



EXPLORER'S GAZETTE

Uniting All OAEs in Perpetuating the Memory of U.S. Navy Operations in Antarctica 1839–1999
Volume 4, Issue 4 Old Antarctic Explorers Association, Inc Fall 2004

WINFLY 2004



Interior of C-17 en route McMurdo. Photo by NSF Rep Antarctica Dave Bresnahan

ON 20 AUGUST 2004 The first WINFLY flight was completed by a USAF C-17 aircraft that made the flight from Christchurch, New Zealand to McMurdo Station in just over five hours. According to Dave Bresnahan the second of four flights was on its way as he sat in his office in the USAP Chalet early Sunday morning on 22 August. In an email message Dave commented: “Dark and cold outside, minus 25 with about 15 knots wind, stars shining bright in the night sky. It doesn’t get any better than this.”

The WINFLY mission, consisting of four C-17 flights, was completed on schedule and transported 332 passengers and 168,346 pounds of cargo to McMurdo. Bresnahan noted that in the old days it would have taken at least 20 LC-130 flights to move as much cargo and passengers and would have taken several weeks. He also noted that several of the WINFLY flights did engines-running off-loads and departed the Pegasus runway 90 minutes after landing and took on zero fuel at McMurdo.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Jim Eblen — OAEA President

TO ALL OAEs —I hope this finds everyone in good health, happiness and making plans to attend the upcoming Symposium/Reunion in January.

The first item that I would like to discuss is the Symposium/Reunion. At the present time, only 30 folks have sent in their registration forms. Jim Maddox and his committee have put a lot of time and effort in putting together what promises to be an outstanding event. Please give them a break and get your registration forms along with a check to them as soon as possible. For what it is worth, I was talking to Jim Maddox today and he reminded me that I hadn't sent mine. To quote an old phrase, "The check is now in the mail". For those who attended the decommissioning ceremonies for VXE-6 and remember the outstanding meal that was served, the same folks will be putting on the meal in January. The guest speakers will be Mr. David Bresnahan, Systems Manager, Operations and Logistics, Office of Polar Programs at NSF and Ms. Kyra Phillips a CNN Anchor who did a special on Antarctica in 2002. Should be an interesting program. The Symposium/Reunion committee is working on the possibility of having LC-130 148320 (one of the first four LC-130s assigned to Operation Deepfreeze) available for a group photo. This aircraft is presently at Point. Mugu.

At this writing, I haven't heard how our members in Florida, the Gulf States and the East Coast came through the hurricanes that ganged up on them. I talked to Jim O'Connell and he had his hands full cleaning up after Ivan. I received E-mails from Art Herr, Bob Nyden and many other shipmates discussing Ivan's devastation of Pensacola. The photos forwarded from Bob Nyden showed the flight line at the Pensacola Air Museum and the sad part was looking down at Que Sera Sera with her starboard wing torn off and lying on the ground. It will be interesting to see what her future holds. I hope our members and their families came through with flying colors.

The Board of Directors will meet at 0700–0930 on Thursday January 27, 2005 followed by the General Membership Meeting. Plan on attending the General Membership Meeting, as this is where you make your voice heard. Any decisions that the BOD make between Symposiums/Reunions must be confirmed (ratified) by the membership, therefore, the final decision is in your hands.

This is it for now. For those who have lost a loved one or a friend, our prayers are with you. To those that are under the weather, we wish you a speedy recovery. Until next time.

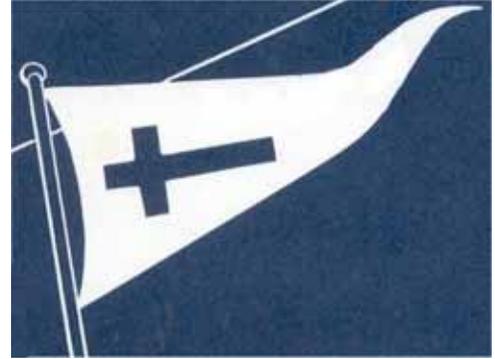
Jim Eblen

OAEA President

**CHAPLAIN'S CORNER**

Cecil D. Harper — OAEA Chaplain

THERE IS A STORY told of a wise old man who lived alone in a cabin in the hills. He was so gifted with wisdom that the great men of the land would come to present problems and questions, to which he always gave excellent counsel and correct answers.



One day a rather large youngster thought he would catch the old man off guard with a trick question. He had a little sparrow in his big hand, and he was going to ask the old man this question: "Is this bird dead or alive?" If the wise man said "alive", he would crush the bird and prove him wrong; and if he said "dead" he would open his hand and let it fly away. So the youth approached the wise old sage and with a twinkle in his eye asked his question. The wise old man, without any hesitancy, and with a smile, said slowly and lovingly, "as you will, young man, as you will."

It is true, that as surely as the sun comes up each day, unlimited power of choice is given to every person. Day after day, to every question in life, the answer is "as you will, as you will." Even God has given us a free choice in life, and as we stand at the forks of life's road, there is always a right and wrong way for us. Pilate's question is still our question: "What will I do then with this man Jesus, who is called Christ?" The eternal answer, "as you will."

Whoever you are, wherever you are, believe and trust in Almighty God to guide you in this life and to keep you for His eternal glory. Listen to him, "As you will, my child, as you will."

Cecil D. Harper

OAEA Chaplain



GROWLERS & BERGY BYTES

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

Cover Story—**Winfly 2004 harkens beginning of
USAP 2005 Austral Summer Season.**

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Pensacola, Florida, 16 September 2004—**La Bamba
Construction Company, Bill Lokey and FEMA.**

Story on page 4.

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Pensacola, Florida, 11 July 2004—**Bryd's ship
becomes Florida state preserve.** Story on page 5.

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Letters To The Editor. **Praise, Criticisms and
Assorted comments.** Page 6.

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East Falmouth, MA, 07 September 2004—**The day I
streaked the VXE-6 Change of Command
Ceremony.** Story on page 13.

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Christchurch, NZ, October 17, 2004—**Christchurch
losing the Wizard.** Story on page 15.

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Pensacola, Florida, 24 October 2004—**FY 2004
OAEA Accounting Statement.** Page 19.

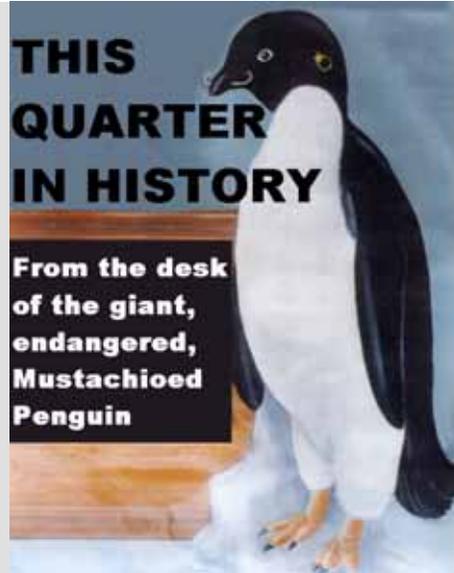
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A LONG TIME AGO, the universe was made of ice.
Then one day the ice began to melt, and a mist rose
into the sky. Out of the mist came a giant made of
frost, and the earth and the heavens were made from
his body.

That is how the world began, and that is how the
world will end,

not by fire
but by ice.

The seas will freeze and winters will never end.
—Ancient Scandinavian Legend



October Events

- 01 Oct 1719 William Camell falls while working aloft and drowns at 60°S
- 29 Oct 1912 Search party leaves Cape Evans to look for Scott
- 27 Oct 1915 Shackleton abandons the *Endurance*
- 18 Oct 1956 Four killed in P2V crash at McMurdo
- 09 Oct 1973 Initiated removal of PM-3A McMurdo nuclear power plant

November Events

- 10 Nov 1820 Nathaniel Palmer on *Hero* sights Smith Island
- 24 Nov 1904 Charcot surveys Graham Land (Antarctic Peninsula)
- 16 Nov 1928 Wilkins and Eielson make first aircraft flight in Antarctica
- 20 Nov 1956 Seabees land at South Pole to begin station construction
- 03 Nov 1987 Navy medevacs patient from SANAE Station to McMurdo and Christchurch

December Events

- 24 Dec 1820 Von Bellinghausen crosses Antarctic Circle
- 09 Dec 1902 Snatcher, the first of Scott's dogs dies
- 16 Dec 1911 Amundsen hoists Norwegian flag at 90°S, or as close as his instruments allow
- 15 Dec 1935 Ellsworth and Hollick-Kenyon complete their transantarctic crossing
- 30 Dec 1946 PBM *George-1* crashes on Thurston Island killing three crew members

LA BAMBA CONSTRUCTION COMPANY

by Billy-Ace Penguin Baker

ON 16 SEPTEMBER 2004 PENSACOLA FLORIDA sustained a direct hit from *Hurricane Ivan*. Ivan killed or directly caused the deaths of eight people in Pensacola and destroyed or damaged thousands of homes and businesses in the local area. Early estimates put the losses in the billions of dollars. As a result of four hurricanes hitting Florida in the span of a month Congress authorized the expenditure of \$11.6 billion for hurricane relief and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) received \$6.5 billion of that amount.

Several days after the shock of Ivan wore off I discovered, through newspaper stories, that the person in charge of the FEMA task force in Pensacola was Bill Lokey. I knew that fellow OAE Bill Lokey had been the Emergency Manager for the State of Washington for a number of years, so I assumed that this was the same Bill Lokey. My assumptions proved to be correct and I was able to track Bill down by email on 08 October.



Bill Lokey, FEMA's area manager for Hurricane Ivan, speaks to the Greater Pensacola Community Organization.

In his reply Bill told me that he was living in a CONEX box at Saufley Field and he provided me with a local phone number to reach him at. I called the

number the next day, but Bill was out and about, so I left a message for him. On 10 October Bill made contact with me and we made plans to meet at my house following his conference call scheduled for 1600 that evening. I gave Bill directions and we planned to go out for supper after he toured my Antarctic museum.

When Bill arrived at my house at 1800 we recognized each other right away. Bill had lost a lot of hair in the last 30 years and I had gained a lot of weight, but he recognized my signature handlebar mustache.

After making a tour of my library, penguin collection and assorted Antarctic memorabilia and art prints we went out and enjoyed a fine meal of baby back ribs. While we were at supper I asked Bill about the CONEX box that he was living in at Saufley Field and he informed me that it was actually a container that they were using as a bunkroom. He said that it was larger than a

CONEX box, but smaller than a MILVAN. When we returned to my house Bill broke out his laptop and entertained me with a slide show of his Antarctic experiences that

he uses to make presentations at schools and so forth when he is not on the road for FEMA. Incidentally he told me that he met his wife, a schoolteacher, while he was conducting one of his Antarctic slide shows at the school where she taught.

During the course of the evening Bill told me that he had not been home for

two and a half months. He said that FEMA sent him to Pensacola from Saipan Island in the Pacific where he was coordinating the recovery efforts following Super Typhoon Chaba that struck the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands. He further stated that he was flying home to Tacoma on Tuesday morning and would return to Pensacola after his leave unless FEMA sent him elsewhere.



Bill Lokey's South Pole Hero Shot

Bill's Antarctic experiences include one summer and three winters. His first winter-over assignment was manager of the Berg Field Center (BFC) at McMurdo during DF-70 (Oct 69–Nov 70). Following his first winter he skipped a season and returned to the ice as the Assistant Station Scientific Leader at Byrd Station during the summer months of DF-72 (Oct 71–Feb

72). During DF-74 (Oct 73–Nov 74) he was again the winter-over BFC manager. His third and final winter was as the Station Manager at Palmer Station during DF-75 (Apr 75–Dec 75). Bill was a late season replacement at Palmer Station for the original Station Manager who was disqualified for medical reasons.

So how does La Bamba Construction Company fit into this story? Well, the legend goes that Bill was the founder of this clandestine social club that existed during the winter months over a period of several years at both McMurdo and Palmer Stations. In any event Bill was the president of said company during DF-74. Ed Hamblin, a Navy store-keeper who also wintered during DF-74 stated in an email interview that besides Lokey La Bamba membership consisted

of two foreign exchange scientists from the Soviet Union, a Navy hospital corpsman, several civilian contract personnel and Ed thinks that the Navy Public Works Officer may have even been a member. The group's claim to fame was when they got together and built a Rube Goldberg "boat" for the exchange scientist from Poland. The raft-like contraption apparently worked because the group was honored when La Bamba Night was featured at the winter-over restaurant.

This photo of Bill appeared in the DF-74 winter-over cruise book and was

furnished by Ed Hamblin. Bill told me that he found the necktie in a bale of rags and he wore it constantly.



Lokey Peak (71°17'S 64°06'W) a nunatak at the southeast extremity of the Guthridge Nunataks in the Gutenko Mountains of Palmer Land on the Antarctic Peninsula was named for Bill following his tour as Station Manager at Palmer Station in 1975.

Editor's Note: On 20 October I learned that Bill had been reassigned by FEMA and would not be returning to Pensacola.

§§§

Wreck Of Mysterious Polar Ship To Become Florida State Preserve

By Bill Kaczor Associated Press

PENSACOLA, FLORIDA, July 11, 2004.—The wreck of a tramp steamer that helped Adm. Richard Byrd explore the Antarctic but later sank under mysterious circumstances off the Florida Panhandle is the state's newest underwater archaeological preserve.

"It has a really fascinating history," said Della Scott, a state underwater archaeologist in Tallahassee. "The local people are still absolutely convinced it was sabotaged."

Divers salvaged its cargo of lumber, but the ship, then known as the *Vamar*, has remained at the bottom of the Gulf of Mexico since sinking during World War II in 1942.

A dedication ceremony is set Friday at Mexico Beach, a small resort community about 125 miles southeast of Pensacola, for a monument describing the ship's colorful history. That history includes stints as a British warship and American rumrunner before it wound up as a tramp steamer—a ship without a regular route but available for hire anywhere cargo awaits. Within a few days, weather permitting, the monument will join the wreck 3.7 miles off Mexico Beach to mark it as Florida's ninth underwater preserve, Scott said.

The 170-foot, 598-ton ship was built in 1919, at the close of World War I, as the patrol gunboat HMS *Kilmarnock*.

Byrd purchased the vessel for \$34,000 from the U.S. government in 1928 after it had been confiscated for Prohibition-era liquor smuggling.

The vessel underwent \$76,000 in repairs and upgrades, including a reinforced bow to withstand floating ice. Byrd

renamed it *Eleanor Bolling* after his mother, Eleanor Bolling Byrd.

The crew jokingly referred to it as the "Evermore Rolling" because of its instability in high seas, Scott said.

The first metal-hulled ship used in Antarctic waters, it transported crates containing two airplanes to Little America, Byrd's Antarctic base.

Byrd made the first flight over the South Pole on Nov. 29, 1929 in one of the planes. It was a Ford Trimotor named Floyd Bennett after Byrd's closest friend.

The *Eleanor Bolling* made several more trips between New Zealand and Little America to keep the Antarctic expedition supplied.

Byrd sold the *Eleanor Bolling* to an Arctic sealing company and in 1933 it was purchased by Vamar Shipping Company. The ship was under Panamanian registry when it sank on March 21, 1942, after leaving Port St. Joe, about 10 miles southeast of Mexico Beach, bound for Cuba with its load of lumber.

The 18 crewmembers abandoned ship and returned to Port St. Joe. Their free-spending ways the next few days aroused suspicion that they had sabotaged the *Vamar* to block the shipping channel. The Coast Guard, investigated but was unable to substantiate the sabotage rumors or determine exactly why the *Vamar* listed to left and then went down stern first.

One theory was that it was overloaded and top-heavy, but Scott said that didn't make sense because the *Vamar* had made two sharp turns in the channel without difficulty before it started sinking while on a straight course.

"It was a clear, calm day," she said. "It just sank".





LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Hi, Billy-Ace.

I enjoyed the *Gazette* very much. The content was really interesting--I think you did a super job of picking out stories from what must be a ton of material. Feature-wise, I like your "in search of" column where people can let others know they are trying to locate someone. I also like how you and other organizations help each other by mentioning one another in your respective newsletters and publications. I noticed this several times in your *Gazette*. Another thing I liked is your Chaplain's Corner. Not very frequently is there a feature like this in a newsletter-style pub, and yet I know what a big part chaplains played and continue to play in the lives of service men and women, explorers and the like, who are far from home in an inhospitable environment, separated from family and friends, and in danger from surroundings amidst which they have no choice but to live as they do their jobs. I'm sure whenever your subscribers read the Chaplain's Corner, they are comforted by not only the content--which I thought was very good in this issue--but by their memories of being helped in the past. And another item I really enjoyed was your boxed info re the differences between the Arctic and the Antarctic. Is that always in each issue, or did I just luck out and get it this time? I have a hard time pointing out all the differences to people who ask me (who know about my work with the *Polar Times*). I can never come up with all the reasons and usually only remember the one about the polar bears vs penguins. This is a timely little trivia collection for me!

Before I tell you a few of my observations other than content, let me

weigh in on the apostrophe or not to apostrophe before/after the "s" in the banner headline. Just one more example of a singular possessive usage in a major publication is *Writer's Digest Magazine*, to which I've subscribed for many, many years now. So, if one more vote for the singular possessive helps at all, there you have it.

I want to further add, I thought your pictures were also great. You handled them very well. I assume you scanned [them], since they are mostly such good quality. But if you picked them up off the web, and they look this good, then that is even better because that is not always easy to do. Overall, you've got a great *Gazette*, with interesting content and attractive pics and good choice of regular features.

Charlotte Sinclair

Editor's Note: Charlotte Sinclair is the Production Editor of the American Polar Society (APS) journal The Polar Times. Information about the APS is located on the society website at: <http://www.oaedks.net/ampolar.html>.

Hi Billy:

Just wanted to tell everyone out there who remembers Herc's 319 and 321 that I recently visited them at "graveside" at Davis Montham AFB, AMARC. I took the AMARC tour with my 6-year-old grandson and was one of only three Americans on the 60-passenger bus. I all of a sudden became the resident expert on Antarctic Flight ... so it is true ... everyone, sooner or later, has their 15 minutes of fame.

*Bruce Metzger
Antarctica 1970-73*



Dear Editor:

I found your story about the *McMurdo Dogwinkle* [Gazette Summer 2004] rather thought provoking. When I first saw the photo I thought that you were attempting to play with our heads by intentionally mislabeling the picture. At first glance the photo appears to be a *Narragansett Wrinkleneck* being held in the grip of one of those elusive Rhode Island 'clams' that are only found late at night in a back booth in the Quonset Inn. I realize that *Narragansett Wrinklenecks* are usually darker in color: however, this strain (common in the Davisville area) is derived as a result of a vegetable deficiency.

There have been no serious studies (to my knowledge) of the effects of anti-fouling paint on the *Narragansett Wrinkleneck*, as they appear to be indestructible. The same cannot be said for the *Quonset Inn Clam*; anyone that has ever seen one knows they are very temperamental and require high maintenance, especially the older ones that are covered with barnacles and algae.

Looking closer at the picture I realized we are both wrong ... I



remembered a friend from Washington State who had attended The Evergreen State College in Olympia.

Their school mascot was the *geoduck* (pronounced 'gooey-duck') that can be found from British Columbia to Southern California; however, the largest population is found in Puget Sound.

I can now say with certainty that the picture on page 7 is not a *McMurdo Dogwinkle*, as you claim; nor is it a *Narragansett Wrinkleneck*, as I suspected; it is in fact a "Puget Sound 'gooey-duck'".

As the folks at Evergreen State College say in their school motto... "*Omnia Extares*" (Let it all hang out).

John Henry, EN1 (SS)
ASA WO DF-63/67

Editor's Note: Listed below are the words to the "fight song" of The Evergreen State College. (The words and music are by Malcolm Stilson, 1971)

Omnia Extares
(Let it all hang out)

*Go, Geoducks go,
Through the mud and the sand, let's go.
Siphon high, squirt it out,
Swivel all about, let it all hang out.*

*Go, Geoducks go,
Stretch your necks when the tide is low
Siphon high, squirt it out,
Swivel all about, let it all hang out.*

Dear Billy:

I really enjoy the Explorer's Gazette that I receive by U.S. Mail. Realizing that this must cost the OAEA money for mailing and printing I am enclosing a donation of \$25 to help defray the costs. Keep up the good work.

R.F Kiser

ASA WO McMurdo DF-63

Dear RF:

Thank you for the generous donation. I have forwarded it, and a donation of my own, to the Secretary/Treasurer. FYI the line item for the 2005 budget for the *Explorer's Gazette* is \$1700 for printing and mailing.

Editor's Note: Anyone else who would like to donate to the Gazette publication fund should send his or her checks to the following address.

OAEA Secretary/Treasurer
4615 Balmoral Drive
Pensacola, FL 32504

Please make checks payable to the OAEA and indicate on your check that it is for the Gazette Publication Fund

Dear Editor:

I just finished the recent issue of *Explorer's Gazette*; what an excellent job! It certainly is newsy. I appreciate that.

After spending 35 years teaching 7th grade English, with an emphasis on grammar and punctuation, I agree with your usage of "Explorer's." My "take" on the matter is that YOU must decide if it is directed to One Explorer (at-a-



time) or Many Explorers as a group. You chose the former. Either way would seem to be correct.

By the way, if you need a proof-reader in the future, I volunteer.

(Did you ever read *None Shall Forget* by Herbert W. Pollock? Unfortunately, NOBODY proofread that!)

You might be interested--I volunteer as a docent at The Newport (Kentucky) Aquarium for 8 hours a month in "The Penguin Palace"; we have 14 gentoo & 10 King penguins. I just can't get Antarctica out of my system!

Bob "Willy" Williams
PN3, ASA/SSU, DF 62/63

Dear Mr. Baker:

In reading your interesting and factually sound article on the US Antarctic Service Expedition (USASE) Medal in the most recent Explorer's Gazette (Summer 2004), I nevertheless came across your comment "During his tenure the Navy Department eased Admiral Byrd out of operational control of the USASE." My researches in the Byrd and USAS papers at Ohio State and the National Archives respectively do not quite jibe with this.

Even before Byrd departed for the ice in late 1939, President Roosevelt directed him to oversee the foundation of East and West bases under Dick Black and Paul Siple respectively during the first austral summer and then return home to run the USASE Executive Committee, which the Admiral chaired until its final meeting in May 1942. Byrd may well have indicated -- or reindicated -- to his old friend in the Oval Office his disinclination ever to winter over again as he had so disastrously did "Alone" in 1934. He made his feelings known to the press upon arriving home in 1935 and, in fact, of course, never wintered over in Antarctica again. Byrd may also have been anxious to return [home] because he had become deeply involved in the late 30s first in the international peace movement and, after that failed with the

outbreak of WWII, with the preparedness movement. In any case, the Admiral did some excellent exploring by ship and air during his brief stay on or near the ice, filling previously unknown or erroneously guessed aspects of the Antarctic coastline along the Pacific Quadrant.

All in all, the USASE turned out pretty well for Dick Byrd, though it began badly with too few supplies, too little time, and a lot of second-guessing about his motives and capacity from critics.

You've done yeoman work on behalf of all us Antarctic explorers, and I appreciate it. Look(ing) forward to more articles from you and further issues of the Gazette.

Sincerely, Lisle Rose
USS Staten Island DF-II

Editor's Note: Lisle Rose is the author of Assault on Eternity. Richard E. Byrd and the Exploration of Antarctica 1946-47.

Billy:

Hope this finds you well. Things are about the same here in Philadelphia. My classes begin in three weeks so I'll be back to the classroom grind for another year. I'm not sure when I'll be able to retire. I've reached 62 but as long as Temple will give me a full time contract with all the benefits, I can't afford to retire,

I read your WHAT'S IN A NAME article in the most recent issue of *Explorer's Gazette*. It presents an interesting conundrum. The position of the apostrophe is correct either before or after the letter S. It's just a matter of whether the editor considers Explorer to be singular or plural. Either way, it definitely must be possessive.

Congratulations! The OAEA does a remarkable job in keeping its members informed and good luck with the upcoming reunion in Oxnard next year.

Bio Bob
(Robert Boyd WO DF-75 Bio Lab
Manager Holmes and Narver)





I N M E M O R Y

Ethel Cross died on 27 February 2004 in Christchurch, New Zealand. Ethel was not a member of the OAEA. She was a friend of Operation Deep Freeze personnel for many years. Ethel was a member of the New Zealand Antarctic Society.

OAE Marvin V. Kempton, age 74, died on 17 April 2004 at his home in Costa Rica. Marvin was not a member of the OAEA. He wintered-over at South Pole Station during DF-73 as a meteorologist for NOAA.

OAE William Mills, age 52, died on 8 May 2004 in Cambridge, England. William was not a member of the OAEA. He was the librarian and keeper of the collections at the Scott Polar Research Institute. He was a specialist speaker on an Antarctic cruise ship in 1999.

OAE Joseph Brown, age 74, and his wife Sid were killed in an automobile accident on 24 May 2004 in Spokane, Washington. Joe was a member of the ADFA and was a life member of the OAEA. Joe was a YN1 when he wintered at McMurdo during DF-I with MCB Special.

OAE Oscar Lee Hendricks, ETCS, USN (Ret), died on 13 July 2004 in Jacksonville, Florida. Lee was not a member of the OAEA. During DF-71 he wintered-over at McMurdo as the ASA Det Alfa Electronics Division LCPO.

OAE Timothy Patrick Coffey, 45, died on 28 July 2004 in Labrador, Newfoundland, Canada. Timothy was not a member of the OAEA. He wintered-over at South Pole Station as the Station Manager in 1996.

OAE Donald Lussier, NCC USN (Ret), age 59, died on 14 August 2004 in East Greenwich, Rhode Island. Don was a member of the OAEA. He wintered-over at South Pole Station with ASA as an RM1 during DF-72. He also served in NSFA summer support during DF-73 through DF-75.

OAE Jim Fitch, ADC USN (Ret), died on 5 September 2004 at his home in Breckinridge, Texas. Jim was a life member of the OAEA. He served in VX-6 as a LC-130 Crew Chief/Flight Engineer from DF-61 through DF-64.

OAE Gordon de Quetteville Robin, age 82, died on 21 September 2004 in Cambridge England. Gordon was not a member of the OAEA. He served with the Falkland Islands Dependency Survey as a glaciologist from 1947 through 1955.

OAE Robert A. Beaudoin, CSCM USN (Ret), age 78, died on 21 September 2004 at Oak Hill Hospital in Brooksville, Florida. Bob was a life member of the OAEA. He wintered-over in McMurdo during DF-60 as a CSCS

OAE Pete Schoening, age 77, died on 22 September 2004 in his home in Kenmore, Washington. Pete was not a member of the OAEA. In 1966 Pete was on the mountaineering team that made the first four ascents of Vinson Massif the highest mountain in Antarctica.

OAE William C. Gallagher, age 58, died on 8 October 2004 at his home in Parkesburg, Pennsylvania. William was not a member of the OAEA. He served with the PM-3A nuclear power unit during DF-71.

OAE Karl A. Johnson, age 79, died on 21 September 2004 at Travis Air Force Hospital in Fairfield, California. Karl was a life member of the OAEA. He served in VX-6 from 1959 through 1962 as an AK1.

PENGUIN PAGES

Compiled by Billy-Ace Penguin Baker

Farewell to A.J. the Penguin

ST PAUL MINN, 2 AUGUST 2004—Each year Jeanne Anderson's first grade class at Lakeaire's Elementary saves their fundraising money for one very special treat—a visit from Como Park Zoo's African Penguin A.J. For years children of all ages have enjoyed up close encounters with this feathery friend. Hatched over fifteen years ago at Como Park Zoo she has captured the hearts of thousands of visitors. A.J. has had press conferences with the mayor, appeared before the State Legislature, ran the bases of a Saint Paul Saints game and visited school children throughout the Twin Cities. Unfortunately A.J. passed away this past July 28th. Although other penguin ambassadors still go out on educational programs with Como Park Zoo, none can replace the spirit of A.J.



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The Light Touch

A BATCHELOR called a computer dating service and listed his specifications: He wanted someone who liked water sports, was gregarious, liked formal dress, and was small.

They sent him a penguin.

§

PENGUINS CAN FLY

YOU NEVER KNOW who your seatmate will be when you board an airplane. On Southwest Airlines, it could be a penguin, a cockatiel or even a sloth. As the official carrier for Busch Gardens and Sea World Adventure Parks, Southwest flies exotic animals countrywide—not in cargo, but in the passenger cabin. “Our clients get a kick out of having animals on board,”

says Melanie Jones, a Southwest spokeswoman. Penguins “like to waddle down the aisle and greet passengers,” she says. “It's the only way they know how to ‘fly’”

Although the pet industry accounts for most shipments, zoos transport many animals, mostly from one zoo to another. Thousands of exotic animals also are transported each year by train, car, truck or boat.

Cargo airlines like UPS and FedEx compete for the rights to transport high-profile animals like pandas and elephants, known among zookeepers as “charismatic mega-vertebrates.” But some make their way onto commercial flights, including targets of animal rescue missions; such as the 260-pound sea turtle that American Airlines flew to Miami from the Virgin Islands last year after two dogs mauled it.

Now that's service.



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Croc Hunter Cleared of Charge

CANBERRA, Australia (AP)—“Crocodile Hunter” Steve Irwin has escaped from another predicament.

The Australian government on Thursday cleared the exuberant entertainer of allegations that he got too close to penguins, a seal and humpback whales in Antarctica while making a documentary.

Getting too close to Antarctic wildlife can bring fines of up to \$720,000 and two years in jail. Had Irwin been convicted, however, his alleged contact would have drawn a far more lenient penalty.

Australian Prime Minister John Howard revealed on Sky News television that a month long Environment Department investigation recommended no action be taken. Irwin had denied any wrongdoing.

Howard, who invited Irwin to a lunch with President Bush during a presidential visit in October last year, reacted angrily when asked if the latest decision was a case of favorable treatment for a celebrity.

“That is an absurd thing to say, you have no right to say that,” Howard told Sky News political editor David Speers. “That is unfair to the Environment Department and it is unfair to Mr. Irwin.”

The Animal Planet network aired the documentary, “Ice Breaker,” last month. It showed Irwin skimming down an icy slope with penguins and lying on a rock near a leopard seal.

Irwin, host of the “Crocodile Hunter” wildlife program, was also suspected of swimming too close to two humpback whales and patting them during the filming earlier this year in the Australian-controlled part of Antarctica.

REUNION INFORMATION

Editor's Note Anyone having information regarding OAE group reunions, should send the information to Billy-Ace Baker at upizauf@aol.com for publication in the Gazette

Apology: Due to Hurricane Ivan distribution of this issue of the Explorer's Gazette is over a month late. Because of this late publication date several unit reunions that would have appeared in this column have already taken place. I apologize to those units and I hope that your reunion was a success.

USS Yancey (AKA 93), San Francisco, CA, 4-7 November 2004. Contact: George Clifton, phone 708 425 8531, email clifs@ameritech.net. The USS Yancey participated in Operation Highjump as part of the Central Group.

USS Thomas J. Gary (DE/DER 326), Branson, MO, 9-12 November 2004. Contact: Ron Day, email ronday@westelcom.com, phone 315 344 8823, The USS T. J. Gary participated in Operation Deep Freeze 66 & DF-67.

Old Antarctic Explorers Association (OAEA), Oxnard, CA, 26-28 January 2005. Contact Bob Gaboury, email bobgaboury@aol.com, phone 805 388 4755, PO Box 1897, Camarillo, CA 93011-1897. Full details are also available on the OAEA web site at: <http://www.oaea.net>. Members of the OAEA participated in Operations Highjump, Deep Freeze and other expeditions to Antarctica.

NNPU/PM-3A, Harrisburg, PA, 24-29 April 2005. Contact Robert A. Garland, email Rags_Seabee@comcast.net, phone 717 469 2456, 8000 Rabbit Lane, Harrisburg, PA. The McMurdo Nukes participated in DF-62 through DF-75

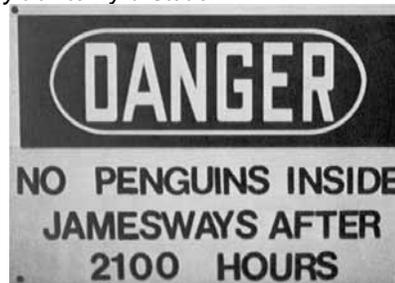
Antarctic Deep Freeze Association (ADFA), Biloxi, MS, 1-5 May 2005. Contact Bill Stroup, email stroup597@aol.com, phone 228 864 3270, 100 Pampas Drive, Long Beach, MS 39560. Members of the ADFA participated in Operation Deep Freeze from the IGY to the present.

NEW OAEA MEMBERS

The below listed personnel have joined the OAEA since the Summer 2004 issue of the Gazette

Borkowski, Edward	Annual	DF-I & II
Buettner, Robert L. RMC	Life	NSFA 70s/80s
Burkart, William J. ATCS	Life	VX-6 DF-60
Colson, John	Life	
Daly, John H. III Capt	Life	VXE-6 73, 76, 77
Dereske, Roger	Annual	USS Mills
Draughon, Johnnie, JO2	Life	NSFA PAO 73-77
Drummond, Glen N.	Life	Weather
Evans, James C. RM3	Life	ASA SS 64-67
Fettinger, Eugene E-7	Life	USS Edisto 60-62
Hill, Eugene Jr, SW1	Life	ASA SS 56-59
Hoff, David A. EN1	Life	USCGC Eastwind
Johnston, Val YNCM	Life	NSFA YN2 DF-77
Kellum, Keith D. ET2	Life	ASA DF-62
Kelly, Corinne E.	Life	NSFA Photo
Kelly, Jim M.	Life	
Kessens, Gerald R.	Life	VX/VXE-6
Lane, Robert G. EN2	Life	USS Mills 62-65
Limon, Christopher J.	Annual	Civ 90s
Mikashus, Lawrence A.	Life	USS Mills
Millar, Ian A.	Life	
Morgan, Edward E. ACC	Life	DF-IV WO
Morgan, Robert, LCDR	Life	NSFA 73-75
Nelson, Roger, BUC	Life	57-61
Potts, Victor B. ADCS	Annual	VXE-6 AD3
Rankine, David F. PH1	Life	VX-6 63-65 67-71
Renz, Donald J. LCDR	Life	USS Arneb DF-I
Rice, Michael L. RM2	Annual	ASA WO DF-70
Rowe, Kenneth W. ET1	Life	ASA DF-60
Rozlog, Jeffrey S. E-6	Annual	NSFA DF-89 & 92
Schmidt, David C., UTC	Life	DF-79 WO
Sladen, William, CIV	Life	FIDS/USARP 47+
Smith, Thomas L., MAJ	Annual	NSFA 87-89
Sorna, Ronald E.	Life	VX-6 Pilot
*Stanton, Erma, Civ	Annual Assoc	
Tavares, Joseph	Life	
Vicari, Albert., E-7	Life	VX-6 59-62
Whitton, Edward A.	Life	VXE-6 DF-77
Wiedenhoeff, Frederick	Annual	AG2 USS Edisto
Williams, William	Life	MCB Special DF-II
Young, Anthony, SK2	Annual	NSFA Supply 70s

**Editor's Note: Erma Stanton is CD2 Max Kiel's sister. Max was killed on 5 March 1956 when the tractor he was driving fell into a crevasse while establishing the Army/Navy trail to Byrd Station.*



OAEA LOCATOR

Jeremy Sohlstrom would like for anyone who has spent any time at the South Pole Station to contact him. Jeremy is interested in gathering information and publishing the story of South Pole Station. He wants to write about the people, the adventure, the achievements, the unique lifestyle, the traditions, and the tragedies. Jeremy recently spent two summers seasons at the Pole and in his own words he wants to write about: "... all of the things that cause us to love the Pole and look back at our time there as one of the great highlights of our life. To do so I need to begin to gather as many contacts as I can. Like most people who go to the Ice, I quickly fell in love with all things Antarctic. ...". Jeremy is in the beginning stages of collecting information, and anyone who thinks that they would like to contribute should contact him by email at: jsohlstrom@hotmail.com. Or 3536 36th Ave. South, Minneapolis, MN 55406.

Editor's Note: Jeremy is an annual member of the OAEA.

ACTIVITIES BY LOCALE

New England Area—See article in this issue concerning recent activities in the New England area. The New England group meets quarterly. Contact Marty Diller at mgdiller@blazenetme.net or 207 729 0197 for additional information

Gulf Coast Group—The Pensacola group meeting scheduled for 17 September was cancelled due to inclement weather. For further information contact Les Liptak at 850 492 1666 or lcliptak@hightec.com or Billy-Ace Baker at 850 456 3556 or upizauf@aol.com

Pacific Northwest Area—See article in this issue concerning the first meeting of the PNW Group. This group meets twice each year. Contact Dave Kahlow by email at icenav@comast.net for information.

Tidewater Group—See article in this issue concerning recent activities in the Tidewater area. Contact Ed Hamblin at ehamblin@cox.net or 757-405-3362 for more information.

Hawaii Group—See article in this issue concerning the first ever meeting of this group on 22 August 2004. Contact Izzy Gantz by email at gantz001@hawaii.rr.com for more information.



OAEA MERCHANDISE

The OAEA has established a merchandising agreement with the Antarctic Connection and there are now polo shirts available that are embroidered with the OAEA logo.

A link to the Antarctic Connection is available on the OAEA website at: <http://www.oaea.net>. Identifying yourself, as a member of the OAEA will generate a 10% commission to the OAEA on any other merchandise ordered from the Antarctic Connection when placing an order for OAEA polo shirts.

When ordering online identify yourself as OAEA in the text box labeled "Order Comments and Special Requests". When ordering by telephone just mention that you are OAEA.

For members who are not Internet capable, OAEA polo shirts may be ordered by dialing this toll free number: 877 766 9423.

New OAEA Pin & Patch

Ball cap pins and embroidered patches are now available. For details contact the editor at upizauf@aol.com or by phone at 1 850 456 3556.

Part of the profits will be donated to the OAEA General and Scholarship Funds.



Price \$6.00 each
Includes Shipping
& handling



NIKE! The sneaker for the fleet-of-foot stalker, or: The day I streaked the VXE-6 Change of Command Ceremony.

by Mike Walsh & Billy-Ace Penguin Baker

Prologue: The ship had been stuck fast in the ice and drifting since May 7. It was now June 22 and the eagerly anticipated Midwinter's Day had finally arrived. Festivities of the day included a football game between the officers and men on the ice in the moonlight. Suddenly out of the darkness came a naked man who raced right through the scrimmage line and back in his birthday suit. This historical streak took place in 1915 on the ice, north of Cape Evans. The "streaker" was 18-year-old Lionel Hooke from Melbourne, Australia who was the radio operator on *the Aurora* during Shackleton's 1914–1917 Antarctic Expedition.

Editor's Note: According to Baker's Second Law of Antarctica, Summer Support will re-invent the wheel every fourth season. However, sometimes it takes much longer.

The weather was warm and the sky was clear. It was a most beautiful day in December of '75—could have been '76 when I:

- Streaked the Change of Command (COC).
- Got into a lot of trouble, for streaking the COC.
- Was then ordered to Christchurch (throw me in the briar patch) to get my just "Due" from the new Commanding Officer, Cdr. Desko.

But I'm getting ahead of myself. Let me start at the beginning, or as near as possible to the beginning, as remembered by me, this incident that happened 29 years ago—could have been 28.

About a week to ten days before the COC event, and I might add, the very first of its kind in VX-6 history, I was in the Red Room (helicopter crew domain) with AD1 Larry Lister. Larry was a second tour OAE, and not a drinking man, so he made a good bartender (when the bar was open, that is). Well it was open and I was into my cups at the time when I made the bold statement that I would "Streak" the ceremony. I said those words as a defiance; a defiance to who, what, when or why, I have no logical explanation; it was something, this "Streaking" thing, that I never would or could, in all actuality, even attempt. I was hoping, no, I was PRAYING, that Larry would make the intervention, and talk me out of it. It wouldn't have taken much; "No Mike. Don't do it." I had made the statement and

I couldn't back out of it, not without help. With a devilish grin, and the light bulb flashing over Larry's head, I knew that I was locked in to do the deed. He refused to intervene.

Laugh-in had been a big hit on TV, and the theme played on a Kazoo when someone had been "had", or had been the brunt of a joke—doot-do-dooty-doot-doot, DOOT!—was always the key to a successful punch-line. It always got a big laugh. I really don't know if it was me or Larry who thought the Kazoo would bring on the same laughs, but after careful thought and a painstaking examination of my conscience: "we have met the enemy, and it was me!" I do know one thing for sure: a Kazoo was purchased at the Mac store, and it was placed in my hands on that unforgettable morning. I think (actually, I'm pretty sure) Larry made the purchase.

On that most beautiful day in December of '75—could have been '76, I managed to get my courage up, and made my way to the staging area about an hour before anyone else even showed up. The very first Quonset hut I walked into was empty so I used that as my "Un-dressing" room. It looked like a laboratory out of Frankenstein: vials and tables of test tubes, etc., but it was empty of life. It was probably empty of life when the people were in there working, it looked that weird. It must have been divine help (it certainly wasn't divine intervention) that brought me to this hut that was smack dab in the middle of the rear of the formation. I didn't realize it until I started my "Run".

I had worn gym shorts and my deep-freeze "T", and of course, those famous sneakers. Too bad that they weren't NIKE, as I could have probably picked up some change, touting the NIKE sneaker as the swiftest-forgetaways!

Time was passing by quickly. I couldn't stop the clock and all the time I'm thinking: "What the hell am I doing here?" I had made the (you can't take it back) statement; I had the Kazoo in hand; the ski mask on, my clothes off and tucked under my arm, and still: "What the hell am I doing here?" But I couldn't back out—not now. I had a reputation to uphold (whatever the hell that meant)!

The rumors had been flying throughout the Red Room, about my streaking debut, from almost the first day that it was dreamed up. At this time I would like to clear up a few points. First of all, LCDR Blackwelder had no prior knowledge of the streak, and secondly, but more important, I would finally...finally... bring out the truth, and that is that Larry Lister, was my co-conspirator in this now infamous excursion of me, running naked through, around, and about, a few hundred men, and of course, the first lady of the ice, Nancy Davis, and end up serenading the podium populace with a 25 cent Kazoo.

The time had come. The time-line of embarkation was centered on the moment that the old and the new CO would be face to face to read their orders, "I relieve you. I stand ...holy #@&%", and there I was, front and center. Much to my surprise and their chagrin, the damn stage was

LOADED with dignitaries, and I might add, a very red-faced, (our next XO in waiting), Jim Jaeger.

After my Kazoo solo, I darted to the right and down the road. I heard CDR Holt say: "Somebody get that license number!", but I was running hell-bent-for-leather by then.



It was kind of funny, in a twisted sort of way. It was mentioned that the perpetrator had an abundance of red follicles showing, and it wasn't sticking out of the ski mask. The only redhead male in the squadron was ABHC Norman Burch, a prime candidate to pin it on. But upon further investigation: "I was standing right beside what's-his-name!" he pleaded. "It wasn't me. I don't have any 'Bluebirds' tattooed on my chest." It all focused on the tattoos—my tattoos. RATS!!!

A few hours had passed and I was summoned to AFCM Al "Putt-putt" Prevete's domain (which seemed to be just anywhere he was at the time) and he proceeded to let me know that I was in "Deep Kimchee" and what the hell did I really think I was doing, streaking the COC; he was very serious. With my head hung very, very, low, but with a childish smirk on my lips—that he couldn't see, I choose to say nothing. I figure I had already said enough with my actions—which I learned that day, do in fact, "speak"—and louder than words. But with Al Prevette on your side, one could conquer anything.

He talked his butt off on my behalf, and the noose was loosened. I did have to report to the (new) XO, and he was

ready to lynch me single-handed, in spite of Al, but instead, he ordered me to Christchurch to talk to the new CO, CDR Desko, who had flown CDR Holt there after the COC. I started packing right away. You can only imagine what my thought-process was going through: "What should I do in CheChe to enjoy myself?" was not one of them.

When I got to Ch-Ch, I made the appointment, as ordered by XO Jaeger, with CO Desko. I went to him with as much humility as I could stand. It was running out of every pore in my body. He invited me in the office, told me to take a chair, and asked: "Have you seen the letter that is going to go in your service record?" I answered in the negative, so he proceeded to enlighten my negatives with the presentation of the letter...the scarlet letter "S"

After I read the letter, he asked what I thought. I told him that I would put my papers in for retirement post-haste. He grabbed the letter from my hands, tore it up and threw it in the wastebasket, and said: "Don't you ever do that again!" I promised that I would never repeat the deed that almost put me out of the Navy.

It had been a close call, but two things had been in my favor. The first was that CDR Desko and I were stationed together for two years in VP-21, and we did a few things that only aviators and crew can talk about. A hint: one of the things we did was to hunt for Moose in Maine...in a P2V...very low to the ground...with civilians phoning in complaints about a plane that almost crashed a few times, in their yard. I won't mention the beer run in Souda Bay, Crete, for some very thirsty Seabees. 'Nuff said on that.

The other thing that saved my butt (not counting the main person, Al Prevette) was that Desko thought that Holt had something to do with it. I didn't try to change his mind, and can only thank Holt for being my scapegoat. I could have exonerated Holt right then and there, but why tempt fate. The letter was gone and I made Senior Chief on the next exam. When the results came out and I was on the list, thanks to a very remarkable set of evaluations) the other Chiefs, not on the list, were angry. "What the hell do I have to do to make E-8? Streak a COC?"

Believe it or not. I will never forget that day. I remember it well—well, it has been a while, but I remembered everything that happened, as it happened, on that beautiful day in December of '75, or it could have been '76.

Editor's Note: The COC was on 6 December 1975.

What Others Have To Say About the Infamous COC Streak

Larry Lister: "It was very quiet at the particular moment that Mike ran through the ceremony. Wearing only shoes and his head totally covered by his balaclava. As he ran by, the only sound heard was a collective gasp and the well

heard voice of Ensign Nancy Davis when she said: 'Hi Mike!' I guess she recognized his tattoos."

LCDR *Billy Blackwelder*: I had absolutely nothing to do with the planning or execution of the infamous streak by Chief Mike Walsh. CDR Desko excused me from the COC ceremony so that I could record the historic event on 8-mm movie film.

RMC *Billy-Ace Baker*: I was on the ice at the time, but I did not witness the actual streak, but, rumors spread fast on the ice and the word was out all over the station by the time the streaker got his clothes back on. However, I have seen the documentary movie of the event that was produced by Billy Blackwelder at least a dozen times. Even though Mike Walsh exonerated Blackwelder in his testimony I find it very suspicious that Blackwelder was standing on the roof of the USARP bio-lab exactly above the door that Chief Walsh ran out of. A witness claims that Blackwelder stamped his foot on the roof of the Bio-lab several times just before Mike ran from the building.

LCDR *Billy Blackwelder*: I had no idea that anyone was inside the building and I was stamping my foot in an effort to restore circulation. I was just as shocked as everyone else when a naked man ran out blowing on a kazoo.

Editor's Note: According to one source at least three officers in VXE-6 sent letters of apology to the commanding officer claiming that they were the guilty party. All letters were signed and all three were dismissed as ludicrous because they were originated by: three people who obviously did not fit the profile of the streaker who was a white male in good physical condition. The officers who confessed to the crime were: 1. a female, 2. a black male and 3. an obese male. Not only did these three not fit the profile of the streaker but they also lacked the pre-requisite bluebird tattoos.

Epilogue: In 1958 Colin Bull took off his clothes and streaked into a lake in the Dry Valleys that he named Vanda after one of his dogs. Little did Colin know that he had started what later developed to be one of the most exclusive clubs in Antarctica. The Royal Vanda Swimming Club attracted hundreds of people who were eager to obtain the exclusive club patch and certificate. The rules for becoming a member in the club changed from time to time, but some of the rules that could not be modified were strictly enforced. Such as: No swimming suits allowed, but a fig lead could be worn provided that it was a genuine fig leaf. Photography was permitted, witnesses were required and the witnesses were allowed to leer, peep, spy, make advances and rude suggestions. Between December 1979 and February 1994 there were 2300 signatures in the official Lake Vanda Swim Club register. Whether they all joined the club is not known. Vanda Station was closed in 1994.



American female joins Lake Vanda Swim Club DF-83.

Christchurch losing the Wizard

Edited by Billy-Ace Baker

Christchurch, NZ, October 17, 2004—The Wizard of Christchurch spends his last summer in the Square—Ian Brackenbury Channell says it's time to retire

Christchurch's Wizard, a familiar site to Deep Freeze personnel for many years, is hanging up his pointy hat and broomstick, and preparing for retirement in Oamaru.

The Wizard says it is time to move on, after establishing himself as an iconic fixture in the garden city.



The 72-year-old says it was tough going when he started out in the Square, with the council trying to ban him.

Schools would not let him visit because they said he was involved in witchcraft and evil forces. He was even banned from performing rain dances because of pressure on councils from fundamentalist groups. He says Christchurch isn't the same as when he started.

He knows that he will be missed, because he says he is still popular with the ordinary folks but tourists prefer more up-to-date commercial entertainment.

The Wizard says he has proved that if you have something to say people will listen

Northwest Region Holds First Meeting

By David Kahlow, Northwest Chapter Regional Coordinator

The first gathering of the Pacific Northwest OAEA Group was held on 9 October. The event took place at



(L to R): Dave Kahlow, Mrs. Gerald Bernardo, Gerald Bernardo, Robert Buettner, Craig Brown, James Longstreth, Bill Mathews, John Maffin, Elton 'Van' Vandervort, & Jack Cummings.

the Lucky Labrador Brew Pub in Portland, OR. A strong turnout of nine ice veterans with three spouses made the trek to Portland for the initial meeting. Everyone brought items to share including an official guide to Antarctic Geographic Names, some original Pen and Ink drawings by Jim Longstreth, a variety of cruise books and an original McMurdo Ham Shack postcard that was reunited with the artist who created it, Barbara Cummings. The highlight of the meeting was a slide show of a variety of photos put together by Elton "Van" Vandervort. Van created copies of the CD slide show for everyone present to take home with them.

Northwest Chapter news

A quick semi-business meeting was held to discuss the future of the PNW Chapter. The first order of business was the topic of how often the group should plan on meeting. Due to the distances involved, the group agreed that bi-annual meetings were probably the best option. The next meeting will be held sometime in the spring of 2005 and will most likely be held in Washington,

potentially near Olympia. The group also agreed that the NW OAEA would act as a 'host organization' and welcome all Antarctic Experienced People (AEP's) to the PNW OAEA meetings/functions. A strong commitment to include all Antarctic veterans was expressed by the group. Due to the success of Van's slide show, it was suggested that each meeting should include a presentation of someone's Antarctic memorabilia. The prospect of having a guest speaker at future meetings was also proposed.

Attendees (in no particular order) at this inaugural meeting included:

From Oregon:

Elton, "Van" Vandervort
Gerald Bernardo and spouse
David Kahlow

From Washington:

Jim Longstreth
Bill Mathews
Jack Cummings and wife
Barbara
Craig Brown
Robert Buettner and spouse



USCGC Northwind watercolor by RM2 Jim Longstreth DF-73.

First Aloha Group Meeting

A special meeting of the Aloha Group of the OAEA was held on 15 August in Makakilo, Hawaii at the home of Izzy Gantz the Aloha Group coordinator. In attendance were members Izzy Gantz and Kerry Konrad. Member Stan Worthly was unable to attend, but he sent his regrets via the guests of honor.

The special meeting was held to honor visiting OAEA members from the mainland; namely Billy-Ace Baker and Sean Baker both from the Gulf Coast Group in Pensacola Florida. Earlier that same day Billy-Ace and Sean enjoyed a sumptuous buffet luncheon with Aloha member Stan Worthly at Hickam AFB near Pearl Harbor.

Other guests at the meeting were Robert and Rob Konrad and the extended Gantz family. Following a brief discussion of the forthcoming California reunion and comments and inquiries about absent friends and shipmates the meeting was adjourned and everyone enjoyed a large Hawaiian style meal of fish, pork and macadamia nuts.

Tidewater Meeting

By Ed Hamblin Tidewater Group Coordinator

The “sort of” quarterly get together of Tidewater area OAEs took place on the 11th of September at the House of Eggs. Present were Neil Sugermeyer, Charlie Thompson, Charlie Swinney, John Strider, Jim Silverstorf, and Ed Hamblin. A couple of the regular faces we normally see weren't there, but that was okay, because no one takes it personal when someone doesn't show up.

As typical, no real OAEA business was discussed, but the reunion in California was talked about. At the present, it looks like a couple of us from this area are planning to attend. Consensus is the Tidewater area group members are looking ahead at the next scheduled reunion in Rhode Island.

Our next get together is scheduled for Saturday, 4 December at the House of Eggs Restaurant on Military Highway in Norfolk.

New England Region Becomes OAEA Chapter

By Marty Diller, New England Chapter Secretary-Treasurer

A major change in the status of the OAEA of New England (OAEA-NE) members has occurred since their last get-together in May, when meeting attendees approved a proposal to obtain official Chapter status within the OAEA. Since then, the New England group has held mail-in elections of officers and, in a Board of Directors meeting preceding the quarterly membership meeting, the elected Officers adopted the proposed

Chapter By-Laws. The end result is that the New England region has attained Chapter status. Accordingly, this year's summer quarter meeting of the OAEA-NE region—held on Saturday, September 18th at the Bertucci's Brick Oven Pizzeria in Peabody, MA—was also the first official OAEA-NE Chapter meeting.

Editor's Note: The OAEA BOD has not formally recognized the New England OAEA group as an official chapter of the OAEA.

For this ‘milestone’ Chapter meeting, a total of 20 OAEA members and spouses made the trip to Peabody. What was left of Hurricane Ivan—twelve hours of moderate to heavy rain that caused some minor local flooding—gets the blame for the slightly lower turnout rate of attendees for this meeting, compared to the numbers normally seen at our quarterly get-togethers.

OAEA of New England members elect Chapter BOD

The Chapter officer nomination and election balloting was completed through the mail during June and July, and I was pleased to see a high participation rate by the approximately 65 OAEA members residing throughout the six-state New England region. The five-person Chapter Board of Directors who were elected are: President Dave Hazard; Executive Vice-President Charley Verba; Secretary-Treasurer Marty Diller; and Directors At-Large Don Leger and Robert “Hoot” Hartman.

Don “Squatty Root” Richards was actually elected to the VP position by the membership, but in circumstances that developed after the election of officers was completed, Squatty resigned from his post because of his move to a new home in Ocala, FL. In its first official act, the Board appointed Charley to replace Squatty in the Executive VP slot. Charley had been one of the top vote getters in the election of Chapter Directors At-Large.

New England Chapter news

The OAEA-NE's Quonset Point—Davisville National Reunion Committee has selected the ‘Crowne Plaza Hotel at the Crossings’ in Warwick, RI as the site for the August 2006 OAEA National Symposium/Reunion. On July 13th, a hotel/convention contract was signed for this three-day event, scheduled for August 17-19th (Thursday-Saturday), 2006. More info about the 2006 Symposium/Reunion will be provided during the coming year. Also covered in the first OAEA-NE Chapter meeting was the implementation of annual voluntary \$5.00 Chapter dues. Dues will be used to cover Chapter administrative expenses—especially postal costs—, which have increased with the requirement of election mailings, and other mailings related to signing the hotel contract and the business of establishing the Chapter. The annual Chapter Treasurer's report will be presented at the next Chapter meeting. Until then, efforts will be underway to file for tax-exempt status as a charitable organization chartered under U.S. Code 501(c)3.

Fundraising

Chapter Merchandise Coordinator Dave Hazard again sold OAEA-NE ball caps and conducted the usual raffle ticket and door prize drawings, and with the generous participation of the meeting's attendees, a significant sum was collected for the Chapter administrative fund. Of note, one of the raffle items available at this meeting included a free one-year membership to the American Polar Society (APS). OAEA member Charles Lagerbom, who is also the current Membership Chairman of the APS, provided this generous donation.

Attendees (in no particular order) at this quarterly meeting included:

From Massachusetts:

- **Don Leger** (RM3; VXE-6 DF-71/73),
- **Jim "JDC" Heffel** (AE3; VX-6 DF-61/64 ('62-63 on the Hill; '63-64 in CHCH) with his wife Kay,
- **Bob Epperly** (CDR, USN (Ret.); VX-6 R4D-6/8 pilot DF-III/IV) with his wife Sandra, and
- **Roy Roberts** (Airman; VX-6 DF-61/63 Strip Cargo/Paraloft. Para-Rescue Team '62-63).

From Rhode Island:

- **Don "Squatty Root" Richards** (PR2, USN (Ret.); VX-6 DF-60/61, DF-63/66, DF-70/73; w/o DF-61, DF-64, DF-66) with his wife Maggee,
- **John Giro** (ADCS, USN (Ret.); VX-6 Powerplants/QA DF'64-69),

- **"Hoot" Hartman** (PR2, USN (Ret.); ASA w/o DF-63 as BUH2; VX-6 DF-68/70 (MCM '68-69, QP Det PO '69-70); QP Paraloft '70-71).

From Connecticut:

- **Charley Verba** (CE1; DF-IV ('58-59) w/o at McM), and
- **John Hollo** (AO3; VX-6 DF-I & II) with his wife, Gloria.

From New Hampshire:

- **Harold Robicheau** (EO1, USN (Ret.); NSFA, DF'-61/66), and
- **Jimmy Burke** (ADJ3; VX-6 Loadmaster DF-61/64).

Rounding out the group, from Maine were:

- **Dave Hazard** (ABCS, USN (Ret.); VXE-6 Herk Loadmaster DF-70/74; Loadmaster on 28 Jan 73 crash of 917 at Pole) with his wife Anne,
- **Charles Lagerbom** (NSF; Field Asst. for U. of Maine-Orono Meteo research (S-156) in Dry Valleys, DF-91/93. Current American Polar Society (APS) Membership Chairman),
- **Dave Dubois** (SKC, USN (Ret.); NSFA McM w/o DF-73, SS DF-78/79), and
- **Marty Diller** (LCDR, USN (Ret.); VXE-6 Herk pilot, DF-92/94) with his wife Bev

The next OAEA-NE Chapter meeting is scheduled to occur at 1:00 pm on Saturday, November 13th, in South Portland, Maine, at Cap'n Newick's Lobster House, 740 Broadway Street.



Standing (L to R): Jimmy Burke, Charley Verba, "Hoot" Hartman, Marty Diller, Robie Robicheau, Don Leger, Roy Roberts, Dave Dubois, Charles Lagerbom, Dave Hazard.
Sitting (L to R): Bob Epperly, Don "Squatty" Richards, Jim Heffel, John Hollo, John Giro.



24 October 2004

I certify that the below report is a true accounting of financial transactions conducted by the Old Antarctic Explorers Association, Inc during FY 2004 (1 Oct 03 to 30 Sep 04) and financial and membership status as of September 30, 2004.

James H. O'Connell

James H. O'Connell
Secretary/Treasurer

FY 2004 ACCOUNTING STATEMENT			
INCOME		EXPENSE	
Donations		Advertising	
General Fund	387.00	Merchandise	1,392.04
Scholarship Fund	474.00	Recruiting Packages	96.54
Undesignated	670.00	Recruiting Postage	146.13
Total Donations	1,531.00	Total Advertising	1,634.71
Dues Payment		Donor Recognition	43.53
Annual Membership	1,430.00	Internet Security	90.84
Lifetime Membership	4,277.00	License	70.00
Total Dues Payment	5,707.00	Newsletters	
Entrance Fees	204.00	Postage	537.15
Interest Earned	61.31	Printing	1152.17
		Total Newsletters	1,689.42
		Office Supplies	581.57
		Postage	508.26
		Returned Check	20.00
		Tax Preparation	75.00
		Web page Expenses	188.65
TOTAL INCOME	7,503.31	TOTAL EXPENSES	-4,901.98
TOTAL INCOME – EXPENSES FY 2004		GAIN	LOSS
		2,601.33	
FINANCIAL STATUS OF OLD ANTARCTIC EXPLORERS ASSOCIATION, INC. AS OF 30 SEPTEMBER 2004			
Beginning Balance 10/1/03	23,046.19		
FY 2003 transactions	2,601.33		
Ending Balance 9/30/04	25,646.52		
MEMBERSHIP STATUS OF OLD ANTARCTIC EXPLORERS ASSOCIATION, INC. AS OF 30 SEPTEMBER 2004			
Membership as of 1 October 2003 -	714		
Membership as of 30 September 2004 -	822		
Memorial Members	2		
Annual Members	131		
Lifetime Members	618		
Deceased Members	25		
Inactive Members	46		
Membership Change	+108		

Association Officers

President – Jim Eblen
Executive VP – Ed Feeney

Secretary/Treasurer – Jim O'Connell
Life Director – Billy-Ace Baker

Director – Barry Chase
Director – Buz Dryfoose
Director – Steve Edelman
Director – Bill Maloney
Director – H. J. "Walt" Walter
Director – Jim Wallace
Chaplain – Cecil D. Harper
Historian – Billy-Ace Baker

The *Explorer's Gazette* is
the official publication
of the

Old Antarctic Explorers Association, Inc.

National Headquarters
4615 Balmoral Drive
Pensacola, FL 32504

And is published four times annually

Editor

Billy-Ace Baker

Editorial Assistant

Gus Shinn

Editor Emeritus

Jim O'Connell

From:

**The Old Antarctic Explorers Association, Inc.
4615 Balmoral Drive
Pensacola, Florida 32504 USA**



The Old Antarctic Explorers Association, Inc is a tax exempt charitable organization, chartered under U. S. Code 501(c)(3) and is dedicated to establishing and perpetuating public awareness of the Courage, Sacrifice and Devotion its members exhibited while supporting Antarctic Research for more than 55 years.

