCLES

edited by Vik Offshodfor

BOOK REVIEW



The Last White Ruby. A book of poems by Ronnie Smith, 58 pages, hardback and Kindle. Available from Amazon.com. Kindle \$2.99 or hardback \$18.83

About the Book & the Author

This book is a culmination of Ronnie's years working and flying in the Arctic and Antarctic. It is a revision and expansion of a previous chapbook, *Poems from the Polar Circles*: Ron flew with the 109th Airlift Wing of the New York Air National Guard as the sole operator of ski-equipped C-130 aircraft for the USAF Working with the scientists and other service providers in the polar mission, they successfully accomplish scientific research funded by the US Antarctic Program in "the deep field" of stinging terrain and desolate plateaus. The awe of pristine nature and a wilderness that comes alive are the poetic muse. Ron relates these impressions to a view from boots on the ground and from the air, as well as in the interaction of the people working together to make the mission happen.

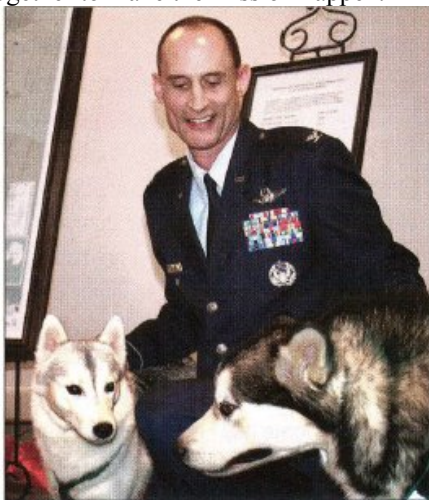
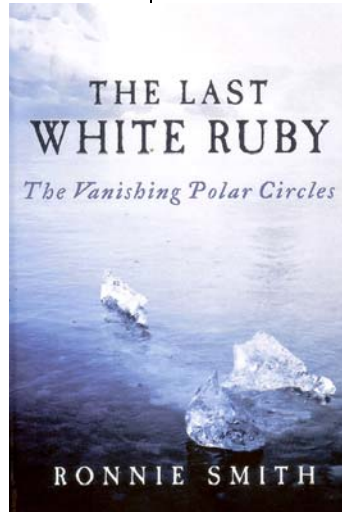


Photo From Equus January 2016 Issue

Colonel Ronald Smith Presents An Antarctic Airway Chart To The American Kennel Club Museum In St. Louis, Missouri

In a poetic gesture to the Heroic Era of Antarctic Exploration, Smith was successful in the creation, design, and implementation of the renaming of the way points on the 2,100 mile airway that stretches from New Zealand to McMurdo Station, Antarctica with the names of the sled dogs and ponies that took Roald Amundsen and Robert F. Scott to the South Pole in 1911-12. This global perspective of the poetry is thematic throughout the book.

Smith grew up in Baltimore, Maryland. He entered the USAF in 1983 to fly C-130 transport aircraft. He has traveled the world as an aviator, bringing a spiritual dimension to his writing through this inspiration. After many years flying in the Polar Regions, he became the Commander of Operation Deep Freeze from 2005-2008. He lives in Saint Louis Missouri.



Observation Hill

An oracle of dominion
crowns the height
of that hill,
severed by a sword
of one word,
secret of an only sky
commands the sun
to fall,
falter in flattened sheen
against glacial waves,
ziggurats of ice
on a blue plate,

Snow mountains teethe
through clouds
white as light,
crystal rivers trickle
staying time,
as if sea
became land,
and formed one soul,
one life,
uttering its lone word,
within ever-winter's
eternal howl

Be.

NINE INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT ANTARCTICA



Antarctica is the remotest part of the world or more accurately, remotest continent, the highest, driest, windiest, emptiest, coldest place on earth. Here we are with nine cool facts about Antarctica.

You cannot work in Antarctica unless your wisdom teeth and appendix are removed. Surgeries are not made at the stations in Antarctica, so you should have your wisdom teeth and appendix removed even if they're absolutely healthy.

53 million years ago, Antarctica was so warm that palm trees lived along its shores. The temperature on the continent soared above 20C.

There used to be a nuclear power plant in Antarctica at McMurdo Station, the largest community in Antarctica. The nuclear power plant was operated by the US between 1962 and the mid 1970s.

Despite the extreme temperatures, there are 1150 different species of fungi identified to survive in Antarctica. Fungi perfectly adapts to extreme low

temperatures, continuous and repeated freeze and thawing cycles.

Antarctica (technically) contains every time zone on the planet. All longitude lines we use to define time zones meet at the two poles.

No polar bears live in Antarctica. You may see them in the Arctic or Canada, if you wish.

The coldest temperature ever recorded on Earth was minus 128.56 degrees Fahrenheit (minus 89.2 degrees Celsius). It was registered on 21 July 1983, at the Soviet Antarctic Expedition Vostok Station.

The average thickness of Antarctic ice is about 1 mile (1.6 kilometers). Antarctica has approximately 70% of all fresh water on Earth.

Following the secret negotiations twelve countries signed the Antarctic Treaty in 1959 to dedicate the continent to peaceful research activities. Today the treaty has been ratified by 48 nations

Editor's Note: This article appeared on The News Tribe FaceBook page. Author unknown.

AIRDEVRON SIX/ANTARCTIC DEVRON SIX REUNION



Design by Maria Landy

Compiled & edited by Billy-Ace

The 3rd VX-6/VXE-6 National Reunion was held in Pensacola, Florida from 4–8 November 2015. I was never in the squadron, but I went as Pam Landy’s guest.

I went a day early and when I arrived at the hotel the reunion committee was busy sorting out door prizes and raffle items. After I checked in and took my bags to my room I returned to car to get the items that I was donating and my merchandise that I would be selling. With all my loot loaded on a cart I made my way to the room in the convention center where the committee was hard at work.

The next day I volunteered to help committee member Diana Shields on the registration desk. My job was to hand out the Welcome Aboard Bags to the attendees. It wasn’t long before Diana was called out by Karla Japzon, the reunion committee chairperson, to help out with transferring raffle items to the Hospitality Room. So I ended up running the registration desk by myself for the rest of the day. However, someone treated me to lunch (a sandwich, some, chips and a bottle of dief cola) and Diana was around long enough for me to sign her up as a Life Member in the OAEA.



*From The DF-90 Cruise Book
Diana Shields VXE-6 1989–92.*

Speaking of the welcome aboard bags, the reunion committee created a mouse-pad featuring the above logo that was intended for the welcome aboard bags. However, the mouse-pads did not arrive from the supplier in time, so they were used at place mats at the banquet. I don’t use a mouse pad so I framed mine.

Besides the reunion committee vendor there were three other vendors at the reunion. Namely Dusty Rhodes, David Hazard, and myself. Merchandise ranged from ball cap/label pins, patches, cruise books, art prints, and numerous other items.



Kiwi Carol at the Reunion T-Shirt Table



Dusty Rhodes Table



Dave Hazard's Table



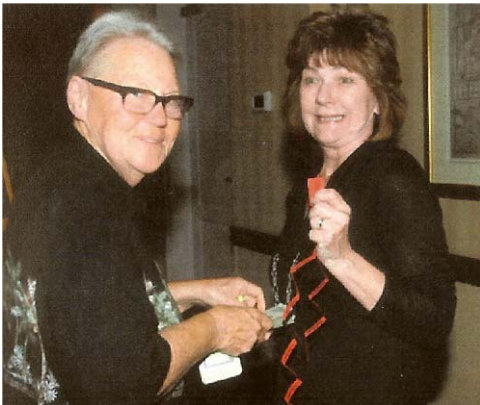
Raffle Items On One Of The Tables.



Billy-Ace's Table



One Of The Silent Auction Tables. These Items Were Considered To Be Of High Value And Had A Minnum Starting Bid. You Wrote Your Name And Bid On The Sheet Of Paper. I donated The Pucketed Pete Plaque And The Two Framed Prints On Each Side Of The Plaque. The Clock Was Donated By Lennie Bourgoise



Kiwi Carol Selling Raffle Tickets To Glennys Harris

There were so many items donated to be used for door prizes and or raffles that the tables for these items were lined up for the entire length of the hospitality/banquet room. In fact there was so much stuff that there were not enough tables and some of the items had to be placed on chairs.



Table Shortage

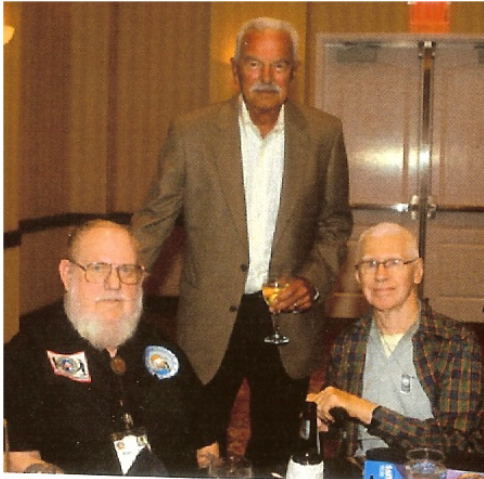


Two More Silent Auction Items. The Patch Work Quilt Was Donated By Kiwi Sandy Newell. All The Individual Patches Depicted New Zealand Plants And Animals. Dan Knox Donated The Painting Of Puckered Pete That Was Painted on a 4X8 Foot Sheet Of Plywood.

REUNION RECAP

By Gary Skaar

The VX-6/VXE-6 2015 National Reunion was held at the Hilton Pensacola Beach Gulf Front Hotel on 4-8 November 2015. Over 150 members and guests enjoyed the beautiful Florida weather and activities centered on the Blue Angels homecoming air show. This event is the last performance of the show year for the world famous Blue Angels and their spectacular air show. In addition, many of the attendees took advantage of the National Museum of Naval Aviation and spent many hours reflecting on the history of Naval Aviation. Especially noteworthy is the outstanding display of the first aircraft (DC-3 *Que Sera Sera*; Navy R-4D) to land at the Geographic South Pole on 31 October 1956.



Billy-Ace, Billy Bounds, And Gus Shinn At The Banquet

The highlight of Banquet Dinner was the presentation by Mr. David Bresnahan on the current operation of the long haul road from McMurdo Station to South Pole Station. He made special mention of the contributions made by the squadron over the many years of Operation Deep Freeze. In attendance at the Banquet was LCDR Conrad "Gus" Shinn, the pilot of *Que Sera Sera* who made the first landing at the South Pole.



Guest Speaker Dave Bresnahan

The outgoing VX-6/VXE-6 Association President Dave Pizzi conducted the Association Business Meeting and announced the next Reunion would be held in Las Vegas, NV in 2017.

VX-6/VXE-6 REUNION

By Pam Landy

After nearly two years of plotting and planning, and a few hurdles and hoops to jump, we finally had our 3rd Reunion. The reunion coincided with the Blue Angels Homecoming show.

There was a lot of activities offered, with tours to the Naval Air Museum, the Air show, and a Spectacular Night show, or just hanging around the Hospitality room, swapping sea stories, visiting old friends and making new ones. The highlight for some was talking to Gus Shinn he still talks about meeting "youngsters" at the reunion who were on the Ice. A remarkable man and an excellent memory for his age.

The location on Pensacola Beach was great, out the back door and on the beach, or just sitting on the balcony enjoying the view.



Billy Crowe and John Colson



Some, But Not All Of The Reunion Committee Members. From Left To Right: Diana Spears, Karla Japzon, Pam Landy, Don Knox, and John Jaenisch.

The reunion committee, Karla Japzon, Gary Skaar, Dan Knox, Diana, Pam along with our volunteers: Kiwi Carol, Billy-Ace, Glennys Harris, John Jaenisch and Roy Japzon worked hard to make it memorable. Al and Tina Rogers, were also a big part of the committee, until Al became ill and passed away. Tina was housebound and wasn't able to make it to the reunion. We certainly missed them.

No complaints to the Reunion committee, so we were happy campers. The week following the reunion, I received a

phone call regarding the raffle drawings, because the guest speaker was going to talk during the banquet and the DJ was going to start playing at 9pm, we were limited on time. The committee member in charge of the raffles drew tickets at 5pm, (notice of this was on the bulletin board from early morning) raffles were drawn and the ticket numbers and persons names who won, also on bulletin board. I hope this clears up the complaint. Everyone that won a drawing collected their prizes.

ICE EAGLES UPDATE

By Tom Henderson

I have now completed my final major trip for the film. I attended the VX-6/VXE-6 Reunion in Pensacola Beach, FL 4-8 November. I interviewed 10 pilots, aircrew, maintenance, and other support personnel there. I then flew to North Carolina where I interviewed Capt. Al Fowler, commander of Operation Deep Freeze in the mid-1970s and John Stewart, author of *Antarctica: An Encyclopedia*.

The total cost of the trip was \$1722.26. I stayed with relatives and friends part of the time which reduced the cost. I must say at this point that almost all of the persons that I have interviewed have been very cooperative and forthcoming. They have been invaluable in determining the true story of American aviation in Antarctica.

The next step will be to finish logging all of the material I have collected so I can quickly identify and access appropriate material as I begin editing the film. I expect to start editing in early January.

Ron Stephano, the artist who created the print of *Que Sera Sera* that was offered as a reward during the campaign, has produced this very appropriate Christmas card for the project. The photo was taken by CDR James Waldron USNR (Ret.) during Deep Freeze II in 1956-57. We hope that you enjoyed it.

I have made headway on cataloging the interviews for the project. Cataloging involves reviewing every second of every interview and documenting the contents and the beginning and ending time points in a spreadsheet. This is essential for the editing phase because it is impossible to remember exactly what was covered and where it is located for over 70 interviews. I will do similar cataloging for the reference film footage that I have acquired.

Speaking of reference footage, I have just acquired film footage from both the 1960s and more recent times from the National Science Foundation archives. Thanks to Peter West and Dena Headley for their assistance. I am expecting to receive recent footage from the NY Air National Guard in the next several weeks.

I did conduct an additional interview at the beginning of the month with Col. Ronald Smith USAF (Ret.). Col. Smith was an LC-130 navigator for the 109th Airlift Wing of the New York Air National Guard in Antarctica in the late 1990s through the early 2000s. He then became the operational Commander of Operation Deep Freeze from 2005-08, overseeing all US logistical military operations for Antarctica. It was an excellent interview.

Happy Holidays to all who have supported Ice Eagles!



Christmas Card Featuring Charlene And The Jolly Snowman

NEW OAEA MEMBERS

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

Thanks to VX-6/VXE-6 Reunion Committee, Gloria Hutchings, Gary Hornung, Charlotte Fairchild, OAEA NE Chapter, OAEA GCG Chapter, John Giro, John Lamont West, Joe Gogel, Lennie Bourgeois, Arlene Thompson, Laura Snow, and Shelby Gene for recruiting new members or for providing names and contact info for prospective members.

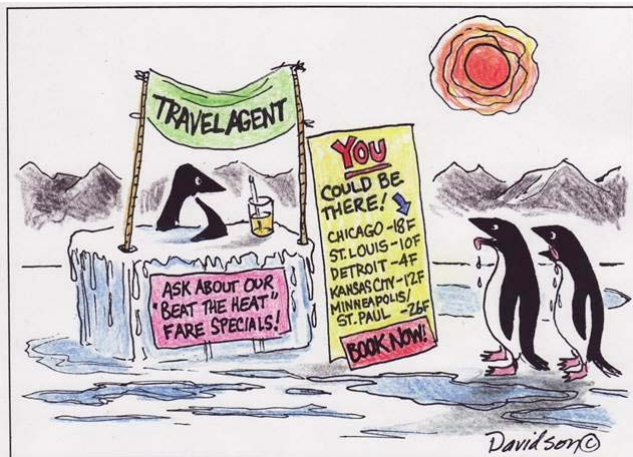
If you know of any OAE, or anyone interested in Antarctica, who is not a member of the OAEA please send their contact info to the OAEA Membership Chairman at upizauf@aol.com or 850 456 3556

*Denotes Associate Member

§Denotes Upgrade to Life or Renewal of Annual Member

ΦDenotes Upgrade to Regular Member

Covert, Kathy NOK	Annual	Widow of Pat Kraker
Dixon, Malcolm EON2	Life	CBU-201 1968-69
Dumestre, Jeanie CIV	*Life	GCG Groupie
Hancock, Robert MR2	Life	USS <i>Glacier</i> 1962-64
Hornung, Gerald, BU2	Life	MCB-1 1961-62
Kauffman, Albert AG1	Annual	NSFA 1993-96
Kinnune, Kent HMC(SW)	Life	NSFA Siple Sta SS 1986-87
Kurek, Francis ABH2	Annual	VX-6 1968-69
Majerus, Nicholas CIV	Life	USAP 1980-93
Manke, Robert UT2	§Life	Byrd Station WO DF-60
Pierce, David EN2	Life	USS <i>T. J. Gary</i> 1965-67
Shields, Diana AD2	Life	VXE-6 1989-92
Slovensky, Joe BU2	Annual	NSFA 1979-81
Templett, Albert UT3	Life	CBU-201 1968-70
Walters, George SCPO	Life	VXE-6 1972-74



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-1 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, by phone 252 504 3733, or by email at: nrviver@ec.rr.com. The *Mills* served during DF-65, 67, & 68.

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 Wilhoite (DER 397): New Orleans, LA. 12–16 September 2016. POC: canerday@centurytel.net, phone 479 968 1236, or Internet at: www.usswilhoite.org. The *Wilhoite* served during DF-61.

Naval Weather Service: The Villages, FL, 5–6 May 2016. POC Gerald Struck, 3440 Dixon Lane, The Villages, FL, by phone at: 352 408 0283, or by email at: glvsusnret@reagan.com.

All Seabee Reunion: Port Hueneme, CA, 23–26 June 2016. POC Ed Closter, by email at: mccb@earthling.net, or by phone at: 628 280 9495.

Antarctic Gathering: Port Clyde, ME, 15–17 July 2016. POC Paul Dalrymple at pcdal@roadrunner.com, or Guy Guthridge at: gguthrid@yahoo.com.

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

USCGC Southwind (WAGB-280): San Antonio, TX, 15–18 September 2016. POC Edward F. Clancy, at 888 6th Street North, Jacksonville, FL 32250, by phone at: 904 242 9070, or by email at: clancyedward@bellsouth.net. The *Southwind* served during DF-68, 69, and 71.

OAEA: San Antonio, TX, 9-11 May 2018. POC John Lamont West by email at: j142@aol.com, or by phone at: 956 229 9797.

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.

- John Lamont West is looking for OAEA members who live in the San Antonio Texas area to serve on the 2018 OAEA Reunion Committee. John Lamont can be contacted by email at: westjl42@aol.com or by phone at: 956 229 9797.

- James "Bill" Brown is looking for the name of the doctor who was from one of the big name colleges who was at South Pole Station during DF-61. The doctor was studying the possibility of growing plants in Antarctica. Bill can be contacted by email at: billbccc@att.net, by phone at: 828-338-0135, or by US Mail at: 201 Creek Circle Road Fairview NC 28730.

- John Brotherhood the British scientist that 319 "A" crew rescued in '67 would like to contact anyone that has been to Halley Bay and especially anyone that was on the supply missions to put in field crews in the Shackleton Mountains area. He can be contacted by email at: john.brotherhood@bigpond.com.

Editor's Note: Dr. Brotherhood was the winter-over medical officer at Halley Bay Station during DF-67. In November he seriously injured his spine and had to be MEDEVACED to New Zealand by VX-6.

- Ron Deegan is looking for Deepfreeze III (1957-58) personal that spent the winter at McMurdo. Ronald can be reached by telephone at: 727-372-6026, or by email at: retired@hotmail.com, or US Mail at: 1417 Fallowfield Drive Trinity FL 34655



DF-III Cruise Book
AG3 Ronald Deegan. Aerology Department

- Tim Gardner is looking for the following Photographers Mates who were in VX-6 during DF-67

- LT S. G. Riley
- PHC J. D. Reimer
- PH1 F. P. Lee
- PH2 S. Kelly
- PH2 P. Davis
- PH2 C. L. Abramson
- PH2 G. G. Weaver
- PH3 J. W. Robertson
- PH3 J. H. Smith

Tim can be reached at: etgardnersr@yahoo.com, or 4903 S. 28TH Street Paragould AR 72450.



VX-6 DF-67 Cruise Book
Members Of VX-67 DF-67 Photo Lab
(The Caption Did Not Include Names)



PHAN Gardner

Gulf Coast Group Chapter Happenings

by Billy-Ace Penguin Baker

Saturday 3 October 2015 GCG Chapter Meeting — 26 Members and guests showed up for our October meeting at the Rico Mexican Restaurant.



Jim Kirby Guest Speaker

Our featured guest speaker was Jim Kirby from Covenant Hospice. Jim is a retired Navy officer, so he knew the whims of his audience and was able to keep our attention. Following his presentation he fielded questions from the attendees. Ella Jane Hoffmaster asked Jim about fundraisers. After the meeting I told Jim that I would send him a copy of the article that appeared in the Sacred Heart Newsletter about Ella raising funds for the Children's and Women's Hospital.



Grady Lea



Glen Harris

Two members We Had Not Seen For A long Time:

After the question and answer session the drawings were held for the 50/50 raffle and the door prize. Yours truly won the 50/50 and I took home \$50 as my share. Ella Jane won the door prize consisting of a crystal penguin.



Ella Gives A Thumbs Up For Winning A Door Prize



Last Call For Larry Crovatt Larry Moved Out Of The Area Shortly After The Meeting

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned. The November meeting was cancelled due to a conflict with the VX-6/VXE-6 reunion. Our next meeting will be on 5 December at the Rico Mexican Restaurant.

Saturday 5 December 2015 Meeting—23 members and guests showed up for our last meeting of 2015.



Guest Speaker John Lamont West Wearing His Texas Shirt

John Lamont West, past OAEA President, was our guest speaker. John Lamont was in Pensacola to discuss plans

with Pam Landy and myself for the OAEA 2018 Reunion that he will host in San Antonio, Texas. At the time of the meeting Pam and I were the only members of his reunion committee. Since then Joyce Hopkins has stepped forward to help out.



Old Buddy's Les Darbyshire & Gus Shinn

Following John Lamont's presentation the drawings were held. Either Les Darbyshire or Les Liptak won the 50/50 drawing. Both were at the meeting and my notes do not specify which Les won. Anyway, whichever Les it was took home \$51 as his share. Three door prize drawings were held. The first, a penguin ornament was won by Bob Jones. The second, a penguin trinket box, was won by Jack

McLendon, and the third, a Pez penguin, was won by Raine Talbert.



Raine Talbert Waiting For Her Pez Prize

Following the drawings the meeting was concluded. The next meeting will be at the Rico Mexican Restaurant on the second Saturday of January and our leader will be inviting Dana Cervantes, of the USO to be our guest speaker. We are planning on conducting a snack food drive for the USO in February. Thanks to Lennie for taking the photos, and to Pam and Duck for conducting the raffles.



The Big Table. Left Side: Helen Bourgeois, Dan Knox, Pam Landy, John Lamont West, Sean Baker, And Daniel Thompson. Right Side: Chuck Woske, Billy-Ace Baker, Tracey Baker, And Ashlee Baker.



OAEA FY2015 ACCOUNTING STATEMENT

I certify that the following report is a true accounting of financial transactions conducted by the Old Antarctic Explorers Association during the FY 2015 (1 October 2014 through 30 September 2015) as of 30 September 2015

FY 2015 ACCOUNTING STATEMENT			
INCOME		EXPENSE	
Donations	\$6878.00	Administration	\$472
Newsletter	233.00	Office Supplies	285
Undesignated	2385.00	Office Equipment	20
Plaque	00.00	Advertising/Recruit	
Scholarships	4260.00	Postage	166
Dues	1414.00	Newsletter	1357.00
Life	1200.00	Newsletter Reunion	
Annual	150.00	Ballots	14.00
Entrance Fee	64.00	Web Page	260.00
Interest	12.00	Florida License	70.00
Market Investments	(575.00)	Scholarships	3000.00
TOTAL INCOME	\$7730.00	TOTAL EXPENSES	\$5172.00
		GAIN	LOSS
		\$2557	
FINANCIAL STATUS OF OLD ANTARCTIC EXPLORERS ASSOCIATION, INC. AS OF 30 SEPTEMBER 2015			
Summary Statement		Asset Distribution Statement	
Beginning Balance 10/1/14	\$59919.00	Account	Tangible
FY 2015 Transactions	\$ 2557.00	Bank Accounts	29191.00
Ending Balance 9/30/15	\$62476.00	Scholarship Mutual Funds	32285.00
		Shipstore	1000.00
		Totals	62476.00
MEMBERSHIP STATUS OF OLD ANTARCTIC EXPLORERS ASSOCIATION, INC. AS OF 30 SEPTEMBER 2015			
Total Membership all categories: 1678			
Membership Change – 70			
Memorial Members – 66	Commemorative Members – 66	Annual Members – 19	
Lifetime Members – 1526	Deceased Members – 281	Other – 1	

W. W. Rouzer

OAEA Treasurer
10/31/2015

