



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

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Photo by Peter Rejcik courtesy of The Antarctic Sun

Heavy equipment operators prepare McMurdo Ice Pier at Hut Point for arrival of re-supply vessels during DF-2006.

McMurdo Ice Pier History

By Billy-Ace Baker

THE FIRST ICE PIER WAS CONSTRUCTED DURING the darkness of the austral winter of Deep Freeze 73. Construction was commenced in April 1973 when the thickness of the annual ice was sufficient to support the pump houses, lights, and other equipment that would be necessary to accomplish the task. The completed pier was 600 by 150 by 30 feet thick. Construction was completed in August. US Navy Seabee, Chief Utilitiesman (UTC) Jim Wallace, and his crew of three Utilitiesmen built the pier with help from the entire McMurdo winter-over crew.

Much has been written about the McMurdo Ice Pier since it was created in 1973. The Internet abounds with a profusion of web sites and stories devoted to the Ice Pier. Web pages created by a broad spectrum of interested parties such as the Navy, the NSF contractor, the USAF, the Military Sealift Command, private individuals—including one by Chief Wallace himself—and even the Russian's, to name a few and in some of these stories it has been called: The Ice Wharf or the Ice Dock.

See Ice Pier on page 4.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

John Lamont West—OAEA President

TO ALL OAEs—I hope by now all those who were victims of the 2005 Gulf Coast Hurricane Season are well on their way to recovery.

Your BOD has finally resolved the FY-2006 operating budget problems and the budget is now in place. I want to personally thank the entire board for their efforts in finalizing the budget.

The OAEA Third National Symposium/Reunion is fast approaching. POC Marty Diller and his reunion committee are hard at work trying to insure that his will be a very special event.

The *Explorer's Gazette* Special Edition for the reunion was mailed out to all members during the month of January. The production and delivery of the Special Editor was a joint effort of several dedicated people. Marty Diller, the reunion POC, drafted the text. The *Gazette* Editor, Billy-Ace Baker, provided composition and layout and last but not least the OAEA Secretary/Treasurer, Jim O'Connell, was responsible for getting it printed and mailed in a timely manner. I would like to take this opportunity to express my gratitude to everyone involved in getting this document in the hands of our members.

The special edition has been posted on the OAEA web site and can be downloaded by anyone interested in attending the reunion, but are not yet members of the OAEA. Copies will also be mailed to anyone who requests one from the POC in response to media notices.

In my previous column I briefly discussed the forthcoming election of OAEA leadership positions that will be available. A solicitation for volunteers to run for office was included with the reunion special edition mailing. If you feel that you are qualified and would like to fulfill a leadership position in the OAEA you will need to complete the sheet and return it to the OAEA Secretary by 30 April 2006. Those members who are elected to the vacant positions will assume office at the RI Symposium/Reunion.

I would like to personally challenge each member to recruit a new member. Membership applications can be downloaded from our web site <http://www.oaea.net>, or can be obtained from our membership chairman. Contact Billy-Ace Baker for further information.

Each of you is important to 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 where you feel we can do better. Feel free to email me at Westjl42@aol.com or write me at 201 N. Bradford Street, Seaford DE 19973.



In closing, I wish to remember those who have lost a loved one; I express my condolences to the families of the many OAEs who have passed away. To those under the weather, we wish you a speedy recovery. Until next time, take care.

John Lamont West

**GROWLERS & BERGY BYTES**

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Administrative Offices
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Phone: 850 478 6222

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Editor
Billy-Ace Baker

Editorial Assistants
Gus Shinn
Kerry Konrad

Editor Emeritus
Jim O'Connell

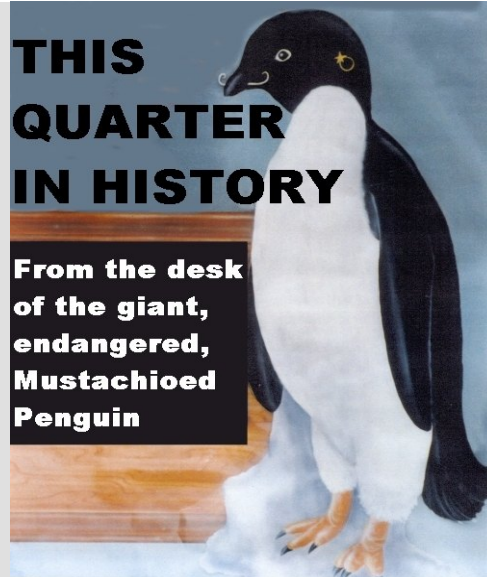
National Headquarters
10819 Berryhill Road
Pensacola, FL 32506 USA
Phone 850 456 3556

Association Officers

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January Events

- 26 Jan 1774 Captain James Cook crosses Antarctic Circle for the third time
- 26 Jan 1820 Captain Fabian Von Bellingshausen crosses the Antarctic Circle
- 23 Jan 1823 Presumed date of the death of the entire crew of the British vessel *Jenny*
- 14 Jan 1956 LCDR Jack Burse (USCG) leaves Little America V to pioneer a trail to Byrd Station
- 09 Jan 1975 South Pole Station Dome dedicated

February Events

- 03 Feb 1911 The *Terra Nova* meets the *Fram* in the Bay of Wales
- 14 Feb 1935 British Graham Land Expedition vessel *Penola* makes final trip to Winter Island base before heading North
- 03 Feb 1956 USN Otter crash at Edward VII Peninsula. Pilot LT Paul Streith and crew missing
- 09 Feb 1956 Otter crew rescued. No injuries
- 26 Feb 1977 Polish Arctowski Station opens on King George Island

March Events

- 01 Mar 1839 The Wilkes United States Exploring Expedition reaches Antarctica
- 18 Mar 1934 Dr. Potaka performs first Antarctic appendectomy on J.A. Peltier during Second Byrd Antarctic Expedition
- 05 Mar 1956 CD3 Max Kiel killed on trail party from Little America en route to establish Byrd Station
- 10 Mar 1959 USSR Lazarev Station established
- 03 Mar 1967 USSR traverse party consisting of leader Petrov with 17 members in two vehicles arrive at Plateau Station

Ice Pier **From page 1**

Before 1973, ships either moored to the sea ice in McMurdo Sound and ferried cargo to the station—sometimes as far as 8 to 10 miles one way—or tied up along the fast ice along the shore of Winter Quarter's Bay. The first method was hazardous, time-consuming, and costly. The second option eroded the fast ice. In addition, the warm water discharge from the ships melted the ice at an alarming rate

Every summer, a fuel tanker, a cargo vessel, and at least one icebreaker, are scheduled to arrive at McMurdo Station. These ships, along with research vessels and an occasional cruise ship, dock at what is essentially a huge, steel-cable reinforced, floating ice cube. At the end of the austral summer the ice pier is inspected and if it is deemed unfit to be used the next season one of the icebreakers will tow it to sea and the winter-over crew will be tasked to start building a new one. A job that will take nearly all winter to accomplish.

The ice pier has been perfected over the years so that it lasts several seasons before it has to be rebuilt. Six piers have been built since Chief Wallace and his crew created the first one.

One of the procedures that have changed over the years is the final step in the construction process. In the early years, the final step involved drilling holes about a foot apart all the way around the edges of the ice pier. This is similar to perforating a piece of paper. The paper is weakened at the perforation and thus tears more easily where you want it to tear. The tide works in a similar manner for the ice pier construction workers.

When the tide goes in and out, the pier breaks away from the surrounding sea ice, where the drilling took place. This creates a straight edge so the ships can pull right up to the pier. This later evolved to using explosives on a first-year pier. The current process for older piers is to cut trenches along the pier's edge and direct runoff water into them so there's a

weak fault line running parallel to the edge. When the icebreaker comes in, it hits the pier and that section shears straight off along the even line.



In the photo above the ice pier is covered with a layer of gravel fill that is applied in order to absorb spills of fuel, antifreeze, oil, or hydraulic fluids. Any noticeable spills are cleaned up and placed in drums for retrograde. At the end of the austral summer, the earth-fill material is supposed to be removed and stored for reuse the following season.

McMurdo Ice Pier Painting

In 1973, RM2 Jim Longstreth created a painting of the ice pier on a 4X8 foot sheet of plywood. The plywood was first painted with a white undercoat of standard house paint and the scene was painted from photographs and drawings made by Longstreth during the construction of the pier. It took him about three days to complete the painting. The painting was on display in the McMurdo mess hall for several years and then it was moved to the Public Works office where it remained until at least 1984 as can be seen in the background of the NSFA PWC officers and Chiefs photograph that was copied

from the DF-84 cruise book. The original painting was last seen in a non-smoking bar in McMurdo in 2001, that is until the current season. Early in the season Dave Bresnahan sent me an email with a photo of the painting that had been located. It is in storage in an office space in one of the old public works buildings. The color photo at the bottom of this page was cropped from what Dave sent.



In 2002, Longstreth painted an 11X17 inch 30th Anniversary version of the painting. The reproduction was rendered with watercolors and ink on watercolor board. The original anniversary painting was awarded as a door prize at the DF-73 winter-over reunion.

References used in compiling this story:
Antarctic Sun, 8 January 2006: "Unique ice pier provides harbor for ships", by Emily Stone.
Antarctic Sun. Ice Pier, by Josh Landis. 2000
 NSF Memorandum. *Damage to the Ice Pier*. 14 July 1993 by Jane Dionne.
The Making of the Ice Pier by UTC Jim Wallace circa 1995.



PENGUIN PAGES

Gift bags ready for stars

from a story by Fred Shuster

The idle-rich recently got more free playthings. At the Golden Globes awards ceremony, presenters including Leonardo DiCaprio, Harrison Ford, and Jamie Foxx received swag bags filled with complimentary luxury items valued at more than \$62,000.

A cruise to mingle with the penguins in Antarctica was included in the goodies. "In this day and age, companies want to get their products into the hands of celebrities; this is a way to do so," said Kelly Austing, manager of creative development at InStyle, the lifestyle and fashion magazine.

The Antarctic cruise alone is worth \$22,000 and is being provided by Quark Expeditions, the presenters and a friend will be whisked away on a two-week vacation to Tasmania, Antarctica, and New Zealand aboard a 54-cabin ship to see the wildlife of the region. The package includes airfare for two to Argentina, accommodations, meals and expeditions, and cold-weather clothing for the journey.

Penguins stay snug and secure in minefields

from a Reuters press release

There's a mating ritual going on in the Falkland Islands minefields.

The British estimate that some 25,000 land mines, sown mostly by Argentine forces in the 1982 Falkland Islands war with Britain, remain.

The would-be lovers are penguins, too light to detonate the deadly mines thousands of penguins choose to nest and rest in restricted zones. The squawking penguins waddle about the mating grounds busily finding partners and, preparing nests without being disturbed by larger animals or tourists.

Wildlife numbers in the mined areas are on the rise and conservationists are

enthusiastic about this unorthodox form of protecting lands previously trampled by people or overgrazed by sheep.



Patrol Outside Minefield

Most of the minefields were laid when Argentina invaded in 1982 to claim the islands taken by the British in 1833. The British defeated the Argentines in a war that killed 650 Argentines and 250 British.

Some mines were cleared after the conflict in a joint British-Argentine effort. Today there are 117 minefields left. One of the mined areas is at Kidney Cove where four species of penguins show up every year.



At the end of winter, the first 500 of 1500 gentoo pairs begin their mating ritual at Kidney Cove after feeding in the cold waters. They waddle up from the mined beach to nesting areas among the vegetation.

One of their favorite spots is on the mined side of fences with "Danger Mines" and skull and crossbones signs.

Tourists are kept on the safe side of the fence, allowing the nervous, partner-seeking penguins to forget about encroaching humans.

Incredibly, no civilian has died or been injured by the land mines and just one officer lost a foot in 1984 on the perimeter of a minefield. The fences were extended after that.

Falkland Islanders are not pressing further mine removal, and most believe it is better not to fiddle with the fields.

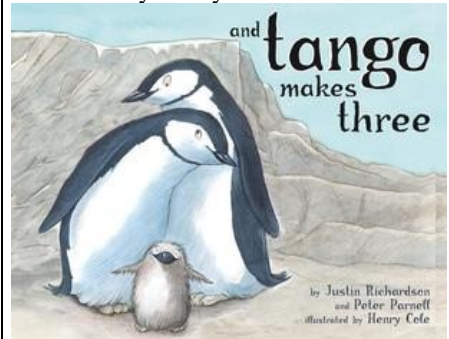
There is always the risk that only 99% would be removed bringing a false sense of complacency to the community and increase rather than reduce the chance of injury.

And Tango Makes Three

from a story by Susan Faust

Editor's Note: The Oct-Dec 2005 issue of the Gazette reported that two male penguins who had been going together for six years finally hatched a chick from an eggs supplied by the zookeeper.

And Tango Makes Three, written by Justin Richardson and Peter Parnell and illustrated by Henry Cole



This picture book is based on the true story of how two male penguins raised a chick of their own in New York's Central Park Zoo.

Kids are not likely to be flustered by this family configuration. It all seems so charming and natural. Still, there's the underlying hot-button issue of how to think about families with two fathers.

And no doubt about it, penguins Silo and Roy give same-sex parenting a positive spin.

Cole's watercolors exude affection as they portray courtship, nest building, and chick rearing.

It's remarkable how comfortably this picture book deals with a controversial topic that makes many people uncomfortable.

The book is just a good story starring penguins showing how Mother Nature harbors variations in animal behavior. It's left to kids to extrapolate.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Hi Billy:

You're doing an outstanding job with the newsletter. I look forward to getting it. Keep up the good work.

ACC Robert Eppard
WO DF-70

Hi Billy:

I finally received the "Official Letter" notifying me that a peak in Victoria Land has been named after the "Majerus Family". I'm real proud of all of us who went there over the last 25 years. This year is the first time in 15 years that a Majerus isn't on the ice. All of us are wintering over in Minnesota.

Nick [Majerus]

Editor's Note: Nick attached the letter that he received from the US Board on Geographic names. The description and location of the peak is as follows:

Majerus, Mount 77°16'16"S, 161°39'15"E
A peak rising to 1635 m at the S end of Kuivinen Ridge, St. Johns Range, Victoria Land. The peak is 1 mi SW of Lanyon Peak. Named by US ACAN (2005) after four members of the Majerus family of Rochester, MN, who engaged in various science support activities in many field seasons, 1980-2005, predominately at McMurdo Station. Nichols D. Majerus, 13 seasons; his daughter Michelle R. Majerus, 10 seasons; his brother Gregory J. Majerus, 15 seasons; Gregory's daughter, Nicole R. Majerus 4 seasons.

Evening Billy:

My book *Courage, Sacrifice, Devotion* has been sent to the publishers; Infinity Publishing House in PA—all 535 pages including over 330 photographs. The book has been a massive effort, taking over seven years to research and write.

Infinity markets books via many outlets including, but not limited to: Amazon.com, Borders, Barnes & Nobel, and so forth as well as normal book outlets.

Noel Gillespie, Christchurch

Editor's Note: See page 20 of this issue for more details. Hopefully the long wait will be worthwhile. Noel's book was featured in the article OAEA Members Who Write Books, in the Apr-Jun, 2005 issue of the Gazette.

BA:

Just did a first scan of the Gazette... Another fine issue. Thanks. See you in RI.

Bruce [Raymond]

Hi, Billy-Ace!

Once again, you have produced an outstanding Gazette and we've printed it out for binding. We surely hope the OAEA, Inc. budget will always include adequate funds to cover your efforts and the ensuing excellent results!

This issue has already generated a new OAEA mug order. Lets hope it'll be just the first of many

Sam (Buz, too)

Billy:

As you probably remember, I wintered over with Red (Sneddon) at Byrd during DF-67. I noticed in the latest Gazette that he had become a "commem" member. I think you informed me quite a while ago that Red was in pretty bad shape and wasn't expected to make it.

Also, I made reservations at the hotel in Warwick for the reunion in August 2006.

Butch [Suchland]

Editor's Note: Red Sneddon is the first OAEA Commemorative Member to be enrolled since this membership category was created. See page 20 of this issue for additional details.

Billy-Ace:

Thank you for another great issue of the Gazette.

There were several significant events that were left out of "This Quarter in History":

- 18 October 1956: Navy P2V Neptune *Boopsie* crashed at McMurdo, four killed
- 31 October 1956: First landing at the Geographic South Pole. Navy R4D *Que Sera Sera*, pilot LCDR Conrad "Gus" Shinn, USN. RADM George Dufek, USN, CTF-43 aboard.
- 20 November 1956: Two Navy R4Ds flown by LCDR Conrad "Gus" Shinn, USN and LCDR Roy Curtis, USN landed the Navy Seabees who constructed the Amundsen-Scott IGY South Pole Station.

Keep up the good work, it's appreciated.

Al Raithel DF II

Editor's Note: Invariably with almost every issue of the Gazette someone either, emails, snail mails, or calls to let me know that I have left something out. The events that Al pointed out are indeed significant, but they have either been mentioned in past issues, or will be mentioned in future issues. I do not intentionally use the same events more than once in this column. However, member written accounts of significant events, or personal experiences, are welcome and will be considered for publication in a future issue of the Gazette.



Editor:

Thanks for sending the snail mail copy of the Gazette. I had about given up on ever receiving it again in this medium. Great issue.

I was pleased to see the article about Commemorative memberships. Is there a specific format we need to use in order to nominate someone for Commemorative Membership? It would be helpful if you could expand on this in the Gazette.

Thanks for your continued efforts to make sure our history is preserved.

John Henry EN1 (SS)
WO DF-63 & 67

Editor's Note: Good question. See page 20 for information for nominating someone for Commemorative Membership.

Billy-Ace:

The icebreaker USS *Edisto* will have a reunion next April. Please print our contact info in the *Gazette*.

Enclosed also is a \$50 check for the OAEA Scholarship Fund to upgrade my donation level to the Bronze Adelie Club.

Al Werner (Operation Windmill)

Dear Editor:

"Downsizing in Seattle", looking for a good home. I must give up my VX-6 aircraft models. I have the Corgi die-cast models of *Que Sera Sera* and LC-130 BUNO 130. These scale models are limited editions and are no longer available from the manufacturer. I am asking \$50 each. Contact me by mail:

David Beyl
8231 SE 67TH St
Mercer Island WA 98040

Keep up the good work. We all appreciate your dedication.

David

Editor:

You do a great job and I find the *Gazette* very informative. Unfortunately, I usually find at least one name [of someone I knew] on the deceased list. I was stationed with Randall CM3 in 56 and he stayed at McMurdo while we continued to Cape Hallett and Wilkes. He wasn't very old either. The pictures were very good, however, I wouldn't have recognized any of them. They all look a little old to me. But then I forget I was in the Antarctic in 56,57, and 58, a very long time ago. Doesn't bear thinking about.

Pat Patterson
New Milton England

Billy-Ace

When I was cleaning my office I found these 23 photos of a party staged by DF-III winter-over personnel at McMurdo. I have no idea how I ended up with these prints since I did not winter. The photos are slightly curled, but are otherwise in very good condition considering that they are over 48-years-old. Can you try to find them a proper home via the *Gazette*?

Frank Witty
DF-III

Editor's Note: The photos have been listed in the Locator Column of this issue.

BOOK UPDATE

Title: *Deep Freeze: The United States, the International Geophysical Year, and the Origins of Antarctica's Age of Science.*
Author: Dian Olson Belanger
Publisher: University Press of Colorado
Date: Fall 2006

A Letter From The Editor

If all goes according to plan, Dian's much-anticipated book about the landmark 1950s in Antarctica will soon be in our hands. However, there is still an obstacle to overcome. At its current length, her publisher feels he would have to give it an unappealingly high price tag. Length happens to be the most significant cost factor in book publication.

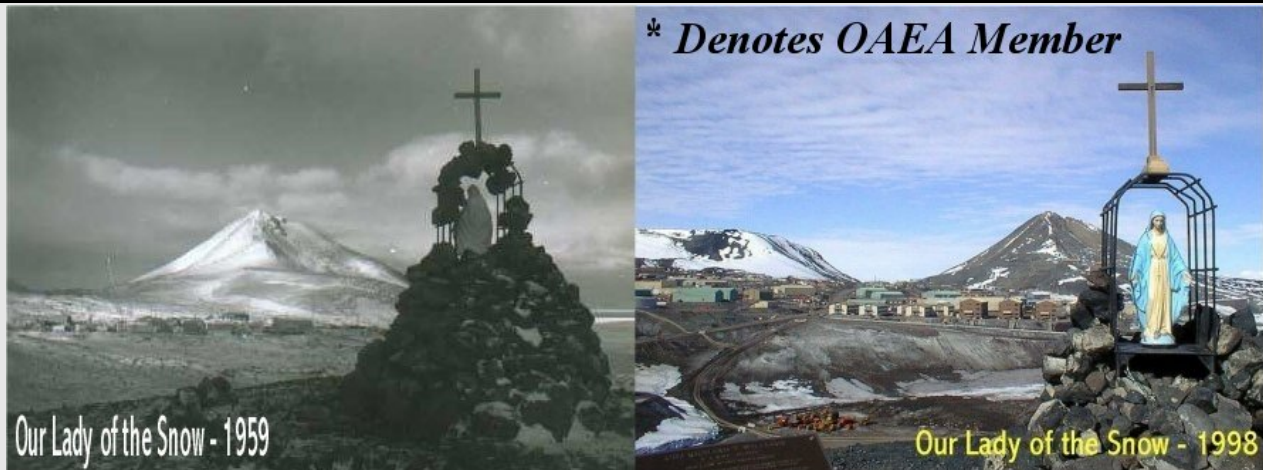
I have told Dian that I do not want her to cut content, and I know that she has pared away all that she feels she can without loss to the story. I would not hesitate to pay considerably more for the book, but both she and the publisher want to make it available at a reasonable retail price, which these days is around \$30.

In order to bring the price down the press would require a cash subsidy, called a subvention in the trade, or a prepublication purchase of several hundred copies at a yet undetermined but perhaps significant discount.

Where will such money or commitment come from? At this point Dian doesn't know, but it would be good if the National Science Foundation would provide the financing. After all her oral history project, which is the basis for the book, and her writing were funded by the NSF and it would be in its best interest to have the book affordably priced.

Can the OAEA and/or its members help? How?





* Denotes OAEA Member

I N M E M O R Y

OAE Capt Richard W. Haupt, USN (Ret), 78, died on 18 January 2006, in Cape Elizabeth, Maine. Richard was a member of Operation Windmill (1947–48). Haupt Nunatak is named in his honor.

OAE [J. Donald Rauth](#), 87, died on 28 December 2005, in Washington, DC. Donald was involved with the development and installation of the PM-3A nuclear power plant at McMurdo in 1961 as an employee of Martin Marietta.

OAE [Charles Jones Jr.](#), 78, died on 30 December 2005, in Troy, New York. Charlie was a member of Operation Highjump aboard the USS *Philippine Sea*.

OAE [Richard Reising Peyrek](#), 79, died on 28 December 2005, in Port Orchard, Washington. Richard was a merchant marine and served in Antarctica aboard annual resupply vessels.

OAE [Kenneth Gaither Faile](#), 66, died on 28 December 2005, in Appling, Georgia. Kenneth served in Antarctica

*OAE Kenneth P. Snyder, 81, CDR, died on 28 December 2005, in Pensacola, Florida. Ken served with VX-6 as a helo pilot during DF-II and III. Ken was also a member of the ADFA.

*OAE Donald “Squatty Root” Richards, 73, died on 24 December 2005, in Ocala, Florida. Squatty was a member of the Para Rescue Team. He served in VX/E-6 for a total of 11 years and wintered-over three times. See page 16 for eulogy.

OAE [Bienvenido de Leon Cruz](#), 71, died on 24 December 2005, in Manila, Philippines. Ben served on the USCGC *Edisto* during DF-70.

*OAE Norman Vaughan, 100, died on 23 December 2005, in Anchorage, Alaska. Norman was a dog driver on the first Byrd Antarctic Expedition in 1928. Mount Vaughan and Vaughan Glacier are named in his honor. See page 20.

OAE ABC Richard L. “Soupy” Campbell, 74, died on 16 October 2004, in Avon Park, Florida. Soupy served in VX-6 from 1962 through 1970 as an AB1 Aircrewman and at the Passenger Terminal in Christchurch.

OAE Robert “Jim” Clark, 68, died on 22 December 2005, in Virginia Beach, Virginia. Jim was a retired master chief and wintered-over twice.

*OAE Cdr Donald Angier, 77, died on 12 December 2005, in Ankeny, Iowa. Don was a pilot and served with VX-6 during DF-60, 61, and 62. Mount Angier in the Queen Elizabeth Range was named in his honor by the New Zealand Geological Survey Team that he supported in that region.

Anthony Muller, 52, died on 01 December 2005, in Falls Church, Virginia. Doctor Muller was the Finance Committee Chairman for the USS/USCGC *Glacier* Society.

OAE Capt [William Colliver Holt](#), USN (Ret), 70, died on 30 November 2005, in Lake Worth, Florida. Bill wintered over at Ellsworth Station as a USARP aurora observer during DF-61. Holt Peak in the Heritage Range is named in his honor.

OAE [Ruth L. Sieg](#), 80, died on 30 November 2005, in Nazareth, New York. Ruth and her late husband Albert visited Antarctica on their 50th wedding anniversary.

*OAE Don Malone, 70, died on 25 November 2005, in Windhorst, Texas. Don was an AT1 and wintered-over during DF-60 as a member of VX-6 Detachment Alfa.

OAE Peter Orbansen, 43, died on 19 November 2005, at Davis Station in Antarctica. Peter, a builder by trade, was working in Antarctica in the ANARE program during the austral summer season. He wintered-over at Mawson Station during 1993. He was a member of the ANARE Club.

OAE [John A. Schneider](#), 71, died on 19 November 2005, at his home in Chimacum, Washington. John was a Seabee and participated in Deep Freeze I with MCB (Special).

OAE Harry Thompson, 45, died on 7 November 2005, in England. Harry visited Antarctica with the Captain Scott XI cricket team and played a game that was interrupted by penguins. Harry was the creator of the Ali G. TV show.

OAE [Dr. Daniel Payne Hale](#), 79, died on 4 November 2005, in Huntsville, Alabama. Daniel wintered over at Byrd Station during DF-II as an IGY aurora physicist. Mount Hale was named in his honor. He was a member of the ADFa.

*OAE Jim "Waldo" Knowles, RMC (Ret), 64, died on 23 October 2005, in Silverdale, Washington. Jim, who was an RM1, wintered-over with ASA at McMurdo as the Radio Division LPO during DF-71.

OAE [Rebecca Gillis Hand Sooy](#), 64, died on 16 October 2005, in Palo Alto, California. Rebecca made several trips to Antarctica and was an active docent at the Elephant Seal preserve.

OAE [Arthur Olson](#), 91, died on 20 October 2005, in San Luis Obispo, California. Arthur visited Antarctica on his 88th and 89th birthdays. He was planning another trip to Antarctica in January 2006.

OAE David "Jerry" Blakey, 48, died on 16 October 2005, in a hospital in Clearwater, Florida. Jerry served in Antarctica with VXE-6 as a UH-1 plane captain and a LC-130 loadmaster.

OAE Charles H. Vandament, 70, died on 10 October 2005, at his home in Richardson, Texas. Charles wintered-over at South Pole Station during DF-62 as a USARP ionospheric physicist. Vandament Glacier was named in his honor. He was a member of the American Polar Society.

OAE Sharlene Anderson, 56, died on 18 October 2005, in La Verne Heights, California. Sharlene participated in a marathon in Antarctica during February 2005.

OAE Voit Gilmore, 87, died on 15 October 2005, in Southern Pines, North Carolina. Voit was a former state senator and was the Director of the US Travel Service under President Kennedy. He served during DF-III with the Antarctic Press Corps.

OAE Ronald Taylor, 72, died on 29 September 2005, at a hospital in Washington, DC. Ron wintered at Little America IV during DF-II as a USWB meteorologist. He was a member of the ADFa.

OAE Keith "Jack" Fletcher, 77, died on 7 July 2005, at his home in Australia. Keith wintered at Wilkes Station in 1962 as an Electrician. He was a member of the ANARE Club.

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Cecil D. Harper—OAEA Chaplain

PRESIDENT BUSH IS trying hard to protect the American people. Many agree that he is doing his best and is on the right track. There are also those who disagree. We didn't start this war, but sensible people know we must finish it. We can't cut-and-run because our enemies will take heart and come after us all the more.



During the darkest hours of the latter part of the summer of 1940, Winston Churchill said to the British people, "Let us brace ourselves to our duty and so bear ourselves that if the British Commonwealth and Empire lasts for a thousand years, men will still say 'this was their finest hour.'"

It is human nature to see difficulty and danger as altogether bad. But it is often the case that the finest and noblest things we know come from situations that are so hard and perilous that nobody would deliberately want them. They do indeed destroy some people, but also some people are cleansed and strengthened and made so heroic by them that the world is lifted a little closer to God because of them. So it is with us in these difficult days in the war with terrorism. Life is packed full of difficulty and hardship. But if we hold on to those things that matter in the Christian life, we will not be broken. Difficulties only serve to increase the stature of mind and spirit. So let us fight the good fight, keep the faith, and this war on terrorism will be won. Then, perhaps, it will also be said of the American people, "This was their finest hour."

I hope that each of you had a Merry Christmas, and may God bless you in the New Year.

Cecil D. Harper



Printing and Mailing of the Explorer's Gazette

By Billy-Ace Baker

Since 2001 the *Explorer's Gazette* has been the official vehicle for providing OAEA members with information that was previously disseminated by Status Reports. The intended method of delivery of the *Gazette* was to be via the Internet with a few copies being mailed to members who did not have Internet access.

In December of 2005 the OAEA BOD voted to deliver the *Explorer's Gazette* to all members by US Mail in addition to posting it on the OAEA web site.

The decision to mail the *Gazette* to all members was based on the premise that all members should receive the same benefit and by this time almost half the members were receiving the *Gazette* by mail for a number of reasons.

When the *Gazette* debuted, the OAEA had nearly 400 members. During the intervening years membership has grown to over 1000 members. Printing and mailing that many copies of the *Gazette* four times per year will cost the OAEA nearly \$4000. The entire OAEA operating budget for FY-2006 is \$10,000, so that's a big slice of the pie.

What is needed is a member supported grassroots effort to make the *Gazette* self-supporting. Members who do not wish to receive the *Gazette* by mail can opt out by letting the OAEA Secretary/Treasurer know so that their name may be removed from the *Gazette* mailing list. Likewise all members are encouraged to make a contribution to the OAEA to help pay for the costs involved. Especially those members who choose to receive it by mail.

I urge all members to dig into their pockets and help support the *Gazette*.

GLOSSARY OF SNOW AND ICE



Compiled and edited by Billy-Ace Baker

Bergy Bit — A piece of floating ice. German equivalent: *Eisbergstucken*.

First Year Ice — Floating ice of not more than one year's growth developing from young ice. French equivalent: *Glace de l'annee, glace de le l'hiver*.

Moraine — Ridges or deposits of rock debris transported by a glacier. Russian equivalent: *Морена morena*.

Whiteout — A condition in which daylight is diffused by multiple reflections between a snow surface and an overcast sky. The observer is unable to distinguish the horizon or any surface feature. Spanish equivalent: *Blanquero*.

OAEA Donor Adelle Penguin Awards

submitted by Jim O'Connell

SINCE THE AWARD LEVELS WERE last updated (Oct-Dec 2005 *Gazette*) no new awards have been issued and only one donor (Al Werner) has advanced to the next level.

As of 31 December 2005 there are 28 Little Blue Penguin Club members; 12 Bronze Adelle Club members; 1 Gold Adelle Club member and 3 Silver Adelle Club members.

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

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

DeLeon, Emilio
Dostal, W (Dusty) A.
DuBeau, Earl
Eubanks, Paul
Hall, Richard M.
Henley, Elizabeth
Henley, Joseph
Hilt, John W.
Hutchinson-Sabbatini, Kristan
Morris, Marion
Moulder, Evelyn
Munson, Evelyn
OAEA Gulf Coast Group
O'Neal, Jerry
Owler, Robert
Spaulding, Richard
VX/VXE-6 Para-Rescue Team
Werner, Alexander
Wick Jr. Howard J.
Whitehead, Eugene

BRONZE Donations of \$100

Biery, Roger W.
Bolt, Ron L.
Boyer, Robert E.
Dostal, W (Dusty) A.
Hall, Richard M.
Henley, Elizabeth
Henley, Joseph
Munson, Evelyn
Owler, Robert
Spaulding, Richard
Werner, Alexander
Whitehead, Eugene

GOLD Donations of \$500

Cordes, Fauno

SILVER Donations of \$1,000

Baker, Billy-Ace
VX/VXE-6 Para-Rescue Team
Communicator Group Fund



New England Chapter's Summer Meeting in Maine

by Marty Diller,
New England Chapter Secretary-Treasurer

Back in February 2004, the New England Chapter's Winter meeting was postponed a month due to snow, so this year the Winter meeting was moved to March. That adjustment has kept the Chapter's quarterly meeting schedule running behind schedule all year. Consequently, the Chapter's Summer meeting was also scheduled late, and was finally held on 1 October—an early autumn Saturday. But OAEs throughout the whole northeastern United States took advantage of the day's summer-like weather and flocked to *Cap'n Newicks Lobster House* in South Portland, ME. This largest New England Chapter gathering to date, 46 people, filled the back dining room at the restaurant.



Dave Hazard (left) and Farrell Whitney

At the Board of Directors meeting which preceded the Chapter meeting, the Board voted to accept as the first Chapter Members at Large, five OAEA members from outside of New England: ADRC Barry Chase, USN (Ret.); VX-6 Crew Chief, DF-60, 61, 66–68, Edinburg, NY; LCOL Tom Noel, NYANG (Ret) (Herk pilot), Burnt Hills, NY; EM1 "Pinky" Palsgraf, USN (Ret); DF-63 Winter-over McMurdo, Levittown, NY; CWO3/AGCM George Soulia, USN (Ret); ASA Det C AOIC 68-71; USS *Edisto* DF-III, North Port, FL; and SK2 Dave Steward; ASA Det A winter-over DF-70 at Palmer, Budd Lake, NJ. The Member at Large membership category was created to accommodate OAEA members outside of New England who desire to become Chapter members. Two couples, Barry and his wife, Barbara, and Dave and his wife Anne-Marie, made the trip to Maine to attend the Chapter meeting.

For the meeting, Charlie 'CB' Bevilacqua once again provided the US Flag for the opening Pledge of Allegiance, accompanied by a POW/MIA flag. These particular flags are very special because they have been flown at the South Pole each Christmas Day for many years,



Left to Right, Mike Hall, Dave Killian and his wife Joan-Marie.

Chapter Sec/Treas. Marty Diller provided an update on the growing Chapter membership rolls, now at 97 members, as three attendees submitted OAEA membership applications and dues at the meeting: ADRC "Bull" Halsey, USN (Ret); applied for DF-II, but was NPQd because he had glasses; Bull served in VP-44 with Barry Chase and Bob Monette, Bowdoinham, ME; Joan-Marie Lodge (wife of member Dave Killian), Warwick, RI; ADRC Bob Monette, USN (Ret); VX-6 CHCH Mech Shop 64–67, Dresden, ME. Meanwhile, Chapter President Dave Hazard, has asked members to recruit OAEs in an effort to break the 100-member "barrier".

Other New England Chapter Meeting News

- **Chapter Status.** The Chapter has been incorporated in Maine, and efforts to obtain IRS tax-exempt status as a charitable organization continue.
- **2006 Reunion Update.** Reunion Committee Chairman Marty Diller briefed the attendees on the progress of the Reunion Committee in preparing for the August 2006 OAEA National Symposium/Reunion in Warwick RI, and made an appeal for more volunteers—especially volunteers in the Warwick area—to assist in the planning and execution of this major event.
- **Meeting Schedule.** Meeting scheduling difficulties, described in the opening paragraph, were made an item of New Business. After discussion, attendees voted to reduce the number of annual Chapter meetings from four to three effective immediately, due to persistent difficulties dealing with the chance of winter storms, scheduling around both the winter holiday season and around the summer vacation season, and because many members head to warmer climes each winter.



L to R: Whit Whitney, Bob Epperly, and Larry Srock. 'CB' Bevilacqua's Flags adorn the wall.

Fundraising

At this meeting, OAEA-NE polo shirts and ball caps were again available for sale, and the usual raffle ticket drawing was conducted. Raffle winners included: Jim Heffel (VX-6, 61-64), who won a very nice penguin-adorned table runner as well as some US Navy decals; "Uncle Ron" Hood (VX-6, DF-65), who won a pair of candle holders; Dave Killian (VXE-6, 70-73), who won yet another book on Antarctica; Chet Thomas (VX-6, 55-62), who won a battery-powered stuffed penguin that walks and sings a Christmas carol; Anne-Marie Steward, who won a 3'x5' holiday penguin flag; Kip Smith (McMurdo winter-over DF-70), who won a wind-up music box with a ice skating penguin; Win Hames (VX-6, 56-59), who won a Powerball ticket worth 5 chances; and Charles Lagerbom (NSF Field Research 91, 93) who won a vintage 2003 bottle of 'the Little Penguin' wine—an Australian-made Chardonnay. Chapter members donated all raffle prizes.



Ready for lunch at Cap'n Newick's Lobster House. Seated in foreground (L to R) are John Giro, Fred Santino, and Roy Roberts. Marty Diller in background with tray in hand.

The Chapter expresses its appreciation again to Charlie 'CB' Bevilacqua for providing NSF-published booklets and brochures about the US Antarctic Program as a continuing source of donations to the Chapter. CB also had Antarctic

medals/ribbons, hatpins, and other Antarctic items available for a small donation to the Chapter.

Under the newly adopted meeting schedule, the next OAEA-NE Chapter meeting will be held at 1:00 pm on a Saturday in March 2006, at a place to be announced.



REUNION CHATTER

A Special Edition of the Explorer's Gazette for the 17-19 August 2006 symposium/reunion was mailed out during mid-January to all OAEA members in good standing. If you know anyone who did not receive a copy of the special edition it's probably because the OAEA secretary does not have his or her current mailing address.

Reunion information was not mailed to the below members because their mailing addresses have been bouncing for some time now:

- | | |
|----------------|-----------------|
| Paul Davis | Steven Presher |
| Theodore Hill | Bob Russell |
| Nancy Kelson | David Stanberry |
| William O'Quin | |

This is another reminder that if you plan to attend the reunion you need to register as soon as possible because if you wait until the last minute all the good hotel rooms may be booked by the early birds.

Since the special edition was published, the room rate tax in Rhode Island has increased from 12% to 13%.

When you make your hotel reservation be sure to mention the code word: "OAE". Crown Plaza Hotel reservation phone number: 401 732 6000.

The reunion point-of-contact (POC) is Marty Diller. He can be contacted by phone at 207 729 0197, or by email at: mgdiller@blazenetme.net

Goody bag: One of the items that will be in the goody bag will be a list of reunion attendees. If you would like for your cell phone number to be on this list contact the POC.

There will be a BOD meeting on 17 August. Members are welcome to attend on a space available basis.

Tidewater Group Meeting

By Ed Hamblin

On Saturday, 3 December, a group of Tidewater area Old Antarctic Explorers got together for the quarterly social happening at the House Of Eggs Restaurant in Norfolk. During the last 3 years the event has been going on each quarter, with a showing of generally around a half dozen gents sitting down and swapping stories and pictures. This time there were 12 folks who decided to take a break from the holiday shopping and come out for some sea stories. Incidentally, this was the single largest Tidewater group to get together since the Tidewater OAEs started meeting on an informal basis.



Homar Hall, Bill Raymus, Catherine West, John West

John West, president of the Old Antarctic Explorer's Association and his wife Catherine, made the long drive down from Delaware to "meet, greet, and eat" with the group. Even though the Tidewater group tends to stress "no business" during their quarterly get together, an exception was made so John could speak about the Association. John also entertained the group with the "overhead liberty" incident that happened in Building 155 during the winter over of 1975. New stories are always well received.

Besides John and Catherine, other persons that came out were Bill Raymus, Homar Hall, Marty Nemcosky, Jake Bengel, Charlie Swinney, John Strider, Neil Sugermeier, Jim Silverstorf, Bob Cantrell, and Ed Hamblin. The entire "Antarctic Experience" was well covered this time with folks who had been with the squadron, folks from the Summer Support, and folks who had wintered over. Some pictures were available for review and discussion.



John Strider and Charlie Swinney

Besides the mainstay stories, the main topic of discussion was the upcoming reunion in Rhode Island. Several of us are planning on being there. We also thought it might be a neat idea to have a reunion at a "neutral" location such as Branson, Missouri. Some of us intend to bring it up at the RI symposium.

The hours flew by too quickly, but many of us had places to go and people to see. The next Tidewater "social" is scheduled for 4 March 2006. See you then.



Jim Silverstorf and Neil Sugermeier



Marty Nemcosky, Jake Bengel, and Bill Raymus

REUNION INFORMATION

Send reunion information to Billy-Ace Baker at upizauf@aol.com for publication in the Gazette

MCB/NCB-71: Branson, MO, 9–13 August 2006. Contact John Allsworth, phone 309 682 1658, email jba843@aol.com. MCB-71 served during DF-72, 73, and 74.

MCB-6: Jacksonville, FL, 21–25 April 2006. Contact John Bevier, phone 231 633 9450, email jbevier@michweb.net. MCB-6 served during DF-65 & 66.

MCB-8: Pigeon Forge, TN, 27 Sept–1 Oct 2006. Contact Ron Dougal, phone 480 807 3016, email douglasr@aol.com. MCB-8 served during DF-64.

HU-1: San Diego, CA, 18–21 May 2006. Contact Phil Poisson, phone 619 429 4712, email hc7csar@cox.net. HU-1 detachments served aboard task force icebreakers during DF-I and II.

USS Atka (AGB-3): Baltimore, MS, 27–29 April 2006. Contact CWO4 Henry Giles, 734 591 3068. The USS *Atka* served during the pre-DF Antarctic survey 1954–55, DF-II, III, 60, 62, 64, and 66. The *Atka* was transferred to the Coast Guard in 1966.

12th Annual Retired Seabee Reunion. Gulfport, MS, 28–30 April 2006. Contact Glen Kellerman, phone 228 255 9687, or email egpackrat@aol.com

USS Edisto (AG-87/AGB-2): Chattanooga, TN, 23–26 April 2006. Contact Glenn Smith, 321 269 5637. The USS *Edisto* served during Operations Windmill (1947-48) and Deep Freeze I, IV, 61, 63, and 65. The *Edisto* was transferred to the Coast Guard in 1965.

All Seabee Reunion: Port Hueneme, CA, 22–25 June 2006. Contact Ed Kloster, 626 280 9495, mccb@earthlink.net or <http://www.allseabees.com>.

Icebreaker Muster (USCG & USN): Laughlin, NV, 30 April through 5 May 2006. Contact Louie LeRiccia, email: icebreakermuster@cox.net or the web site at <http://www.icebreakermuster.com>.

Byrd Station DF-66 Winter-Over: Branson, MO, 16–17 June 2006. Contact Gordon Callender, phone 850 994 6810, email acallen@yahoo.com.

OAEA 3rd Symposium/Reunion: Warwick, RI, 17–19 August 2006. See Reunion Chatter on page 10 of this issue.

USS Wilhoite (DE/DER-397): Myrtle Beach, SC, 4–7 October 2006. Contact John & Brenda Caldwell, phone 919 471 4513, email bcaldwell2@nc.rr.com. The USS *Wilhoite* served during DF-61.

NEW OAEA MEMBERS

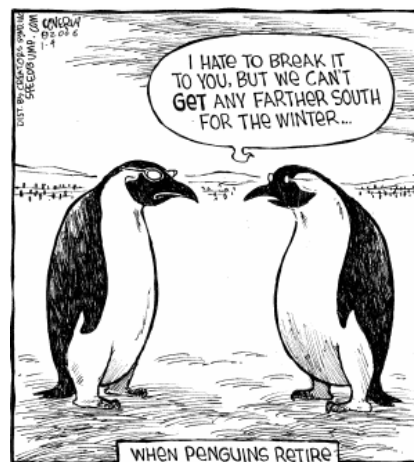
The below listed personnel have joined the OAEA since the Oct-Dec 2005 issue of the *Gazette*

*Denotes Associate member

§Denotes renewed previously expired membership

Barker, Thomas AMH2	Life	VX-6 WO DF-63
Beck, Irene M.	Life*	Gift Membership
Beyersdorf, Jim HM1	Annual§	NSFA WO DF-74
Blackwelder, Joyce	Life*	Wife of Billy
Blackwelder, John	Life*	Son of Billy
Browning, Rodney EO2	Annual	CBU-201 DF-68 & 69
Cassity, O. T. Major	Life	USAF 55/57
Daniel, Emma R.	Life*	Sister of Bill Chastain
Daniel, Kent	Life*	Nephew of Bill Chastain
Dempsey, Richard AG1	Annual	ASA 71–74
Giberson, John CECS	Annual	NSFA WO DF82
Greaney, David AE1	Life	VX6 WO Ellsworth DF-II
Hendricks, Lee ETCS	Commem	ASA WO DF-71
High Harvey, CSC	Commem	ASA & Holmes&Narver
Jump, Roy EAD3	Life	ASA DF-63
Knowles, Jim RMC	Commem	ASA WO DF-71
Krebs, David, Civ	Annual	Surviving son
Maloney, William Capt	Life	MCB-71 70–72
Perkins, William ABH3	Annual§	DF-71 & 72
Peterson, Robert YN3	Life	USS <i>Arneb</i> DF-II
Reedy, Kathleen, Civ	Life	NSF Grantee 95 & 05
Richards, Margaret	Life+	Widow of Squatty
Richardson, Ted UT2	Commem	WO DF-67
Sammon, Patrick AZ1	Life	VXE-6 78–81, 84–86
Shepherd, D. "Chris"	Life	Civ. WO 67 & 69 plus
Shirk, Robert B. AMS1	Life	VX-6 59–61
Smith, Verne A. Jr. LT	Life	Palmer 69–71
Snyder, Mary Margaret	Life	Widow of Ken
Speed, Virginia, Civ	Life	Widow of Harvey
Sweeney, Thomas	Annual	CECN MCB-1 DF-II
Thomas, Cora B.	Life*	Civ
Townsend, John Capt	Life	VX-6 DF-63 & 64
Williams, Donald LCDR	Life	NSFA 61

+Note: Status change from Associate to Regular Member



OAEA LOCATOR

- Found: Twenty-three 4X5 black-and-white photographs taken at a party at McMurdo during the winter of DF-III. Some of the people in the photos are: CDR Roger Witherell, RMC Bill O'Dell, CMD1 Clyde Poteat, and Chaplain Harold Heaney. Anyone interested in scans of these photos or the actual prints can contact me at upizauf@aol.com or by phone at 850 456 3556.



- AE1 David Greaney is looking for anyone who wintered-over at Ellsworth during DF-II. Contact Dave at: davnbuff@nethere.com or 13520 Powers RD., Poway, CA 02064.
- George Parker is looking for ETC Frank Coffman, a GCA tech with ASA Det B in the 1968–70 time frame. George is also interested in corresponding with any ACs/ETs who were in Det B. George can be contacted by email at: george62922@peoplepc.com or by phone at: 618 996 3621.
- Dave Dubois is looking for the below listed personnel who wintered-over during DF-73. Anyone knowing the whereabouts of these missing OAEs please contact Dave by telephone at: 207 676 2773 or by Email at: ddubois8@maine.rr.com.

McMurdo Crew

SH3 Charles A. Conroy
 CS3 Robert A. Jaffe
 AC1 Edward K. Johnson
 UT2 Carl W. Pierce
 SH2 David S. Waddell
 HT3 David M. Curtis
 HTFN Christopher Foster
 RM3 Vito M. Mazzeo
 ETN3 Richard Petrytyl

Palmer Crew

SK2 Paul W. Morgan
 BU1 Melvin W. Williamson

- Brian Shoemaker is looking for candidates for Oral History interviews. He is currently seeking anyone who participated in the IGY in the Arctic or Antarctic regions. This includes Deep Freeze I & II, pre-IGY planning, conferences, and so forth in addition to post-IGY reports and so forth. Brian may be contacted by mail at 2223 Ash, North Bend OR 97459; email: shoemakerbj@charter.net; phone: 541 217 9136.
- Tony Carr is looking for anyone who was stationed at McMurdo, or transited through McMurdo, between 1962 and 1975 and who has been diagnosed with cancer, or who has a close family member (spouse or children) that has cancer. Tony may be contacted by email at: BrrRbt@aol.com, or by telephone at: 803 279 5770.
- Rachel Bennett is looking for AMS2 McClary, or anyone who knew him. McClary was in VXE-6 stationed in Christchurch during the 1980s. Rachel may be contacted by email at: spinfo@ihug.co.nz.

ACTIVITIES BY LOCALE

New England Area—See reunion information on page 11. The New England Chapter met on 1 October, with 45 attending. The New England chapter meets three times per year. For additional information contact Marty Diller at mgdiller@blazenetme.net or 207 729 0197.

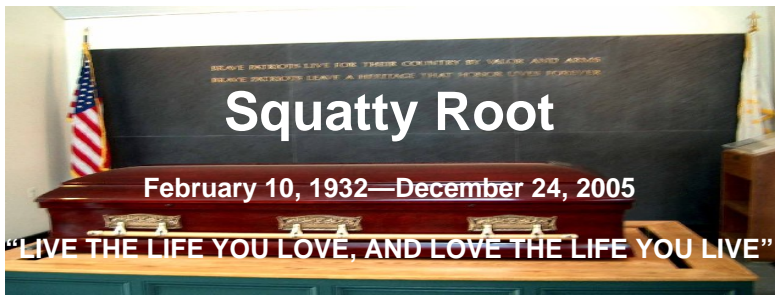
Gulf Coast Group—See article on page 19 concerning recent activities in the Gulf Coast Group. For further information contact Les Liptak at 850 492 1666 or lcliptak@hightec.com or Billy-Ace Baker at 850 456 3556 or upizauf@aol.com

Tidewater Group—See article in this issue (page 13) concerning recent activities in the Tidewater area. Contact Ed Hamblin at ehamblin@cox.net or 757 405 3362 for more information.

PNW Group—Jerry Schleining is looking for OAEs in the Northwest to start a chapter. Anyone living in Oregon, Washington, or Idaho who is interested should contact Jerry at: csmgis@verizon.net, or 503 661 2986.

Midwest Group—Dave Kahlow recently moved to the Midwest area and he will soon be contacting OAEs in Illinois, Wisconsin, and Iowa. Dave can be contacted by email: Kahlow@mac.com, or telephone: 708 383 378.





by Marty Diller

“To my big brother George, the ‘richest’ man in town!” is the toast at the end of the movie *It’s a Wonderful Life*. To me, that toast seemed particularly apt in the case of Don “Squatty Root” Richards as I listened to the eulogies offered at Don’s memorial service and burial ceremony on 31 December in Narragansett, RI. A standing-room-only crowd of family and friends crowded into the funeral home’s chapel, and it was necessary to delay the burial ceremony for over an hour in order to allow all attendees to pay their respects. Like George Bailey in that old movie, Don had a significant and positive impact on many others during his life, as evidenced by the large crowd of attendees and the loving stories they related about Don.

The memorial service went off very well, with approximately 500 attendees as counted by the funeral home’s staff. Don’s wife (and OAEA Life Member),



Squatty & Maggie at NE meeting

Margaret, and their two adult children, Anthony and Vanessa, began receiving condolences from the long line of mourners before the memorial service began and then again for over an hour after the service. An impressive array of flowers surrounded the open casket. Of interest, embroidered on the white satin inside the casket lid were beautiful renditions of both the original OAEA logo and the Navy seal, flanked by two emperor penguins.

I listened to many glowing accounts of Don’s generosity, community involvement, and patriarchal guidance to his family and the neighborhood children he coached in Little League. Repeatedly, Don was credited with counseling his children, his many nieces and nephews, and all those neighborhood kids to always do what is right—to do your duty even if it isn’t the easy course of action. He also emphasized to them that they should always “live the life you love, and love the life you live.” This maxim was the way Don lived his life and he encouraged others to do the same.

A vehicle procession over a mile long accompanied the hearse to the Rhode Island Veteran’s Cemetery for the

burial service at the Veteran Cemetery’s main chapel. Outside the chapel upon arrival of the procession, the 8-man honor guard from the Military Funeral Honors Program of RI was still patiently waiting in the brisk upper-30° temperatures on this windy day with snow threatening. As the 8-man pallbearer team (which included four OAEA-NE members) carried the flag-draped casket inside, the honor guard sharply rendered honors.

At the Chapel, the service began with the honor guard’s 21-gun salute, followed by the bugler’s “Taps.” Additional eulogies followed the religious portion of the burial service, including words from OAEA New England Chapter President Dave Hazard—who donned his ‘Puckered Pete’ ball cap in Squatty’s honor during his eulogy.

Dave talked of Don’s participation and service in the New England Chapter, of the moment at the first National OAEA Symposium/Reunion when Don stood up and volunteered to have the 2006 reunion in Rhode Island, and of when he first met Don at the squadron paraloft while completing his check-in at VXE-6 in 1970. Following the ceremony, a reception was held at the nearby American Legion Post 12. A light snow began falling as the reception began to wind down. Fourteen OAEA-NE Chapter members were in attendance at Don’s services, and Marty Diller, Mike Hall, Hoot Hartman, and Dave Hazard were honored to serve as pallbearers.



Squatty Before and After Photos

A retired Parachute Rigger, 2nd Class (PR2)—Don’s Antarctic experience was with the Navy’s VX-6 squadron in 1959–61, 1963–66, and 1970–73; he wintered-over at McMurdo Station during DF-61, DF-64, and DF-66. Don was always an upbeat and very generous individual and will be greatly missed by everyone who knew him.

Maggee is doing well and is undecided about remaining in the Ocala, FL townhouse they purchased a year ago, or perhaps move back to Narragansett to live with her son. She is planning to attend the OAEA Reunion in Warwick, RI, this August. It will be the perfect opportunity for you all to see her again and share your memories of Squatty.

Palmer Station Reunion Operation Deep Freeze 70 Crew Stonington, CT — July 20–23, 2005

by Dave Steward

There are reunions, my friends and fellow OAEs, and then there are reunions. And, so it was on 20 July 2005, and after having not seen one another for 35 years, several of the original Palmer crew of 10 met in Stonington, Connecticut where it all began 185 years earlier. One hundred eighty-five years, you say? Let me explain!

Depending upon with whom you speak, and their country of origin, any one individual is credited with discovering Antarctica. It may be Bellingshausen if you're Russian, it may be Bernardo O'Higgins if you're from Chile, or it may be Palmer if the United States is your homeland. Whatever the case, in 1820 a very young sealing captain (20 by some accounts) by the name of Nathaniel B. Palmer, skipper of the *Hero* entered the following into his log:



Captain Palmer

"I pointed the bow of the little craft to south'ard and with her wings spread, the mainsail abeam, and the jib abreast the opposite bow, she speeded on her way like a thing of life and light. With her flowing sheet she seemed to enter into the spirit which possessed my ambitions, and flew along until she brought me into sight of land not laid down on my chart."

This was roughly 63°23'S 57°55'W—and was most likely Mt. Hope—named later by Commodore John Wilkes.

While the records of the little craft were ultimately lost to history, it is thought the *Hero* was roughly 50 feet in length and 16 to 17 feet in beam. Palmer, affectionately known as Captain Nat later in life, had discovered Antarctica in a very small ship; and at the beginning of the age of exploration to high latitudes. The



The Hero

good captain and his boat had come from Stonington, Connecticut where he had been born in 1799, and raised in the shipyards there.

So, 150 years later, a crew of 10 (unfortunately, two have died) made their way from Punta Arenas, Chile, through Tierra Del Fuego and into the roaring 50s toward Palmer Station, Antarctica, located on Anvers Island on the western side of the Antarctic Peninsula; and our home for the next 13 months. We did this aboard the Coast Guard Cutter *Glacier*—the largest of her kind at the time.

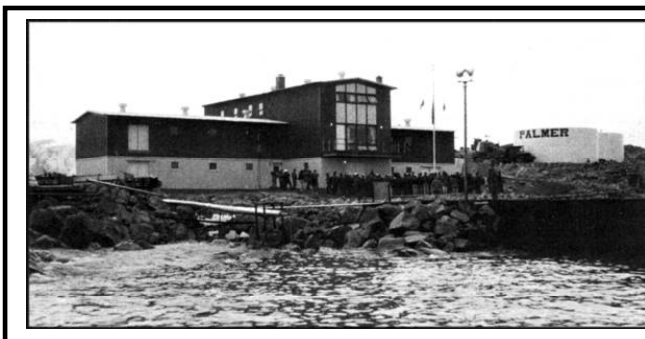
Fast forward 35 years to the birthplace of Captain Nat and those that came to attend the reunion as we had come full circle to meet once again, to pay homage to Captain Palmer at his "Summer" house in Stonington, Ct.

So, you now understand the 185 years and how this crew reunited to rekindle fond memories, embellish sea stories, and toast to good times past and present.



Captain Palmer's summer house in Stonington

Captain Nat's house in Stonington, while slightly better appointed than our digs to the south, was the meeting place of the crew on July 22, whereby the doors were closed to the public and Toddy, our wonderful tour guide, gave the crew a personal tour of Palmer's house, the man and his life.



Palmer Station a prefabricated structure that housed the scientific labs, sleeping and living quarters, galley, and some storage. A second building (not shown) directly behind the main building, housed additional generators, sleeping quarters and the supply area. It also acted as the recreational area where the crew enjoyed movies and pool. Picture circa 1968.

The three crewmembers and their wives spent a day in Mystic Seaport and the town of Stonington sampling the local culture and cuisine, which gave the reunion a nautical theme.



Don McLaughlin, Toddy, Dave Steward, and Verne Smith.

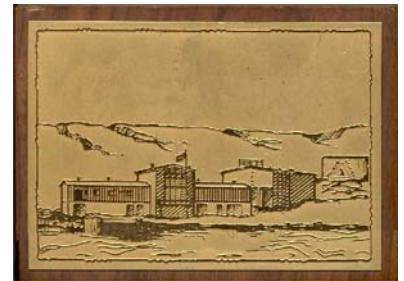
Along the way, Palmer Station Officer in Charge Don McLaughlin, the station doctor, Verne Smith, MD, and Storekeeper Dave Steward discovered that the year on the “ice” had an impact on each of them that until now had not really been fully understood. Indeed, our personal and professional lives, it was discovered, had been shaped to some degree by the yearlong stay at Palmer. We toasted good shipmates, shared a moment of silence for the two departed: Harvey High (Chef extraordinaire) and Michael

Bergin (Marine Acoustical Service, R/V Hero) and celebrated our newfound friends and shipmates from the past.

We relived stories of George Wade (Chief Electrician), Jay Klinck, our heavy machinery guy, John Stanciu, radioman, Stephen Shabica the lead scientist and Dennis Patton the Hospital Corpsman; our expeditions onto the piedmont of the glacier behind the station, our cruising in the Zodiac upon Arthur Harbor and visiting the penguin rookery on Torgerson Island and *meetings* (of sort) with the Weddell, Crab Eater, and Elephant seals that populated and reproduced on the island, and of course visiting “old” Palmer Station—our backup emergency shelter should the unthinkable occur.

We spent a year not far from where Shackleton and his crew had found safe harbor on Elephant Island in 1916. And, not unlike Shackleton’s crew we had bonded as a team, survived the year and significantly altered our lives as a result. We, of course, had none of the hardships that the *Endurance* crew met along the way, but the rapport was just as strong. So, I’ll end where this brief story of a reunion began—there are reunions, my friends and fellow OAEs, and there are reunions! — Fair winds and smooth ice

Palmer Station Plaque



Palmer Station Crew January 1970. Left to right (back row) – Don McLaughlin (extreme left) Chief Parks, Jay Klinck, Unknown, John Stanciu, Bill Stout (summer), Chief George Wade, Verne Smith, MD. Front row, left to right, Dave Steward, Michael Bergin, Harvey High, Stephen Shabica.

Note: Due to a medical emergency at home Chief Parks did not stay for the winter.

GULF COAST GROUP

by Billy-Ace Penguin Baker

Pensacola 10 December 2005—For the first time in over two years the Gulf Coast Group held a Saturday afternoon meeting. As was expected the Saturday meeting produced a slightly larger turnout than we normally have at the Friday meetings. Thirty-five members and guests showed up and the new faces mostly belonged to people who still work for a living.



Pam and Jim Landy (aka The Gaffer). Pam hasn't missed a meeting since she joined the OAEA in 2003, but this is the first time that Jim has made an appearance since then.

After experiencing equipment and operator problems at the last meeting, we were finally able to show the videos *Welcome to McMurdo* that was produced by Raytheon for indoctrination of newly assigned personnel. The NYANG video *Ice Pilots* was also shown, but it was not an “attention grabber”.

Following the video presentation, Sean Baker and Glen Harris collected money and distributed tickets for the 50/50 drawing. A total of \$85 was collected and the lucky winner of the drawing was Lennie Bourgeois.



Jim McCreary guards Glen Harris counting the 50/50 money.

A date for the next meeting was not announced. There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.



Class ring lost in 1949 returned to owner

From a story by David Sutta

After 56 years, OAEA member John Colson has been reunited with his high school class ring that was stolen in North Carolina. The ring has been on quite a journey on its way back to its owner.

In 1949, his ring disappeared after he handed it over to a YMCA clerk while he went to swimming practice.

Colson went on to graduate high school and college, travel the world in the Navy, and get married.

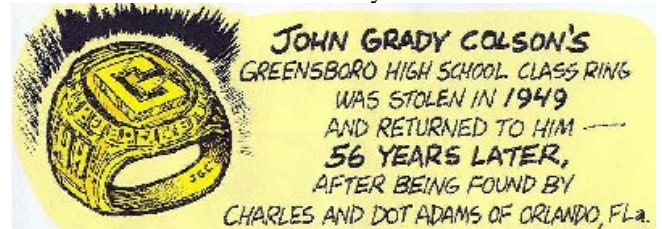
John lives in Fort Myers, Florida and was in Air DevRon Six during DF-III and IV flying helicopters at Little America V. According to him, he spent most of his time ferrying VIPs and high priority cargo from the supply ships and icebreakers to the station. After he got out of the Navy, he served on the USNS *Eltanin* during DF-64.



In early July of last year, a package arrived in the mail from his sister-in-law. Inside was his class ring.

A person, who lives in Orlando, found the ring and held on to it. That man just happened to marry a woman who graduated in the same class as Colson in 1950.

The couple were finally able to track him down recently through friends who went to the Greensboro High School's 55th reunion and the rest is history.



Ripley's Believe It or Not museum in Orlando has called Colson, asking to enshrine the ring that found its way home. Colson plans to make an offer to leave his ring to Ripley if they will give his grandkids lifetime passes to the Ripley museums. He hopes to make a trip to Orlando to make his counteroffer in person.

When the ring went missing, the YMCA paid for the loss; when the ring was returned to him, John sent a \$50 check to the Y.

John has advice for people who have also lost their class rings. “Keep your fingers crossed. Maybe you'll get it back someday,”

Editor's Note: But don't hold your breath.



OAEA MERCHANDISE

Tervis Mugs & Tumblers with imbedded OAEA embroidered cloth patch. The mug is 4 ¾ inches tall and the tumbler is 6 inches tall. Both will hold 12 ounces of your favorite beverage.

The Tervis mugs and tumblers are \$15 each or a pair for \$25. Sets of four are available at \$40 per set. Sets may be mixed or matched. Shipping and handling will vary based on number of items ordered. To place orders send an email to Buz Dryfoose at: BUZSAM@aol.com. Profits from the sale of these items will be put back into the OAEA Merchandise fund or will go back into the OAEA general funds.

The mugs and tumblers are in short supply, so this might be your last chance before they're all gone.

For members who are not Internet capable, orders may be placed by telephone: 812 988 2637.

Dream Big and Dare to Fail

Anchorage, Alaska (AP)—The last surviving participant in Admiral Richard Byrd's first Antarctic Expedition has died.

Norman Vaughan died in an Alaska hospital just a few days after turning 100 years old.

Vaughan was a dog handler and driver in the 1928 Antarctic expedition, a landmark event for a man whose motto was "Dream big and dare to fail."

At the age of 96, he carried the Olympic torch in Juneau, AK, passing the flame from a wheelchair.

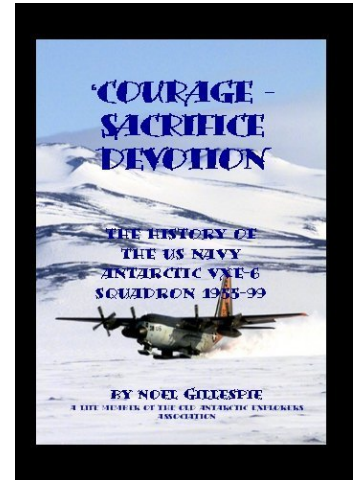
Many of Norman's exploits were featured in the Explorer's Gazette Oct-Dec 2005 issue



Courage Sacrifice Devotion Update

Author: Noel Gillespie
 Publisher: Infinity Publishers
 Price: \$35.95

Noel Gillespie has finally found a publisher for his book. Infinity Publishing House in Pennsylvania will publish the book. The book contains 535 pages and 330 photographs and took over seven years to research and write. It should be available in late February or early March. Infinity will market the book on Internet outlets such as Amazon.com, Barnes & Nobel, and Books-A-Million.



Commemorative Members

by OAEA Membership Chairman

The OAEA Commemorative Member category was announced in the Oct-Dec 2005 issue of the *Explorer's Gazette*. Since that time, four names have been added to the Commemorative Member roster. See the New Member column in this issue of the *Gazette* for the names of the new "commem" members. There are currently 12 Commemorative members in the OAEA.

Several members have asked: "how does someone get nominated in this membership category?" By definition, a Commemorative Member is an OAE, who if living, would be eligible for Regular Member status in the OAEA. Basically OAEs in this category died before they joined the OAEA.

In order to nominate someone for Commemorative Membership an application for membership in the Old Antarctic Explorers Association must be submitted to the OAEA Secretary/Treasurer and the OAEA Membership Committee will determine the nominees' eligibility and, if accepted, a Commemorative Membership certificate will be mailed to the person who made the nomination. Any person may submit applications for this membership category without consideration of their membership in the OAEA. Although there are no fees or membership dues required for Commemorative Memberships tax-deductible donations are encouraged.

OAEA Membership applications can be downloaded from the OAEA website at: <http://www.oaea.net>. For anyone not having access to the Internet, forms may be requested by telephone from the Membership Chairman at 850 456 3556, or by writing to the OAEA National Headquarters address on page 3.