



EXPLORER'S GAZETTE

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Uniting All OAEs in Perpetuating the Memory of United States Involvement in Antarctica
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Photo by Jack Green

The first C-17 of the summer season delivers researchers and support staff to McMurdo Station after a two-week weather delay.

Science Bouncing Back From A Delayed Start

By Mike Lucibella

The first planes of the 2018-2019 Summer Season touched down at McMurdo Station's Phoenix Airfield at 3 pm in the afternoon on 16 October after more than two weeks of weather delays, the longest postponement of season-opening in recent memory.

Delays of up to a few days are common for researchers and support staff flying to McMurdo Station, Antarctica from Christchurch, New Zealand. However, a fifteen-day flight hiatus is very unusual.

The first flights from Christchurch to McMurdo were originally scheduled for 1 October, but throughout early October, a series of low-pressure systems parked over the region and brought days of bad weather, blowing snow and poor visibility.

Jessie L. Crain, the Antarctic research support manager in the Office of Polar Programs at the National Science Foundation (NSF), said that it is too soon yet to say definitively what the effects of the delay will be on the science program.

Continued on page 4

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Ed Hamblin—OAEA President

TO ALL OAEs—I hope you all had a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year holiday.



First some kudos...our *Gazette* Editor, Billy-Ace Baker has gone over and above on the last two issues of the *Gazette*, which each consisted of over 50 pages of Antarctic related articles. For almost 20 years now, he has been putting out quality *Explorer's Gazette* for your enjoyment. Also, a big thanks to our OAEA site Webmaster, Bob Gaboury. Bob unilaterally keeps up the website, and figures out how to make it run. Recently, due to rising costs associated with our business e-mail service we had been using for membership notifications, Bob had to research and find a new business solution. That is why all of you with e-mail recently received a request to "opt-in" with TrafficWave, which is the new notification system Bob went with. Well done on this endeavor. And thanks to those of you who "opted-in"...keeping in touch is important to us.



With that said, our Webmaster would like to find a back-up person for the OAEA website; and eventually turn over the reins. If anyone out there has interest in learning a new skill set associated with website administration, or is looking for a way to serve the organization, Bob can provide training.

Other OAEA stuff happening: Jacksonville Reunion 2020, Dewey Painter at the reins (more in this issue—See page 4); San Diego Reunion 2022, headed by George Lusk; and we are now at 30 paid *Explorer's Gazette* subscriptions; and just underway, a project to digitize some of the paper membership records.

Our organization is funded solely by very reasonable membership dues and donations. This last quarter we received some generous donations...from Life members Barbara Orr and Grant Nelson, \$100.00 each to the Scholarship fund; from new Life member Charles S. Jakulewicz \$200.00; and from Life member and Treasurer Bill Rouzer, \$150.00—both of the latter going to the General fund. Thanks for your generosity!

Please keep us informed of changes to your e-mail, snail mail address, or telephone numbers. Contact me at: ehamblin74@verizon.net or Billy-Ace Penguin Baker at: (upizauf@aol.com)... 'nuff said.

Everyone take care, stay safe, keep warm, etc. etc. Catch you next issue.

Ed Hamblin



GROWLERS & BERGY BYTES

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

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2020 10th OAEA REUNION NOTES



OAEA Reunion 2020 Jacksonville Notes (courtesy of 2020 Reunion chairman Dewey Painter):

It is being held at the Lexington Hotel and Conference Center along the scenic St. Johns River in Jax 11-13 November 2020. Room rates are \$109.00/night for the week, and include free parking, and 1 complimentary breakfast daily per room. Although nothing is set yet, tour opportunities include a dinner cruise on the river, Navy ship tour in Mayport, and Jacksonville Jaguars Stadium tour. For the first time ever, the OAEA will have a float in the Veteran's Day parade on that Wednesday, and so we will be looking for volunteers to help decorate and ride. And although not a part of the reunion, some of you may want to continue "reunioning" with a follow on five day cruise from Jacksonville, which departs on the 16th. This all looks to be a good time, so you will want to keep this one on your calendar. Final details for all will be published in the *Gazette* Reunion edition in the spring of 2020. If you would like to assist Dewey with the reunion organization and set-up, contact him by email at: oaea2020reunion@gmail.com or by telephone at: 904-962-1928 /904-599-1388.



Delayed Start of Season

From Page 1

Jessie noted that while the temptation is to think in isolation of what to do with each part of the program affected by the delays, the reality is that every project and choice is part of a large and complex decision-making matrix, in which a change in one may well affect many others.



Photo Credit: NSF

A series of at times severe storms over the first half of October prevented any airplanes from flying into McMurdo Station until 16 October.

“In partnership with the research community, our logistics contractor and our military and civilian partners, we need to take a look at the larger puzzle and plan a way forward and that takes time and care and focuses on optimizing the use of the time remaining in the season,” she said.

For example, among those who were laid over in Christchurch—and were among the first to arrive on two flights that were successful during the week of 15 October—were helicopter pilots and mechanics, without whom it is not possible to get materials into the field to establish camps or personnel to conduct science.



Photo Credit: Jack Green

After the storms, the Phoenix Airfield had to be groomed and smoothed to allow the wheeled C-17s to safely touchdown.

While airplanes previously did not fly to McMurdo Station during the austral winter because of the persistent cold temperatures and the inherent dangers of landing during

the 24-hour darkness, the use of night-vision goggles by Air Force pilots has allowed the NSF-managed U.S. Antarctic Program to schedule a limited number of mid-winter flights.

The more frequent airlift for the busy summer season, known as “Mainbody,” begins usually around late September or early October and it is those flights that have been delayed.

Weather in Antarctica is tricky to forecast as weather stations across the continent are sparse and data is limited. Satellite weather systems fill the gaps, but reliable, long-term predictions are still difficult.

In order to safely land the C-17 Globemaster and Airbus A319 planes on the compacted-snow Phoenix ice runway, the airfield crews needed about a day to clear away drifted snow and smooth the landing strip. The spates of bad weather came so frequently in October that there

was never the chance to fully clear the runway for any planes to get in.



Photo Credit: Jack Green

The first C-17 of the summer season flies in for a landing at Phoenix Airfield.



Photo Credit: Jack Green

Support staff who had been at the station all winter, and in some cases for more than a year, line up to fly home.

Department heads have been working from the Antarctic Program offices in Christchurch to replan and reprioritize how multiple different tasks can be accomplished.

“One of the very highest priorities is to finish construction of the new Williams Airfield, which moved locations by a couple of miles,” said Julie Grundberg, the area manager for the Antarctic Support Contract, NSF’s Denver-based logistics contractor. “We need to have it ready for the Air National Guard to start flights within a couple of weeks, and it is critical to the success of Pole and all the deep field camps.”



Photo Credit: Elaine Hood
While still in Christchurch, field safety coordinator Andrew Bond teaches the Antarctic Field Safety class, a safety lesson that would normally be taught while on station.

A number of researchers who had planned to fly in during the first part of the season are also in the process of reassessing some of their plans for the season. One of the biggest concerns is the limited amount of time to take full advantage of the sea ice, the layer of frozen ocean adjacent to the station thick enough to support people and vehicles. In the beginning of the summer season, numerous research teams travel out on it to study everything from seals that live and breed on top of it, to the ocean life that lives underneath the surface.

“People supporting our project have done a great job of getting us what we need and getting our team trained quickly,” said Jay Rotella, the principal investigator of a project studying the population of Weddell seals in the region. “We have a lot of returning team members this year and will benefit from all that experience. If the weather is at all decent in the coming week, we should be

able to be right on track by late October, which is good because 29 October is the peak of pupping when 100 pups could be born per day and we’ll have maximum opportunities to collect information on newborns and their mothers.

During their time delayed in Christchurch, personnel attended environmental and safety trainings that otherwise would have been taken upon arrival to Antarctica. Utilizing this time in New Zealand will enable them to hit the ground running once they reach “the Ice.”

In addition to numerous researchers and support staff trying to fly to the station, more than sixty personnel who had spent the entire winter at McMurdo Station, and in some cases a full year, were looking forward to seeing green grass, flowers, and warmer temperatures.

Despite the delays to the start of the season, researchers and support staff are still looking forward to a busy and successful science season.

“The qualities that draw people to a place like Antarctica (adaptability, resilience, creativity) are the same traits that allow us, as a community, to bounce back when we’re challenged in this way,” said Grundberg. “We’ll work as efficiently as possible while still making sure we’re not overextending people. We’ll achieve whatever we’re capable of while still focusing on keeping folks safe. I have confidence we’ll rise to this challenge like we do all the others.”



Photo Credit: Mike Lucibella
To help move people as quickly as possible, an Airbus A319 helped fly researchers and support staff in as well.

FEEDBACK & LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Editor:

Don't let this happen to you! Sign up for the expense report class!



Davidson
psycho.pengy@gmail.com

Editor's Note: Apparently everyone responsible for OAEA expenses got their reports in on time because the annual Accounting Statement appears on the last page of this issue.

Billy Ace,

Typically great *Gazette* this issue (Jul-Sep).

Following "Blackjack and Lionel's" adventures is a true demonstration of Commitment and Entertainment by your "Staff". Look forward to every issue.

As always, the *Gazette* provides for the opportunity to catch up with and gain the latest in Antarctica/Deep Freeze happenings; often identifying acquaintances and Old Shipmates. Perusing this issue, I noted the familiar Photo and notice of "LT Bullard". I recall LT Bullard as being a stellar Officer and was most effective as the Operational Commander at Willy Field at the time.

Why is it, that most photos of you are taken with your Arm Around some Local Gal?

Best regards to you and yours...

Jerry
jerry.schleining@gmail.com

Editor's Note: Thanks for your comments. Regarding your statement about photos of me always being of me with my arm around one of the local ladies. I may have been pictured with one or two, but I think you are getting me mixed up with Gus Shinn. I want to be like Gus when I grow up and he always has his arm around the girls. At 96 years old he is still a chick magnet.



Billy-Ace:

Congratulations on another outstanding newsletter. Yours remains the flagship of all of the Antarctic societies' newsletters. Well done!

I was particularly interested in the extensive articles on the South African National Antarctic Expedition and SANAE Station. They are very informative. I would like to see more articles on the activities of other countries in the Antarctic as we often assume that the U.S. is the only significant player in Antarctic research. We need to be reminded that vital research in Antarctica is an international, collaborative effort.

Best regards,

Tom Henderson
webmaster@antarctican.org

Editor's Note: Thanks for the atta-boy. I would do more articles on other nations Antarctic expeditions if I had someone to write or help write the articles.

After I proofread the Jul-Sep issue of the *Gazette* for the second time I thought I have been redundant on some of the SANAE info, but it was too late to do any more editing.

I agree with you. I have always been aware that many of the military did not know why they were on the ice. BUT with the Internet and social media people are becoming more aware.

I am often asked why I put so many tourist deaths in the obit section. I tell them that many of the tourists know more about Antarctic history than many of our military members do.

As much as I enjoy doing the *Gazette* I am going to have to cut down on the number of pages now that we have a subscription service.

I am still looking for a picture of Lionel Wafer. For now I will be satisfied with the photo of Black Jack and his two lady friends.

Billy-Ace

Thank you so much for reaching out to me after Larry died.

I have enclosed an application and check for lifetime membership.

VR

Mira Barks
Via Snail Mail
mibarks@me.com

Editor's Note: Mira is the widow of ADCS Larry Barks. Larry's obit appeared in the Jan-Mar 2018 issue of the *Gazette*.



Billy-Ace,

... I was always glad I volunteered at the age of 18 for Operation Deepfreeze, a tremendous opportunity.

Thanks for all you do, the newsletters are great. I am amazed at how much things have changed down there.

Best wishes,

Micah Miller
millermicah@msn.com

Billy-Ace,

Thanks for another great newsletter! I am sending 3 photos of me and some OAEs from VXE-6 in the 70s. I happened to be at a Vietnam reunion in San Diego and Mike Brinck, Rich Sluys, and I got together. Then I was visiting Billy Blackwelder in Pensacola a few weeks ago and had breakfast with Gus Shinn, as well as spent time with Billy and Chris Shepherd, former NSF Rep Antarctica.

Sam Feola
samfeola@gmail.com



The three amigos Mike Brinck, Rich Sluys & Sam Feola



Sam Feola and Gus Shinn



Sam Feola, Billy Blackwelder, and Chris Shepherd

Dear Editor:
Good Show, Billy!
Regards,

Willy Williams
DF 62/63
rbrwms@aol.com

Editor's Note: Willy aka Robert is referring to the Jul-Sep issue of the Gazette. I couldn't find a photo of him, but below is a statement of his Antarctic Experience from his OAEA Membership Application:

I was a PN; I mess cooked the month of Dec 1962 (as a 3rd class); I worked on the fuel gang for a month; I worked on the clean up crew for a few weeks; I flew in on a C-130 and shipped out on the USS *Arneb*. My impression of the ice was: A prison with frozen beer, not much mail, and good food. It was a wonderful experience.

Editor's Note. Correction to obits in Jul-Sep Gazette: At the time of publication the rating for Kenneth H. Neuroth was unknown. It is now known that he was a Master Chief Air Controller (ACCM) when he retired from the Navy. It is also now known that he served in NSFA from 1971 through 1975. While in Christchurch he met and later married Beverley (Cullen) Neuroth.

SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS



By Linda Hamblin
OAEA Scholarship Chairman

A very special thank you goes out to all those who contributed to the Scholarship Fund since this time last year. Due in part to everyone's generosity four scholarship awards of \$1000 each were presented.

This year there were 12 applications. All had sponsor statements, which was a problem last year. However, this year several individuals neglected to send the final (end of year) transcript, and one individual sent no transcript at all. This lack of completeness hurts the individual, and may contribute to the application not being reviewed in the future, as stated on the application. The scholarship application next year will require numbering of the

attachments to help ensure all requirements are included. This new application is located on the OAEA website.

All candidates were very worthy individuals. One of the scholarship committee members, when sending his rankings, said, "This was hard!" Another member wrote, "... tough choices." He further wrote, "...all of the applicants had a lively appreciation of the fact that a four year college/university degree has become... essential." It was a difficult decision for the three members of the scholarship committee. I myself am glad that I was not called upon to vote.

All applications were ranked with #1 being the committee member's first choice through to #12 being the final candidate. The committee members had sole judgement. Each of the three members emailed the results, and I tallied the points.

TA DA—And The Winners Are:

- Carleigh De La Torre, sponsored by Grant Nelson, will be a freshman at Texas State University in San Marcos, TX. She has not declared a major, but Carleigh wrote, "I am considering Electrical Engineering and Graphic Design as strong options for my major and career choice." She wrote that she has many things she is passionate about but a high school computer science teacher and 3D printer inspired her and how she may proceed with higher learning.
- Heather Ross, sponsored by Linda Hamblin, will be starting at the University of Washington in Seattle, WA. She stated, "When choosing a major I want to choose something that would be useful not just for the job right now, but one that could be useful in other aspects of work." She will strive towards design in visual communications and also take classes in business administration or communications to further her end goal. She wants to use her degree "to strive to grow in the industry..." of graphic design or marketing.
- Jesse Ross is starting his junior year at Eastern Washington University in Cheney, WA. Jesse's degree will be in Computer Science with a minor or focus in programming and 3D animation. He said, "With this degree I plan to try to get into the animation field which includes everything from advertisements, to movies, to even video games...." He feels that by studying programming he will have a better chance of being employed because the programming field is so open. He was sponsored by Linda Hamblin.
- Toriana Witmer was sponsored by Rob Buettner. She will be attending a local school, South Puget Sound Community College near Olympia, Washington and working towards an Associate of Science Degree. After finishing at the community college Toriana plans on transferring to a four-year university to study biology or genetics with an emphasis on research. She said, "The two years at a community college will help me narrow down an exact field of study and chose the four year college/university to serve my long-term goals."

These are all winners worthy of high praise. OAEA members should be proud of the four recipients. We need to wish all of them good luck and congratulations because they will be shaping the future world.



Dear OAEA Scholarship Committee,

Thank you for the generous scholarship money. It is truly a blessing and will be used wisely. Thank you for allowing me to enter the next chapter of my life with financial help.

Sincerely,
Carleigh De La Torre



Carleigh holding her certificate with her sponsor by her side

. . .First of all, thank you so much for granting me the opportunity to earn this scholarship! I'm incredibly grateful to the organization for choosing me as one of the winners! I really appreciate this scholarship, as it will aid in my learning at university.

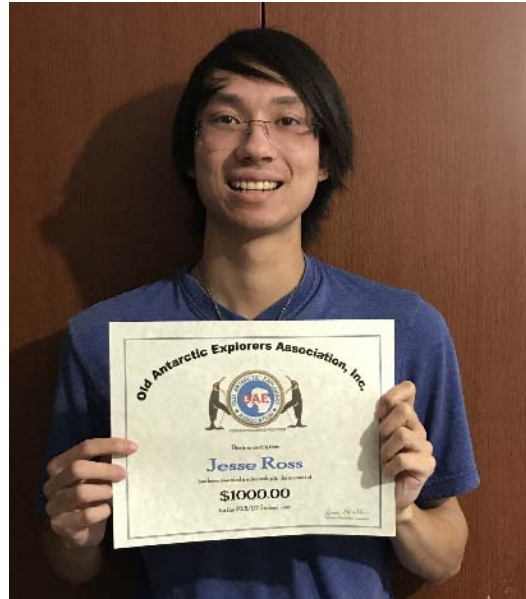
Sincerely,
Heather Ross



Heather Ross

. . . Thank you for awarding me this scholarship. With the money from the scholarship, I have had an easier time paying for my college textbooks. I've also been able to get various pieces of software that have helped me progress in my Computer Science degree. I appreciate and am honored that I was chosen and am very grateful.

Sincerely,
Jesse Ross



Jesse Holding his certificate

Dear Scholarship Board,

I sincerely thank you, the collective Scholarship Board, for your confidence and support you have in me. I will not let your expectations down and I will keep you updated.

Attached is the picture you requested.
Sincerely,

Toriana Witmer.



Toriana holding her certificate

LIONEL WAFER: HIS LIFE AND TIMES

Ghost Written by Black Jack of Ballarat



Black Jack in Valparaiso interviewing two lovely ladies while doing research on Lionel Wafer

Bulgarians on Ice Stirred not Shaken



The Bulgarian base in Antarctica is an international scientific laboratory. There are also scientists from many different parts of the world, including Colombian scientists this year. Two Portuguese, Turks, and a Cypriot scientist according to Hristo Pimpirev, Professor Director of the Bulgarian Antarctic Institute and Head of Bulgarian Expeditions on the South Continent.

He pointed out that the main idea is for Bulgaria to buy or build a ship for the Bulgarian Antarctic expeditions, but there is no development. "It is a shame that Bulgaria will not have a research ship, such a ship would cost between 40 and 50 million leva," says Prof. Pimpirev. (Note: \$20 to \$40 million US dollars).



Professor Pimpirev

In his words, almost all other Black Sea countries have scientific research vessels, and this supports so much research.

"Bulgaria, as a naval nation, it must have such a ship because it will help many Bulgarian scientists, and this ship will not only be used for expeditions to Antarctica but will be able to be used in other scientific programs," Pimpirev said.

"This is an investment in the future, because with it our scientists will do research not only in Antarctica and the Black Sea, but also in the world's oceans," argues the chief of the Bulgarian Antarctic mission.

"Three of Antarctica's approved scientific projects this year are related to climate change," Prof. Pimpirev said.



Bulgarian Antarctic Base



Bulgarian Leva

Why Bulgaria Does Not Have A Scientific Research Vessel?

For over 30 years now there have been Bulgarian expeditions to Antarctica. That's almost four decades, and they've never had their own ship to take them down. The Bulgarian government is simply not interested. This is a

scandal, no matter how you look at it. In the 1980s and 1990s, when it all started and everyone was keen, the team would normally make their way to Spain on rollers skates, then stick their thumb out and wait for a passing ship heading to Antarctica. Of course, you can't expect to get the best out of scientists under those conditions. Now, 2018, the Bulgarian government has finally offered their scientists transportation—a bicycle. Yes, A 10-speed bike that can go



Bulgarian 10 speed bicycle that they took on their Antarctic Expedition. It could not be used for transportation of equipment. So the Bulgars invested in the vehicle shown below that could be used for pulling sledges.



This vehicle could haul 10 sledges filled with cargo. It was later equipped with skis and tray tables to hold the peddler's beer and peanuts.

up and down glaciers. But it's got drop handlebars, so it can't carry the equipment very well from Sofia to Antarctica, four tons of equipment, to be exact. And it takes ages to get from Sofia to Antarctica on a bike every year. And all those Bulgars crowded on that bike. And not only Bulgars, but guest scientists from other countries. This year there are guest scientists from Cyprus, Mali, Niue, Bhutan, and San Marino, all crowding on the Bulgarian bicycles Well, they're not taking the bike, as it turns out. The Ubangi Separatists have

come to their aid, that voluble revolutionary bunch in the Central African Republic have recently purchased a fully-outfitted research ship of their own and have volunteered to take the Bulgars down this year. But they will be taking their beer, so all is well that ends well.

DE SHIP, DE SHIP!

The head of the 27th Bulgarian Antarctic expedition, Prof. Pimpirev, announced that a ship has finally been found to augment the pedal power. The Ubangi Antarctic Expedition ship will anchor in the South Bay on Livingston Island.



The Central African research vessel the Ubangi Princess

The comparatively tranquil sea and the lack of large ice blocks allows the ten-member crew to reach the shore in inflatable boats together with their equipment weighing four tons.

The Bulgarian Antarctic Institute has been a member of SCAR since 1995.



Bulgarians on ice stirred not shaken

Polar Bears & Penguins Find Common Ground at ICE LAND: Pole-to-Pole

Susie Tommaney 7 November 2018

What's up is down, what's wrong is right, and — in what must certainly be an alternate universe — polar bears and penguins have finally met in the middle. It's a "cool" concept on the part of Moody Gardens in Galveston, Texas, theming **ICE LAND: Pole-to-Pole** so that the Arctic polar bear and the Antarctic penguins can be found in the same place, but the sculptures carved out of 300-pound blocks of colored ice aren't exactly chilling out together.

ICE LAND is kept at nine degrees so visitors will want to put on a parka (those are provided) before entering the South Pole section to encounter penguins. A 30-foot glacier slide separates the penguins from the North Pole, an area that has reindeer, whales, and aquatic scenes. "[The slide] is a favorite for kids and adults," says Jerri Hamachek, marketing and public relations manager. The two million pounds of holiday- and animal-themed sculptures finish up with Rudolph (he of the red nose) and Santa Claus, as well as a teaser for next year's ice concept. The 21 and up crowd might want to stop in for a pour at Shivers, a full-service bar made out of ice.



Photos by Moody Gardens
A fully functional Bar made completely of ice at Ice Land that will be open for the holiday season



By the numbers: two million pounds of ice, 1,000 parkas, & a 28,000 square foot interior that's chilled to nine degrees

PICTURES AND STORIES FROM DAYS GONE BY

MAURICE CONLY'S PAINTINGS FROM ICE ON MY PALETTE

Compiled by Billy-Ace

From the collection of RMC Billy-Ace Baker USN (Retired): **Antarctic Books an Annotated Bibliography of Antarctica. (*Terra Australis Incognita*)**

Conly, Maurice, and text by Neville Peat. *Ice on my Palette*. Oblong super roy, 4to, 1st ed, 64 pp; 2 maps, 23 full-page colored plates from paintings by Conly; orig dark blue artificial leather, lettered in silver, laid-in newspaper article from NZ paper*, several scratch-like depressions on rear cover of book and dust wrapper. Scarce. Christchurch: Whitcoulls Publishers, 1977. (very good in very good d.w.) (signed by the authors on half title) (Renard 356). I paid \$11.00 for my copy and have seen copies on the Internet going for \$70.00.

*The undated newspaper article below is about Conly, who was a Christchurch resident, being on the ICE. One day I was over at Scott Base for some reason or another and the authors were in the post office selling and autographing copies of the book. Just like at a big bookstore. I don't know why I got them to autograph the book, but I didn't get them to inscribe the book personally for me. I probably thought that it would be more appropriate for them to ask me for my autograph.

The book contains excellent reproductions of Conley's paintings. Mostly scenes from the dry valleys and in and around Scott Base

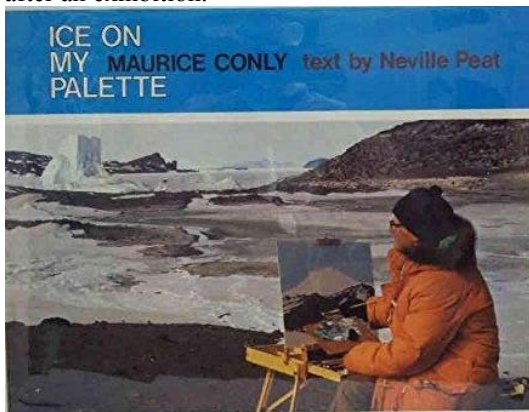
City Artist in Antarctica

A flask of hot water helped Christchurch artist Maurice Conly prepare working sketches to mark the sixtieth anniversary of the arrival at the South Pole of Captain Robert Falcon Scott and four companions.

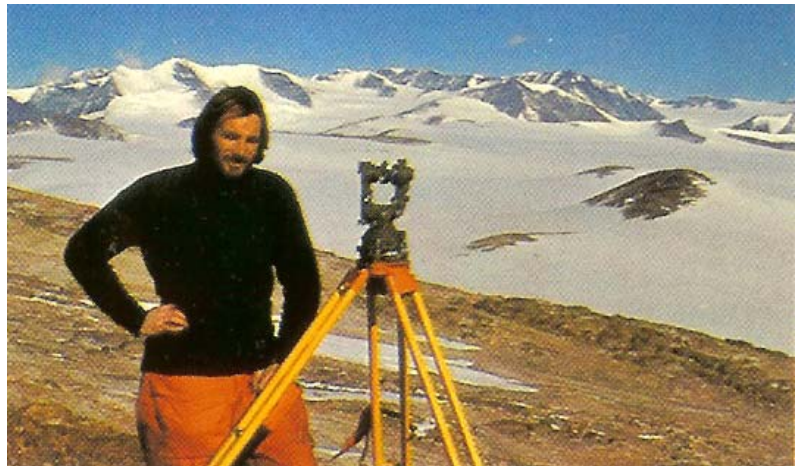
Conly needed the hot water to prevent his brushes from freezing as he worked for 3 hours on a watercolour of Scott's headquarters at Cape Evans. It was from here that Scott's 1911 expedition left for the pole, 850 miles away.

The artist, who recorded numerous scenes in oils of New Zealanders in action in World War II, will soon start on an oil painting of Scott's Cape Royds hut.

This painting, and several more, will probably go to the Antarctic Division of the DSIR after an exhibition.



Dust wrapper of my copy of Ice on my Palette. Photo taken at Cape Royds by G. E. Madgwick who was the caretaker of the historic huts during the 1973-74 season.



Neville Peat a journalist from Dunedin, NZ was the 1975-76 Information officer at Scott Base



Arrival on the Ice—Out they tumble, a hundred odd aliens, anonymous under balaclavas, sunglasses and cold weather gear. In less time than it takes the eyes to adjust to the blinding whiteness and the beard to be caked with rime ice, the newcomers (aka fengees) are shaking the gloved hands of men who have wintered-over at McMurdo Station and neighboring Scott Base. Over the next week the US Air Force Starlifters will fly in a massive injection of relieving personnel; then the turbo-prop US Navy Hercules and the RNZAF will take over the summer shuttle of men and materials

SCOTT BASE

Scott base is both a scientific outpost and a staging point for field parties that pour through during the summer season. But it is more than that. It is a place where a group of New Zealanders, strangers to one another before the pre-season training camp at Tekapo, learn to muck in and to share. At such Scott Base is New Zealand's most successful commune.

FIELD PARTIES—The helicopters of VXE-6 have streamlined fieldwork in the Dry Valleys, the largest area of exposed rock in Antarctica.

Gentile One Five, this is Kiwi field party En Zed Seven, How Copy Over.

En Zed Seven this is Gentile One Fiver, where are you at, Over.

Gentile One Five this is En Zed Seven, we have you visual. Estimate you are two miles north east of us, Over.

En Zed Seven this is Gentile One Fiver, yes, see you now. Be there shortly, Out

Sledging with the dogs is easy on the ears after the hum of the base generators and heating plants and the roar of machinery clearing snow and attending to other base chores.

There is only the swish and slap of the sledge runners on the dry and grainy snow and the muffled treat of the huskies, scooping snow as they go to quench their rising thirst.

Editor's Note: I have a matted and framed 8X10 print of this painting hanging in my home office.



GOING HOME—The summer support New Zealander will board the kiwi Herk and go home. The days of adventure and hero worship are all but over. Some will return in another season, and some may sledge again with dog teams.



Antarctic Treaty Flags

The flags of the Antarctic Treaty nations huddle around the chrome plated sphere that marks the geographic South Pole—turning point of the world—to symbolize human conquest of the last continent.



Scott Base at the hangar end



The artists sketch



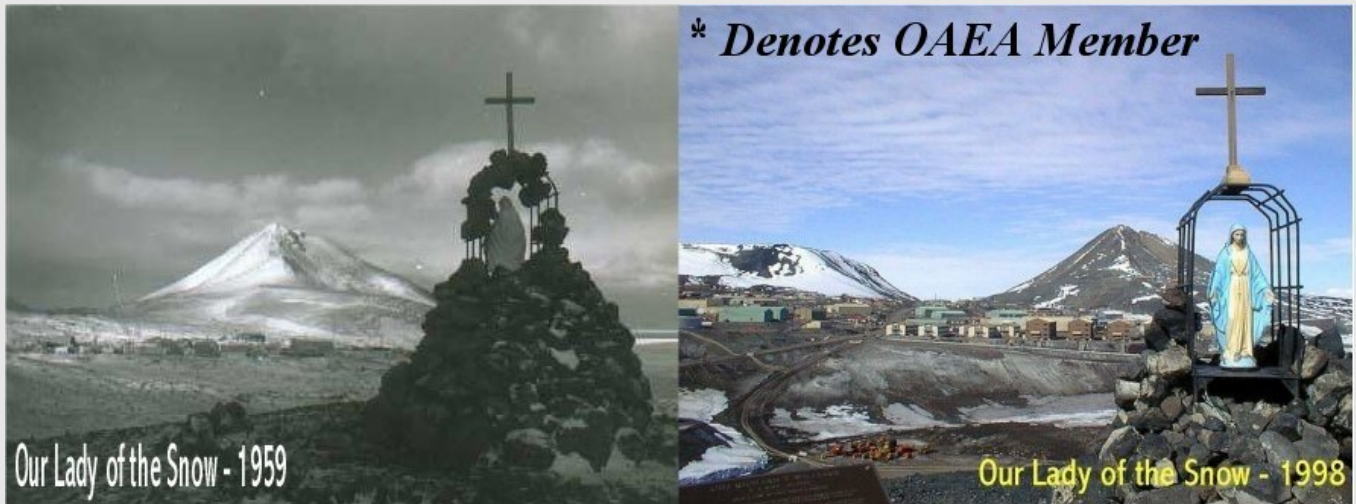
The real deal: Colin Bull on the radio to VX-6 Helo



On the way to White Island to count Weddell Seals



A RNZAF Herk at Williams Field



IN MEMORY

OAE Fay Marie Ainsworth, 71, died on 5 December 2018, in Tacoma, WA. Fay visited Antarctica as a tourist.

OAE James Paul Avery, 68, died on 1 December 2018, in Boulder, CO. James visited Antarctica as a United States Antarctic Program (USAP) Grantee.

*Jimmie Baker, 82, died on 11 December 2018, in Pensacola, FL. Jimmie was an associate member and an OAEA GCG Chapter groupie.

OAE John Karl Benjamins, 78, died on 29 September 2018, in Orleans, MA. John visited Antarctica as a tourist.

OAE Jean Berg, 96, died on 6 November 2018, in Seattle, WA. Jean visited Antarctica as a tourist.

OAE AGC John P. Bleclie USN (Ret), 97, died on 4 September 2018. John served on the USS *Glacier* as an AG1 during DF-60, 61, and 62. Bleclie Peaks are named in his honor.

OAE Valene "Vee" Bonner, 88, died on 3 October 2018, at Hope West Hospice in Grand Junction, CO. Vee visited Antarctica as a tourist.

OAE CHC Edward Francis Boucher, USN (Ret), 84, died on 22 November 2018, in Muskegon, MI. Edward served in Antarctica as a chaplain and performed mass at South Pole station in 1972.

OAE Lloyd S. Bowling, Sr., 88, died on 4 December 2018, in Westwood Manor, La Planta, MD. Lloyd traveled extensively and served as a host on various Antarctica cruise ships.

OAE Gary Carson Camp, 82, died on 8 December 2018, in Hebron, OH. Gary served in Antarctica with the US Navy and deployed aboard the USS *Wyandot* during DF-I and II as an AG3. Gary wintered-over at Ellsworth during DF-II as an AG2.

OAE Floyd T. "Tommy" Chapin, 84, died on 14 November 2018, in Glenville, NY. Tommy served in Antarctica during DF-I with the US Navy Unit unknown.

OAE Margaret J. "Peg" Christian, 96, died on 15 November 2018, in Brunswick, GA. Peg visited Antarctica as a tourist.

OAE Elizabeth N. "Betty" Clapper, 93, died on 26 October 2018, in Hamburg, PA. Betty visited Antarctica as a tourist.

OAE Cdr. Charles "Chuck" David Craft, USN (Ret), 86, died on 10 October 2018, in Modesto, CA. Chuck served in Antarctica as a helo pilot on the USS *Glacier* during DF-60 as an Ensign. Craft Glacier is named in his honor.

OAE George William Bever Dahll, 81, died on 25 October 2018, at Swedish Medical Center in Seattle, WA. George served in Antarctica on the USCGC *Northwind* during DF-II as a radarman.

OAE Arthur G. Davies, 83, died on 17 December 2018, in East Braintree, . Arthur served in Antarctica with the US Navy on the USS *Glacier* as a fireman during DF-I.

OAE Jean "Patsy" T. DeBell-O'Neal died on 20 October 2018, in Louisville, CO. Patsy visited Antarctica as a tourist.

OAE Dr. Thomas Dee, 76, died on 30 December 2018, in Brookfield, WI. Thomas wintered-over at Byrd Station during DF-70 as the medical officer. He was a LT at the time and was promoted to LCDR. Dee Nunatak is named in his honor.

OAE Raymond "Ray" Russell Dibble, 92, died on 5 November 2018 (Guy Fawkes Day), in New Zealand. Ray was a geologist with Victoria University of Wellington who investigated eruptions of Mount Erebus, in the 1970s and five seasons (1980 through 1985). In the 1990s after retiring from VUW he joined the USAP team that maintained the Mount Erebus Seismic Station. Dibble Bluff and the Dibble Iceberg tongue are named in his honor. Ray was a life member of the New Zealand Antarctic Society.

OAE Frederick J. Dietrich Jr., died on 28 December 2018, in Dunsmore, PA. Fred served in Antarctica with the US Navy. Unit and date(s) unknown.

OAE Captain Lawrence "Larry" Kay Donovan, CEC, USN (Ret.), 82, died on 29 November 2018, in Walnut Creek, CA. Larry was the Officer in Charge of the PM-3A Nuclear Power Plant, Crew VI winter-over party during Deep Freeze 67.

OAE Clarence "Clay" Dumais, 86, died on 13 October 2018, in San Antonio, TX. Clay served as the OIC of South Pole Station during DF-60. He was also the medical officer and performed the first appendectomy at the South Pole. Mount Dumais is named in his honor.

OAE Fred Elliott, 89, died on 10 September 2018, in Australia. Fred wintered over in 1953 at Heard Island as an ANARE weather observer. He wintered over again at Mawson Station in 1955 and in 1958. Mount Elliott is named in his honor. Fred was a Member of the ANARE Club.

OAE Jean C. Faeth, 86, died on 6 December 2018, in Hinsdale, Jean visited Antarctica as a tourist.

OAE Sophie L. Fishman, 76, died on 6 December 2018, in San Luis Obispo, CA. Sophie visited Antarctica as a tourist.

OAE COL John Edmond Flick, USAR (Ret), 96, died on 14 November 2018, in Montecito, CA. John visited Antarctica as a tourist.

OAE John "Jack" Frazier, 66, died on 15 December 2018, in Covington, WA. Jack visited Antarctica numerous times on Holland American Lines cruise vessels as a Safety and Sanitation Specialist.

OAE Robert Gamson, 86, died on 9 December 2018, in Santa Ana, CA. Robert visited Antarctica as a tourist.

OAE Lois Jane (nee) Marek Garret, 80, died on 26 October 2018, in Mesa, AZ. Lois visited Antarctica to baptize penguins.

OAE George S. Gomez, 83, died on 18 October 2018, in Lasosky's Personal Care Home, Clarksville, PA. George served in Antarctica during DF-I. Unit unknown.

OAE Francis J. Goncalves, 84, died on 7 October 2018, in Englewood, Frackville, Francis served in Antarctica with the SeaBees. Unit and year(s) unknown.

OAE Robert L. Hackl, 82, resident of Manitowoc, died on 20 December 2018. in Manitowoc, . Bob served in Antarctica with the US Navy aboard the USS *Glacier* during 1962.

OAE David L. Hammer, 89, died on 27 December 2018, in Dubuque, IA. David visited Antarctica as a tourist.

OAE Lawrence "Wayne" Harding, 92, died on 23 October 2018, in Santa Monica, CA. Wayne visited Antarctica as a tourist.

OAE Sharlene Veronica Harkness, 100, died on 15 December 2018, in San Luis Obispo, CA. Sharlene visited Antarctic as a tourist.

OAE Emma "Jane" Hill, 95, died on 24 November 2018, in Bradenton, FL. Jane visited Antarctica as a tourist.

OAE Deanne Wissner Hoaglund, died on 11 October 2018, in Evergreen, CO. Dee visited Antarctica as a tourist.

OAE Robert Bernard Hornstein, 88, died on 20 December 2018, in Encinitis, CA. Robert visited Antarctica as a tour director.

OAE CDR, MC John Byron Hunt, MD, USN (Ret), 71, died on 17 July, 2018 while riding in the Blue Ridge Mountains in North Carolina. John served for 3 deployments with the Antarctic Development Squadron (VXE-6) as the squadron flight surgeon. While in VXE-6, he met Mary Crawford, whom he married in 1986.

OAE Susan "Sue" Joel, 76, died on 15 November 2018, in Toronto, ON, Canada. Sue visited Antarctica as a tourist.

OAE Thomas "Tom" E. Johnston, 86, died on 10 November 2018, in Toronto, Canada. Tom visited Antarctica as a tourist.



- ¹
 OAE COL Douglas "Doug" Lee Jonas, USAFR (Ret), 83, died on 29 November 2018, at Virginia Mason Hospital in Seattle, WA. Doug visited Antarctica as a tourist.
- OAE Dr. Arthur Lambert Jones, 93, died on October 26, 2018 Toronto, ON, Canada, Arthur visited Antarctica as a tourist.
- OAE CPO Alfred R. Kennedy, USN (Ret), 93, died on 26 November 2018, Arlington, MA. Alfred served in Antarctica during Highjump.
- OAE Jay I. Kislak, 96, died on 3 October 2018, in Miami, FL. Jay visited Antarctica as a tourist.
- OAE Andrea Manson Krueger, 66, died on 14 October 2018, in Mill Valley, CA. Andrea visited Antarctica as a tourist.
- *OAE James Kyllonen, died on 23 October 2018, at Palmer Station. James was on his fourth winter at Palmer. He previously wintered-over at Palmer Station in 1998, 2002, and 2003. He also worked at McMurdo Station, dates unknown. See story on page 22.
- OAE James Howard Lare, 84, died on 1 December 2018, in Coronado, CA. James visited Antarctica as a tourist.
- OAE Marc Leon, 76, died on 23 November 2018, in Portland, OR. Marc visited Antarctica as a tourist.
- OAE BRIGEN Thomas "Tom" Lennon USAF (Ret), 76, died on 28 September 2018, in Milford, NH. Tom visited Antarctica as a tourist.
- OAE EMC Glenn E. Levy USCG (Ret), 93, died on 11 December 2018, in Oregon, OH. Glenn served in Antarctica on the USCGC *Eastwind* during DF-63, 64, and 65.
- OAE Genevieve Waterman Lydecker, 84, died on 14 October 2018, in San Diego, CA. Genevieve visited Antarctica as a tourist.
- OAE Dr. Michael R. MacNeel, 50, died on 4 December 2018, in Tucson, AZ. Michael visited Antarctica as a tourist.
- OAE James H. Mahoney, Jr., died on 20 October 2018, in Jupiter, FL. Jim visited Antarctica as a tourist.
- *OAE David E. Martin, 72, died on 9 November 2018, at the Sussman House in Rockport, ME. David served in Antarctica with a USAP contractor from 1989-95.
- OAEA David Muus Martinson, Sr., 83, died on 29 October 2018, in Gustavus, AK. Dave served in Antarctica with the US Navy in the early 60s. Unit and date(s) unknown.
- OAE Ivan J. McGavin, 69, died on 16 November 2018, in Salt Lake City, UT. Ivan visited Antarctica as a tourist.
- OAE Cathleen Collins McKegney, 86, died on 13 November 2018, in Shelburne, VT. Cathleen visited Antarctica as a tourist.
- OAE Gerry Elizabeth Mull, 81, died on 29 October in Myrtle Beach, SC. Gerry visited Antarctica as a tourist.
- *OAE Carl Jeffrey Norris, 44, of San Antonio, Texas died on 12 December 2018, in Antarctica at McMurdo Station. Carl worked as a fire systems technician with the USAP contractor. See story on page 22.
- OAE Karen A. Oakley, died on 9 December 2018, in Newport, RI. Karen visited Antarctica as a tourist.
- OAE Sharon Maureen (Ryerson) O'Hagan-Gilligan died on 24 August 2018, in Dennis, MA. Maureen visited as an marathon organizer.
- OAE Eric M. Olson, 93, died on 24 November 2018, in Lincoln, MA. Eric visited Antarctica as a tourist.
- *OAE Bobby Ray Pentecost, 61, of Porter, Texas, died on 12 December 2018, in Antarctica at McMurdo Station. Bobby worked as a fire systems technician with the USAP contractor. See story on page 22.
- OAE Marilyn A. Pugh, 91, died on 14 October 2018, in Philadelphia, PA. Marilyn visited Antarctica as a tour director.
- OAE Regina W. Resley, 89, died on 14 November 2018, in Albuquerque, NM. Regina visited Antarctica as a tourist.
- OAE Charles R. "Bob" Richards, died on 1 October 2018, in Hondo, TX. Bob served in VX-6 from 1960-63 and 1966-67 as an AE1/AEC.
- OAE Ronald W. Rzeszutek, 69, died on 24 October 2018, at Mercy Medical Center in Boston, MA. Ronald served in Antarctica with the USAF. Unit and date(s) unknown.
- OAE Paul V. Scholl, 76, died on 21 December 2018, in Weymouth, MA. Paul served in Antarctica in the US Navy on board the USS *Edisto*. Year(s) unknown.

OAE Donald Powell Selby, 81, died on 25 December 2018, at MD Anderson Cancer Center, Houston, TX. Don served in Antarctica during DF-III as a radioman third class on the USS *Arneb*.

OAE Gary Simpson, 81, died on 21 December 2018. Gary served in Antarctica with the US Navy. Unit and year(s) unknown.

OAE Patricia Smith, 76, died on 23 October 2018, in New London, CT. Pat visited Antarctica as a tourist.

OAE Joe Smith, 62, died on 16 November 2018, in Springville, UT. Joe served in Antarctica as a worker. Unit and date(s) unknown

OAE William H. Soloman Jr., 76, died on 12 November 2018, at Hospice Home, Naples, FL. William served in Antarctica with the SeaBees. Unit and date(s) unknown.

OAE CPO Joseph Stephan Stapczynski Sr., USN (Ret), 91, died on 11 December 2018, in San Diego, CA. Joe visited Antarctica as a tourist.

OAE Roland Lynn Stanworth, died on 24 December 2018. Ronald served in Antarctica with the SeaBees. Unit and date(s) unknown.

OAE George Matthew Starken, 84, died on 6 November 2018, in George served in Antarctica with the US Navy during the IGY.

OAE Doris Stewart, 98, died on 16 December 2018, in Roseville, CA. Doris visited Antarctica as a tourist.

OAE Eleanor "Pat" Patricia Stiehler, 77, died on 10 December 2018, in Norman, OK. Pat visited Antarctica as a tourist.

OAE Betty Jean Tomion, aged 93, died on 6 October 2018, Fort Gratiot, MI. Betty Jean visited Antarctica as a tourist.

OAE Roberta "Betsy" Wagener, 78, died on 3 November 2018, in Piedmont, CA. Betsy visited Antarctica as a tourist.

*OAE UTC James W. Wallace, USN (Ret.), 84, died on 3 October 2018, in New Port Richey, FL. Jim wintered-over four times. He wintered at South Pole Station during DF-65 and DF-69, and at McMurdo during DF-73 and DF-75. During DF-73 he supervised construction of the first McMurdo ice Pier. Jim served on the OAEA BOD from 2002 through 2006. Wallace Rock is named in his honor.

OAE Michael Walsh, 81, died on 21 December 2018, in Gainesville, FL. Mike visited Antarctica as a tourist.

OAE Col. Dawson Neil White, USAF (Ret), 87, died on 13 October, 2018, in Rock Hill, . Dawson served in Antarctica in the late 50s as a C-124 pilot.

Chaplain's Corner

Johnnie Draughon—OAEA Chaplain

How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? And how can anyone preach unless they are sent? As it is written: "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!"⁹ (Rom. 10:14-15)

Four years ago, I wrote my first devotion for The *Explorer's Gazette* as your chaplain. It has been my privilege to serve you in this capacity and I hopefully will continue to do so for many years to come. Periodically, I believe it is important for me to remind you where I'm coming from. As I have stated before, I know that many of you are not Christian and some are not believers at all. My



prayer is that I will be respectful to each of you as I write each quarter. While I cannot even begin to explain what "God" is I do believe that all you see around us is not a matter of chance. I believe that science explains how the world was created and that the Bible explains why. I also believe that somehow the creator of the universe entered into life as a man, Jesus of Nazareth, in order that we might better understand who he (God) is. As we enter into this new year I hope that each of you, in your own way, are preparing your hearts for God to come into your lives—Immanuel, "God with us".

May the blessings be,
Johnnie Draughon, Chaplain

TIDEWATER GROUP GET TOGETHER

by Ed Hamblin

In early October, we had our quarterly Tidewater area OAE lunch at Terrie's for a couple of hours of social networking. Pictured, left to right: Bill Raymus, Brad Miller, Herb Schaefer, Linda Hamblin, Charlie Thompson, Ron Rooks, Manny Perry.

By the time you see this, our January lunch will be done, and our next scheduled outing is Saturday at 6 April 2019. We meet at Terrie's Breakfast and Lunch Diner in Norfolk on Military Highway in Norfolk VA; 11:30 to eat and then socialize for a couple of hours.



Reminders are sent the week before via email; if you aren't receiving a reminder and would like to be added to the notification list, point of contact is: Ed Hamblin (ehamblin74@verizon.net).



Terrie's



Everyone except Ed Hamblin



Christmas Cartoon



New Year's Cartoon

West Coast Group Meeting

By Bob Gaboury

Our 15 December 2018 West Coast Group get together was held at Polly's Pies in Laguna Hills, CA. It had been a long time since some of us had seen each other.

We discussed the 2022 reunion scheduled for San Diego and helping George Lusk with the festivities. Everybody was willing to pitch in.

We also decided on our next meeting, which will be on the first weekend in May. From that point on we ate and we drank. Enjoyed a great brunch as usual and the sea stories are getting better by the day.

For more information about the West Coast Group I can be reached at: bobgaboury@gmail.com.



Polly's Pies

The group photo below, other photos of smaller groups, and some Individual photos are available on the Internet at: <https://jackkane.smugmug.com/Old-Antarctic-Explorers/OAEA-SW-Lunch-at-Pollys-Pies-15-Dec-2018/n-ZjGLSk/i-cLJb6mG>



Standing: Jack Kane, Judy Kane, Bill Rouzer, Faith Maybury, Ron Stone, Christine Buehler-Prater, Brenda Jones, & Gabby. Sitting: CoCo Rouzer, Millie Buehler, Linda Gaboury, Kayden Coyle sitting on Linda's knee, Kneeling: Riley Coyle

DEATHS ON ICE

ONE DEAD AT PALMER STATION

Paul Eugene Kyllonen, age 57, died due to natural causes at Palmer Station, Antarctica on 23 October 2018. He had arrived on station with the first group of the summer crew on 6 October. Paul had wintered at Palmer in 1998 as an equipment operator/mechanic and in 2002 and 2003 as the power plant mechanic. Paul was from Ely, MN,



Paul Kyllonen



Photo by Zenobia Evans

Members of the Palmer community carrying Paul's remains aboard the RV Laurence M. Gould



Palmer Station, Antarctica, in February of 2018.

NSF PRESS RELEASE

An employee for a subcontractor to the National Science Foundation's Antarctic logistics contractor has died of natural causes at Palmer Station, Antarctica. The death occurred at approximately 11:30 a.m. Chile Summer Time (CLST) on Tuesday, 23 October.

The employee's next of kin have been notified. NSF is not releasing any medical or personal information on the deceased.

The U.S. Embassy in Chile has been informed of the situation. Palmer Station is on the Antarctic Peninsula, south of Chile.

The individual's body will remain at Palmer Station until the research vessel *Laurence M. Gould* arrives on site in approximately a day. The vessel is already en route to the station. The *Gould* is home-ported in Punta Arenas, Chile, and shuttles researchers and support personnel to Palmer Station, which is generally a four-day passage.

Out of respect for the family of the deceased, the ship's return date is not being released.

"All of us in the U.S. Antarctic Program are saddened by this tragic news," said Kelly Falkner, head of NSF's Office of Polar Programs. "Our thoughts are with family, friends, and colleagues. We appreciate the decades of service this individual contributed to the program."

TWO DEAD AT MCMURDO

*Compiled by Billy-Ace
From various news reports*

Two fire-safety technicians died on Wednesday 12 December at the US-managed station. No criminal activity is suspected in the deaths of two subcontractors killed at a US research station in Antarctica, the National Science Foundation (NSF) has said.



Photo by Anne Jungblut

Discovery Hut on Ross Island with McMurdo Station in the background.

Investigators are still piecing together what happened when two fire-safety technicians died during maintenance inside a generator outbuilding at McMurdo Station, the agency said.

NSF spokesman Peter West said that investigators had turned up no evidence of foul play and the deaths were believed to have resulted from accident or mishap.

NSF declined to disclose any personal information about the two workers, except to say they were employed by a

Virginia-based company, PAE, which in turn was hired by the US Antarctica programs logistics contractor, Leidos, headquartered in Colorado. PAE did not respond to requests for comment.

NSF initially reported the two technicians were found unconscious on the floor of the generator hut after a helicopter pilot flying over the area saw what appeared to be smoke coming from the structure and landed to investigate.

The NSF revised its account on Thursday, saying the pilot was on the ground a short distance away waiting for the pair to complete their work. He walked up a hill to the generator building to check on them when they failed to return to the helicopter-landing site at the agreed time.

Both were taken from the building and given CPR. One died at the scene. The other was flown to the clinic at McMurdo and pronounced dead shortly after. It happened on Tuesday eastern US time at a generator building that powers a radio transmitter near McMurdo station. The deaths were under investigation and would be reviewed by a panel convened by the foundation. NSF spokesman Peter West said the deaths were not being treated as suspicious.

McMurdo Station is located near to New Zealand's Scott Base research facility on Ross Island. McMurdo is the largest research outpost in Antarctica, the 60-year-old McMurdo Station lies at the tip of Ross Island in New Zealand-claimed territory called the Ross Dependency. Daytime highs in December, in the middle of the Antarctic summer, average minus 3C. More than 1,000 people, including scientists and support personnel, work at the station at this time of year.

McMurdo Station, established by the US Navy in 1955, is named after Archibald McMurdo, a British naval officer who was part of the expedition that first charted the area in 1841. McMurdo used as a base for expeditions to the South Pole and other outlying US Antarctic Stations. The buildings at the station are ageing and need replacing, but with the Trump administration seeking to slash federal spending, the fate of Antarctic research may be in doubt.



McMurdo Station viewed from Observation Hill

Human deaths are uncommon in Antarctica, despite its harsh environment. As recently as October, a subcontractor died of natural causes at Palmer Station, one of two other NSF outposts on the frozen continent. A 43-year-old

electronic maintenance technician from Canada died at McMurdo on New Year's Day 2000.

Editor's Note: OAEA Memorial Member John G. Biesiada died on 8 January 2000 vice New Year's Day.

The deaths come just months after a Russian polar researcher stationed at a remote Antarctica base was charged with the attempted murder of a colleague in October.

ABOUT THE REPEATER SITE

Two fire technicians working for PAE in McMurdo died while performing maintenance on fire suppression systems in the generator/repeater building at the Mt. Newall site in the Dry Valleys, about 60 miles from McMurdo. The two workers were discovered unconscious on the floor of the building on 12 December 2018, by the helicopter pilot waiting to fly them back to McMurdo. One was dead at the scene; the other was pronounced dead at the McMurdo clinic a short time later.



Photo by Keith Roberts

The repeater site on Mt. Newall looking west. The New Zealand repeater hut is in the foreground; behind it and the wind turbine is the American hut.

In addition to various antenna and wind turbine towers, the two main structures on the site seen in the photo above include the small green structure (24 square feet) housing the New Zealand radio repeater; and the larger (240 square feet) hut housing the US radio repeater equipment, a hybrid power system including a diesel generator, a large battery bank; controls/interconnection with the solar panels and wind turbine, Air Force-maintained seismic equipment (part of the Dry Valley Seismic Project), and survival equipment. There is also a small (96 square feet) survival shelter close to the helicopter pad and not visible in the photo above.

The hut is designated on the site plan as the "AFTEC building." That acronym is not identified in the management plan document; the correct current acronym is "AFTAC" for "Air Force Technical Applications Center" (located at Patrick Air Force Base in Florida).



U.S. Air Force photo by Brian Fox

AFTAC team members are doing maintenance on the facility during the 2017-18 season.

The AFTAC building is equipped with an automatic CO2 fire suppression system; it is probable that the two technicians were working on this system when they succumbed. Again, the two victims have not been identified by NSF or the U.S. Antarctic program, but they have been subsequently identified by family and friends in their respective obituaries.



Carl Jeffrey Norris, age 44, from San Antonio, TX



Bobby Ray Pentecost, age 61, from Porter, TX

Editor's Note: IAW OAEA By-Laws Paul Kyllonen, Carl Jeffrey Norris, and Bobby Ray Pentecost have been inducted into the OAEA as Memorial Members

The men had been performing preventive maintenance on a fire suppression system at a radio transmitter generator, the National Science Foundation (NSF) said.

Both were given CPR but one was pronounced dead at the scene by medical staff from the McMurdo clinic, and the other was pronounced dead after being flown to the clinic at McMurdo, the NSF said. Their relatives have been notified.

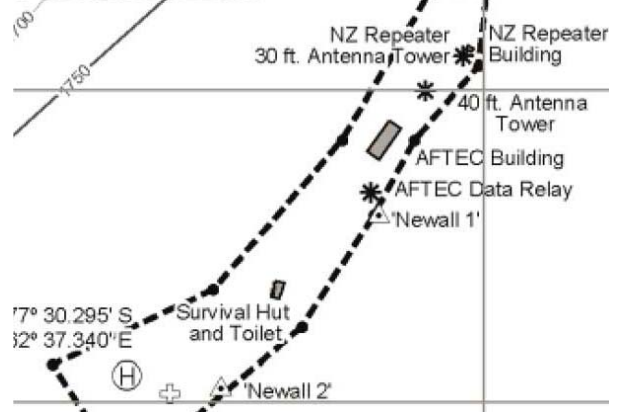


McMurdo Station after dark



Map showing the location of the Mt. Newall (upper left corner) summit relative to McMurdo (lower right corner). The repeater site is about 1-1/4 miles West South West of the summit.

Mount Newall Radio Repeater Facilities Zone



Repeater site plan from the Dry Valleys Management Plan, which was presented at the 2015 Antarctic Treaty meeting. Note the toilet location.

ONE NEARLY DEAD AT RUSSIAN STATION



Compiled by Billy-Ace from various sources

Vodka-fueled stabbing at Russian Antarctic station: Here's what psychologists think happened

Working in the Antarctic can be bad enough without someone spoiling your book endings and insulting you over vodka. One Russian explorer stabbed another at a remote polar outpost, and media is abuzz with rumors and opinions.

Antarctic cold, months-long shifts, a small group of people and liters of vodka—with conditions like that, one wonders why a knife attack hadn't happened at the Bellingshausen research station before. We spoke to mental health professionals to find out what could lead to the bloody brawl and what could have been done to prevent it.

Antarctic attack—In early October, two co-workers at the Bellingshausen station, a Russian research outpost in the Antarctic, got into a fight. It ended with 54-year-old electrician Sergey Savitsky stabbing welder Oleg Beloguzov, 52, in the chest. Beloguzov survived and was urgently taken to Chile for treatment.

The remorseful Savitsky surrendered without a fight and was sent back to St. Petersburg to await trial for attempted manslaughter, where he was placed under house arrest.



The victim: Oleg Beloguzov

This is the first time ever an incident of its kind has happened at a Soviet or Russian Antarctic research station, says deputy director of the Arctic and Antarctic Research Institute, which governs Bellingshausen. He refused to talk about possible reasons, only saying the two had shown no animosity before and barely ever encountered each other during work.



The attacker: Sergey Savitsky

Any confirmed details are hard to come by. What most reports agree on, though, is that both men were habitually drinking—alcohol is legal and said to be abundant at the station. The victim and the perpetrator had worked several seasons at the Bellingshausen before, including one of them together.

The exact motive is the most speculated-on part. One version goes that Beloguzov mocked Savitsky by offering to pay him to dance on the table. Another rumor making rounds online is that Beloguzov kept spoiling the endings of books Savitsky was reading.

Vodka on ice—

While most accounts agree that booze was involved in the altercation, alcohol at a polar station isn't necessarily a bad idea, says psychiatrist and addiction specialist Sergey Nurislamov. For polar explorers to abstain is nonsense.

You need alcohol for warmth, if nothing else, Nurislamov believes. That said, safeguards should be in place to prevent addiction and resulting physical impairment. It can be as simple as using breathalyzers and Skype.

“You don't even have to send an addiction therapist to Antarctica. It's enough if they set up the equipment and ask the station's crew to use a breathalyzer on camera.”

Psychologist, therapist, and sociologist Lyudmila Polyanova begs to differ. Alcohol is never a good idea.

Booze diminishes your self-control—and multiplied



The Culprit: Vodka

by pre-existing tensions and harsh conditions, “qualities resurface that could be unexpected for the person themselves.” Then, it's a stabbing waiting to happen.

For polar explorers to abstain is nonsense. But alcohol is never a good idea.

It could be book spoilers—or anything else—Even if, as the most popular rumor claims, Savitsky really stabbed Beloguzov over spoiled book endings, it was likely just the straw that broke the camel's back in an already simmering situation.

It's all a matter of conflict and provocation, Polyanova says. If they had a conflict, anything could be the trigger. It could be silent treatment, it could be spoilers, or it one could be taking the other's favorite cup.



It's all stark grays and whites for the Antarctic researchers at Bellingshausen station

Hidden tension—The two had been to Bellingshausen together before, and no one appears to have noticed any tension between them—and it's likely they didn't see it coming either, Polyanova believes.

“There can be internal conflicts that accumulate, not understood by even the participants themselves—it's an unconscious process.”

It's not unlike marriage, Nurislamov says. “Sometimes tension wells up. With married couples, nobody notices it either, they live together for 20 years, and then a household fight can lead to murder.”



Global Look Press / Cecilia Caminos
A church in the wild: There's a Russian Orthodox chapel near Bellingshausen station, but the presence of a priest was not enough to defuse tensions

A therapist could help—or become a victim—Throughout the years, there hasn't been a practice of sending a therapist along with Antarctic exploration crews. Had there been one at the Bellingshausen, they could help—or get stabbed themselves.

“A psychologist in an isolated environment is a human like anyone else,” Polyanova says. “He is interacting with the rest of the group. He can have his own conflicts. This calls for a systemic approach, if we're talking about psychological help, the psychologist must receive it also.”

Since the Soviet days of polar exploration, the state's approach has changed, and the work of Antarctic researchers is now seen as routine, Nurislamov says. But the conditions are still exceptional, and still call for teams of specialists to oversee the remote, isolated crews.

“There doesn't have to be a dozen professionals sitting there at the station. With modern communications, the specialists can remain hundreds or thousands of kilometers away.”

Engineer stabs welder at Russia's Antarctic station

An engineer attacked and tried to kill a welder at Russia's Bellingshausen polar station in Antarctica.

The engineer, Sergei Savitsky, an employee of the Arctic and Antarctic Institute, stabbed the welder, Oleg Beloguzov, in the chest on 9 October in the dining room.

The welder was taken from King George Island, where Bellingshausen station is located, to a hospital in Chile.



The one who was stabbed



Bellingshausen Station

The engineer was sent to St. Petersburg, where he was arrested at the airport. Savitsky was charged with attempted murder. On 22 October, the man was put under house arrest. The motive of the attack was not specified

Alexander Klepikov, the chief of the Russian Antarctic Expedition said twelve people remain at the station.

It was reported that the conflict between the men could spark due to the aggravation of the situation under conditions of living in confined space for a long time. The people had been living at the station for more than six months, and the relations between them could go wrong.

Bellingshausen station is considered almost like a “resort” among polar explorers. Temperatures rarely go down below zero—they drop to as low as minus six degrees Centigrade in the coldest month of the year. Transport to Bellingshausen runs all the year round, unlike at other stations located closer to the South Pole. Some polar explorers have to spend more than six months in confined space because of the polar winter.



Some of the buildings at Bellingshausen

STABBER KEPT IN CREEPY CHURCH

It has been learned that after Sergei Savitsky stabbed a worker at a Russian Antarctic research station, he was detained in an Orthodox church for 10 days before returning to Russia.

A man charged with attempted murder in Antarctica was detained in an Orthodox church for 10 days before returning to Russia because there are no jails or cops on the icy continent.

Sergei Savitsky—who has been under house arrest in Russia awaiting trial for attempted murder for allegedly stabbing welder Oleg Beloguzov at Bellingshausen Station, a Russian Antarctic research station—was detained for 10 days in Holy Trinity Church—a small, wood Eastern Orthodox Russian Church on top of a rocky hill on Antarctica's King George's Island.

“Mr. S. Savitsky lived together with the priests of our orthodox church for 10 days after the incident before his flight back to Russia,” Alexander Klepikov, the head of the Russian Antarctic Expedition for the Russian Arctic and Antarctic Research Institute said. “Not any of the Antarctic

stations has special premises for temporary isolation of people and no police officers.”

Savitsky and Beloguzov spent months feuding during their time at the station, which was during Antarctic winter, when the sun is down for months at a time. According to several news reports, tensions came to a head when Beloguzov suggested that Savitsky dance on the dining room table for money. After being stabbed several times, Beloguzov was rushed to a military hospital in Chile and managed to survive the incident.

Savitsky surrendered himself to the Bellingshausen station chief after the stabbing and was moved to the church.

The ancient-looking church was actually constructed in 2004. And it's tiny, with a maximum capacity of thirty people. Unfortunately, one of the main tasks for the pastors based at the church is to conduct funerals for the people who have died on the continent.



The creepy church after dark



*Image: Wikimedia Commons
Inside the creepy church*

Klepikov also said that while everyone has to undergo a psychological evaluation before heading down to Antarctica, there aren't any psychologists stationed there. Rather, Klepikov said, there is only a surgeon and general practice doctor at the station.

According to Klepikov, this is the very first criminal incident connected to the Russian Antarctic Expedition over

its 63 years of existence. Currently, Klepikov said, the stabbing and its causes are being investigated by the Russian Investigations Committee. According to news reports, there's reason to believe that a combination of alcohol, personal grudges, and long-term isolation were at play.

ANTARCTICA STABBING

The Antarctic desolation and cold could be too much for some people—even folks you would think are used to some cold weather. A Russian researcher has been charged with attempted murder after allegedly stabbing a peer at the Bellingshausen Station on King George Island.

The apparent stabbing took place on 9 October after Sergey Savitsky, suffered an “apparent emotional breakdown,” as the AP describes it, potentially fueled by “tensions in a confined space,” according to Russian news agency Interfax.

King George Island hosts various research activities across fields, with stations run by countries including Russia, Chile, China, and the U.S., to name a few. Bellingshausen is a Russian research station, named after 19th-century Antarctic visitor Fabian von Bellingshausen, and has been open since 1968.

Based on human nature from the movie *Cast Away*, incredible isolation brings out the strangest behavior in humans. It's not a romantic place. There's this really dark humor down there.

ANTARCTIC WORKER STABS COLLEAGUE AT RUSSIAN OUTPOST, FACES ATTEMPTED MURDER CHARGE

BY David Brennan

An employee at a remote Russian science station has been charged with attempted murder after stabbing his colleague in a sudden outburst of violence.

According to Russia's Interfax news agency, Sergey Savitsky attacked a fellow employee on 9 October possibly after experiencing an emotional breakdown, stabbing him at least once.

The two men had been living and working together for six months at Russia's Bellingshausen station on King George Island, more than 500 miles off the southern coast of Argentina.

The injured man was sent for medical treatment in Chile while Savitsky was placed under house arrest at the base until 8 December. Russian authorities have not yet commented on the attack, The Guardian reported.

The base sits 650 feet from Chile's primary Antarctic outpost, the Frei facility. Several other stations are nearby, including Chile's Escudero center, Uruguay's Artigas base and China's Great Wall outpost. Brazil, Peru, Colombia, Argentina, South Korea, and Poland also maintain permanent stations on King George Island.

Early Antarctic research outposts were spartan affairs made of simple, cheap materials, designed for survival but not for comfort. But as more nations establish stations of their own, the sophistication of such missions has increased. The largest permanent mission remains the American McMurdo Station, which has a peak summer population of 900 to 1,200 people.



Photo by Vanderlei Almeida
Partial view of Bellingshausen Station

Investigating crimes committed in Antarctica poses unusual challenges. The 1961 Antarctic Treaty states that the continent belongs to no one nation. Argentina, Australia, the U.K., Chile, France, New Zealand and Norway all have territorial claims on the icy land, though none are recognized by the treaty.

Around 30 nations, including the U.S. and Russia, maintain research teams in Antarctica either seasonally or year-round. Each country's jurisdiction is generally accepted at its own facilities.

In this case, because the crime took place at a Russian base and involved Russians, Savitsky's home country will take responsibility. Some observers have proposed a new Antarctic treaty to produce a unified criminal code that all residents of the continent could adhere to.

Russian employee arrested after 'stabbing colleague' at remote Antarctic station

Savitsky, 54, gave himself up to police after flying to Saint Petersburg.

The Russian engineer who allegedly stabbed a fellow staff member at a remote Antarctica research station was under house arrest and awaiting trial, a court said.

Sergei Savitsky stabbed a colleague in the chest with a knife on 9 October in the canteen at Russia's Bellingshausen Station, "with the aim of murder", the Saint Petersburg court press service said. The pair had spent six months working together at the isolated station 75 miles off the coast of Antarctica.

Savitsky, 54, gave himself up to police after flying to Saint Petersburg on 20 October via Chile, Uruguay, and the Netherlands. A city district court ordered that he be held under house arrest on a charge of attempted murder. Before being taken away by police, Savitsky told the news site he regretted his actions.

"It's bad that everything worked out like this," he said, lamenting that he would be unlikely to get further employment at the station. "Who needs a person who waves a knife around at the Antarctic?"

Twelve people are still working at the base, station head Alexander Klepikov said. "Nothing like this has ever happened before," he said. Both men had reportedly spent more than six months at the site, where Savitsky was an electrical engineer. His victim 52-year-old Oleg Beloguzov, is a gas and electric equipment welder.

Bellingshausen was founded in 1968 on King George Island, and is also known as Waterloo. Russian television said it has one television channel—Russian state media's Channel One—and a shaky Internet connection. However there is no shortage of vodka, which is shipped in.

Such crimes are rare however, despite the pressures of working in remote environments for long periods. In 2010, a meteorologist at a weather station in the Russian Arctic was found guilty of murdering a colleague and trying to cover it up as a suicide. He was sentenced to 12 years.

No Evidence Russian Engineer Stabbed Antarctica Colleague for Spoiling Book Endings

At a remote research station in Antarctica occupied by only 14 people, rising tensions between two Russian colleagues recently escalated into violence, ending with one man stabbing the other in the chest.

On 9 October at about 3 p.m. local time, engineer Sergei Savitsky, age 54, allegedly attacked welder Oleg Beloguzov, age 52, in the canteen at Bellingshausen, a Russian research station on King George Island.

Savitsky stabbed Beloguzov with a knife; the injured Beloguzov was then evacuated to a hospital in Chile, where he was said to be in stable condition. A history of "strained relations" and long-standing hostility between the two men led to the knifing.

It has been widely reported that Savitsky "snapped" because Beloguzov repeatedly revealed the endings of the books that Savitsky was reading. However, it is unclear where this detail originated; an unnamed source told Russian news agency Interfax that tensions likely sparked from the men spending six months together in close quarters, but the source offered no further insights into what may have led Savitsky to pick up the knife and plunge it into Beloguzov's chest.

Researchers endure isolation and punishing conditions while conducting their work in Antarctica, though the time generally passes without dangerous incidents flaring up. However, there have been exceptions. In 1996, FBI agents visited Antarctica to investigate a fight that broke out at McMurdo Station, when one man attacked another with a hammer.



Photo credit: Alamy

An elevated view of Bellingshausen Station and Frei Base on King George Island in Antarctica, where the stabbing allegedly took place.

And in 2000, an Australian astrophysicist named Rodney Marks died of methanol poisoning “under mysterious circumstances” while at the Amundsen–Scott South Pole Station; his death was investigated by authorities but was not labeled a homicide, according to the New Zealand Herald.

According to the terms of the Antarctic Treaty—drawn up in 1959 and now representing 53 nations—people who live and work at research bases in Antarctica who commit criminal offenses are subject to the jurisdiction of their home countries, the New York Times reported in 2016.

After the attack, Savitsky surrendered to the director of the research station. He traveled back to Russia, returning to St. Petersburg's Pulkovo International Airport on 20 October, where he was met by police officers. Two days later, officials with the Vasileostrovsky District Court in St. Petersburg charged Savitsky with attempted murder and sentenced him to house arrest until 8 December.



Bellinghausen after dark

An Attempted Murder at a Research Station Shows How Crimes Are Prosecuted in Antarctica

At a Russian research base in Antarctica, a man repeatedly stabbed another, almost killing him. When a crime occurs at the bottom of the world, who’s responsible?

On 9 October at an isolated Russian Antarctic research station at the bottom of the world, Sergei Savitsky snapped, according to several news reports.

Oleg Beloguzov, a 52 year-old welder, had been fighting with Savitsky, a 54 year-old electrical engineer, for months. But this time was different: Beloguzov allegedly teased Savitsky by suggesting that he should dance on top of the dining room table for money. Savitsky, who was dangerously intoxicated, lunged at Beloguzov with a knife and stabbed him in the chest several times.

Beloguzov was rushed from Bellingshausen Station—situated on the remote Waterloo Island, south of Chile—to a military hospital in Chile, per the Associated Press, where doctors managed to save his life. As of 29 October he was expected to make a full recovery and return back to Russia.

Savitsky, meanwhile, surrendered to the station chief, according to the AP. However, he was not able to fly back to Saint Petersburg until 20 October (which he reportedly did voluntarily, unaccompanied by authorities),

as flights to and from Antarctica aren't exactly on a daily schedule, according to Russian news outlet AIF.

Upon returning to Russia, Beloguzov admitted to the stabbing and was placed under house arrest until 8 December per Russian news outlet Interfax, when he will go on trial for attempted murder.

Savitksy maintains that he didn't intend to kill Beloguzov, according to Russian news outlet Nevnov. Savitksy and Beloguzov have reportedly both been to Antarctica before and were stationed together in 2014 to 2015 during the Antarctic summer. Evidently, the animosity between the two had never escalated to extreme violence until this year.

It might seem strange that Savitksy remained in Antarctica for more than a week after an attempted murder. To be fair, he had nowhere to run—due to Antarctica's isolation, if you commit a crime there, you're basically imprisoned in the same place that you committed it.

Antarctic research stations have a reputation for hosting quirky, jubilant characters and fostering a vibrant social experience. McMurdo, an American-run research base in Antarctica, has been highlighted in works such as Werner Herzog's *Encounters at the End of the World*. It's not difficult to imagine that vulnerable minds trapped at the bottom of the world can be driven to dangerous extremes.

This raises the question, how do people deal with crimes on the frozen continent?

There's a long, little-known history of crimes committed in Antarctica. Back in 1996 at McMurdo Station, one cook attacked another with the claw end of a hammer, injuring the intended victim and another cook who tried to break up the fight. Both received stitches and fully recovered. However, the FBI was flown in for the first time in the station's history.

In the 1950s, according to the AP, a staffer at Australia's Mawson base was locked in a storage room for multiple months. The person had become so violent that he could only be approached by the base doctor.

More recently, in July 2009 (the middle of Antarctic winter) a drunk station staff member got into a fist fight with the chief cook, according to a description of a YouTube video allegedly depicting the event. This apparently happened at King Sejong Station, a research station on King George Island operated by South Korea.

After a crime is committed in Antarctica, scientists don't suddenly become police officers. Per the Antarctic Treaty of 1959—which the US, the then-Soviet Union, and 51 other nations signed—a person who commits a crime in Antarctica is subject to the law enforcement policies of their

home country. Usually, a law enforcement officer is stationed in Antarctica in order to make sure this happens. According to a report by The New York Times, the station manager at McMurdo is also a special deputy US Marshal.

It's unclear if the Bellingshausen research station chief is similarly a representative of Russian law enforcement. The Russian Arctic and Antarctic Research Institute, which operates the Bellingshausen research station, did not return requests for comment.



Bellingshausen retro cargo yard

It's important to consider the mental circumstances that contributed to Savitksy's crime. Savitksy had been stationed at Bellingshausen for six months through the Antarctic winter—which means that from June through August, the sun is down for more than 24 hours at a time. There were only fourteen people on the whole mission.



Snow and blowing snow at Bellingshausen

Imagine being stuck at the bottom of the world to work in near-complete darkness for half the year; it's not hard to see how people are pushed to their mental limits, and how this could lead to violence when alcohol is involved. According to 360tv, there is a psychologist at Bellingshausen station, but it's unclear how workers are assessed prior to being stationed in Antarctica, or how frequently they're assessed while stationed there.

THE WHITE DARKNESS

Compiled by Billy-Ace Penguin

BOOK REVIEW



The White Darkness. By David Grann. Hard cover, 148pp illustrated. Published 2018 by Doubleday. \$20

THE WHITE DARKNESS

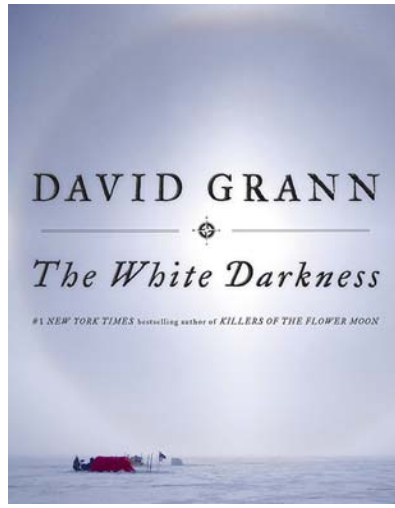
Review by Colin Dickey

In recent years the polar explorer Ernest Shackleton has become a posthumous self-help guru; books like *Leading at the Edge: Leadership Lessons from the Extraordinary Saga of Shackleton's Antarctic Expedition* and *Shackleton: Leadership Lessons from Antarctica* litter the self-improvement section like discarded, frozen camping supplies. Decades after his death in 1922, Shackleton, best known for failing to reach the South Pole and then failing to complete a trans-Antarctic route, has become an icon of successful management under extreme duress, a textbook case of a role model gifted with people skills with a lot to teach today's middle managers.



Henry Worsley and fellow adventurers William Gow and Henry Adams dragged 300-pound sleds on their Antarctic trek in 2008–09.

To Henry Worsley, the subject of David Grann's latest book, *The White Darkness*, Shackleton was something more. Worsley, a British special forces officer born in 1960, was drawn to Shackleton's story and the example he set. From a young age, he devoured accounts of polar exploration, with Shackleton always his vision of a courageous leader and adventurer. As he entered the military, he relied on Shackleton's cues to establish himself as a well-liked and successful commander. As dreams of his own adventures gradually colonized his mind, Worsley decided to follow in his hero's footsteps, literally: In 2008, when Worsley was 48, he and two other men re-created Shackleton's failed journey to the South Pole.



Dragging 300-pound sleds behind them, they skied across the frozen continent, scaling treacherous glaciers, and on 9 Jan reached Shackleton's farthest point, 88 degrees 23 minutes south. While Shackleton turned back, realizing he did not have the resources to cover the final 112 miles, Worsley and his two companions (both descendants of Shackleton's original crew) triumphed, making it to the South Pole on 18 January. Another expedition followed in 2012—re-creating the famous 1912 race for the South Pole between Robert Falcon Scott and Roald Amundsen—and then a third expedition in 2015. This time, Worsley would

attempt a grueling feat: crossing the entire continent of Antarctica, a thousand-mile journey through temperatures



Shackleton's team took a picture at 88°23'S—the southernmost point anyone had yet reached. Worsley's crew re-created the photo a hundred years later.

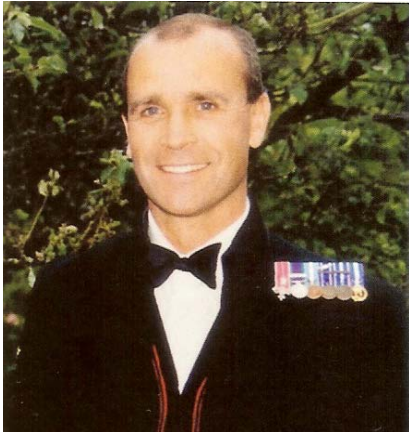
averaging minus 40 degrees Fahrenheit (combined with a debilitating wind-chill), unaided, entirely by himself. It is this journey, and the events that led to it, that are the basis of *The White Darkness*, a slim volume adapted from a New Yorker article supplemented with photographs that document the bleak and sublime landscape that captivated Worsley.

Grann recounts in sometimes gruesome detail the hardships Worsley endured as he attempted to cross the continent by himself—blistered and bruised feet, fingers numb with frostbite, a tooth broken from eating a frozen energy bar, a body wasting away no matter how much he ate. Worsley faced Antarctic blizzards that could last for days, “which sometimes whipped icy particles into a blinding cloud, making him so disoriented that he toppled over, his bones rattling against the ground.” Writing in his diary that January, Worsley confessed: “So breathless ... I am fading ... hands/fingers are forever shutting down ... wonder how long they will last.”



Henry Worsley in Antarctica

At times, one cannot help but wonder, to what end all this suffering? When Sir John Franklin disappeared in the 1840s, he had been seeking trade routes; Robert Falcon Scott's Discovery expedition had as a chief aim the advancement of scientific knowledge. But Shackleton primarily sought boasting rights, and for his trouble received nothing but suffering. Worsley, too, at times seemed to be motivated only by this goal of submitting to the ultimate hardship. Ostensibly, he was raising money for wounded veterans, but given the colossal expense in mounting these expeditions, it was hardly the most expeditious way to accomplish that.



Henry Worsley, like his father joined the Army

The goal, it seems, was existential as much as anything. When Shackleton looked back on his ill-fated trans-Antarctic adventure, he wrote that he and his men “had pierced the veil of outside things,” reaching “the naked soul of man.” This, more than any philanthropy, seems to be what drove Worsley. He may have claimed to see in Shackleton a great leadership model, but a solo journey is not about leading others. *The White Darkness* tells the tale of how Worsley moved from one aspect of Shackleton's legend—his inspiring leadership—to this other, deeper, more primal and unfathomable motive, to pierce the veneer of outside things.

Unlike Worsley's grueling advance across an inhospitable continent, Grann's prose moves at a brisk pace. Polar journeys are inevitably stories of monotony—the endless treks over unchanging landscape, the interminable periods of downtime waiting against the weather—but *The White Darkness* proceeds aplomb, with a style that conveys the immensity of Antarctica and the difficulty of Worsley's journeys without ever bogging down. At times, the pace is a little too quick: Worsley's second polar expedition in 2012 is covered in only two paragraphs. The photographs help fill in some of these gaps. One haunting image from that 2012 expedition depicts a legend carved into the snow by Worsley: His words “I AM THE ANTARCTIC” are framed against a landscape that seems to go on forever.



A message Worsley carved into the ice on his second expedition

With more space, Grann might have delved into the historical and political implications of such a gripping yarn, as he did in his masterful *Killers of the Flower Moon: The Osage Murders and the Birth of the FBI*. The legendary British polar explorers, after all, have always been held up as symbols of that country's empire. Even Scott, who died after

failing to beat Amundsen to the pole, became a symbol for Great Britain during the First World War, a figure of stoic perseverance against insurmountable odds. Worsley too was part of this continuum. A bare reference to Worsley's first encounter with "the threat of violence" while stationed in Northern Ireland in the early 1980s is enough of a reminder that Worsley was the product of a colonizing military, when its might was in its final throes. His romanticism of men like Shackleton was not entirely random, and Worsley—who was given a Union Jack by Prince William before departing on his final Antarctic voyage—also symbolized a Britain whose might was fading.



The Larsen C ice shelf in Antarctica seen from above.

But Grann, and perhaps Worsley too, would have you believe this is secondary to the central story of how one man threw himself into the most formidable landscape on the planet and what he found there.

"He grew accustomed," Grann writes of Worsley, "to the paradox of being reduced to irrelevance in the alien landscape while at the same time feeling acutely aware of oneself: every aching muscle, every joint, every breath, every heartbeat." This is perhaps the ultimate paradox that drives people like Worsley to such feats: to become nothing but one's own pain and misery, to have one's own body turn against you, being nothing but pain and exhaustion—and yet, when scanning the endless white darkness around you on all sides, to somehow transcend yourself entirely.



How his obsession with crossing Antarctica solo led to his death

By Susannah Cahalan

Alone in the vast expanse of ice and snow, where temperatures drop to minus-30 degrees, dragging 300 pounds of supplies, feet blistered, body ravaged by fatigue—who would choose this? One man did.

British explorer Henry Worsley trekked across Antarctica for 71 days before falling victim to its brutal elements. Henry Worsley is hailed today as "one of the greatest polar explorers of our time." His perilous—and ultimately deadly—trek across Antarctica in 2015 is the subject of a pocket-sized book by New Yorker writer David Grann.

The White Darkness has already been optioned for the big screen—and no wonder. Worsley's story is almost too astounding to believe.

On 13 November 2015, 55-year-old Worsley, a retired British Army officer, embarked on coast-to-coast tour of Antarctica alone and without aid. There would be no food buried along his path, no outside assistance, no sled dogs—all for a distance of more than 1,000 miles over a period of 2 1/2 months. No one else had ever even tried such a feat.

"As is true of many adventurers, he seemed to be on an inward quest as much as an outward one—the journey was a way to subject himself to an ultimate test of character," Grann writes.

Worsley was in his teens when he first read a copy of *The Heart of the Antarctic*, written by British explorer Ernest Shackleton. When Worsley realized that his relative, Frank Worsley, was in Shackleton's expedition party, he became obsessed.



Worsley with snot cicles

Then, in 2008, Alexandra Shackleton invited Worsley to retrace her grandfather's doomed mission to the South Pole, a grueling 66-day trek. Though Shackleton and his expedition never made it that far, Worsley and his two-man crew completed the journey.

Worsley was hooked. Five years later, he returned again, this time armed with a satellite phone and an iPod loaded with songs by David Bowie, Johnny Cash and Meat Loaf. His sled, weighing 325 pounds, was filled with the food he would eat on his journey—freeze-dried dinners and protein bars. He wore cross-country skis and held poles to propel himself across the ice cap more than 10 miles a day. He was entirely alone.

"He pushed off and heard a familiar symphony: the poles crunching on the ice, the sled creaking over ridges, the skis swishing back and forth. When he paused, he was greeted by that silence which seemed unlike any other," writes Grann.

The threat of death was constant. "One misstep and he'd vanish into a hidden chasm," writes Grann. Get wet and Worsley had four minutes, tops, to dry off before hypothermia did him in.

He had left behind wife Joanna, 21-year-old son Max and 19-year-old daughter Alicia, who had scrawled this message on his skis: "Success is not final, failure is not fatal. It is the courage to continue that counts."

By his 10th day—22 November—things started to turn. Worsley hit a whiteout that trapped him in his tent for days.

One brutal day followed the next. "It was a real physical battle with fatigue," Worsley wrote in his journal. "I was

stopping literally every minute or so to catch my breath or just get ready for the next exertion required.”

By mid-January, Worsley had traveled more than 800 miles. He reached the South Pole on 2 January and ignored the offers of help from well-wishers there. His goal was to get to the coast unaided, so he trucked on.



Worsley's daughter Alicia paints her father's skis with messages. One quoted the Shackleton family motto: "By Endurance We Conquer".



Henry admired Joanna's brashness & her entreaties to "go out & achieve your dreames".

By the time he reached the Titan Dome five days later, he had lost more than 40 pounds. "I felt pretty awful," he said in his audio messages, which he had been routinely updating for people following his journey. "The weakest I felt in the entire expedition."



In 2003 Worsley visited Shackleton's grave on South Georgia Island

Wife Joanna recognized the fear and fatigue in her husband's voice and tried to deploy a rescue team, but they insisted that Worsley be the one to make the call. "Virtually every part of him was in agony. His arms and legs throbbed. His back ached. His feet were blistered and his toenails discolored. His fingers started to become numb with frostbite," wrote Grann. "One of his front teeth had broken off, and the wind whistled through the gap."

To keep his spirits up—by now his iPod had broken—he listed his favorite foods: "Fish pie, brown bread, double cream, steaks and chips, more chips . . . Ahhhhh!"

During yet another whiteout, Worsley noted that his body "seemed to be eating itself" and called his son in the middle of the night to say: "I just want to hear your voice. I just want to hear your voice."

On 22 January after 71 days and more than 900 miles, Worsley pushed his panic button and called for rescue.

"My journey is at an end. I've run out of time, physical endurance and the simple sheer ability to slide one ski after the other to travel the distance required to reach my goal. My summit is just out of reach."

The rescue planes arrived, rushing Worsley to the city of Punta Arenas in southern Chile. But soon after he arrived, his liver and kidneys failed.

Worsley was posthumously awarded the Polar Medal, which was also bestowed upon his hero Shackleton. In 2017, Worsley's wife and two children flew to icy South Georgia Island to bury his ashes on a peak that overlooks the cemetery where Shackleton is buried.



Joanna and her children dug a hole and buried Worsley's ashes in the frozen earth

"He was always the invincible man—not physically but mentally—and I still expect him to come back," Max told Grann. "If I'm even half the man Dad turned out to be, I'd be so pleased."

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

David Grann is a staff writer at the *New Yorker* and a bestselling author. His work has garnered several honors for outstanding Journalism. David has a Facebook page at: [Facebook.com/DavidGrannAuthor](https://www.facebook.com/DavidGrannAuthor).



David Grann

His below books are available in Paperback:

- *The Devil and Sherlock Holmes*
- *The Lost City of Z*
- *Killers of the flower moon*
- *The Old Man and the Gun*

NEW OAEA MEMBERS

Thanks to Elaine Hood, Bill and Neola Waller, Black Jack Stewart, OAEA Web Site, Nuke Digest, Friends of Stretch D8s Facebook, Pensacola News Journal, and ObitMessenger 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.

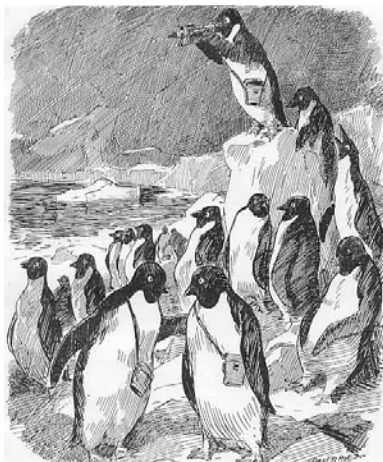
The below list of personnel have joined the OAEA since the previous issue of the *Gazette*.

*Denotes Associate Member

§Denotes Upgrade to Life or Renewal of Annual Member

ΦDenotes Upgrade to Regular Member

Barks, Mira NOK	Life	Widow of Larry Barks
Check, Daniel CIV	Life	USAP Contractor/ITT 1981-87
Clayton, Alonzo EMFN	Life	USS <i>Wyandot</i> , USAP DF-I (55-56), 2005-06
Jakulewicz, C.S. CMC	Life	PM3A WO DF-67 & DF-71, SS 73-74
Kyllonen, Paul CIV	Memorial	WO Palmer Station 98, 02, & 03. On his fourth WO when he died on 23 Oct 2018. Also Worked at McMurdo.
La Prade, Jim JO2	§Life	TF43/VX-6 1968-70
Miller, Norm ABHAN	Life	VX-6 1963-66
Norris, Carl CIV	Memorial	USAP Contractor died at McMurdo on 12 Dec 2018
Pentacost, Bobby CIV	Memorial	USAP Contractor died at McMurdo on 12 Dec 2018



*The start for the South Pole.
"Great Scott they are off!"*

REUNION & MEETING INFORMATION

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

USS Yancey: Dallas, TX, 25–29 October 2018. POC George Clifton. clifs@ameritech.net, or 708 425 8531. The *Yancey* served during Highjump.

USS Wilhoite: Albuquerque, NM, 8–11 October 2018. POC Bob Gray. Bob can be contacted at: 601 595 2415, davidisabled@att.net. The *Wilhoite* served during DF-61.

USS Atka: Wilmington, NC, 22–24 April 2019. POC Mike Kovacs. Mike can be reached at: 609 506 7981 or by email at: mikeakovacs@hotmail.com, The *Atka* served during Pre-DF, DF-II, DF-III, DF-60, 62, 64, & 66.

All SEABEE: Gulfport, MS, 25–28 April 2019. POC Robert Smith. Robert can be reached at: 228 424 1185, or at: smithrep@cableone.net.

USS Edisto: New Orleans, LA, 10–14 June 2019. POC Glen Smith. Glen can be reached at: 321 362 5284, or at: glandsmith@att.net. The *Edisto* served during: Operation Windmill, DF-II, IV, 61, 63, & 65.

OAEA: Jacksonville, FL, 11–13 November 2020. POC Dewey Painter. Dewey can be contacted at: 904-962-1928, or at: oaea2020reunion@gmail.com

Love Birds

Male penguin couple in Sydney Australia are ‘absolute naturals’ at incubating live egg, ‘Inseparable’ Sphen and Magic show ‘great excitement caring for their egg’ and are natural parents.

Two male penguins “proposed” to each other in a Sydney aquarium, and are now the proud foster parents of an egg.

Sphen and Magic, two gentoo penguins, have built a bigger nest than any other couple, take turns incubating, and have been praised by staff as model parents.

The two became “inseparable” earlier this year, and staff noticed that as they approached breeding season, the couple began collecting pebbles to build a nest.

They were given a dummy egg to look after and performed so well keepers gave them a real egg to foster.

“They were absolute naturals and displayed great excitement caring for their egg,” staff said.



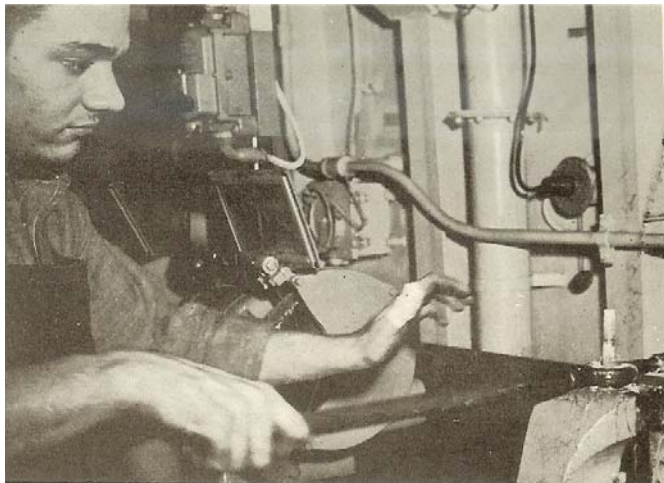
Penguin couple Sphen & Magic propose to each other

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 Ferbas is looking for anyone who served with his biological father Dennis Ferbas who was an engineer on the USS *Glacier* in Operation Deep Freeze. Dennis made two deployments to Antarctica, either during DF I and II or II and III. John learned of this only after his father's passing. His mother and father dissolved their marriage when he was a young boy. He is trying to learn about him now, and would like to know if there is any realistic way to obtain any information regarding his father in this capacity. John can be reach by email at: jferbas@gmail.com, or by phone at: 310-780-3640, or by snail mail at: 620 Tabard Road Malibu CA 90265.

Editor's Note: John's father was on the USS *Glacier* during DF-I (1955-56) and DF-II (1956-57). He was a Machine Repairman Third Class Petty Officer (MR3) during DF-I and a MR2 during DF-II. His photo is below.



From the Glacier DF-II Cruise Book

MR2 Ferbas threading stock in the *Glacier* machine shop

• RM3 David Hirn, U.S.Navy, 1969-1973. Summer Support, McMurdo Station, 1971-72, Byrd Station, 1972-73, is looking to make contact with others who he served with. He is particularly interested in radiomen and electronics technicians and anyone who was at Byrd Station during the 72-73 season. David can be reached by email at: [djhirn@gmail.com](mailto:djihirn@gmail.com), or by phone at: 920-743-1326, or snail mail at: 4750 Forest Rd, Sturgeon Bay, WI 54235

• Allen Cull who wintered-over at Palmer in 1979 and worked in logistics from 1981 to 1986 is looking any old friends out there. Allen can be reached by email at acull@acull.com, by phone at: 916 727 2570, or by snail mail at: 8220 Gold Sierra Ct, Antelope, CA 95843-3731, or if you live across the street from him you can use sneaker mail.

• Larry Hawkins is looking for someone who knew his father Charles E Hawkins. Charles was in VX-6 and was on one of the planes in 1955 en-route from New Zealand to McMurdo, which had to turn back to New Zealand due to very high winds. It was then that that Charles met Larry's Mom. Larry is also looking for the following individuals:

Noel Gillespie
Merideth S Laird
Howard Crocroft
Norman Fetter

Larry can be contacted by email at: kcszeminska@me.com, by phone at: 816-456-9227, or by snail mail at: 3916 S Delaware Ave, Independence, MO 64055.

Editor's Note: Noel Gillespie is deceased and I do not have any info on any of the other individuals. Hopefully some of our members will have some knowledge of your dad and/or the other individuals.

• Bruce Dewald is looking for anyone who can provide him with the dates and the tail numbers of the LC-130 Herks that were updated to eight blade props? Perhaps a press release? Bruce has searched the Internet, but did not turn up anything positive. Bruce can be reached by phone at: 520-825-6731, by email at: bdewald63@gmail.com, or by snail mail at: 929 E. Crown Ridge Drive, Oro Valley, AZ 85755-8800.

Editor's Note: Bruce added that Bill Spindler says that all (less one), LC-130H now have eight blade props. The photo is of 73-3300 aka 159129, first into McMurdo on Friday, 09 November 2018.



159129 arrives at McMurdo to herald the start of DF-2019

Gulf Coast Group Chapter Happenings

by Billy-Ace Penguin Baker

Saturday 6 October 2018

Meeting—We had 23 members and guests for our first meeting at the El Paso Mexican Grill on Mobile Highway. We did not have a scheduled guest speaker, but Sharon Gaubert a member of the Lipscomb Elementary PTA showed up and requested the floor. Sharon was accompanied by her husband, Nolan, and daughters Lauren and Kristen.



The Gaubert's: Far left Sharon. Right: Lauren, Kristen, and Nolan

Sharon spoke about the Annual Veteran's Day Celebration at Lipscomb and invited the OAEA GCG Chapter to attend as special guests of Mrs. Golloher's fifth grade class.



The Gaubert girls pose with Les and Gus

Our Vice President Ken Pye volunteered to pass out the invitations and some cards made by Mrs. Golloher's students.



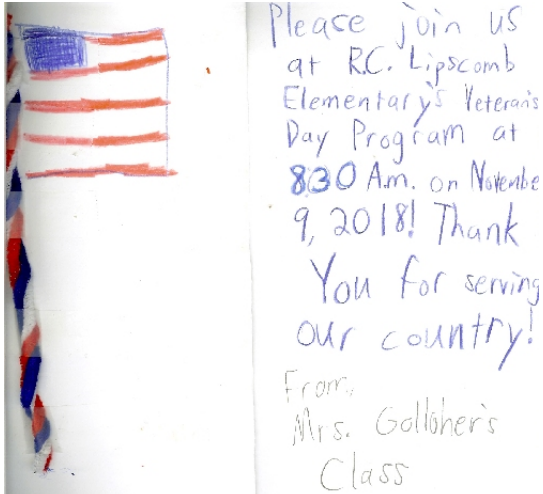
Mrs. Golloher's 5th grade class
 would like to invite the
Old Antarctic Explorers Association members
 to be our
Special Guests
 at
Lipscomb Elementary's
Annual Veteran's Day Celebration
10200 Ashton Broomham Road, Pensacola FL 32514
8:30am on Friday, November 9, 2018

The celebration will begin at the flagpole. Veterans and families will then proceed inside the school as they are greeted by the Lipscomb Elementary students. A short program will be held in the cafeteria which will be followed by fellowship and refreshments. All veterans are welcome to attend. An RSVP is not required, but appreciated in order to reserve seating for you as a group. 850-712-1761, Sharon

The Printed Invitation



A card made by one of Mrs. Golloher's students, or maybe the teacher made this one



Card made by one of the students

Following Sharon's presentation there was no further business, and we did not hold any drawings, so the meeting was adjourned. Our next meeting is scheduled for 3 November 2018 at the El Paso Mexican Grill.



Saturday 3 November 2018 Meeting—We only had five members and one guest at our November meeting. It was the smallest number of attendees we have ever experienced.

I think some of the members got mixed up and thought that we would not have a regular meeting due to the invitation to the Lipscomb Elementary Veteran's Day celebration.

For some time I had been thinking about holding quarterly meets instead of monthly, so this was the straw that broke the camel's back. Therefore our next meeting will be on 5 January 2019. I am hoping that I can make arrangements for our January meeting to be at the Cactus Flower on Highway 98 in Pensacola.

Friday 9 November 2018 Meeting—It is not known how many members showed up for the Veteran's Day celebration on 9 November, but myself, Pam Landy, Ken Pye, and Al Burton were able to make contact with Sharon Gaubert and she made sure that we got to the places that we were supposed to be.

First there was a ceremony at the school flagpole and then we lined up and made our way single file to the school cafeteria. While we were in the cafeteria Ken Pye was feeling ill, so Sharon took him to the school infirmary where Ken was able to lie down. After a while he started to feel better and he decided that he should go home.

After songs and speeches we finally made it to Mrs. Golloher's classroom. The only one who came prepared was Al Burton. Al brought along his cold weather clothing, plaques, photos, and other items from his time on the ice.

Pam and I had OAEA key chains, pins, coins, and magnets for each student in the class.



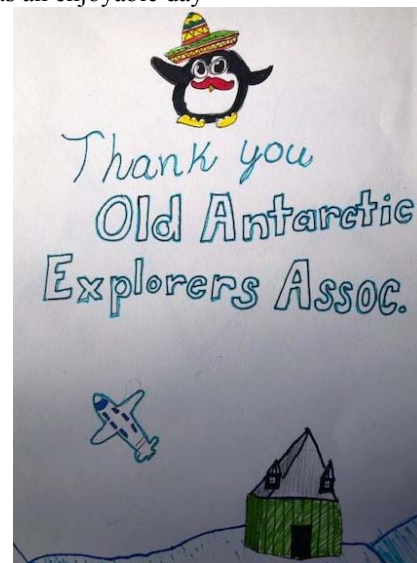
Pam appears to be sleeping while Billy-Ace sticks out his tongue and Al talks about jumping out of a perfectly good plane.



Boys dancing in Al's boots

The kids had a lot of questions and probably would have kept us there answering their questions for the rest of the day. But we were spared when it came time for the lunch so we proceeded back to the cafeteria where we were served lunch.

After that we said our good byes and left by the back door. It was an enjoyable day



Thank you card



Old Antarctic Explorers Association (OAEA)

FY 2018 Accounting Statement

I certify that the following report is a true accounting of financial transactions conducted by the Old Antarctic Explorers Association, Inc. during FY 2018 (1 Oct 2017 to 30 Sep 2018) as of 30 September 2018.

FY 2018 ACCOUNTING STATEMENT			
INCOME		EXPENSE	
Donations	\$6,698	Administration	\$1,250
Gazette	\$10	Office Supplies	\$568
Undesignated	\$1,217	Office Equipment	\$158
Scholarship	\$4,843	Advertising	\$100
Subscription	\$628	Postage	\$424
Dues	\$2,996	Newsletter	\$1,135
Life	\$2,720	Newsletter/Reunion	\$269
Annual	\$140	Web Page	\$107
Entrance	\$136	Florida License	\$61
Interest	\$13	Scholarships	
Investment Market	\$5,296	To Students	\$4,014
Other	\$11	To Mutual Fund	\$673
TOTAL INCOME	\$15,014	Other	\$68
		TOTAL EXPENSES	\$7,577
		GAIN	LOSS
		\$7,437	
FINANCIAL STATUS OF OLD ANTARCTIC EXPLORERS ASSOCIATION, INC. AS OF 30 SEPTEMBER 2018			
Summary Statement		Asset Distribution Statement	
Beginning Balance 10/1/2017	\$70,399	Account	Tangible
FY 2018 Transactions	<u>7,437</u>	Bank Accounts	\$31,305
Ending Balance 9/30/2018	\$77,836	Scholarship Mutual Fund	\$46,531
		Ships Store	0
		Totals	\$77,836
MEMBERSHIP STATUS OF OLD ANTARCTIC EXPLORERS ASSOCIATION, INC. AS OF 30 SEPTEMBER 2018			
Membership as of 30 September 2018			
Membership Change + 31			
Memorial Members – 68	Commemorative Members – 67	Annual Members – 13	
Lifetime Members – 1540	Deceased Members – 399		

W. W. Rouzer
Treasurer 9/30/2018

