



# 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

Volume 6, Issue 4

Old Antarctic Explorers Association, Inc

Oct-Dec 2006



Warwick, Rhode Island GrandePlaza Hotel Resort

## 3<sup>rd</sup> National OAEA Reunion Held in Rhode Island *the Third Time was a Real Charm*

*by Marty Diller with photos by Fred Santino*

**WARWICK RHODE ISLAND**—NEARLY 300 ATTENDEES gathered for the event-packed 3<sup>rd</sup> OAEA National Symposium/Reunion, held at the Crowne Plaza Hotel over three days in August. An ambitious schedule of tours, meetings, speakers, and activities made for some long days for those who participated in them all, but the 2006 OAEA Reunion Committee kept things running fairly smoothly and on schedule throughout.

Planning for this Reunion—which Don “Squatty Root” Richards, at the November 2002 OAEA Symposium in Pensacola, volunteered to host in Rhode Island—began in February 2004, and the hotel/convention contract was signed in July 2004. Members of the Reunion Committee who attended the 2005 Oxnard Symposium surveyed

attendees at that event to determine what kind of tours and activities would have the most interest for attendees at the Warwick Reunion. Armed with those results, the Reunion Committee built a schedule of events for the 3-day period and spent the next 18 months in preparation.

Warwick is a busy, congested area, and the town population is almost 90,000; but the 3<sup>rd</sup> National OAEA did not go by unnoticed. Three separate Rhode Island newspapers carried feature articles about OAEs during the months leading up to the Reunion and all mentioned the OAEs big event, culminating with *Providence Journal* Columnist Bob Kerr’s 14 August piece about the Reunion: “Remembering their service on the Ice”. In addition, both

See Reunion on page 4.

**PRESIDENT'S CORNER**  
John Lamont West—OAEA President

**T**O ALL OAEs—The Third Old Antarctic Explorers Association, Inc. Symposium, conducted in Warwick, Rhode Island, August 17–19, 2006 hosted approximately 300 members and guests. A special Thank You is extended to Marty Diller and his wife, Beverly; to Dave Hazard and his wife, Anne; and, to the many others working behind the scenes who went the extra mile to make the Third OAEA Symposium a resounding success.



An election of officers brought about several changes. The following are the current Old Antarctic Explorers 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 - Ed Hamblin
- Director - Dave Hazard
- Director - Bill Spindler
- Director - Walt Walter

During the last election of officers, a number of areas were identified that must be improved. During the General Membership Meeting at the Third Symposium numerous inputs were received from the floor regarding the election process. Future elections will continue to be conducted by U.S. Mail. However, your Board of Directors are taking action to appoint an "Election Committee Chairman" to take corrective action to resolve obstacles identified during previous elections and who will be responsible for overseeing future elections.

Concern was also raised that no meeting minutes have been published for the general membership since the inception of the OAEA. This issue was addressed immediately following the conclusion of the Third OAEA Symposium. The Minutes of the meetings are now posted on the OAEA web site. For those members who are not Internet capable, copies of the minutes will be mailed with this issue of the *Gazette*.

SPAM is a continuing issue for folks on-line. In the immediate past, SPAM has resulted in inappropriate entries appearing on the OAEA web site Guest Book. Our Webmaster, Billy-Ace Baker, has taken swift and positive action to curtail the SPAM activity on the OAEA Guest Book by screening each individual posting prior to approving the entry for posting in the Guest Book.

The 2008 OAEA Symposium will be held in Pensacola, Florida. More information will be forthcoming, so get out your pencils, mark your calendars, and plan on joining us there. For long-term planning, the 2010 Symposium will be in San Antonio, Texas.

Your Board of Directors have just completed work on and passed the OAEA Budget for 2007. Work continues to progress on the revision of the OAEA By-Laws.

I solicit your recommendations and suggestions concerning those areas you perceive as satisfactory and those areas where you feel we can do better. Feel free to e-mail me at [Westjl42@aol.com](mailto:Westjl42@aol.com) or write to me at 15838 Beaufort Blvd., Selma, TX 78154-3839.

It is with the utmost sorrow that I report that Chaplain Cecil Harper, OAEA Chaplain, passed away on 31 August 2006. To all those who have lost a loved one, please accept my heartfelt sympathy and my condolences as you pass through these tough times. My prayers are with you. To those under the weather, I wish you a speedy recovery.

Until next time, take care.



**GROWLERS & BERGY BYTES**

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

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**DISCLAIMER STATEMENT**

The *Explorer's Gazette* is published quarterly by the Old Antarctic Explorers Association. Opinions expressed by the editorial staff or contained in articles submitted by members, and non-members are not official expressions of the OAEA nor does the mention of books, products, or events constitute endorsement by the OAEA.





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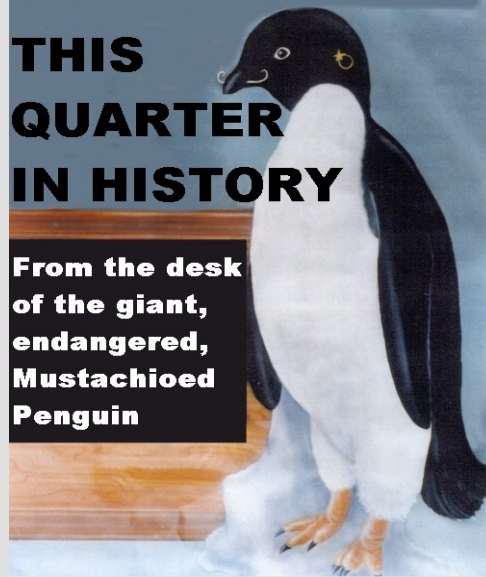
**Director** – Bill Spindler

**Chaplain** – Denis Casey

**Historian** – Billy-Ace Baker

# THIS QUARTER IN HISTORY

**From the desk of the giant, endangered, Mustachioed Penguin**



**October Events**

- 16 Oct 1816 William Smith takes possession of the South Shetlands for Great Britain.
- 31 Oct 1902 Nordenskjöld's party returns to camp after traveling 380 miles on foot.
- 05 Oct 1908 David, Mawson, and Mackay leave for the South Magnetic Pole.
- 31 Oct 1956 United States becomes the first nation to land an aircraft at the Geographic South Pole.

28 Oct 1969 PM-3A reactor manually scrammed.

**November Events**

- 06 Nov 1948 British military base at Hope Bay, Base D, destroyed by fire. Two scientists, Oliver Burd and Michael Green die in the fire.
- 22 Nov 1957 First aircraft of the USAF Electronics Test Unit arrive at Ellsworth Station.
- 27 Nov 1968 Two VX-6 LH-34 helicopters fly 395 miles from McMurdo Station to Hallett Station to collect emperor penguins. Setting a record for the longest nonstop Antarctic helo flight.
- 18 Nov 1985 RV *John Biscoe* abandoned after being trapped in the ice near the Antarctic Peninsula.

28 Nov 1988 Mountain Travel Expedition leaves Hercules Inlet en route to Patriot Hills.

**December Events**

- 30 Dec 1820 British sealer *Ann* wrecked in S. Shetlands
- 27 Dec 1902 Scott discovers Mount Markham.
- 15 Dec 1912 Mawson kills the weakest of his dogs.
- 23 Dec 1966 AE2 Jim Thomann makes first ever delayed free-fall parachute jump over the South Pole from 16,000 ft.
- 28 Dec 1967 The first fossilized land animals found in Antarctica.

# Reunion

From page 1

Governor Donald L. Carcieri and Warwick Mayor Scott Avedisian made separate Proclamations that announced the week of 14–20 August as “OAEA Days”. The signed, framed proclamations were displayed in the hotel for all attendees to read.



**OAEA Executive Vice President Henry Storm and past VP J.C. Harris discuss meeting issues during break in General Membership Meeting**

OAEA Officers had agreed to go to Warwick a day early so they could dispense with the business of Board meetings before the pleasure of socializing with the attendees. Those Board meetings officially kicked off Symposium events on Thursday, *Day One*, at 8am. That afternoon, the majority of attendees began arriving and the registration process began in earnest. Meeting and greeting old friends and shipmates ensued and social activities carried on into the evening’s no-host reception in the Plaza Ballroom bolstered by the Reunion Committee’s late addition of heavy hors d’oeuvres.

Most anyone who has lived or worked in the Warwick area over the years is familiar with Narragansett beer, and at the last minute, the Narragansett

Brewing Company generously provided 15 cases of beer, plus t-shirts, can holders, and other promotional items in recognition of past loyal patronage by OAEs. The Narragansett beer 12-packs and memorabilia were given away as door prizes at the Thursday night welcome reception in what turned out to be “Narragansett Night” at the Reunion.



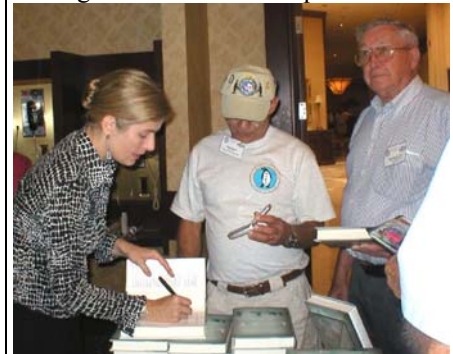
**Bernie Bernardello, Pat Bernardello, Mary Pellegrina at "Narragansett Night"**

Friday’s schedule led off with the local Pawtuxet Rangers (Rhode Island Militia) Fife & Drum Corps—in full uniform of the Revolutionary War period—presenting the colors before the Memorial Service. After the Invocation by Chaplain Cecil Harper, and in keeping with tradition established at previous Reunion Memorial Services, the names of those who had perished while working in Antarctica (provided by OAEA Historian Billy-Ace Baker) were called out from the four corners of the meeting room. This was followed by the brief, but very moving slideshow ‘Antarctic Reflections’ (created by Associate Member Anne Hazard), in lieu of a moment of silence in

remembrance of our fallen comrades.

After the General Membership meeting and lunch, *Reunion Day Two* continued with a full slate of Guest Speaker presentations by OAEA members:

- Kelly Tyler-Lewis, author of *The Lost Men*, talked about the 10-man Ross Sea support party for Shackleton’s 1914–16 expedition, which was stranded for almost two years. A local bookstore had her book available to buy, and she signed books after her presentation.



**Kelly Tyler-Lewis signs copies of her book for Dave Hazard and Bob Epperly**

- Bill Spindler, unofficial South Pole historian on the subject: “South Pole Then and Now”.
- Dian Olson Belanger, author of *Deep Freeze: The United States the International Geophysical Year and the Origins of Antarctica's Age of Science*, due out in late October, and based on oral histories of OAEs. Dian signed bookplates for attendees looking forward to a visit to their bookstore in October.



**OAEA Immediate Past President Jim Eblen presents Que Sera Sera flag to OAEA Historian Pro Tem Billy-Ace Baker. OAEA BOD from L to R: Henry Storm (VP), Buz Dryfoose, Jim O’Connell, Dave Hazard, John Lamont West (Pres), and Marty Diller.**





**Dian Belanger presentation about researching her new book**

- Jerri Nielsen, the physician who's harrowing medical emergency at South Pole Station aroused international media attention. A lively, very entertaining and animated speaker, Jerri shared her story of the events surrounding her experience at Pole. This story is told in the autobiographical book *Ice Bound: A Doctor's Incredible Story of Survival at the South Pole*, about her discovery while wintering-over in 1999 that she had developed breast cancer.



**Jerri Nielsen entertains attendees with her experiences at South Pole Station**

During the member meetings and presentations, some attendees took a bus tour of historic Newport and toured Cornelius Vanderbilt's famous mansion 'Breakers'. That evening, to top off all the day's meetings and activities, 154 attendees boarded M/V *Vista Jubilee* for a 4-hour sunset cruise on Narragansett Bay that featured dining and dancing.

With so many attendees out very late on Friday night's cruise, Saturday's activities didn't start until mid-morning

with bus tours to the Davisville Seabee Museum & Memorial Park and the Quonset Air Museum. Both facilities are small and to some extent works in progress, but they have enthusiastic and motivated volunteer staffs that were proud to present their artifacts, equipment, and buildings. Both museums continuously search for and accept display-quality Antarctic-related memorabilia, and also accept tax-deductible donations to support their missions to preserve and present their history through collections, research, education, and exhibits.



**Pawtuxet Rangers Fife & Drum Corps personnel present the colors before the Memorial Service for OAEs who perished on the continent.**

The Seabee Museum and Memorial Park is located near the former base's main gate, next to the Chapel of the Pines and behind what once was the Admin building. With the help of a 2002 DOD grant for Navy Reserve personnel training, Seabee veterans, reserves, and volunteers worked diligently to clear the acreage and the Park began to take shape. The money was used for the location, disassembly, and the on-site re-assembly of "Quonset Huts"—the round top buildings that have been closely associated with the Seabees since WW-II. The Quonset Hut was originally designed and manufactured in Davisville. The funding also facilitated the development of 1.5 miles of walking paths that serve as a memorial for the Seabee men and women who served in conflicts all over the globe.

In support of the OAEA Reunion, Seabee museum volunteers acted as guides for a "This Used To Be" bus tour

of the former Seabee base and Naval Air Station. During the tour, guides pointed out where base buildings and facilities, such as the main gate and Admin building, "used to be." Today, under the purview of the Quonset Development Corporation, most of the two bases have become an industrial park and very few familiar landmarks remain for those who once were stationed there.



**M/V Vista Jubilee alongside the dock before boarding.**

Founded in 1992, the Quonset Air Museum (QAM) is housed on three acres in a hangar built in 1945 as the point building for the former air station's Overhaul & Repair facility. At the QAM, in addition to the opportunity to view the large and valuable collection of aircraft, aircraft parts, and other historical artifacts on display, attendees were treated to a lunch of sandwiches and salads prepared by QAM volunteers. The 28 aircraft currently on display or under restoration include civilian, military, and prototype aircraft dating from 1944 (*Hellcat* under restoration) to 1983 (F-14 *Tomcat*).



**Kiwi Noel Gillespie signing copies of his book *Courage Sacrifice Devotion***



Photo by Henry Storm

**NYANG C-130 at Quonset Point**

In addition, C-130 aircraft static displays were arranged for OAEA attendees at the RI Air National Guard aircraft parking area. The RIANGs 143<sup>rd</sup> Airlift Wing (AW) arranged bus transport to shuttle guests to and from the Museum, and aircrew personnel proudly displayed their new C-130J model *Hercules*, which is equipped with a more powerful and efficient engine/prop combination and the latest in digital avionics. Also, the NY Air National Guard, based at Scotia, NY, sent a 109<sup>th</sup>AW C-130H in support of the OAEA Reunion. The NYANG aircrew proudly showed-off the aircraft to attendees and answered questions about their ski-Herks, that were not available on this date due to operational commitments, and Air Wing polar operations. Finally, before returning to the hotel, a group photo of tour participants was taken at the QAM aircraft parking ramp in front of the museum's immaculately restored F-14.

Photo by Henry Storm



At the CB Museum, Davisville

The *Day Three* activities continued with the traditional Reunion banquet—a New England clam bake this time—in the hotel's spacious Grand Ballroom. In addition to steamed clams and seafood, including lobster for those who ordered it extra, a lengthy door prize, and raffle

drawing was featured after the meal. Special donations were earmarked for OAEA Scholarship fundraising, and a total of \$1354 was raised for the OAEA Education Foundation by Reunion attendees.



Array of memorabilia and Antarctic Extreme Cold Weather (ECW) Gear

One of the featured displays that received a lot of notice and praise from attendees was "Buz's Antarctic Museum", a display of Antarctic survival and extreme cold weather gear in one of the downstairs hospitality rooms that was tirelessly manned by Buz Dryfoose and his wife, Sam. This impressive display of gear, including survival tent, clothing, and other equipment that Buz actually had with him on the Ice during Deep Freeze deployments from 1957–62. The room was open and manned each day until the banquet, as Buz and Sam selflessly passed up many events to ensure the display was available at all times for attendees.

Photo by Mike Selke



But Buz and Sam didn't miss the banquet

Sunday morning brought the end of the 3<sup>rd</sup> OAEA National Reunion and attendees bid their farewells and made early plans for seeing each other again at the 2008 Reunion in Pensacola. If you are undecided about attending the 2008

Reunion, ask someone who attended this one for their opinion, and you'll find out it will be an event you don't want to miss!

Photo by Mike Selke



Banquet table decorations

**New Zealand Antarctic Medal Update**

*Condensed from a New Zealand press release*

In early September New Zealand Prime Minister Helen Clark announced that the Queen approved the institution of The New Zealand Antarctic Medal (NZAM).

The new medal replaces the British Polar Medal and continues the tradition begun in 1904 of recognizing the significant contributions New Zealanders have made, and continue to make, towards the protection and knowledge of Antarctica.

The New Zealand Antarctic Medal is an important addition to New Zealand's honors system. The first recipients will be announced in the 2007 New Years Honors list.

The new medal will be made of Sterling Silver, and retains the famous octagonal shape and white ribbon of the Polar Medal. The reverse design will show a group of four Emperor Penguins on an Antarctic landscape with Mt Erebus in the background. The obverse will bear an effigy of the Queen and the inscription Elizabeth II Queen of New Zealand.

*Editor's Note: Additional information regarding the NZAM will appear in the Jan-Mar 2007 issue of the Explorer's Gazette. Previous reports on the efforts of the NZAVA to obtain a medal in recognition of their Antarctic service have been published in the Explorer's Gazette. The most recent article was in Volume 5, Issue 4, Oct-Dec 2005.*



# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Penguin:

Great story about Dusty Blades. Dusty's son Rick Looks just like Dusty did at his age. Kudos to Elaine Hood for orchestrating the ceremony and writing the story.

Gus Shinn

Dear Billy-Ace,

Thank you for leaning on me to join the OAEA and to attend the 2006 OAEA reunion in Rhode Island. I greatly enjoyed reconnecting with some old friends and meeting many new ones. I was particularly pleased and honored to share some highlights from *Deep Freeze*, my forthcoming IGY-era history of Antarctica, especially in the good company of the other fine and varied speakers at the Friday afternoon session.

Dian Belanger

*Editor's Note: The publication date for Dian's book is 30 October. It will be available at bookstores and on the University of Colorado web site at: <http://www.upcolorado.com>, or by snail mail from: University Press of Colorado, 5589 Arapahoe Ave, Suite 206C, Boulder, CO 80303.*



Billy,

The mention of the DF-79 Mayoral election at McMurdo in the *Gazette* brought back memories. I don't have a picture of Dune. Boy, he would smell bad when we let him indoors and he began to thaw out. Maybe you can scan a picture out of my/your cruise book.

It was a cold and dark night (mixed with some ETOH from the retrograde yard) (that's another story) when the votes were counted. Who knows who really won? Good thing Dune didn't ask for a recount! He was pretty easy going and a real sucker for a hot dog. He preferred them frozen.

Aloha - Stan

*Editor's Note: I took Stan's advice and scanned their photos from the DF-79 cruise book. I think I would have voted for dune.*



RMC Stan Worthley

Dune the Dog

Billy-Ace

The Dusty Blades article in the Jul-Sep issue of the *Gazette* looked good. I had lunch with Cecilia Blades today.

She took me to a nice French restaurant. Much nicer than what I would ever go to on my own. . . . after lunch we went to her place and listened to opera on her record player. It was pleasant.

But I forgot to take the copies of the *Gazette* with me. (Don't yell.) So I will mail them to her with a note.

Elaine Hood  
RPSC

Dear Editor:

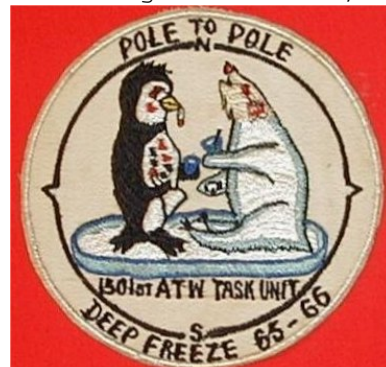
In the Apr-Jun 2006 issue of the *Gazette* you used a black and white version of the Air Force Puckered Pete logo to illustrate the story "Three Ways to the Ice" by Maury Unger. I thought your readers might enjoy this colored version.

Vic Offshodfor  
Brigadier General, USAF (Ret)

Billy-Ace,

I have read the *Explorer's Gazette* that came in my new members packet. I am impressed with the professionalism of the publication and pleased that you included the Operation Windmill article from the Spring 2004 edition. That was one of the trips that I made aboard the *Edisto*. Until I discovered that article I had no idea what we were doing down there.

Virgil Paulk, President  
USS *Edisto* Association, Inc.



Hi Billy Ace,

Just sending it along since you are the only person I know of with these types of coins. It's good for a laugh if nothing else!)

Gloria

The Antarctic Connection

To: The Government of Antarctica

With due respect, I Sri. Sabyasachi Bhattacharya, pay my respect to you and apologize to you for taking some of your valuable time. With a great expectation I am sending this mail from India.

I would like to inform you that my hobby is collecting coins of different countries. But unfortunately, I have no coins of Antarctic. I will be highly obliged if you send me 2 or 3 coins of Antarctic which will increase the importance of my collection.

I think my earnest request will not go in vain. At last I am thanking you. I hope the good relationship between Antarctic and India will go up higher and higher. On behalf of me and all Indians, I wish you and all the people of Antarctic all success in life. Thanking You,

Yours Sincerely,

Sabyasachi Bhattacharya

C/O. Dr. S.K. Bhattacharya  
9E, Ajanta Road, Tirsha 2nd Floor,  
(Behind new Santoshpur Milani Bayam Samity)  
Bus Stop: Jora Bridge  
New Santoshpur, Kolkata-700075  
West Bengal, India

*Editor's Note: Well, I must say the return address was interesting.*

Billy-Ace

I just received and finished reading the "hard copy" of the *Explorer's Gazette*. Well Done, my friend. I prefer the hard copy -- read it cover to cover. Let me start something by sending the enclosed \$25 to cover mailing expenses. I also get *Polar Times* and noted your contributions there.

All the Best

Chuck Fegley

*Editor's Note: Your donation is greatly appreciated. It should be noted that all donations to the OAEA, including donation to help cover the expense of printing and mailing the Explorer's Gazette should be sent to the OAEA Secretary/Treasurer.*

Dear Editor:

Belated thanks to VX-6. From 10 December 1960 to 5 February 1961, I participated as the Lockheed Test Team Leader in a joint USAF-USN-Lockheed C-130BL Antarctic flight test program. We lived in Jamesway huts on the sea ice at William's Field for two months. The purpose of the test was to gather "on site" structural and performance data to be applied to future aircraft design. The effort was supported by VX-6 and Task Force 43. CO CAPT Bill Munson, XO CDR. Loyd Newcomer, LCDR Al Potter, and LCDR Buz Dryfoose (Al and Buz were assigned to the test team) rendered outstanding support to the very successful program; VX-6 honored me with a flight to the South Pole on my 31st birthday. I should have written this letter on behalf of my team and Lockheed Aircraft many years ago. I dare say your *Explorer's Gazette* prompted me. I was able to thank Bill Munson personally when we spoke at a Joint CAI-IAS symposium at Ottawa, Canada on Polar flight operations. I know Bill and Loyd have since passed away. I joined Buz at the squadron disestablishment years ago. Al's whereabouts are unknown to me. VX-6 afforded me many opportunities to observe operations and made my Antarctic experience extremely memorable.

MANY THANKS AGAIN VX-6!!!!

Sincerely,

Peter Gillich

*Editor's Note: I received the above letter from Peter several months ago. At that time I emailed him and explained that it had been received too late for me to include it in the Gazette at that time, but that I would publish his letter in a future issue. To that Peter sent the following reply:*

*Hi Billy-Ace--When you publish my VX-6 letter in the Gazette, I would like to purchase four copies--Please advise price--Will send check--Thanks,*

*Pete Gillich*

*I saw that as an opportunity to make some easy money, however I had to inform Peter that there would be no charge, but that he was welcome to send a donation to the OAEA Treasurer.*

## OAEA Pensacola 2008 Reunion Planning Meeting

*Compiled by Billy-Ace*

A "ground-breaking" 2008 OAEA reunion-planning meeting was held at the home of Les and Cindy Liptak on Saturday 21 October. A previous meeting had been held briefly at the Gulf Coast OAEA meeting on 3 June 2006 at which time the committee volunteers stood up and it was established that Jim O'Connell would serve as chairman.

At the Saturday meeting it was determined that the reunion would be on 5, 6, and 7 November 2008. The Hilton Garden Inn in Pensacola Beach FL was tentatively approved as the reunion venue. Final approval will be made after a walk-thru of the facilities at the next meeting on 4 November. Before the meeting was adjourned Les Liptak was appointed as the overall reunion POC

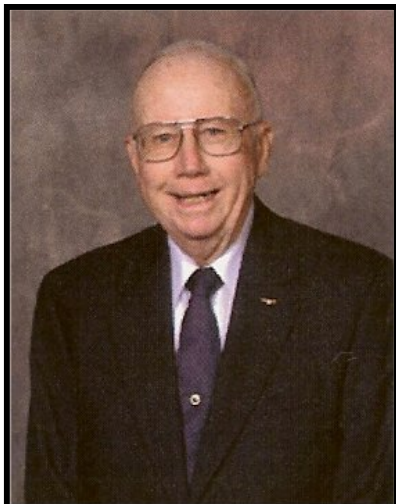




**CDR Edward Ward,  
USN (Ret)**

*By Billy-Ace Baker*

Commander Edward Ward, 87, died on Tuesday 22 August 2006 in Ocean City, New Jersey. Ed was a Naval Aviator for 30 thirty years. He served in the Atlantic and Pacific Fleets during World War II flying combat missions. After the war he specialized in polar exploration. The commander participated in four Arctic Operations (1946–52) and Operation Deep Freeze I and II (1955–57) in the Antarctic in support of the International Geophysical Year.



**CDR Edward M. d'I Ward  
First OAEA Symposium  
Pensacola, Florida 2002**

His first Arctic mission was flying aerial magnetometer surveys of Naval Petroleum Reserve #4 in Alaska. On his final Arctic mission in support of Project Ski-Jump, he became the first US Navy pilot to successfully land a ski equipped R4D (DC-3) on unprepared sea ice.

During DF-I, he served on the staff of Commander Task Force 43 and was the first Commanding Officer of Air Development Squadron Six (VX-6). Ed joined the staff of Captain George Dufek in September 1954, when the staff consisted of Captain Dufek, Commander Ward, and a yeoman.

Shortly after the New Year he was detached and was ordered to command the newly commissioned VX-6. When the squadron stood up Ed was the only member for some two months before anyone else was ordered in. During that period of time he submitted numbers of squadron personnel, and aircraft that would be required, and created an operating budget for the squadron. At the conclusion of Deep Freeze II, in March 1957, Commander Ward was transferred to Air Utility Squadron Four as commanding officer.

From his memoirs, Ed extracted his account of Deep Freeze I and II, had it privately bound, and distributed copies to family and friends under the title: *Deepfreeze1 & 2 1955–1957 Navy Task Force 43 & Air Development Squadron Six (VX-6)*. Hopefully he provided copies to the National Archives and the Byrd Polar Research Center.

Commander Ward was inducted into the American Polar Society in 1999 as an Honorary Member (See *Polar Times*, Spring-Summer 2000). He was a life member of the Old Antarctic Explorers Association, the Antarctic Deep Freeze Association, and the Explorers Club.

Ed is survived by his wife Marilyn, five children, numerous grandchildren, and great-grandchildren.

*Editor's Note Ed's oral history was taken by Dian Olson Belanger on 20 January 1999. For those with email capability a copy of the transcript may be requested from Luara Kissel at [kissel4@osu.edu](mailto:kissel4@osu.edu) who will send it as an email attachment.*

**OAEA CHAPLAIN  
CECIL HARPER**

*Compiled by Billy-Ace Baker*

Commander Cecil Harper, CHC, USN (Ret) died on 31 August 2006, in Bullard, Texas.

He was born on 30 May 1929, in Springfield, Tennessee. He attended the University of the South and earned his bachelor's degree from Tennessee Tech. He received his Masters of Divinity

from Perkins School of Theology, SMU.



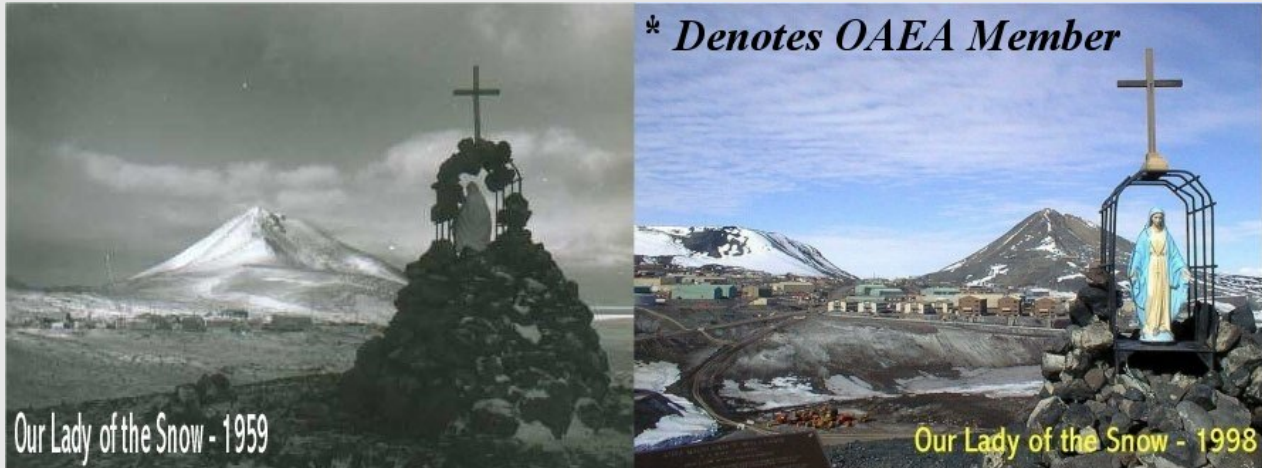
**CDR Cecil Harper First  
OAEA Chaplain**

A 20-year Navy veteran, Cecil served in both the Korean and Vietnam Conflicts as a chaplain, earning the rank of Commander. Cecil was the Deep Freeze 73 winter-over chaplain as a member of the Naval Support Force Antarctica, Detachment Alfa. In 1999 he was appointed as the National Chaplain for the Old Antarctic Explorers Association.

At the Warwick RI reunion General Membership Meeting on 18 August Cecil recommended that the 2010 OAEA reunion be held in San Antonio, TX and he volunteered to act as host. By a majority vote San Antonio was selected as the site and OAEA President John Lamont West volunteered to act as co-host.

Cecil was a 27-year member of First United Methodist Church of Bullard, serving as its pastor for seven years. He taught the Fellowship Sunday School Class for 19 years.

Cecil is survived by his wife, Patsy Dalton Harper, one son, CAPT Mark Dalton Harper, USNR, and wife, Elizabeth Parker Harper, of Hartsville, TN; one daughter, Kimberly Lynn Harper Donovan and husband, LTCOL Francis Leo Donovan, USMC, of Oceanside, CA; four grandchildren; and extended family members.



## I N M E M O R Y

\*OAE LCDR Homar D. Hall, USN (Ret), 60, died on 7 October 2006, at home in Virginia Beach, VA. Homar wintered at McMurdo during DF-71 as a DC-1 serving as the station Fire Chief and the Crash-Fire Crew Leading Petty Officer.

OAE Senior Chief William Faust, USN (Ret), 81, died on 30 September 2006, in Charleston, SC. William was a member of Highjump.

OAE Chief Ralph R. Stanakis, USN (Ret), 73, died on 17 September 2006, in Orlando, FL. Unit served with and dates in Antarctica unknown.

OAE Robert Earl Feeney, 93, died on 21 September 2006, in Davis, CA. Robert was with USARP for seven austral summer seasons during the 1960s and 70s as a biologist. His book, *Professor On The Ice*, has the words of the song: *Puff the Magic Penguin* on the Preface page. Feeney Col and Feeney Peak are named in his honor.

OAE COL Jack Wrinkle, USAF, (Ret), 81, died on 26 September 2006, in Cocoa Beach, FL. Jack was a C-124 pilot during DF-II, and III as a Captain with Det One 53<sup>rd</sup> Troop Carrier Squadron.

\*OAE AMSC William Aloysius Donnelly, USN (Ret), 84, died on 26 September 2006, in Charlotte NC. Bill served on the USS *Mount Olympus* and at Little America during Highjump.

OAE Billy Eugene Schmidt, 80, died on 14 September 2006, in Dothan, AL. Billy was a member of Highjump.

\*OAE CDR Cecil Harper, USN (Ret), 77, died on 31 August 2006, in Bullard, TX. Cecil wintered-over during DF-73. He was the OAEA chaplain having served in that position since 1999. See story on page 9.

\*OAE CDR Edward Ward, USN (Ret), 87, died on 22 August 2006, in Ocean City, NJ. Ed was the first commanding officer of VX-6 during DF-I. Ed was a member of the American Polar Society, and the Antarctic Deep Freeze Association. See story on page 9.

OAE Steve Irwin, 44, was killed by a stingray on 28 August 2006, on the Great Barrier Reef. Steve visited Antarctic in late 2004 to film a documentary. He was accused of getting too close to penguins and other wildlife, but was cleared of any wrongdoing by the Australian Environment Department.

\*OAE Master Sgt Donald Oliver Williams, USA (Ret), 70, died on 21 August 2006, in a Chattanooga, TN hospital. Don wintered at McMurdo during DF-62 with the first crew of the Navy Nuclear Power Unit.

OAE James William Hartley, 72, died on 15 August 2006, in Baltimore, MD. Jack served on the USS *Wyandot* during DF-I.

OAE Roy Moungovan, 85, died on 5 August 2006, in Sebastopol, CA. Roy was one of the pilots on the chartered PAMAM flight that landed at McMurdo on 15 October 1957. See *Explorer's Gazette*: Volume 1, Issue 3—Fall 2001 and Volume 2, Issue 3—Fall 2002



OAE John "Nick" Higgins, 67, died on 1 August 2006, Pensacola, FL. Nick deployed to Antarctica in the late 70s with NARF.

\*RADM David F. "Kelly" Welch, USN (Ret), 86, died on 5 April 2005, in Tucson, AZ. Admiral Welch served as Commander Naval Support Force Antarctica, 1969–71. During DF-70 Admiral Welch stepped off the ramp of an LC-130 with the first six women to set foot at the South Pole. See *Explorer's Gazette*, Volume 5, Issue 1, Winter 2005. The Welch Mountains are named in his honor. He was a member of the American Polar Society.

OAE Charles Levi Judd, 89, died on 23 July 2006, in Council Grove, KS. Charles visited Antarctica as a tourist.

OAE Herbert Theodore "Ted" Pool, 69, died on 4 September 2006, in Spokane, WA. Ted served on a Navy icebreaker during Deep Freeze. Ship and dates unknown.

\*OAE Byrd Bennett Branch, 77, died on 21 July 2006, in Lenoir, NC. Byrd served aboard the USS *Pine Island* during Highjump.

OAE Laura Victoria Campbell, 51, died on 19 July 2006, in Jacksonville, FL. Laura served as the senior meteorologist with the National Weather Service at South Pole Station during the austral summer from 1993 to 1998.

\*OAE James Edward Grey Channon, 91, died on 4 June 2006, in Australia. Grey was the medical officer and Second-in-Charge of Mawson Station during the IGY in 1958. He was a member of ANARE and is a Commemorative Member of the OAEA.

OAE Toben Anderson, 47, died on 11 July 2006, in Calgary, Canada. In 1997 Toben led an expedition to climb Vinson Massif.

OAE James Daniel Pond, ETC, USN (Ret), 81, died on 2 September 2006, in a nursing home in Great Falls, MT. James wintered-over with ASA at Hallett Station during DF-62. Pond Peak in Victoria Land is named in his honor.

OAE John Campbell Craddock, 76, died on 23 July 2006, in a nursing home in Saint Paul, MN. John deployed to Antarctica during the 1960s with the University of Minnesota geological parties. In 2005 he returned to Antarctica as a tourist with his wife Dottie. Mount Craddock in the Ellsworth Mountains is named in his honor.

OAE Fred Dyrdal, 88, date of death unknown, in North Kingstown RI. Fred wintered-over at Ellsworth Station during DF-II as an Aviation Structural Mechanic. Dyrdal Peak in the Pensacola Mountains is named in his honor.

OAE James F. McWilliams, 59, died on 30 July 2006 in Seattle, WA. James visited Antarctica as part of a team that climbed Vinson Massif.

OAE James Van Allen, 91, died on 9 August 2006, in Iowa City, IA. In 1935 James assisted the second Byrd Antarctic Expedition (1934–35) in preparing seismic and magnetic experimental equipment. During the IGY (1957) he carried out shipboard aurora investigations in the Ross Sea. He was an Honorary Member of the American Polar Society.

\*OAE William B. Kurlak, LCDR, USN (Ret), 90, died on 28 July 2006, in Pensacola, FL. Bill served two tours in the squadron, 1961–64, and 1968–70 as an LC-130 aircraft commander. Mount Kurlak in the Queen Alexandra Range is named in his honor.

OAE Peter Jensen Skellerup, 88, died on 15 May 2006, in Fendalton, New Zealand. Peter was a member of the first NZ Hut Caretaker program in 1969. Peter was a member of the NZ Antarctic Society and the Antarctic Heritage Trust. The Skellerup Glacier in the Transantarctic Mountains is named in his honor.

OAE Bill Taylor, Dr., 78, died on 7 May 2006, in the United States. Bill served as a botanist on the HMAS *Luban* during the 1950 ANARE expedition. He was a member of the ANARE Club.

OAE David Roger Given, 62, died on 27 November 2005, in Christchurch, New Zealand.

OAE Jacquelyn Tower, 82, died on June 2006, in Santa Maria, California. Jacquelyn visited Antarctica as a representative of a cruise line operator.

OAE Glenn von Bibra, 53, died on 22 February 2006, in Australia. Glen wintered-over at Casey Station with ANARE in 1981 as the station chef. Glenn was a member of the ANARE Club.



## OAEA Donor Awards as of 15 October 2006

Submitted by Jim O'Connell

Asterisks indicate new donors, or donors who have reached the next level.

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

Baker, Ashlee F.  
Baker, Billy-Ace  
Baker, Jamie  
Baker, Sean  
Baker, Tracey  
Biery, Roger W.  
Blackwelder, Billy  
Blewett, Thomas  
Bolt, Ron L.  
Boyer, Robert E.  
\*Cabrera, Quirino  
Callender, Gordon W.  
Capozzoli, Albert A.  
Communicator Group Fund  
Conklin, Harold  
Cordes, Fauno  
DeLeon, Emilio  
Dieckhoff, Charlotte M.  
Dostal, W (Dusty) A.  
DuBeau, Earl  
Eubanks, Paul  
Hall, Richard M.  
Henley, Elizabeth  
Henley, Joseph  
\*Higdon, John C.

Hilt, John W.  
Hutchinson-Sabbatini, Kristan  
Konrad, Kerry  
Konrad, Robert D.  
Konrad, Robert K.  
Lippka, Ray E.  
Loftus, Leo G.  
Morris, Marion E.  
Morton, John E.  
Moulder, Evelyn  
Munson, Evelyn  
OAEA Gulf Coast Group  
O'Neal, Jerry  
Owler, Robert  
Phillips, Elmer F.  
Rubin, Harry  
Spaulding, Richard  
\*Splain, Vincent F.  
\*Taylor, William C.  
VX/VXE-6 Para-Rescue Team  
Werner, Alexander  
West, John Lamont  
Wick Jr. Howard J.  
Whitehead, Eugene  
Yow, Maxine V.

### BRONZE Donations of \$100

Biery, Roger W.  
Bolt, Ron L.

Boyer, Robert E.  
\*Cabrera, Quirino  
Capozzoli, Albert A.  
Conklin, Harold  
Dostal, W (Dusty) A.  
Hall, Richard M.  
Henley, Elizabeth  
Henley, Joseph  
\*Higdon, John C.  
Morton, John E.  
Munson, Evelyn  
O'Neal, Jerry  
Owler, Robert  
Phillips, Elmer F.  
Spaulding, Richard  
\*Splain, Vincent F.  
\*Taylor, William C.  
Werner, Alexander  
Whitehead, Eugene

### GOLD Donations of \$500

Cordes, Fauno

### SILVER Donations of \$1,000

\*2006 OAEA Reunion Committee  
Baker, Billy-Ace  
Communicator Group Fund  
VX/VXE-6 Para-Rescue Team

## Antarctic Deep Freeze Association 2007 Reunion Corpus Christi Texas

Compiled by Billy-Ace Bakers

The ADFA reunion will be held at the Emerald Beach Holiday Inn, Corpus Christi, TX on Tuesday 8 May through Friday 11 May 2007. Details are available on the ADFA web page at: <http://www.oaedks.net/adfa.html>.

To become a member of the ADFA all you have to do is contact Membership Chairman, Dick Bowers at: [rbowersindy@comcast.net](mailto:rbowersindy@comcast.net), phone 317 280 1841, or 6404 Peace Place, Indianapolis, IN 46268. There are no membership dues required but Dick will want to know the details of your Antarctic Experience.

The ADFA has held eight national reunions and several mini-reunions at various locations in the United States. The reunion is being hosted by Ava Gibson, Karen Loveland, and Sheila Kenny, all daughters of deceased ADFA member HM1 Floyd Woody who served during DF-I at McMurdo and DF-II at South Pole Station. Bill Stroup, coordinator of several past ADFA reunions, will assist the three ladies. See Point of Contact information on page 16.



## GLOSSARY OF SNOW AND ICE



Compiled and edited by Billy-Ace Baker

**Level Ice** — Floating ice with a flat surface that has been hummocked. Spanish equivalent: *Hielo plano*.

**Patch** — A collection of pack ice, less than 10 km across. Norwegian equivalent: *Lite isfelt*.

**Tide Crack** — The fissure at the line of junction between an immovable icefoot or ice wall and fast ice, the latter being subject to the rise and fall of the tide. French equivalent: *Crevasse de marée*.

**Weathering** — The process of ablation and accumulation, which gradually eliminates irregularities. German equivalent: *Verwitterung*.





## USS *Edisto* 2006 Reunion

*Compiled by Billy-Ace Baker*

The 2006 USS *Edisto* reunion was held in Chattanooga, Tennessee from 23–26 April 2006. Attending were 75 shipmates, 54 wives, and 6 guests.

According to the Association president, Virgil Paulk, there are currently 178 members in the association. Of the members in attendance were four Plank Owners. Vernon Clark, James MacGlaflin, Virgil Paulk, and Richard McKinnon. Richard remained aboard only long enough to move the *Edisto* from the San Pedro, CA commissioning site to Boston MA. The other three were aboard for the ship's first Arctic and Antarctic Expeditions.

The *Edisto* was launched on 29 May 1946 as AG-89 and was commissioned on 29 March 1947 at the Navy Supply Depot, San Pedro. On 28 January 1949 the ship was re-designated AGB-2. The *Edisto* participated in Operation Windmill (1947–48) along with sister ship USS *Burton Island* (AG-88). From 1949 through 1961 the USS *Edisto* deployed to the Arctic and Antarctica in



**USS Edisto Association Logo**

support of polar operations. While serving as a US Navy icebreaker, the *Edisto* deployed to Antarctica five times. In 1965 she was transferred to the US Coast Guard and following a collision with the USS *Mizar*, she was decommissioned in 1974.

Virgil said that the association has identified the names of 3206 crewmembers that served aboard the *Edisto* during the time she was a US Navy commissioned ship. Of that

number 1132 have been located, 929 are deceased, and the remaining 1145 have not yet been located.

According to Glenn Smith, outgoing president, the association is supported through member donations and payments of dues. Generous contributions have funded the *Edisto* domain name and web site located at: <http://www.ussedistoagb2.com>. These contributions over the years have paid for postage and mailing supplies, defrayed some of the cost of Gene Fettinger's thousands of telephone calls looking for lost shipmates and helped to fuel the interest in holding reunions.

The 2006 reunion was held at the Hilton Chattanooga Choo Choo Hotel. The 26-acre hotel had something to offer everyone including an electric trolley to downtown stores and shopping.

Weather was perfect for the three tours. Monday consisted of the A-tour involving the attractions on Look Out Mountain that included a short visit to the Battles of Chattanooga and a ride down the Inclined Railway. The B-tour went to Chickamauga Park, Gordon Lee Mansion, the Coke Ovens, and a tour of the small city of Chickamauga. That evening most of the group gathered at one of the hotel's numerous restaurants, the Station House, for dinner and entertainment by the wait staff.

Tuesday, the third and final tour was a visit to a restored 100-year-old carousel in Coolidge Park. This carousel had been abandoned in a New England amusement park over a century ago. A group of local investors found the tattered remains and hired a company of artists to restore the grand merry-go-round, adding new horses, sleds, and other animals so it could be admired at its present home in Coolidge Park. Everyone got to ride on the carousel. Eat your hearts out NE OAEA Chapter. Afterwards, the group walked down the Trail of Tears Passage before boarding the riverboat Southern Belle



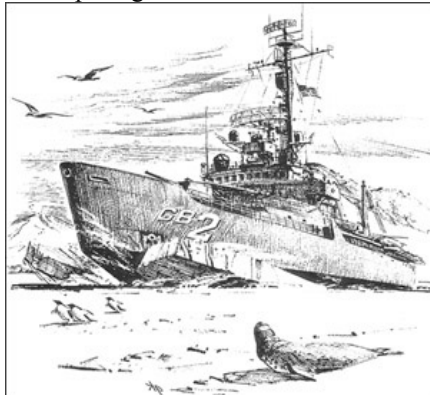
**1940s Crew (Back L to R): Heinz, Davis, McKinnon, Clark, and Paulk; (Center) Robertson, MacGlaflin, and Fannin; (Front) Andrews, and Werner.**



**1950s Crew (Back L to R): Downard, Spruill, Boyd, Newton, Dykas, Kinney, Cooper, Soucey, Conaway, Schardein, Koeing, Mollica, Gardner, and McPherson. (Center): Hausheer, Radashch, Nelson, Hunt, Purvis, Wood, Banyan, Stoop, Andersen, Griswold, Middleton, Mallet, Adam, and Marx. (Front): Stancill, Maisano, Patarini, Gaul, and Langlois.**

for lunch and a cruise on the Tennessee River.

Glenn Smith, his wife Kathie, Virgil & Odell Paulk, Jerry & Judy Downs, Faye & Warren Heidel, and Jim Meeks, assisted with registration and the Penn Station hospitality room that became the hang out for drinks and socials. Warren and Jim made sure that everyone at Penn Station had soda or beer to drink. The new Vice President Jerry Downs provided each person a gift in the form of a key chain fob with the ship's logo laser-etched on the side.



**USS Edisto from the DF-61 Cruise Book**

Bill (Tiny) and Cathy Gallant and Gene Fettinger monitored the Norfolk Room where the association photos, slide shows, CDs, VHS tapes, and other

memorabilia were on display for everyone's enjoyment. To raise funds for the association James Gardner sold cups, mugs, and picture frames with the ship logo engraved on them.

The business meeting was held on Wednesday the last day of the reunion. New officers were elected and a

nominating committee was selected to solicit candidates for the next reunion/election.

The banquet was held that evening, photos were taken that captured the 40s, 50s, and 60s eras in group sittings. The banquet started with the Viet Nam Veterans of America, Chapter 203 posting colors. According to Glenn Smith colors was followed by attendee Howell Purvis playing Taps in memory of deceased *Edisto* shipmates.

The evening started with the drawing of a special door prize, an album made by Cindy Johnson, daughter of Vernon & Charlotte Clark. It was donated by Cindy to help the *Edisto* Cash Fund. It was decided that the album be given as a door prize so that everyone would be given a chance to own it. One of the McPherson brothers present took it home. Many other door prizes were given away. Dancing to the tunes of a 20-piece band concluded the evening.

*Editor's Note: Part of this article was condensed from a report by Edisto Reunion Planner Glenn Smith. I am grateful to Glenn and Edisto Association President Virgil Paulk for giving me permission to use Glenn's report in the preparation of this article.*



**1960s Crew (Back L to R): Downard, Collins, Knauss, Heidel, Repic, Fettinger, Edwards, Downs, Breslen, T. McPherson, Smith, and J. McPherson; (Center): Duffy, Belcher, Weber, Seymour, Isachsen, Luttrull, Frary, Gallant, Morri, Mallet, Przybyszewski, and Marx; (Front): Jensen, Forant, Neilsen, Goheen, Hagen, Wilson, Ward, and Meeks.**



## Tidewater Group Meeting

By Ed Hamblin

The House of Eggs Restaurant in Norfolk hosted the "sort of" quarterly social get together for a group of Tidewater Old Antarctic Explorers on Saturday, 9 September. Two hours of networking and some new ice stories made the gathering most interesting.



**Neil Sugermeyer, Jim Silverstorf, Mark Ashcraft, John Strider, Les Kunde; kneeling, Charlie Thompson, Bill Raymus, Fred Nootnagel. Not pictured: Ed Hamblin, driving the camera.**

Two new Tidewater area OAEs were welcomed, Mark Ashcraft and Les Kunde. Both were Seabees with Naval Support Force, Antarctica. Mark wintered over at McMurdo during DF-80; Les spent several summers on the ice at McMurdo in the years from 1981-1984. An interesting note,



**FNGs Les Kunde and Mark Ashcraft**

here: The Tidewater bunch has been meeting together socially for about 5 years or so, and in that time, Mark and Les are only the second and third OAEs from the Seabee community to surface. They assured us they knew of others in Tidewater and would be in contact with them. Mark and Les were both Construction Mechanics, assigned to NSFA Public Works; their time on the ice spanned the years from when the civilian aircraft crashed on Mt. Erebus through the time when the heavy shop on the hill burned down.

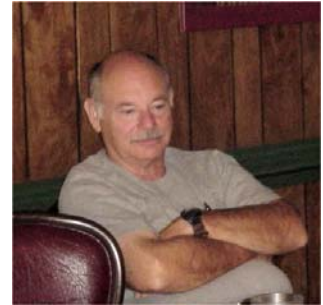
Two missing area regulars that are still on the "binnacle list" were Jake Bengel and Homar Hall. Besides Mark and

Les already mentioned above, also present were Bill Raymus, Fred Nootnagel, Jim Silverstorf, Charlie Thompson, Neil Sugermeyer, John Strider, and Ed Hamblin.

Besides "pumping" Mark and Les for their ice stories,



**John Strider**



**Jim Silverstorf**

Fred Nootnagel and Ed Hamblin tried to summarize what transpired at the OAEA symposium in Rhode Island for the group. As always, the two hours passed almost too quickly; but next quarter, the group will get together again and try to pick up where it left

off. The next social is set up for 3 PM, Saturday 2

December at The House of Eggs Restaurant in Norfolk. Set early in the month so it won't interfere with the holiday shopping frenzy. Tidewater area point of contact is Ed Hamblin in Chesapeake, phone 757 405-3362, e-mail ehamblin@cox.net. Hope to see you in December.



**Neil Sugermeyer and Bill Raymus**



**Mark Ashcraft DF-80**



**Les Kunde DF-83**

## NEW OAEA MEMBERS

The below listed personnel have joined the OAEA since the Jul-Sep 2006 issue of the *Gazette*.

Thanks to Dave Hazard, John "Dutchman", Dorpinghaus, and Garland Summerall for providing names of prospective members.

\*Denotes Associate member

Abbott, Dean LCDR	Life	VX-6 60-62
Baughman, T. H. Civ	Life	USARP DF-73 & 74
Beardsley, Edward, Civ	Life	TF-68 46-47
Birkett, Herbert E-8	Life	DF-IV
Bishop, Charles E-5	Life	VX/VXE-6 60-64 & 71-74
Boomer, Donald CE3	Annual	ASA DF-68
Burtis, William J. Civ	Annual	Byrd Station DF-65
Busch, Robert ADR3	Annual	VX-6 60-64
Channon, Grey Dr	Commem	Mawson WO 58
Chartier, Gerald QM3	Annual	USCGC <i>Eastwind</i> 60
Chiang, Erick Civ	Life	USAP 79 to present
Conklin, Garret RM2	*Life	Patch Historian
Cook, Casey Civ	Annual	RPSC FD DF-02
Cunningham, Gene CMC	Annual	ASA 59-61 62-63
Dodge, James RD3	Life	DF-60 on icebreaker
Dorrel, Alyce Spouse	Life	HMC WO Byrd DF-66
Drews, John Civ	Life	ITT DF-85
Elder, Tom AMSC	Annual	VXE-6 75-77 82-86
Farmer, David CEC	Life	ASA 62-66
Flynn, Daniel	Annual	CBU-201 & NNPU
Gamble, Kerry LT	Annual	NSFA 83-85
Gilpatrick, Sherry Civ	*Annual	Philatelic interest
Gilpatrick, Frank Civ	Annual	South Pole DF84 & 86
Gould, Warren SN	Life	USS <i>Pine Island</i> Highjump DF-67 & 68
Hall, John CN	Life	DF-67 & 68
Hart, David EON2	Life	MCB-1 Det B DF-62
Hartman, Susan Civ	Annual	Daughter of Glenn Hunt VX-6 Deceased
Havener, Mel CM1	Life	WO Pole DF-II & McMurdo DF-IV
Higdon, John Civ	Life	Navigator/Mate RV/IB <i>NBP</i> DF-99 to Present
Hollern, Joseph PRCM	Annual	VXE-6 89-92, 96-97
Honkola, Rudi Civ	Life	USARP WO Wilkes DF-II. Also WO DF-61 & 68 & SS DF-69
Hunt, Glenn ATCS	Commem	VX-6 DF-67 -68
Koski, Stephen ATCS	Life	VXE6/NSFA 79-82
Langfitt, Ronald ADJ1	Life	VXE-6 68-71
Lassiter, A. C. CDR	Life	TF-68 46-47
Lindberg, Arthur Mil	Life	ASA 71-73
Maish, Michael Civ	Annual	USARP Byrd Station DF-67 & Vostok 69
McKenna, Alfred AEC	Life	VXE-6 Para-Rescue 69-72
Mckenna, Nancy Civ	*Life	Spouse of Al
Norris, Lee LCDR	Life	VXE-6 68-70
Parsons, Fern Civ	*Life	
Pevehill, Bill RM2	Life	ASA WO DF-70
Phillips, James HMC	Life	VX-6 Para-Rescue 67
Rejcek, Peter Irl Civ	Annual	RPSC DF-03 -07

Richardson, Allen ASC	Life	VXE-6 70-73
Romey, William Civ	Life	MS <i>Explorer, Bremen, &amp; Explorer II</i> , 93 to present
Rymer, Harry Civ	Life	USCGC <i>Northwind</i> 45-47
Schafer, Robert AG2	Life	ASA DF-63
Seeber, Earl CDR	Life	MCB-8 DF-63
Smith, Glenn ET2	Life	USS <i>Edisto</i> 60-62
Smith, Herschel SH3	Life	USS <i>Philippine Sea</i> Highjump
Staiger, Daniel ADJC	Life	VXE-6 69-74
Steeves, Philip COL	Life	USAF ANG 2000
Stevens, Roger EO1	Annual	NSFA 81-85 93
Summerall, Garland EN2	Life	USS <i>Arneb</i> 62-64
Swenson, John EO1	Annual	CBU-201 67-69
Taube, Arden LT	Life	ASA DF-66
Taylor, William BUR2	Life	ASA DF-61
Thurston, Daniel BU3	Annual	CBU-201 DF-70
Tippen, Robert ADR2	Life	VX-6 60-62, 64-68
Toney, George Civ	Life	IGY Byrd Station WO SSL DF-II
West, Lenvil SN	Life	USS <i>Yancey</i> 46-47
Whitehead, James Civ	Life	Son of MC Whitehead
Whitehurst, J. O. Civ	Annual	Daughter of LT Odberth
Whitehurst, D. M. Civ	*Annual	Spouse of J. O.
Wolak, Richard Civ	Annual	USARP 72-80 92-94

## REUNION INFORMATION

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

**50<sup>th</sup> Reunion of the Establishment of Scott Base:** Christchurch, NZ, 19-21 January 2007. POC John Claydon, 89 Heaton St, Christchurch 8052, NZ, [john.ice@extra.co.nz](mailto:john.ice@extra.co.nz).

**All Seabee Reunion:** Gulfport/Biloxi, MS, 08-10 November 2006. POC Jerry Schmuck, 228 832 8491, [jschmuck@cableone.net](mailto:jschmuck@cableone.net).

**USS *Yancey* (AKA-93):** Chicago, IL, 1-4 November 2006. POC George Clifton, 708 425 8531, or [clifs@ameritech.com](mailto:clifs@ameritech.com). The USS *Yancey* served during Operation Highjump.

**Antarctic Deep Freeze Association (ADFA):** Corpus Christi, TX, 8-11 May 2007. Contact Sheila Keeney at [rustycallie@yahoo.com](mailto:rustycallie@yahoo.com), phone 361 528 3324, cell 361 318 9922, or mail: 726 San Patricio, TX 78390-3126. See page 12 for more information. Members of the ADFA participated in all phases of DF.

**American Polar Society Symposium:** Columbus, OH, 25-28 April 2007. POC and other details to be published later.

**Ohio Valley OAEA Group:** OH, 27-29 April 2007. POC Ed Waite, 937 233 0613, 660 Beatrice Drive, Dayton OH 45404, [ebw@thewaitegroup.com](mailto:ebw@thewaitegroup.com). See page 17 of this issue.





## OAE LOCATOR

Send locator notices to the editor at [upizauf@aol.com](mailto:upizauf@aol.com)

- Anthony Kretowicz is looking for Seabees who were on the ice during the 1981–85 period. His e-mail address is [akretowicz@eagle1st.com](mailto:akretowicz@eagle1st.com)
- Ted Giannini is looking for CM1 Ken Tuttle who wintered during DF-74. Ted can be contacted at: [theoec@cox.net](mailto:theoec@cox.net)
- Heather Vance is looking for anyone who remembers her father Donald Oakley. Don was a Navy chaplain who wintered over at McMurdo Station in DF-67. Heather can be reached at: [dovesong@bellsouth.net](mailto:dovesong@bellsouth.net), or 1217 Kelly Court, Franklin, TN, 37064, phone is 615 319 2871.
- SSgt Jason Bell, USMC is looking for his natural father. Jason was born on 10 November 1971 in Christchurch. His birth mother Pat McIlroy tells him that his father was an American pilot, blonde and tall, over 6ft. His aunt, Lorraine McIlroy and Robert Bell, an MR2, who wintered over, adopted Jason. He can be contacted at: [jason.a.bell@usmc.mil](mailto:jason.a.bell@usmc.mil), phone 808 454 2258 or 808 294 1748, or 6273A Kaawa St, Kailua, HI, 96734
- Alison J. Ross is an architecture historian and is writing about the buildings located on the ANG base at Quonset Point, RI. In particular he is looking for information on the buildings and areas that were used by VXE-6 for training. Alison can be contacted at: [aross@e2M.net](mailto:aross@e2M.net), 703 273 7171 ext. 123, Engineering-Environmental Management, Inc, 3940 Pender Drive, Suite 120, Fairfax, VA 22030
- Alan is looking for someone to fill a temporary position as a radio/communications operator at Patriot Hills, Antarctica, this coming season. Dates are approximately mid-October 2006 to end of January 2007. If you are interested, contact Alan at: [vk0ld@yahoo.com](mailto:vk0ld@yahoo.com). To see pictures and info on Patriot Hills, visit Alan's Web page at: <http://www.geocities.com/vk0ld/home.html>.
- Vicky Scott is looking for Thomas Mullineaux who was in NZ around 1958–1960. He was based at Harewood and was involved with communications with the Air Force. Vicky can be contacted at: 142 Springvale Road, Wanganui New Zealand, ph 64-6-3477596. or by email at: [vicky.s@clear.net.nz](mailto:vicky.s@clear.net.nz).
- Charles Bruno is looking for VX-6 crewmembers from 1962–1964. Charles was on LC-130 48321. He can be contacted at: [brunomeow6@verizon.com](mailto:brunomeow6@verizon.com).
- Mary Taylor is looking for Jerry (Jerome) King who was a crewmember on a C-124 Globemaster of the 63rd Troop Carrier Wing TCS 18th Air Force on the first USAF flight over the South Pole on 26 October 1956. Mary can be reached at: [Maryduendesita@sbcglobal.net](mailto:Maryduendesita@sbcglobal.net).

- HM2 Sean Whitney of NAS Fallon NV has been tasked with locating surviving family members of Ben Micou. Ben was a member of VXE-6 who was killed on the ice on 13 October 1992. One of the hangars at Fallon is going to be named after Ben and the base would like to invite the family to the event. Sean can be contacted at: [emp8211@yahoo.com](mailto:emp8211@yahoo.com). NAS Fallon Search and Rescue BNHC NAS Fallon NV, 775-426-3451 or 775-247-5176.
- Rodney James is looking for information about Australian writer Alan Moorehead and painter Sidney Nolan who were guests of the US Navy at McMurdo during mid-January 1964. The trip was organized to inspect US bases in Antarctica and a number of scientific personnel were aboard including one man who was going to study the conditions American astronauts might encounter when they first ventured into space. His interest relates specifically to establishing where the Australian writer and painter went during the eight days they were there. Rodney can be reached by email at: [rodney.james@mornpen.vic.gov.au](mailto:rodney.james@mornpen.vic.gov.au), or at Mornington Peninsula Regional Gallery, Civic Reserve, Dunns Rd, Mornington, PO Box 650 Mornington, Vic 3931 Australia. Phone: 03 5977 2286.

### ACTIVITIES BY LOCALE

**New England Area**—The NE Chapter meets quarterly. POC Marty Diller at [mgdiller@blazenetme.net](mailto:mgdiller@blazenetme.net) or 207 729 0197.

**Gulf Coast Group**—Meeting information on page 19. POC Les Liptak at 850 492 1666, [lcliptak@hightec.com](mailto:lcliptak@hightec.com) or Billy-Ace Baker at 850 456 35506, [upizauf@aol.com](mailto:upizauf@aol.com)

**Tidewater Group**—Meeting information on page 15. POC Ed Hamblin at [ehamblin@cox.net](mailto:ehamblin@cox.net) or 757 405 3362.

**PNW Group**—Jerry Schleining is attempting to contact all OAEs in the PNW in order to have a get together and to start a chapter. Anyone living in Oregon, Washington, or Idaho who is interested should contact Jerry at: 3892 SW 8<sup>th</sup> St, Gresham, Oregon 97030, 503 661 2986, or [csmgis@verizon.net](mailto:csmgis@verizon.net)

**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](mailto:Kahlow@mac.com), or telephone: 708 383 378.

**West Coast Group**—POC Jim Maddox 661 945 0469, [jmaddflynav@cs.com](mailto:jmaddflynav@cs.com) or Bob Gaboury: 805 388 5755, [bobgaboury@aol.com](mailto:bobgaboury@aol.com).

**Ohio Valley: Formerly Spring Fling**—Ed Waite is again attempting to start an OAEA chapter. The area that he expects to attract members from consists of: Ohio, Pennsylvania, Indiana, Kentucky, Illinois, Michigan and West Virginia. Contact information for Ed is in the reunion column on page 16 of this issue.

## GULF COAST GROUP MEETINGS

by Billy-Ace Penguin Baker

Pensacola, Florida, Saturday 29 July 2006—Twenty-nine members and guests—guests included Cindy Liptak, Lynette Bishop, Jeanette Norris, and James Lynch—turned out for our “Deep Freeze During the 60s” meeting. This was the first of the “What it was like when I was on the ice” series. Three OAEs told fascinating stories about their *Antarctic Experience*.

Bill Fazio, VX-6 helicopter crewmember DF-66, 67, and 68 was the first speaker and he related how he was originally scheduled to winter-over but talked his buddy Buzz Bramble into taking his place. Bill had a box full of interesting rock specimens he had collected during his three summer seasons on the ice. In order to illustrate where he had found the rocks Bill had a large folding map of Ross Island and the Dry Valleys which Charlie “Mighty Fine” Henke held up while Bill pointed out the locations where he had found his small treasures. Mount Fazio in Victoria Land was named for Bill.



Bill Fazio

was seriously injured in a fall. Other significant events that Jim talked about was the fatal crash of VX-6 LC-47 on 2 February in which all six crewmembers were killed and the accidental death of SK2 Andrew Moulder five days later, on 7 February, at South Pole Station.

The third and final speaker was Lennie Bourgeois, VX-6 LC-130 Flight Engineer during DF-67 and 68. During his talk Lennie referred to his logbook to confirm dates and locations, but at one point he called on Ed Feeney to confirm some minute detail.

During Lennie’s dissertation Cindy Liptak stood nearby and listened raptly with a look of wonderment and awe on her face. Lennie had words of praise



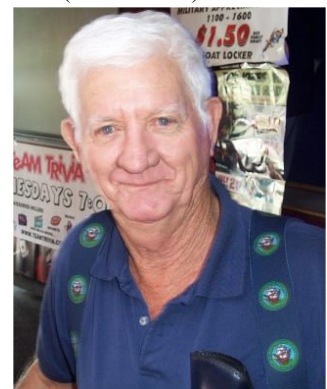
Lennie inspecting his Last Frontier license plate before leaving home for the Gulf Coast OAEA meeting

for some of the pilots he served with while in the squadron and some less complimentary words about other pilots. Unknown at the time of the meeting, one of the pilots that Lennie mentioned, LCDR Bill Kurlak, died in Pensacola on 28 July 2006. See *In Memory* on page 11.

In December of 1967, Lennie participated in the MedEvac of Doctor Brotherhood from British Antarctic Survey Halley Bay Station in the Antarctic Peninsula area. At the time this was the longest mercy flight in Antarctic History. The pilot, CDR Fred Schneider received a DFC; the crew received Air Medals for the mission. In addition to the Air Medal, Bourgeois Nunataks was named for Lennie. One of the things that sticks in my memory about that particular MedEvac is that the personnel at Halley Bay used Brown Swiss chocolate mix to mark out a skyway.

Les asked first-time attendees Laura Snow and Gene Witsman to stand and introduce themselves. Laura is the daughter of Ashlee Snow who was a pilot during the United States Antarctic Service Expedition (1939–1941). Gene is a retired weather guesser who wintered-over during DF-64 and summer support during DF-65. He lives in Fort Walton Beach and Laura is a Pensacola resident.

Pam Landy collected the money for, and distributed the 50/50 raffle tickets. Laura Snow was asked to draw a ticket from the duty hot-wing basket. George Griffin was the happy winner and he took home \$53 as his share.



George Griffin



Janette & Jim Norris

The second 60s era speaker was Jim Norris. Jim was a hospital corpsman in the DF-66 ASA Det Alfa winter-over party. To illustrate his account of the highlights of his tour Jim brought along several cruise books and a series of framed

pen-and-ink penguin drawings. The drawings, created by Jim, depicted penguins in various activities and were used as illustrations in the winter-over section of the ASA DF-66 cruise book. Jim’s drawings represent the various detachment departments engaged in day-to-day activities. One of the highlights of the long winter night was the mid-winter MedEvac of Robert Mayfield who



Radioman and Electronics Tech Penguins Representing the Communications Department



Chuck Bishop, VX-6 DF-64 who has attended several Gulf Coast Group meetings, submitted his application and dues for a life membership. His wife Jeanette, a Christchurch girl, asked for an application and said that she plans on joining as an Associate Member before the next meeting.

Billy-Ace gave a short talk on the trials and tribulations of the 2006 OAEA Election; including the late or non-receipt of ballots by some members and the numerous recounts of the ballots. Hopefully the 2008 election will not be encumbered with similar problems.

Les made a few announcements and wished everyone attending the RI Symposium God speed, smooth sailing, and happy days. There being no further business the meeting was adjourned until our next meeting in September.

For the first time since our 3 December 2004 meeting, the Gulf Coast Group had a change of venue. The 23 September meeting was held at the Cubi Point Café Bar at the National Museum of Naval Aviation onboard Naval Air Thirty-seven members and guest attended to hear Gary Skaar and Billy Blackwelder give their versions of what it was like on the ice during the 1970s. Both Billy and Gary have a sense of humor so their stories produced a lot of laughs. However, Gary did have a serious side and he



**Gary telling it like it was during DF-70**



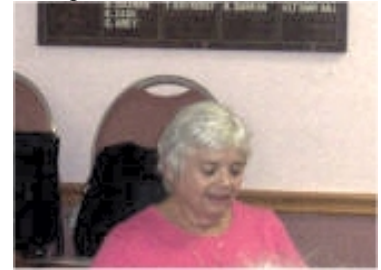
**Mitzi and Don Emmons enjoying lunch**

spoke about helicopter support he provided to a scientific field party who were looking for mammal fossils at Coal Sack Bluff. His presentation was accented with plant and animal fossils that he passed around.

Blackwelder recently converted his 8mm movie reels to DVD and one of them, accompanied by music from Yanni's *Antarctica*, was shown while early arrivals had lunch and socialized from 1100 until the meeting started at 1300. Blackwelder related a tale about the Marble Point nurses. He may have gone high-tech by converting his 8mm movies, but he has not upgraded his brain-housing group. He was unable to operate the DVD remote; Charlie Henke's 4-year-old daughter, Maya, came to his rescue when she volunteered to do it for him.

New OAEA life member John Higdon gave a brief impromptu talk about his recent trip to the ice as the Third Mate on the RV/IB (Research Vessel/Ice Breaker) *Nathaniel B. Palmer*. John brought along some copies of the *Polar Times* and various brochures about the NBP and other Antarctic activities. John will be leaving soon for another deployment to Antarctica on the NBP, but we hope to have him as a future guest speaker upon his return.

One of the guests was Dolly Gibbons, a museum volunteer, who attended as a guest of Les Liptak. Although Dolly has never shared the Antarctic Experience she had an interesting career as a FEDEX pilot and we hope to have Dolly back as a guest speaker.



**Dolly Gibbons retired FEDEX pilot**

Before the meeting was adjourned, it was announced that the October meeting would be held in the museum atrium at 12:45 on Tuesday 31 October. It should come as no surprise that this date was selected because it will commemorate the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the first aircraft landing at the Geographic South Pole. We are hoping for a large turnout to celebrate this important date in Antarctic history and to honor the pilot of the *Que Sera Sera*, our own Gus Shinn.



**Billy-Ace submits a proposed letter for the 50th Anniversary meeting to Billy Blackwelder**

Jim McCearny won the 50/50 drawing and took home \$48 as his share of the pot.

Special thanks to Glen Harris for conducting the 50/50 drawing and to Lennie Bourgeois for providing the photos for this article.



**Glen Harris and Lennie ready for action**

## OAEA MERCHANDISE




### Ball Cap & 2002 Reunion Pin

**Navy Blue Ball Cap with embroidered OAEA patch.** The ball cap is \$15 plus \$2 shipping and handling.

**2002 OAEA Reunion Pin.** This pin was not available at the 2002 reunion. Reunion pins were produced for the Oxnard and Warwick OAEA reunions and attendees have asked about a similar pin for the 2002 reunion. At last the pins are available for \$5 each plus \$2 shipping and handling. This is a cloisonné pin and measures 1 ¼ X ¾ inches.

**Special Offer:** For a limited time you can have the ball cap and the pin for a total of \$20. Send orders to [upizauf@aol.com](mailto:upizauf@aol.com) or 850 456 3556. 10819 Berryhill Road, Pensacola FL 32506-6201



### POLO SHIRTS

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>. Part of the sales price of these shirts is returned to the OAEA treasury and in addition, 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.

**OAEA polo shirts may also be ordered by dialing this toll free number: 877 766 9423.**

## OAEA Pin & Patch

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

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



## OAEA COMMEMORATIVE COINS

OAEA commemorative coin sets, as well as individual coins, are still available. The coin below has an antique pewter finish. The price of \$10 includes shipping and handling and as usual part of the proceeds from the sale of this coin, and all OAEA coins, will be donated to the OAEA.

Postage and handling will vary by number of coins ordered and class of mail service.



### OAEA Coin Price List:

- \$30.00 — .999 fine silver. 1 troy ounce in blue case
- \$25.00 — .999 fine silver. 1 troy ounce in snap case
- \$15.00 — Antique bronze. Bagged
- \$12.00 — Brass. Bagged
- \$ 2.00 — Aluminum. Bagged
- \$10.00 — 6 Aluminum. Bagged
- \$75.00 — Full set. 1 of each coin (\$9.00 savings)
- \$80.00 — Full set. 1 of each coin plus 5 extra aluminum (\$12.00 savings)

**NOTE: For a limited time only, 1 Antique Pewter Coin will be included free of charge with each \$75 or \$80 set ordered.**

To order contact me first at the below address, or via email at [upizauf@aol.com](mailto:upizauf@aol.com) or by phone at (850) 456 3556.

Billy-Ace Baker  
10819 Berryhill Road  
Pensacola Florida 32506-6201 USA