



# EXPLORER'S GAZETTE

Published Quarterly in Pensacola, Florida USA for the Old Antarctic Explorers Association  
Uniting All OAEs in Perpetuating the History of U.S. Navy Involvement in Antarctica 1839-1999  
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## SECOND OAEA SYMPOSIUM/REUNION A GREAT SUCCESS



*Photo courtesy of Bev Diller and Ralph Lewis*

**T**HE BANNER OF THE SECOND OAEA REUNION FLIES outside the entrance of the Performing Arts Convention Center (PACC) in Oxnard, California. Nearly 200 OAEA members and guests attended the three-day event. Registrations, trying to recognize old friends and shipmates, and socializing in the PACC reception room occupied the first day. Thursday morning started with an officer's meeting, followed by a Memorial service in which the names of personnel killed

in Antarctica was called out from the four corners of the reception room. The next business was a general membership meeting that ended with a balloted vote of several resolutions that had been approved by the BOD since the general meeting in Pensacola in 2002. Except for an organized tour of the CEC/Seabee Museum in the early afternoon, there were no scheduled events for the rest of the day.

See Oxnard on page 4

## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

John Lamont West—OAEA President

**T**O ALL OAES—The second OAEA Symposium, conducted in Oxnard, California, January 26–28, 2005 had more than 200 in attendance. The Association is moving to accomplish the goals set. A revision to the By-Laws of the Association has already been published incorporating the resolutions accepted during the symposium. The revision has been posted on the OAEA web site.



*Immediate Past President Jim Eblen, and  
President Elect John Lamont West.*

I wish to take this opportunity to personally thank everyone who put forth that extra effort in making the second symposium a resounding success. Seeing shipmates and friends, after nearly thirty years, was one of the highlights of the symposium for me.

An election of officers brought about several changes. The following are the Association Officers:

President – John Lamont West  
 Executive Vice President – Henry Storm  
 Secretary/Treasurer – Jim O'Connell  
 Past President/Director – Jim Eblen  
 Life Director – Billy-Ace Baker  
 Director – Marty Diller  
 Director – Buz Dryfoose  
 Director – Steve Edelman  
 Director – Bill Maloney  
 Director – Charles Verba  
 Director – Jim Wallace  
 Director – H. J. "Walt" Walter

As the torch passes, I would like to extend a well earned thanks to Jim Eblen, Ed Feeney, and Barry Chase for the contributions each made in nurturing the OAEA through its founding years

Members of the Board of Directors have been assigned as committee chairman in accordance with the By-Laws of the Old Antarctic Explorers Association, Inc. The standing committees and respective chairman are:

*Chapter Coordinator – Jim Wallace  
 Finance – Jim O'Connell  
 Scholarship – Walt Walter  
 Symposium – Marty Diller  
 Membership – Billy-Ace Baker  
 OAEA Assistance – Steve Edelman  
 Merchandise – Buz Dryfoose*

Praise was extended to the newly-formed New England Chapter in the previous *Gazette*. I would like to thank the New England Chapter for volunteering to host the third symposium in Rhode Island in 2006. More information will be forthcoming; so get out your pencils, mark your calendars, and plan on joining us there. For long-term planning, the 2008 Symposium will be in Pensacola.

All of you are important in the advancement and growth of the Old Antarctic Explorers Association, Inc., I solicit your recommendations and suggestions on those areas you perceive as going well, and on those areas you feel we can do better. Feel free to email me at [Westjl42@aol.com](mailto:Westjl42@aol.com) or write me at 201 N. Bradford Street, Seaford, DE 19973.

To those who have lost a loved one, our prayers are with you. To those under the weather, we wish you a speedy recovery. Until next time, take care.

**John Lamont West**

President



Photo courtesy of Marty Diller

*Entrance to the CEC/Seabee Museum at Port Hueneme The current museum, located inside the Construction Battalion Center gate, will be replaced by a modern state-of-the-art facility in the near future. The new CEC/Seabee Museum will be located outside the gate in order to make it more accessible to the public.*



## GROWLERS & BERGY BYTES

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

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McMurdo Station—**The Immaculately Preserved OAE** auctioned on eBay. Page 11.

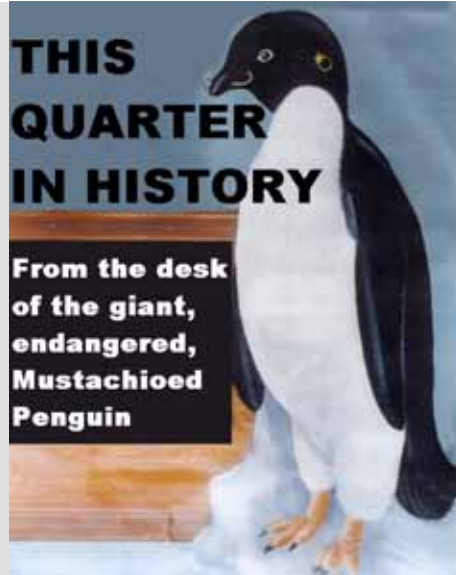
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Oxnard, CA—**Para-Rescue Team rescues OAEA** Scholarship Fund with \$1,000 donation. Page 12.

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Warwick, RI—**MCB-71 pledges \$10,000** to CEC/Seabee Museum construction. Page 18.

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Pensacola, FL—**OAEA members who write books**—A list of Authors and their book titles. Page 20.

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McMurdo Station—**Russians rescue aircraft** from South Pole. Page 21.

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Rothera Point—Scientists from the British Antarctic Survey report that grass has become established in the Antarctic for the first time in recorded history, indicating the continent is warming to temperatures unseen for 10,000 years. Tufts of grass have previously grown on patches of Antarctica during summer, but the scientists have now observed bigger areas surviving the winter and spreading in summer months.



### April Events

- 21 Apr 1902 Von Drygalski sets out for Gaussberg to see for himself what his men had discovered
- 24 Apr 1916 Shackleton departs for South Georgia in the *James Caird*
- 06 Apr 1967 Scott Base Magistrate imposes gambling tax on McMurdo BINGO games
- 30 Apr 1972 PM-3A reactor scrambled & shutdown
- 07 Apr 1982 Convention on the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR) becomes effective

### May Events

- 10 May 1916 Shackleton reaches South Georgia
- 08 May 1916 Mackintosh & Hayward perish
- 01 May 1931 Norway claims Peter I Island
- 08 May 1963 Jack Handy discovers use for discarded mukluk tongues
- 08 May 1965 Carl Disch disappears at Byrd Station

### June Events

- 23 Jun 1912 Filchner sets out to find New South Greenland
- 23 Jun 1928 *Scapa* capsizes off Laurie Island
- 13 Jun 1933 Australia claims its Antarctic territory
- 21 Jun 1967 Dave Bresnahan drives Nodwell into bay, and forgets to turn off the headlights (See photo on page 9)
- 28 Jun 1982 First Toothfish pirates violate CCAMLR treaty



*Oxnard*

From page 1

According to reunion committee spokesperson, Bob Gaboury, nearly 200 members and guests were registered for the Symposium/Reunion. Only about 180 of those registered actually attended. Hospitality kits were mailed to members who were unable to attend.

Bob also reported that Dick Spaulding, Ed Lambert, Milford "Dutch" Holland, Gene Whitehead, and Ray Clark won the five Grand Prize cash door prizes of \$100 each. Dick Spaulding and Gene Whitehead donated their prize checks to the OAEA Scholarship Fund. There were numerous other items raffled off as door prizes. Records of who won what were not available.

A separate article concerning the Scholarship Fund appears on page 12.

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**Antarctic Place-Name Certificates Found**

*By Billy-Ace Penguin*

About the time the summer operating season for DF-73 commenced, the Commander Naval Support Forces Antarctica (CTF-43), RADM Leo B. McCuddin, was relieved by Capt Alfred N. Fowler. This was a significant event in Operation Deep Freeze history. For the first time the support force would be commanded by a four-striper instead of a flag officer.

With this downgrading from a flag billet, the Naval Support Force Antarctic (NSFA) shifted headquarters from Washington, D.C. to the Construction Battalion Center at Davisville, Rhode Island. At the same time, the Antarctic Support Activities (ASA), homeported in Davisville was decommissioned. In effect ASA became NSFA and when NSFA made the move to Davisville the remainder of the staff was integrated into the old ASA command.

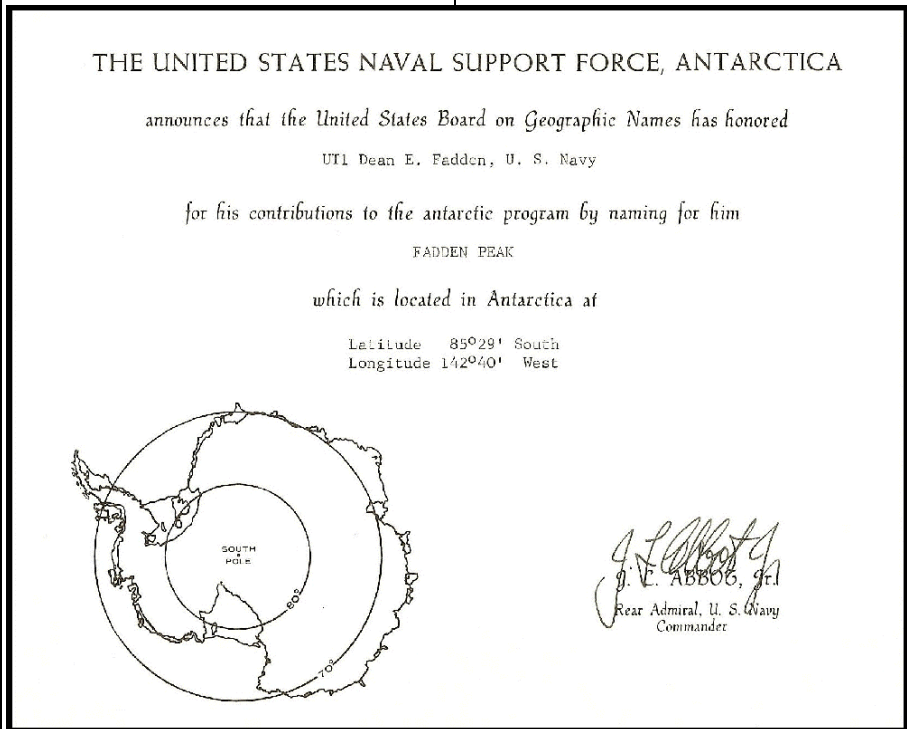
Since a number of the staff billets had no counterpart in the new command

organization, their records were stored in warehouses when the command deployed to Antarctica. One such staff function was the History Division. Among the records of the History Division were a number of Antarctic geographic place-name certificates made out to people who the History Division had not been able to locate. When the command redeployed from the ice, RMC Noah D. White discovered some of these certificates while going through one of the warehouses looking for communications records. Chief White recognized some of the names on the certificates, so he took them to his office. During the remainder of his tour in the command he was able to locate several of the people and forwarded their certificates to them. When he was transferred, he took the remaining certificates home with him.

Over the years the certificates were all but forgotten and were only recently rediscovered when Noah moved from Colorado to Fort Myers, Florida. When he found the certificates in his

household goods, he contacted me and then forwarded the certificates to me. Since receiving the certificates early this year I have located three of the named OAEs, RM1 Butch Suchland, EN1 Ken Henry, and RM1 Dennis Stout. I have forwarded their certificates to them. Two of the OAEs are deceased, and ironically, both died while serving in the United States Antarctic Program. Harvey High died in Punta Arenas while serving on the RV *Hero* and Dean Fadden died in Christchurch New Zealand while serving at DF Advance Headquarters, Christchurch.

The names of the OAEs on the remaining certificates are listed in the Locator Column in this issue of the *Gazette*. These certificates are undated. However, RADM J. C. Abbot, Jr., who was the task force commander from February 1967 through June 1969, signed all of them. The certificates are on 8X10 light card stock. The example pictured here has been cropped for illustration purposes. All have dog-eared corners and show signs of age.





## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

B-A:

I happened to be going through significant dates in Antarctic history using your *This Quarter In History* column; I found these two entries that seem to be at odds:

Volume 3, Issue 2-Spring 2003:

April 4, 1912: Mawson erects first radio masts at Cape Denison.

Volume 3, Issue 3-Summer 2003:

September 1, 1912: Radio masts erected at Cape Denison.

I enjoy these historical facts, and appreciate your entries about the Kiwi Redcoats capturing McMurdo on July 4, the McMurdo Dragon Watch Society capturing Sir Lofless and so forth.

*Marty Diller*

*Editor's Note: The first entry should have read; erection of the radio masts were started on April 4, 1912.*

Billy-Ace:

Just got around to checking out the *Gazette*. So, I hear there's more about sandwich girl in the next issue. I wonder what it will be?

*Sandwich*

Dear Billy-Ace:

Thanks for your help with the historical aviation stories. You've been a great resource and exemplify the spirit of the OAEA for me. Please see that Gus Shinn receives the Byrd 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary patch that I have enclosed in appreciation for his help with the stories.

*Stan Hutchison  
Antarctic Sun*

*Editor's Note: Kristan "Stan" Hutchison is the Senior Editor of the Antarctic Sun, the USAP newspaper published at McMurdo during the austral summer season.*

Hi Billy-Ace:

I received the Fall 2004 edition of the OAEA newsletter. Great job. I got a kick out of the Mike Walsh story. We were in VXE-6 at the same time, but I left the squadron before the COC.

*Neil Sugermeyer*

Billy-Ace:

Many thanks for putting our Wilkes Station reunion notice and story in the *Gazette*.

*Bill Burch*

Billy-Ace:

The *Gazette* looks great. Everything works fine except the Cyrillic alphabet letters associated with the definition of Ice Apron on page 17.

It was nice to read about Bill Spindler going back to South Pole, too. Keeping the Navy alive at 90°S while being his own technical event. Cool.

*Bob Nyden*

*Editor's Note: Several readers who downloaded the Gazette from the web site wrote that the Cyrillic characters did not render even though I embedded the fonts in the PDF file. It also did not register in the printed version that was mailed to many members. I have avoided using Cyrillic in this issue.*

Billy: I just finished reading the QSL article in the *Gazette*. Thank you very much for printing that bit of history. How times have changed. Of course that was 40 years ago.

*Jack (Cummings)*

Dear Editor:

In the Gulf Coast Group news you normally mention the name of the winner of the 50/50 drawing, however, I have noticed in the New England Chapter news that the author of the article does not mention the names of the winners of such goings on. Is there any reason for this omission of names? For instance it was mentioned in the Jan-Mar issue of the *Gazette* that a free one-year membership in the American Polar Society was one of the raffle items at the NE Chapter meeting. There was no mention of who won. Are they afraid of the IRS, or something?

*Pig Pen Henry*

*WO DF-63 & 67*

Dear Editor:

In the story about the Wilkes Station reunion there is reference to tourists from nearby Casey Base using the old Wilkes Station transmitter hut as a favorite

"jolly". Can you enlighten us and define what this means?

Dumb Yank

*Editor's Note: According to the author of the article a "jolly" is an overnight outing.*

Hello,

The *Gazette* is an excellent paper for the OAEA. I thoroughly enjoyed reading it and look forward to further issues.

The pictures from McMurdo are almost beyond belief since I can remember what it was like in 1956. Certainly doesn't look like the same place. I also like the Letters to the Editor. I have sent a note to Jon Farrell but have not yet received an answer. The In Memory list appears to be getting longer each time the *Gazette* is printed. Must admit we are getting older and are probably not as well as we used to be. Sorry to hear that Goodie has passed away. I can remember the name but not the face. Since he was at Little America, I would not have seen much of him.

Nice to see more Explorers joining the OAEA. I keep looking for those I might have known but, so far, not much luck. It would be interesting to visit the Seabee Museum to see the Antarctica 1947-1993 exhibit.

I have only been able to meet up with one other DF-II person over the years and that was Tom Osborne, the builder, who wintered over at the South Pole. Tom and I both received orders for Fleet Aircraft Service Squadron 200 at Blackbushe Airport, England. Tom was here before me; I arrived in July 58. We lived together until I decided to get married in Feb 59. Tom volunteered for further trips to the Ice and I believe he went back to the Pole. Tom was transferred before me and went back to the Ice operation. In 62 I was assigned to a school at Fort Belvoir, VA. While walking down the street one day someone called my name. Tom was sitting on the porch of one of the barracks and was attending an explosives course. We had a long conversation and off he goes again and I end up in Iceland. The next thing that happens is an email from Tom about three or four years ago. We sent emails back and forth for a while and then I received a letter with some poems, which he had written. As you are probably aware, Tom passed away and I had a note from his daughter explaining the situation. However, the main purpose of this note is that I think we should publish one or two of his poems in the next *Gazette*.

Pat Patterson

*Editor's Note: Acy "Pat" Patterson wintered over at Wilkes Station during DF-II as a Construction Electrician. Pat currently*

*resides in England. Tom Osborne's death on July 9, 2002, was reported in the Gazette, Volume 2, Issue 3. As suggested by Pat two of Tom's poetic creations appear on page 10. The photos are from 90 South by Paul Siple and the DF-63 cruise book.*

Billy,

I about fell out of the chair laughing when I read the COC streaking story. It brought back a lot of memories from the Red Room, although I deployed during DF-77 and DF-78. Hearing about the great COC streaker was certainly one of those great memories.

Valerie Russell-Johnston  
(aka Va Va Voom)

Dear Editor:

I wintered with Whiskers Tollefson at Eight's Station during DF-63. I was very sad to learn of his death. On March 17, 1963, Whiskers and I put on our finest green Byrd Cloth, dug out a case or two of beer, and celebrated St Patrick's Day in the highest tradition.

Pig Pen Henry



"Whiskers" Tollefson & "Pig Pen" Henry at Eights Station.

*Editor's Note: And I notice that the beer was Carling's Black Label. Whiskers Tollefson died on 14 November 2004. His obit appeared in the In Memory page in Volume 5, Issue 1, Jan-Mar 2005.*

Dear Editor:

Does it hurt your fingers to type, Command Sergeant Major? In the last issue of the *Gazette* you signed my name as a SGTMAJ which is a Marine Corps thing, or in the Army a Sergeant Major is an E-9 Staff guy, who wears a Chevron with stripes, 3 up and 3 down, with a star in the middle and does not deal with troops and troop units. Whereas— at the risk of sounding arrogant—The

Command Sergeant Major (CSM) is a Troop Leader who commands units out front, mud, blood and beer. Chevron is also 3 up, 3 down with a Star in the middle surrounded by a Reef. Gotcha!

Also for the record: I was in DF From 75 to 78, not 79 as you cited (twice).  
*CSM Jerry Schleining*

*Editor's Note: What can I say? I have been thoroughly chastised.*

Editor:

I am the Raytheon McMurdo Winter Site Manager. There are 241 people on station this austral winter.

If my math is correct, we are the 50th winter over crew. (The 50th anniversary is not until 2006, though.) There was some interest expressed here about members of the first winter-over crew. I was wondering if any are still alive and if any might be interested in sharing some of their experiences with those of us now on station via email or perhaps by phone.

*Eric Hobday*

*Editor's Note: See the Locator Column for info on how to contact Eric. My question is: 50th anniversary of what? Both the OAEA and the ADFA have marked 2005 as the 50th anniversary of Operation Deep Freeze, but Deep Freeze actually started on 18 August 1954 when Radm Dufek reported to Washington DC as Commander Naval Support Forces Antarctica. Some other significant dates are:*

- 01 Dec 1954-12 Apr 1955: USS Atka Antarctic Scouting Expedition (pre DF-I)*
- 17 Jan 1955: VX-6 established*
- 18 Aug 1955: MCB Special established*
- 21 Oct 1955: Radm Byrd designated OIC of US Antarctic Programs*
- 09 Mar 1956: USS USCGC Eastwind departs McMurdo leaving 93 men to winter-over*
- 10 Mar 1956: USS Glacier departs Little America leaving 73 Men to winter-over*



**OAEA MERCHANDISE**


Embroidered OAEA polo shirts are still available on the Antarctic Connection web site.

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 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.**

**GLOSSARY OF SNOW AND ICE**



*Compiled and edited by Billy-Ace Baker*

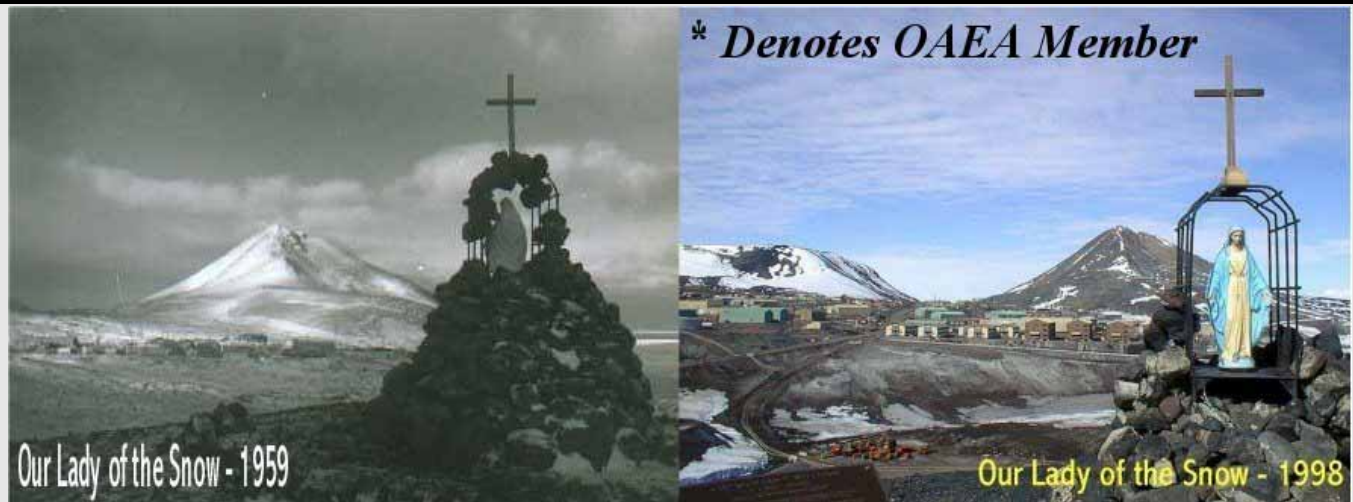
**Beset** — A vessel surrounded by ice and unable to move. German equivalent: *Eisbesetzt*.

**Icefall** — A heavily crevassed area in a glacier at a region of steep descent. French equivalent: *Abrupt de glace d'un glacier*.

**Tongue** — A projection of the ice edge up to several kilometers in length caused by wind and current. Spanish equivalent: *Lengua*.

**Water Sky** — Dark streaks on the underside of clouds, indicating the presence of open water, or broad leads in the floating ice. German equivalent: *Wasserhimmel*.





## I N M E M O R Y

\*OAE Frank Kazukaitis, PHC, age 77, died on 15 February 2005, at Princess Margaret Hospital in Christchurch, New Zealand. Frank made several deployments to the ice. He was the photographer on the Bellinghousen Sea mission during DF-60. Mount Kazukaitis on Thurston Island is named in his honor.

\*OAE Robert B. Mason, CAPT USMC, age 73, died on 8 February 2005, in Fairhope, Alabama. Robert served in VX-6 during DF-IV as a helo and Otter pilot and R4D copilot and navigator.

OAE Charles H. Knight, CDR, age 76, died on 7 February 2005, in Pensacola, Florida. Charles served on the USS *Glacier* as a helicopter pilot.

OAE Homer Donnolly Ford, CWO-4, age 79, died on 30 January 2005, in Pensacola, Florida. Homer served as photographic officer during Operation Highjump (1946-47), and on the USS *Burton Island* during Operation Windmill (1948). Ford Island in the South part of the Windmill Islands is named in his honor.

OAE Andrew H. Brown, age 92, died on 4 February 2005, at the Montgomery Hospice in Rockville, Maryland. Andrew was a photographer and writer for National Geographic. He deployed with DF-I aboard icebreakers and other task force ships.

OAE Alvin J. Jones, CSC, age 75, died on 25 January 2005, at a Brunswick Maine hospital. Al served with VX-6 at Williams Field during DF-61.

OAE James J. Brosnahan, CDR, age 83, died on 22 January 2005, in Oak Harbor, Washington. James was the OIC of McMurdo Station and the CO of the ASA Detachment Alfa DF-61 WO party. Brosnahan Island 11 miles NE of Cape Murray is named in his honor.

OAE Stanley Yamrick, ADCS, age 84, died on 3 January 2005, in Virginia Beach, Virginia. Stanley served on the USS *Pine Island* during Operation Highjump.

\*OAE Jerome "Jerry" Jones, LCDR, age 85, died on 01 January 2005, in San Diego, California. Jerry served in VX-6 during DF-59, 60 and 61. He was a member of the Para-Rescue Team

OAE Pharo Alfred "Pap" Phelps, age 76, died on 20 December 2004, at his home in Walnut Creek, California. Pap served in Antarctica with the Seabees.

\*OAE Dave G. Boleen, age 69, died on 15 December 2004. Dave was a Master Chief and served in VX-6 from 1959 to 1962 and again from 1964 to 1968.

OAE James B. Goodlin, AT1, age 72, died on 22 November 2002, in Greenville, Pennsylvania. Jim served in VX-6.



## Senator Collins Recognized for 'Save-a-Herk' Efforts

*By Marty Diller, member OAEA Board of Directors*

One of the foremost goals of the OAEA is to acquire a NSF-owned, mothballed LC-130 aircraft for display in a museum, where it may serve as the cornerstone of an entire array of Antarctic memorabilia donated to honor the men and women who served their country on "the last frontier." To that end, in the fall of 1999, fellow Mainer and OAEA member Ralph Lewis (TF-43 Staff Photo Officer DF-72, 73, and 74) and I wrote Maine Senator Susan M. Collins for her assistance—our small contribution in this early OAEA Save-a-Herk campaign. She and her staff took great and active interest on this issue and worked extremely hard on our behalf for a period of over six months:

- researching procedures for the acquisition of government surplus property,
- investigating the possibility of obtaining government grants for this project,
- writing to museums that may be interested in displaying the aircraft, and finally
- approaching the Director of the NSF on our behalf.

During the first Board of Directors meeting at the Oxnard 2005 National Reunion/Symposium, it was brought to the Board's attention that although Senator Collins has been one of the strongest supporters of this major OAEA objective, her efforts up to now have been both largely unrecognized and unacknowledged by the OAEA. Also, even though our Save-a-Herk efforts have been stalled by NSF's refusal to declare a mothballed ski-Herk as surplus, some members believed it important that Senator Collins know the OAEA has not gone away and that we sincerely appreciate and respect her efforts on our behalf. Accordingly, the Board agreed to honor Senator Collins' support by awarding her a Certificate of Appreciation.

On Thursday, 24 March, on behalf of the OAEA, I—accompanied by Ralph and New England Chapter President Dave Hazard (VXE-6 Hercules Loadmaster DF-71 through 74)—presented to her the framed Certificate and an accompanying letter signed by OAEA President John West. The Senator gave us almost a half hour of her time, which passed quickly as the three of us described our experiences in Antarctica to her and her aide, State Office Representative Bill Vail. In turn, she talked of her C-130 experiences during her recent trip to Iraq and Kuwait, which involved quite a bit of Herk-time, and included a nighttime, lights-out combat approach and landing at one of the desert bases. All too soon, another staffer interrupted our meeting, saying "Time's up!" We next took our photos together in the outer office, and in parting, Senator Collins thanked each of us for our service in the military.



*OAEA Board Member Marty Diller, Member Dave Hazard, and Member Ralph Lewis met with Senator Susan M. Collins, R-ME on 24 March to present a Certificate of Appreciation on behalf of the OAEA, for her strong support of the OAEA "Save-a-Herk" campaign. The New England Chapter provided the OAEA pin proudly worn by Senator Collins on her suit.*

Meanwhile, the OAEA's aim to press for the acquisition of an LC-130 has not wavered, and any congressional support we can get remains extremely important to cultivate. Senator Collins and her staff stand ready to further assist the OAEA in our Save-a-Herk campaign, when we decide the time is right.

The question of when and how to revisit the issue, though, has yet to be made by the OAEA. Timing and funding will be key, and of course some congressional backing (both for funding and to pressure the NSF into donating an airframe for museum display) will be critically important.

It may not be unreasonable to anticipate that the recent crash of an RAF C-130 in Iraq, which has brought to light severe center wing box corrosion problems on older airframes, may play a role in determining how soon the mothballed LC-130s are declared surplus. Further, in the 02/21/05 issue of *Aviation Week & Space Technology*, an article on page 21 states the USAF has made a "...recent decision to ground 30 C-130Es for cracks in their center wing box structures. An additional 60 newer but long-serving C-130s are flying with restrictions to minimize wing stress."

The continued support of highly-placed government officials like Senator Collins is important, but so is the grassroots support of members of the OAEA. I ask that all OAEA members remain alert to any developments in this area, and plan now how you can assist the OAEA in acquisition of an LC-130 when the call to action comes.

## Poetry By Tom Osborne

*Submitted by Acy "Pat" Patterson*

**TOM OSBORNE—22 July 1934 – 9 July 2002.** Mount Osborne 78°37'S, 84°47'W. A 9,000 foot-high mountain on the SW side of Thomas Glacier, 5 miles East of Mount Craddock, in the Sentinel Range of the Ellsworth Mountains. Named for Thomas Osborne who helped build and served in the winter-over party at South Pole Station during DF-II and DF-63 and at Byrd Station during DF-60.



### The Old Chief's Hands

The old Chief looked at his gnarled hands  
 And thought to himself with pride  
 They've built around the world, this can't be denied.

They've been frozen in the Antarctic,  
 As they helped to build the pole,  
 Burned by the sun of the Moroccan sands  
 And the jungles of Vietnam.

These hands have toiled on some mighty tasks  
 And defended them as well,

They are no strangers when it comes to shot and shell.

These hands have raised our colors on many foreign lands  
 And saluted that flag as it went proudly past  
 Now these old hands can rest, as they are home...at last.

BUC Thomas M. Osborne, USN (Ret)  
 Dedicated to all Retired Seabees

§

### A VISIT WITH AN OLD FRIEND

I just stopped by; I haven't been here since I helped fold your flag and presented it to Thelma. I often think of you, and the times we had, the good and the bad.

Remember: when you froze your hands at the pole and I put them in my armpits to thaw. When Ollie "Jim" Bartley took my place on the oil line inspection and the weasel broke through the ice and he drowned. Byrd Station, we worked all summer putting up the new buildings, and all winter shoring up the old buildings so they wouldn't collapse from the weight of the snow. The one-mile snow runway we built for the 130's to land. The plane crash in a whiteout. Pole, when I broke my leg and you carried me to sickbay, all those air drops we retrieved during the summer.

Christchurch, when we came off the ice, the beer and the pretty girls (we were younger then).



*RMI Ken Thomas, BUI Tom Osborne and HMI Bill Jenkins. South Pole Station DF-63.*

Vietnam, on the Det. When we built the cantonment for the Korean Marines. When we went on R&R to Hong Kong and back to Chu Lie, the night alerts. The Seabee team at Lie Tieu, those liberty parties in Saigon, the mortar rounds screaming out of the night sky during the Tet offensive, Puff the Magic Dragon. Flying into Saigon second trip in country, stainless steel coffins lined up, waiting for men to fill them, reminding us of our mortality. The B-52 bombings, the gun ship that saved our butts, the sight and smell of death.

The oppressive heat and humidity. The time you were nearly hit by "friendly fire". When I was awarded the Navy commendation medal with combat "V". How disappointed I was in getting it, just for doing my job. The night we almost burnt down the chicken farm. The order from MACV "do not fire until fired upon".

The trout we used to catch in the streams around Somerset, the places we went in my motor home with Onnolee and Thelma, I remember them all.

My darling Onnolee passed away in November, it's almost impossible for me to go on, but I know I must, you loved her too.

You will rest in this place until the final bugle call, when we will meet again.

Well, old friend, I'll stand at attention and salute you, as I must be on my way, I have many miles to go.



Tom Osborne

## The Immaculately Preserved OAE

By Billy-Ace Baker

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*Foreword:* Two modern day OAEs: Eric and an unnamed companion, digging for lost fuel drums, discover the remains of what they perceive to be the body of an OAE from the heroic age.

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Each Austral Summer Season on the ice the McMurdo Station weekly newspaper the *Antarctic Sun* sponsors a writing and photography contest. Entrants send in their nonfiction, fiction, poetry, and photographs. A panel of judges is appointed to pick the best in the above categories. The panel consists of grantees and former grantees from the National Science Foundation (NSF) Artists and Writers Program. The *Antarctic Sun* subsequently publishes the winning contributions. However, something different happened this year. As is done every week, management (NSF) reviews the contents of the *Antarctic Sun* and this year the reviewer rejected five of the six award-winning submissions as being inappropriate to appear in the newspaper. The third place winner of the micro-fiction category; the *E-Bay Auction* by Karen Joyce, was one of the censored entries:

**E-Bay Auction: Immaculately Preserved Early Antarctic Explorer, circa 1912. Starting bid \$1000. Worth that much in gold teeth alone. Cold shipping not included.**

I just want to make it clear right from the get-go that I told Eric this was a bad idea. I'm the one whose shovel hit this dead guy in the head, so you'd think I would have had some say in all this. But when was the last time Eric listened to me?

The day started off normally enough: we were still trying to find some old fuel barrels in the middle of wherever the heck we were. I hadn't bothered to look at a map when we left McMurdo, so all I knew was that it was flat and white, which could have been anywhere. We'd been pounding away for a couple of days, finding nothing under the snow, when my shovel hit something different. Something waxy.

I knelt down and gingerly ran the shovel point over the dark shape. As I scabbled the loose snow away from it, a face emerged: black eyes staring over my left shoulder. I sank back onto my boots, the air knocked plumb out of me.

Long story short, when Eric caught up with me he decided the best course of action would be to get the guy back to McMurdo, stash him in the Frozen Food Warehouse behind the 10-year-old hotdogs, and then put him up for sale on E-Bay. Like I said before, bad idea. OK, so they fired us. But I have to admit I've been sort of enjoying myself, soaking my flesh in the sunshine of Christchurch, the bellbirds pecking away in their contented innocence on the

windowsill of my little room. And I remain convinced the judge will let me off. Right?

*Editor's Note: Bill Lokey submitted the following narrative to the Explorer's Gazette in the nonfiction category.*

### The true story of the Immaculately Preserved OAE

During winter-over DF-70, the Navy asked me to help organize and train a Search and Rescue Team. I had a background in Mountain Rescue and climbing and seemed to be the only one in McMurdo with such skills. There were some Kiwi climbers at Scott base and they offered to help also. During that winter we observed *Rope Yarn Sunday* every Wednesday afternoon. That was the SAR training day also. We trained in first aid, frostbite, crevasse rescue, rope rescue skills and other rescue tactics.

After we were trained appropriately, we started a weekly drill. On my sewing machine in the Berg Field Center (BFC) I used some sheets and old rags to create a life-sized dummy. We dressed him in Extreme Cold Weather clothing, complete with boots. The Kiwis named him "Fred the Bloke" and every week they would take him to someplace around McMurdo and hide him. Wednesday morning they would call Mac Duty and say something like "Fred went to take pictures at Willy Field and did not come back!" Armed with the clues, the SAR Team would go out to find Fred. As creative as the Kiwis got, we were always successful until one time they hid Fred in the pressure ridges near Scott Base. On Tuesday night a storm blew in that lasted for several days. When we finally got around to searching for Fred he was nowhere to be found. A brief service was held and Fred was forgotten.



*Body discovered in pressure ridge identified as SAR dummy.*



During my third tour to the Ice during DF-74, I was again BFC Manager. While driving to the Annual Ice Runway, an urgent call came over the radio. A body had been spotted in the pressure ridges near Scott Base. Every unit started counting noses and when it was determined no one was missing, and no one knew of any Navy or USARPs reported missing in recent history. Speculation flew that it might be the body of Scott or one of his companions who had perished on the Ross Ice Shelf over 60 years before and just maybe, the movement of the ice had brought them to Ross Island!

When the body was recovered it turned out to be Fred. Apparently the storm had blown him into a crevasse, and after 4 years in an icy tomb, the movement of the ice brought him again to the surface. I was happy to be there to identify the "body".

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*Epilogue:* After Fred was identified by Bill Lokey, was he again lost in a crevasse to only be re-discovered years later by Eric and his companion?

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*Editor's Note:* The other censored Antarctic Sun contest winners may be seen on the web site of the Elementary Penguin at: <http://www.elementarypenguin.com>.

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## Para-Rescue Team Rescues Scholarship Fund

*by Walt Walter*

**A**T THE RECENT SYMPOSIUM IN OXNARD the Para-Rescue Team donated a check for \$1000 to the Scholarship fund. At the previous symposium the team had challenged all members present to raise money for the fund. No other member, or group answered the Para-Rescue team challenge. Dick Spaulding represented all contributing members of the Para-Rescue Team at the symposium and handed over the check to Walt Walter who accepted the \$1000 for the Scholarship Foundation.

The following members of the Para-Rescue Team members contributed to the donation:

Dick Spaulding	Donald Bagley	Tim O'Connor
Al Burton	Tom Orr	Leonard Mess
Jim Thomann	Frank Epler	"Hoot" Hartman
Roy Roberts	"Dutch" Holland	



*Dick Spaulding Presents Para-Rescue Team Donation to OAEA Scholarship Fund Chairman Walt Walter.*

## OAEA Donor Penguin Awards

*Submitted by Jim O'Connell*

**T**he award levels were updated 22 March 2005. There are a total of 21 awardees. The asterisks (\*) indicate donors added to the list, or who have reached the next level, since the last report.

**BLUE** Donations of \$50 (1st 100 only)

- Baker, Billy-Ace
- \*Biery, Roger W.
- Blackwelder, Billy
- \*Blewett, Thomas
- Bolt, Ron L.
- \*Boyer, Robert E.
- Cordes, Fauno

Dostal, W (Dusty) A.

- \*DuBeau, Earl
- \*Eubanks, Paul
- Hall, Richard M.
- Henley, Joseph
- Hilt, John W.
- Morris, Marion
- Munson, Evelyn
- Owler, Robert
- \*Spaulding, Richard
- \*VX/VXE-6 Para-Rescue Team
- \*Werner, Alexander
- \*Whitehead, Eugene
- \*Wick Jr. Howard J.

**BRONZE** Donations of \$100

- \*Biery, Roger W.

Bolt, Ron L.

- \*Boyer, Robert E.
- \*Dostal, W (Dusty) A.
- Hall, Richard M.
- Henley, Joseph
- Munson, Evelyn
- Owler, Robert
- \*Spaulding, Richard
- \*Whitehead, Eugene

**GOLD** Donations of \$500

- Baker, Billy-Ace
- \*Cordes, Fauno

**SILVER** Donations of \$1,000

- \*VX/VXE-6 Para-Rescue Team

**REUNION INFORMATION**

Send reunion information to Billy-Ace Baker at [upizauf@aol.com](mailto:upizauf@aol.com) for publication in the Gazette

**USS Yancey (AKA-93)**, Norfolk, VA, 10-13 November 2005. Contact George Clifton, phone 708 425 8531, email [clifs@ameritech.net](mailto:clifs@ameritech.net). The USS *Yancey* served during Operation Highjump.

**USS Tombigbee (AOG-11)**, & **USS Elkhorn (AOG-7)**, Newport, RI, 16-20 May 2005. Contact William Waller, phone 757 217 2357, email [wallerwn@wcbeach.com](mailto:wallerwn@wcbeach.com). The USS *Tombigbee* served during DF-63 & the USS *Elkhorn* served during DF-62.

**Antarctic Deep Freeze Association (ADFA)**, Biloxi, MS, 3-5 May 2005. Contact Bill Stroup, email [stroup597@aol.com](mailto:stroup597@aol.com), phone 228 864 3270. ADFA members participated in DF from the IGY to the present.

**Retired Seabee Association**, Biloxi, MS, 29 April through 1 May. Contact Russell Brooks, phone 228 452 4178, Ron Harvey, at 228 871 2894, or Ray Spencer at 228 832 1810. ADFA members who come early are cordially invited.

**Deep Freeze Spring Fling**, Dayton, OH, 22-24 April 2005. Contact Ed Waite, email [ebw@thewaitegroup.com](mailto:ebw@thewaitegroup.com). For all units and all years.

**NNPU/PM-3A**, Harrisburg, PA, 24-29 April 2005. Contact Robert A. Garland, phone 717 469 2456, email [Rags\\_Seabee@comcast.net](mailto:Rags_Seabee@comcast.net). The McMurdo Nukes participated in DF-62 through DF-75

**USS Philippine Sea (CV-47)**. Memphis, TN, 10-17 October 2005. Contact Chuck Davis, phone 941 425 2149, email [philsea@earthlink.net](mailto:philsea@earthlink.net). The USS *Philippine Sea* served during Operation Highjump.

**USS Sennet (SS 408)**, Panama City FL, 27 April to 2 May 2005. Contact Ralph Luther, phone 843 851 7064, email [rluther@bellsouth.net](mailto:rluther@bellsouth.net). The USS *Sennet* served during Operation Highjump.

**USCGC Eastwind (WAGB-279)**, Portland, ME, 10-12 June 2005. Contact Lee Grant, Box 292, Albany, NH 03818, phone 603 447 6040, email [junelee.1@juno.com](mailto:junelee.1@juno.com). The USCGC *Eastwind* participated in DF-I, & DF-60 through DF-67.

**NZAVA**, New Plymouth, New Zealand, 10-13 June 2005. Contact Garry Cousins, phone 616 5 3349, email [garry@kpnz.co.nz](mailto:garry@kpnz.co.nz). The USS *NZAVA* served, and continue to serve with the USAP and the NZAP.

**DF-70 WO**, New Orleans, LA, 24-26 June 2005. Contact Bill "Pony" Peverill, email [wpeverill@earthlink.net](mailto:wpeverill@earthlink.net). Includes Navy and USARP personnel from all US Antarctic Stations.

**NEW OAEA MEMBERS**

The below listed personnel have joined the OAEA since the Jan-Mar 2005 issue of the *Gazette*

\*Denotes Associate member

Abaied, Daniel, BUCN	Annual	MCB-71 DF-73
Ayers, Harold J. E-5	Annual	USS <i>Glacier</i> 61-63
Baker, Jamie D, Civ	Life*	Upgraded to Life
Baker, Sean N., Civ	Life*	Upgraded to Life
Beiszer, John E. ADRC	Life	VX-6 56/57
Bengel, "Jake" LCDR	Life	OIC Det C DF-70/72
Biery, Kay, Civ	Memorial	MWR WO DF-91
Biery, Roger, Civ	Life	Construction 79-87
Bryant, Herwil M.	Memorial	USASE 1939-1941
Bryant, Stephen H.	Life	1991
Bryant, Mary L.	Life*	Wife of Stephen
Chappell, Dick L.	Life	BSA WO LAV DF-II
Cunningham, Clair SKC	Life	ASA WO DF-66
Falkenhof, Jack Civ	Life	WO DF-63 USWB Pole
Fortin, Herve R. BMCS	Life	USS <i>States Island</i> DF-I
Greenwood, Gregory	Annual	PN1 NSFA 81-83
Grigore, Julius, Capt	Life*	Philatelic Historian
Heffel, Kathleen, Civ	Life*	Wife of Member
Holton, Edward HM1	Annual	NSFA DF-88 to 91
Hoyt, Robert L. SK1	Life	USS <i>Wyandot</i> DF-II
Hughes, William LTJG	Life	VX-6 59-61
Igelman, Brian, Civ	Annual	PBS Cameraman
Irby, David W.	Life	E-4 DF-IV
Kazukaitis, Frank PHC	Life	DF-60+
King, Peter C. LCDR	Life	VXE-6 72-75
Kissel, Laura J. Civ	Annual*	BPRC Archives
Koloc, James B. LCDR	Life	VX-6 Helo Pilot DF-66
Konrad, Kerry, Civ	Life*	Upgraded to Life
Leak, Stella, Civ	Life*	Widow of Pat Leak
Lewis, George A. BUR2	Life	DF-III, IV & 61
Long, Elgen, Civ	Life	DF-72
McGowin, Robert AMH2	Life	VX-6 59-61
Meredith, Frank, LTJG	Life	USS <i>Arneb</i>
Moulder, Andrew SK2	Memorial	Killed 02/02/66
Murphy, Peter G. LTJG	Life	USS <i>Wyandot</i>
Nemcosky, Martin CDR	Life	Det Charlie 72-74
Newcomer, Loyd CDR	Memorial	VX-6 59-61
Newquist, Karen, Civ	Annual*	Wife of Gary
Northrup, David A.	Life	VX/VXE-6 66-69
Oldfield, Robert, Aussy	Life	Mawson 58-59
Pennington, John RM2	Annual	ASA WO DF-70
Prevento, Andrew	Life	CS1 WO DF-69
Raymus, William HTC	Annual	NSFA DF-71 & 74
Reisner, Donald R, AN	Life	VX-6 DF-62 & 63
Rhodes, J. J. LTJG	Memorial	WO DF-66
Smith, George HMSN	Life	USS <i>Glacier</i> DF-I
Staskel, Robert W. Civ	Life*	Son of Member
Stuedemann, John	Life	CWO VXE-6 Maint
Taylor, Jerry K., HMC	Life	ASA DF-71 & 72
Wayne, Gary G. SK3	Life	WO DF-70 South Pole
Wezdenko, Richard LT	Annual	VXE-6 85-88
Williams, Richard, CD3	Memorial	Killed 1/6/56
Wilson, Clifford	Memorial	VX-6 DF-61 thru 63
Wright, Robert E AG2	Annual	NSFA 70-74

**CANCELLED**

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## OAEA LOCATOR

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• Found: Geographic Names of the Antarctic Certificates. See story on page 4. If anyone knows the address of any of the following OAEs please notify the *Gazette* Editor at [upizauf@aol.com](mailto:upizauf@aol.com) or at the National Headquarters address on the last page of the *Gazette* or by phone at: 850 456 3556.

- ETN2 Thomas H. Oliver.
- CS1 Paul L. Murch
- CS2 Donald I. Dymont
- BU2 Rudolph D. Terrazas
- BUC Gerson Hyatt
- CM2 Francis B. Macnowski
- UT1 Harold D. K. Crain
- BU3 Charles E. Gorham
- HM1 Stephen E. Terwileger
- SK2 James T. Wells
- EM2 Howard W. Broome, Jr.
- CM1 Floyd Viridin
- CE3 Lawrence D. Bean

• Julius Grigore is looking for information concerning the location of the postal canceling devices and philatelic cachets (hand stamps) used by Admiral Byrd during the First Byrd Antarctic Expedition 1928–30 (BAE I). He has already checked all the obvious places including the Library of Congress, the Smithsonian Institute, the Byrd Polar Research Center, the American Society of Polar Philatelists and about 500 Internet sites. He is also interested in anyone who has knowledge of Byrd philatelic covers that were flown over both poles. Julius can be reached by phone at: 941 485 6109, or by email at [scadta@comcast.net](mailto:scadta@comcast.net). Julius is seeking this information in order to update his philatelic monograph on BAE I associated with Panama and the Canal Zone.

• Harold MacPherson is looking for OAE RMC John. P. "JP" Burns. JP wintered-over at McMurdo during DF-63, 67, and 70. Anyone having any information on JP can contact Mac at [haroldmacpherson@gmail.com](mailto:haroldmacpherson@gmail.com) or by phone at: 619 448 9146.

• The OAEA Secretary/Treasurer Jim O'Connell is looking for the following OAEA members who have apparently moved and have not kept their address current with him:

- |                     |                      |
|---------------------|----------------------|
| —Bob Russell        | —Nancy J. Kelson     |
| —Robert A. Johnson  | —Theodore J. Hill    |
| —William D. O'Quin  | —Harold McKoon       |
| —Steven D. Preshler | —Robert B. Singleton |

Anyone knowing the location of any of these missing persons please let Jim know at: [penguin64@att.net](mailto:penguin64@att.net) or by phone at 850 478 6222.

• John Henry is looking for YN1 (SS) George W. Young who had orders for ASA in June of 1958. It is not known if George was Summer Support of Winter-Over. John Henry may be contacted at [agss311@bellsouth.net](mailto:agss311@bellsouth.net) or by phone at 352 465 9185.

• Eric Hobday, the Raytheon Polar Services Contract McMurdo Station Winter Site Manager for DF-05 wants to contact members of the first winter-over crew. Eric may be contacted by email at [Eric.Hobday@usap.gov](mailto:Eric.Hobday@usap.gov).

• Robert Harper is looking for anyone who wintered with him during DF-80 and according to Robert it was the best tour during his career. He is especially looking for UTC Dave Pinkerton and Anthony Phillips. Robert can be reached by email at: [robertandjud@msn.com](mailto:robertandjud@msn.com). God speed to all Seabees.

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### ACTIVITIES BY LOCALE

**New England Area**—See articles in this issue (pages 9 and 15) concerning recent activities in the New England area. The New England chapter meets quarterly. Contact Marty Diller at [mgdiller@blazenetme.net](mailto:mgdiller@blazenetme.net) or 207 729 0197 for additional information.

**Gulf Coast Group**—See articles in this issue (page 17 and 18) concerning recent activities in the Gulf Coast Group. For further information contact Les Liptak at 850 492 1666 or [lcliptak@hightec.com](mailto:lcliptak@hightec.com) or Billy-Ace Baker at 850 456 3556 or [upizauf@aol.com](mailto:upizauf@aol.com)

**Tidewater Group**—See article in this issue (page 18) concerning recent activities in the Tidewater area. Contact Ed Hamblin at [ehamblin@cox.net](mailto:ehamblin@cox.net) or 757 405 3362 for more information.





## New England Chapter Meets in Connecticut

By Marty Diller, New England Chapter Secretary-Treasurer

The New England Chapter of the OAEA (OAEA-NE) achieved a couple of new firsts for its winter meeting on Saturday, 19 March. It held its first-ever meeting in Connecticut, and in doing so, set a new meeting attendance record. With the help and coordination of OAEA member Jim Kelly (ASA Det C, DF-73 and 74), this meeting was held in Mystic, CT at *Jamms* Restaurant—which placed the meeting about as far south in New England as is possible. Inclement weather kept attendance numbers down at the last two Chapter meetings, but for this meeting, we were blessed with pleasant, sunny weather for a change. In addition, the southerly location of the meeting attracted five attendees from the mid-Atlantic region, and we overflowed from our assigned area at *Jamms*' into the bar area with 33 OAEA members and guests.



Left to Right: Don Leger, Hoot Hartman, Marty Diller, and Dave Hazard conduct BOD Meeting at OAEA NE Chapter Winter meeting.



Marty Diller, talking with John Hollo. Raffle/doorprize table in foreground.

Attendees brought much memorabilia, and video tapes provided by Ed Cohen (Malden, MA) and John Hollo (VX-6, DF-I & II) were viewed. John's video was taken aboard the USS *Edisto* in 1955. With the accompanying

music and shots of the task force en route McMurdo Sound, it was very reminiscent of the old *Victory At Sea* films.

Don Leger brought Ed Cohen's video to the meeting, and it included Ed's slide photography from his Deep Freeze

days, which Ed projected, and then videotaped, and added narration and music. The video had fascinating views of early McMurdo with shots of tents (unheated) and Hut Point in the background and *nothing else*. There was a lot of footage of/from R4Ds and other aircraft, including some aerial shots of the wreckage of *Amen!* The P2V-2N, 122466, that went down in Venezuela on 8 February 1956 [crash date and aircraft BuNo from Joe Hawkins "Unofficial" VXE-6 Webpage]. In addition, there were some photos from the USS *Wyandot* (someone bumped Ed off the aircraft manifest for his ride to the Ice, and he had to take the ship down. He claimed RHIP). Also, he had amazing shots of Waikiki beach with only around ten people there. There was virtually *nothing* there, just those old, old-style lounge beach chairs made of wood and canvas lined up just waiting to be used.

At the meeting, OAEA-NE President Dave Hazard provided a brief overview of January's Symposium/Reunion events, including items covered at the General Membership meeting there. He also mentioned the features and links on the Chapter Website, <http://www.oaea-ne.net/>, including its link to 'My Photo Site', which has photos of the January Reunion and the recent Chapter meeting.

Chapter Secretary/Treasurer Marty Diller provided an update on the growing Chapter membership rolls, now at 69 members—make that an even 70, as EQCM John Forman, USN (Ret.), of E. Greenwich, RI, submitted his OAEA membership application and Lifetime dues at the meeting. John is a Deep Freeze veteran of 1957–63. OAEA member EQCM Fess Parker, USN (Ret.), of Warwick, RI, brought John along with him to the meeting. Thank you, Fess!

## Other New England Chapter News

**Chapter By-Laws Revision.**—Marty Diller briefed the group on OAEA By-Laws changes voted in at the General Membership meeting at January's Symposium, and described similar Chapter By-Laws revisions proposed by the OAEA-NE Board. The members present voted the Chapter By-Laws revisions listed here in:

- Provisions for new OAEA members to submit applications to the Chapter or OAEA National.
- Addition of a new Board member position: Immediate Past President.
- Increase in the office term for the President and Executive VP from one year, to two years.

**Change in Chapter Executive Vice President.**—In early March, Charley Verba resigned from his Executive VP post due to circumstances that required him to move to Oklahoma. At a Chapter Board meeting before the day's quarterly meeting, the Board appointed Fred Santino (AE3; VX-6 DF-65 & 66) to replace Charley in accordance with Chapter By-Laws. Fred had been one of the nominees in the election of Chapter Directors At-Large last summer. The Chapter wishes Charley Verba Good Luck in Tulsa, and extends hearty Congratulations! A warm thanks to Fred for accepting the appointment to the Executive Vice President position.

**Presentation of OAEA Certificate of Appreciation to Senator Susan Collins, ME.**—At January's Symposium/ Reunion, the OAEA Board of Directors voted to recognize Senator Collin's active support of initial OAEA efforts to obtain a mothballed LC-130 from the National Science Foundation for museum exhibition. On 24 March, on behalf of the OAEA, a framed Certificate of Appreciation was presented to Senator Collins by OAEA Board member Marty Diller, OAEA-NE President Dave Hazard, and OAEA member Ralph Lewis. See story on page 9.

## Fundraising

At the winter meeting, Chapter Merchandise Coordinator Dave Hazard again sold OAEA-NE polo shirts and ball caps and conducted the usual raffle ticket and door prize drawings. Additional donations were accepted from those who picked up copies of NSF published booklets and brochures about the US Antarctic Program (thanks again to Charlie Bevilacqua for these).

The next OAEA-NE Chapter meeting is scheduled for 1:00 pm on Saturday, 11 June, at Duffy's Restaurant, in Wickford, RI.



*L/R Back Row: Jim Kelly, Barry Chase, Dave Hazard, Hoot Hartman, Dave Dubois, Bob Epperly, Dave Killan  
Middle Row: John Hollo, Don Leger, Jim Heffel, Andy Andersen, Ron Ochsner  
Front Row: Fess Parker, Marty Diller, Charlie Palsgraf, John Giro, Bob Sexton, Charlie Bevilacqua and his dog  
Not Pictured: John Forman, Chet Thomas, Dave Steward, Kip Smith*



# Gulf Coast Group January Meeting

by Billy-Ace Baker

Our 7 January 2005 meeting was a great success. Attendance was up—we had 45 people, including guests, as compared to 30 attendees at the December meeting. As promised, the management of Kooter's put us in the main lounge/dining area and we had room to spare this time.



R.F. Kiser and his wife Faye were visiting the Gulf Coast area from Kentucky; it was a pleasant surprise when they showed up at the meeting. R.F. was a radioman who wintered-over at McMurdo with Antarctic Support Activities Detachment Alfa during DF-63.



Visiting From Kentucky OAEA LifeMember RF Kiser and Wife Faye

Following a few announcements by Les Liptak, a brief update on the status of *Que Sera Sera* was given by Chuck Minerman and Les outlined plans to draft a letter concerning OAEA sponsorship of *QSS*. Further discussions regarding the Gulf Coast Group becoming an official OAEA chapter were shelved for a future meeting. With all group business out of the way, the OAEA National Secretary Jim O'Connell asked OAEA Executive Vice President, Ed



OAEA Executive Vice President Announces Results of the OAEA National Election

Feeney, to announce the names of the newly elected OAEA officers. See related story on page 2 (President's Corner).

Our guest speaker was Maria Landy, a Pensacola Police officer, who is the daughter of Jim and Pam Landy. Maria spoke about her early childhood in New Zealand and the changes she observed during a recent month-long trip to New Zealand. Following her presentation, Maria answered questions about New Zealand and her experiences as a police officer. At one point, Maria pulled her Taser and all that could be heard was the scrapping of chairs as some of the more cautious OAEs prepared to dive under the table. Maria had to cut the question-and-answer period short because she had to report for duty.

Following Maria's presentation, Lennie Bourgeois made an announcement that there was a story about Norman Vaughan (see related story on page 22) in the January 2005 issue of the American Legion magazine.

Before making her presentation, Maria was asked to draw the ticket for the 50/50 raffle; her mother Pam claimed the ticket that she drew. Maria was shocked and apologetic—I think she almost wanted someone else to draw another ticket. However Pam ran up and grabbed the money before anyone else could cry foul. Pam's share of the pot amounted to \$46; the other half will go towards postage and other expenses. Appreciation is extended to everyone who contributed to the drawing.

Thanks to the outstanding presentation and the warm hospitality of our host, this meeting turned out to be the most memorable gathering in a long time. The next meeting was scheduled for 4 March.



Guest Speaker Maria Landy



## Gulf Coast Group March Meeting

by Billy-Ace Baker

Attendance at the 4 March 2005 meeting was down from the 7 January meeting, but we still managed to muster 25 members and guests. Les Liptak made a few announcements and discussed the status of the Gulf Coast Group nametags we were supposed to get, but have been held in abeyance for lack of funding. Our scheduled speaker, National Secretary/Treasurer, Jim O'Connell was sick with the flu, so I gave an impromptu 10-minute report on the highlights of the Oxnard reunion.

During my brief presentation Cindy Liptak sold tickets for the 50/50 raffle and following my talk there was no further old business, so the Operation Highjump movie *The Secret Land* was shown. The movie, lasting about an hour, was well-received, and was apparently enjoyed by everyone, as there were no disturbances by people carrying on conversations during the movie. There were three OAEs at the meeting who had been members of Operation Highjump, they were: Gus Shinn, Don Emmons, and Ed Bell. This was Ed's first meeting and he will receive an OAEA Information Package by mail.

Following the movie, Ed Bell was asked to draw a ticket from the bucket to see who the lucky winner of the 50/50 drawing was; it turned out to be Gus Shinn. A total of \$66 had been collected. Gus generously donated his share to the kitty. Gus later said that he had no choice because Cindy wouldn't let go of the money.

The next Gulf Coast Group meeting will be on Friday, 8 April at 1300. A special TV presentation of *The South Pole Padre*, the story of the Highjump Chaplain, Father Menster, will be shown on the wide screen TV.

## Tidewater Group Meeting

by Ed Hamblin

On 5 March, a few Tidewater area OAEs met for a couple of hours to swap stories and renew acquaintances. Some new faces in the group included Marty Nemcosky, Jack Bengel, and Bill Raymus. Marty and Jack had "tag-teamed" each other as Met Officers on the ice in the early 70s, and with that background, brought a new series of insightful stories about the ASA/NSFA wardroom into the mix of conversation. When Bill walked into the restaurant, he immediately recognized a couple of "station-mates" from his two separate tours at McMurdo in the early 70s. Bill was assigned to the Steelworker Shop his first trip to the ice and during DF-74, he wintered-over as the McMurdo station Fire Chief.

Others "faces in the group" included the more or less "regulars" John Strider, Homar Hall, Charlie Swinney, Neil Sugermeyer, Bob Cantrell, and Ed Hamblin. To supplement the regular sea/ice stories that are the mainstay of the social get-togethers, Ed brought some pictures from the 2nd OAEA Symposium/Reunion, Oxnard 2005, and gave a "back brief" on the business aspect of the Oxnard gathering,

and also provided available information about the 2006 symposium in Rhode Island. Based on feedback, there will be several attendees to RI from the Tidewater area.

### Group Photo of Attendees at the Tidewater OAEA Group Meeting on 05 March



Standing L/R: Marty Nemcosky, Neil Sugermeyer, Charlie Swinney, John Strider, Jack Bengel, Bill Raymus  
Seated L/R: Bob Cantrell, Ed Hamblin, Homar Hall

The group plans to get together next on 4 June at the House Of Eggs Restaurant in Norfolk. For information or to be added to the email reminders, contact Ed Hamblin at 757 405 3362, email ehamblin@cox.net.

## NMCB-71 Pledges \$10,000 To CEC/Seabee Museum Construction Fund

Compiled by Billy-Ace Baker

DURING THE MCB-71 REUNION IN WARWICK RI last August, the Seabees of this battalion, some of whom built the South Pole Station Dome, pledged \$10,000 to support the construction of the new CEC/Seabee Museum in Port Hueneme CA. In the Spring 2005 MCB 71 reunion newsletter, *The Transit II*, Jerry Montecupo, chairman of the MCB-71 reunion committee, reported that over \$2500 of their goal had already been collected. In a 26 March email message, Bob Sharp, the coordinator for the battalion fund raising, said "Donations are coming in very slow now; we are just under \$2900." Bob further stated that, "We have no cut-off date for donations. We will continue to accept donations as long as they come in, even if we go over our \$10,000 pledge." Anyone desiring to contribute to the MCB-71 Museum Fund can contact Bob Sharp at 11000 N. 77<sup>th</sup> Place, Scottsdale, AZ 85260 or phone at 480 423 1460.

In 1971, MCB-71 was assigned to Operation Deep Freeze to replace CBU-201 as the "Ice Battalion". The main mission of MCB-71 was construction of the new South Pole



Station. During DF-72 and DF-73, MCB-71 deployed a 110-member construction crew to South Pole to erect the Dome, adjacent trenches and arches, and other structures. During the DF-72 season, the men lived in the emergency-camp Jamesways at the old station. During DF-73, they built the Dry-Gulch Construction Camp and then proceeded to finish the major structures, including Skylab. When the battalion departed South Pole for the last time at the end of the DF-74 season, the station was 85% complete and during this phase some of the construction workers lived inside the Dome. DF-74 was the last year Navy personnel wintered-over at the South Pole and DF-75 heralded the first year of Dome occupancy by winter-over personnel and this consisted of an all-civilian crew.



Joan Meyers for The New York Times

**Geodesic Dome with new station in background.**

**Dome Relocation**

As part of the new South Pole Station construction project the 30-year-old Dome is scheduled to be removed from the ice and will be transported to CBC Port Hueneme, CA during FY-07 or FY-08. The dome will either be disposed of as scrap or will be used as the centerpiece for an Antarctic exhibit at the CEC/Seabee Museum.

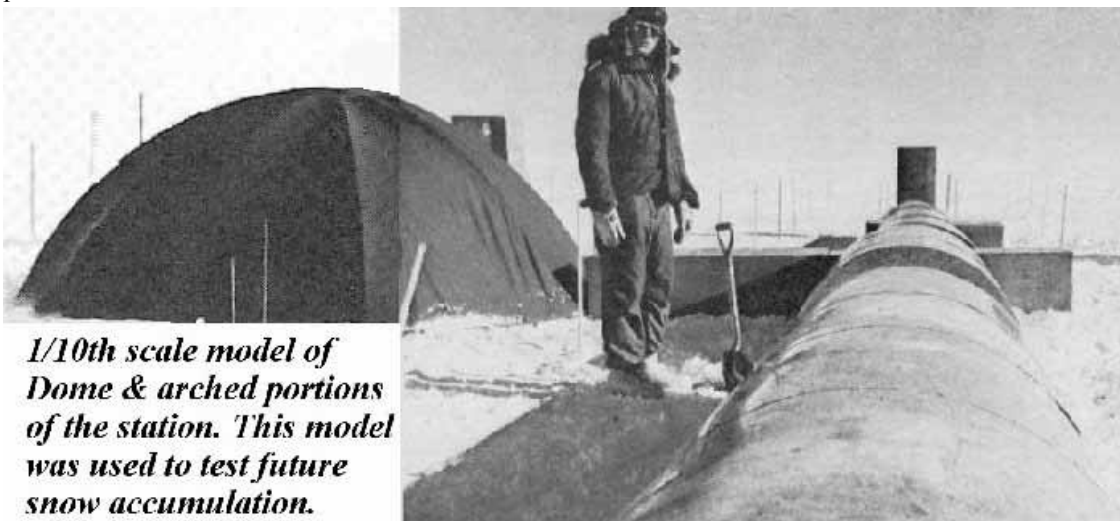
During late January a Dome Relocation team was sent to Antarctica and was on site at the South Pole 5 through 8 February 2005. Members of the team consisted of Chief Steelworker (SWC) Jose Torres of NMCB-133, U.S. Navy Seabee representative and Mr. Lee Mattis who was the

Technical Representative from TEMCOR, (the company that designed and manufactured the dome), during the summer seasons of DF-72 and DF-73. OAEA members Jerry Marty, NSF South Pole Station Representative and Bill Spindler, winter-over Title II Inspector, were also on site consulting members of the Relocation Team.

The team judged the dome to be in exceptional condition and that it would be worthwhile relocating it to Port Hueneme. According to a report sent to his superiors by Chief Torres, some of the items to consider when disassembling the dome will be the removal of the drive screws without damaging the aluminum panels, weather conditions and most of all the safety procedures needed to accomplish the task. Working in extreme cold weather conditions has to be allotted for in planning to avoid overexposing *direct labor resources*. Additionally snow removal will have to be coordinated to complete the disassembly of the lower portion of the dome base.

Bill Johnson, the winter-over on-site construction manager, has estimated dome removal, including interior buildings, will take 7200 man-hours with a crew of 12. TEMCOR has estimated the disassembly of the dome at 2400 man-hours (366 man-days) in ideal conditions such as Southern California. Chief Torres said that: "According to my calculations I have estimated the disassembly at 340 man-days." Torres further said, "The components would be packaged and shipped in approximately 20 to 22 Tri-wall shipping containers with a combined weight of approximately 78,000 pounds."

It was the impression that the interior buildings were also going to be salvaged for display; however the Museum has limited interest in the buildings due to upkeep and maintenance considerations. This speculation may be a moot point because, according to Capt Bill Quinn, the CEC/Seabee Museum guest speaker at the OAEA Oxnard 2005 Symposium/Reunion, "the city fathers of Oxnard have not yet blessed the re-construction of the 53-foot tall dome as a welcome sight on the city skyline."



**1/10th scale model of Dome & arched portions of the station. This model was used to test future snow accumulation.**

## OAEA Members Who Write Books About Antarctica

by Billy-Ace Penguin Baker

Everyone knows that there are some OAEA members who have written and published books. But did you ever wonder how many have done so? Well, I have, so I decided to check the OAEA Roster against my own unpublished book; *Antarctic Books* an Annotated Bibliography: I came up with this list. The list is by no means complete, but only consists of books that I have in my collection. If anyone reading this knows of any books by OAEA members that are not on this list, please let me know. It should be noted that many other books have been published by OAEs, but they are not members of the OAEA.

### ANTARCTIC BOOKS

<u>Author</u>	<u>Title(s)</u>
Colin Bull	● <i>Silas the Memoir of Charles Wright</i>
Richard Chappell	● <i>Antarctic Scout</i>
Elizabeth Chipman	● <i>Women on the Ice</i>
	● <i>Australians in the Frozen South</i>
Frank Crowson	● <i>The Ninth Tier Down</i>
George Doumani	● <i>The Frigid Mistress</i>
Charles Lagerbom	● <i>The Fifth Man. Henry R. Bowers</i>
William J. Menster	● <i>Strong Men South</i>
Moe Morris	● <i>The Icemen</i>
Jerri Nielsen	● <i>Ice Bound</i>
Herb Pollock	● <i>None Shall Forget</i>
Lisle Rose	● <i>Assault on Eternity</i>
William Sladen	● <i>Breeding Biology of the Adelie Penguin</i> (co-author with David G. Ainley and LeResche)
Charles Swithinbank	● <i>Alien In Antarctica</i>
Robert Thomson	● <i>The Coldest Place on Earth</i>
Norman Vaughan	● <i>My Life of Adventure</i>
	● <i>With Byrd at the Bottom of the World</i>
H. J. "Walt" Walter	● <i>Project Galaxy</i>

### NON-ANTARCTIC BOOKS

<u>Author</u>	<u>Title(s)</u>
Colin Bull	● <i>Innocents in the Arctic</i>
Kenneth Henry	● <i>When Violence Erupts</i>
	● <i>Gallant Lady a Biography of the USS Archerfish</i>
Elgen M. Long	● <i>Amelia Earhart. The Mystery Solved</i>
Moe Morris	● <i>Alpha Bug</i>
	● <i>C-130. The Hercules</i>

### UNPUBLISHED OR SELF-PUBLISHED BOOKS

<u>Author</u>	<u>Title(s)</u>
Billy-Ace Baker	● <i>Antarctic Books. An Annotated Bibliography of Antarctica</i>
Herwil M. Bryant	● <i>Antarctic Journal. U.S. Antarctic Expedition 1939-1941</i>
Fauno Cordes	● <i>Tekeli-Li or Hollow Earth Lives. A Bibliography of Antarctic Fiction</i>
Noel Gillespie	● <i>Courage, Sacrifice, Devotion</i> (currently at the publisher)
Julius Grigore, Jr.	● <i>Canal Zone &amp; Panama Aerophilately &amp; Philately Associated With BAE-I 1928-30</i>
Karl Sackman	● <i>Rim, Ram, Jim, Jam</i>
Jim Waldron	● <i>Flight of the Puckered Penguin</i>
Edward M. Ward	● <i>Deep Freeze I &amp; II. A Memoir</i>



## Russian Team Recovery of Aircraft at South Pole

by Billy-Ace Baker

In the Jan-Mar 2005 issue of the *Explorer's Gazette*, it was reported that Russia had sent a team to the South Pole to recover their Antonov (AN-3) bi-plane left there in 2002.

The story was breaking-news and within days after the publication of the *Gazette* the Russians had repaired the aircraft, test-flown it and subsequently flown it to McMurdo. The AN-3 (pictured below) departed South Pole for McMurdo on 11 January and arrived safely at Pegasus at 1910, where it was disassembled, put aboard the Ilyushin (IL-76), and flown to Christchurch.

The 2002 trip ended in controversy when the Antonov broke down at the Pole and the Russian party had to be

rescued by the Americans, who flew them to McMurdo Station and Christchurch, then billed them for the rescue.

According to the Russians, "the Antarctic Treaty says we must remove the Antonov from Antarctica and the Americans said we can cut it up and make it like garbage." The Russian party said: "why remove it like garbage when we can restore it and it can fly from the South Pole."

When the Russians presented their plans to recover the AN-3, the NSF offered to take the wings off, put the biplane on a LC-130, bring it to McMurdo where the Russians could take possession and transport it off the ice. The Russians for whatever reasons—pride, or an opportunity to get to South Pole again—wanted a chance to repair the aircraft and fly it

from the South Pole under its own power. With the level of activity at the South Pole, it seemed unlikely this would happen. However, due to extreme ice conditions at McMurdo this season, coupled with a shortage of available US Coast Guard icebreakers, and an abundance of Russian icebreakers, the NSF struck a deal with the Russians to trade Russian icebreaker support for NYANG transportation of the Russian recovery teams and their equipment to the South Pole and back to McMurdo.





**Back by popular demand: The Sandwich Girl horses around at the McMurdo Station sign near Winter Quarters Bay during a snowstorm.**

## The Serum Run

By Billy-Ace

The January 2005 issue of the American Legion Magazine featured a story by free-lance writer Mike Coppock about the famed Alaska Serum Run. The story was a great tribute to the original 1925 Serum Run that saved Nome, Alaska from a diphtheria epidemic and paid homage to OAEA member Norman Vaughan who resurrected the Serum Run in 1997. However, Mike should have stayed within his Alaska area of expertise

because he made the same mistake that many authors, as well as ordinary people, and the media in general make about Antarctic—and that is that everything south of the Antarctic Circle is synonymous with the South Pole. In keeping with this misconception the author stated that Norman Vaughan was the first American to drive dogs at the South Pole.

I sent an email letter to the editor of the magazine explaining that Norman Vaughan may have been the first American to drive dogs in Antarctica, but the distinction of being the first American to drive dogs at the geographic South Pole belongs to LTjg Jack Tuck who made the historic run on 20 November 1956. However, I made a typo and put 1955 as the year instead of 1956.

My letter appeared in the March issue of the magazine and before I had seen the letter I started receiving phone calls and email messages about it. Most of the comments were congratulatory in nature, but one person informed me that I had made a mistake in the year because he was with the dogs on the USCGC *Eastwind* en route to Antarctica on that date. And naturally he was correct. The bottom line: Don't point fingers at the mistakes of others unless you are perfect yourself.



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