



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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San Diego, California Night Launch of USNS Richard E. Byrd

USNS Richard E. Byrd, (T-AKE-4) Launching Ceremony

Compiled by Billy-Ace Baker

Laura Kissel, Byrd Polar Research Center, and

OAEA President, John Lamont West, contributed to this article.

THE SECOND SHIP TO BE NAMED IN HONOR OF THE FAMOUS Navy polar explorer was launched on 15 May 2007 in San Diego, CA at the NASSCO Shipyard. The U.S Navy's newest re-supply ship, USNS *Richard E. Byrd* is a dry cargo/ammunition ship designed and built by General Dynamics. The mission of the ship will be to deliver ammunition, provisions, stores, spare parts, potable water, and petroleum products to strike groups and other naval forces.

A 1912 graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy and a Naval Aviator, Byrd (1888–1957), explored the North Pole

region by air in May 1926. He was awarded the Medal of Honor for the flight. Two and a half years later, Byrd began his first expedition to Antarctica. He commanded the first flight over the South Pole on 29 November 1929. Byrd completed four more expeditions to the Antarctic continent over the next 26 years, including Operation Deep Freeze in 1955 the IGY expedition that established seven U.S. stations in Antarctica .

Speakers at the launching ceremony included The Honorable Donald C. Winter, Secretary of the Navy; [See: Byrd Launching on page 4.](#)

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

John Lamont West—OAEA President

TO ALL OAEs—In my previous President's Corner, I mentioned that the Old Antarctic Explorer's Association was seeking nominations or volunteers to fill several vacant committee positions. In this issue, it is my pleasure to announce the following OAEs have accepted the challenge to serve our fine organization.



It is my pleasure to announce that OAE Ed Hamblin has agreed to serve as the OAEA Scholarship Committee Chairman. Several highly competitive individuals applied for scholarships for school year 2007–2008. The OAEA Scholarship Fund has reached the position that a small award could be granted to one of the candidates. See the scholarship article on page 20 for more information.

It is my pleasure to announce that OAE Bob (Gabby) Gaboury has agreed to serve as the OAEA 2008 Election Committee Chairman. As 2008 draws near, Gabby will be soliciting volunteers to fill vacancies in several offices of the OAEA. Your support will be needed. You will be asked to step forward with self-nominations to serve your organization in a number of varying capacities.

Ed Waite reported that the 2007 Deep Freeze Spring Fling conducted in Fairborn, Ohio during late April was a resounding success. Thank you, Ed, for the tremendous effort that you put forward to accomplish such a spectacular event.

On 15 May, I was privileged to attend the launching of the USNS *Richard E. Byrd* (T-AKE-4). The evening was memorable as the US Marine Corps San Diego Band played several numbers. The guest speakers spoke highly of Admiral Byrd's polar accomplishments and of the service that the vessel named in his honor will be providing to the fleet in the years to come. As Admiral Byrd's eldest daughter, Bolling Byrd Clarke, christened the ship and USNS *Richard E. Byrd* slid down the ways into San Diego Bay, balloons and fireworks illuminated the skyline.

Anyone interesting in serving the OAEA as Chapter Committee Coordinator is requested to contact me or one of the members of the OAEA Board of Directors. I may be reached at westjl42@aol.com.

Your recommendations and suggestions concerning those areas that you perceive as satisfactory, as well as in those areas where you feel that the OAEA could be improved, are solicited by me, your President of the Old Antarctic Explorers Association.

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

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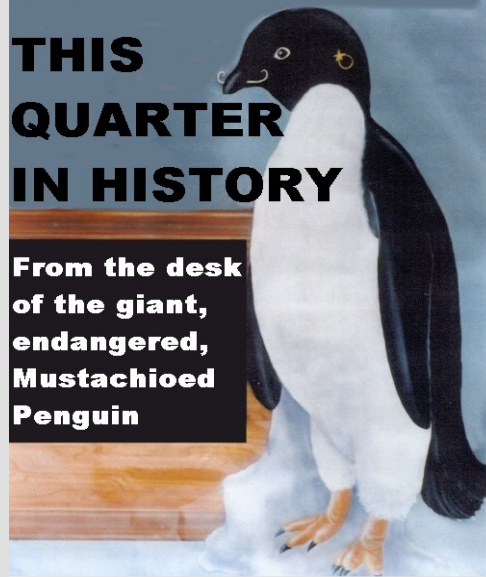
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THIS QUARTER IN HISTORY

From the desk of the giant, endangered, Mustachioed Penguin



April Events

- 01 Apr 1901 Skelton and Shackleton pull April Fools joke on crew at breakfast.
- 15 Apr 1916 Frank Wild sets out to find a safer camp on Elephant Island for the *Endurance* crew.
- 06 Apr 1940 The evening movie, *Dark Victory*, at the USASE West Base was spoiled due to the last reel being missing.
- 09 Apr 1967 PM-3A Nuclear reactor scammed at 0943.
- 18 Apr 1971 Unknown thieves break into the McMurdo Public Works Office and stole the Public Works Officer's (aka Goofy Grape) entire cache of Mushroom Soup.

May Events

- 28 May 1916 Norwegian Whaler *Southern Sky* fails for second time to get through to rescue the men on Elephant Island.
- 10 May 1916 *James Caird* reaches South Georgia after an exhausting and hazardous three weeks journey.
- 08 May 1965 Carl Disch USARP ionospheric physicist disappears at Byrd Station.
- 27 May 1971 The PM-3A Panthers basketball team defeated the DispenZarps 58–36.
- 01 May 1997 FCCM Charles Gallagher, USN (Ret) dies from apparent heart attack at McMurdo.

June Events

- 21 Jun 1904 *Discovery* crew celebrates Mid-Winter Day en route to New Zealand.
- 21 Jun 1940 USASE crew celebrates Mid-Winter Day by sleeping in until noon and having Turkey dinner with all the trimmings.
- 21 Jun 1956 DF-I McMurdo OIC LCDR Davis Canham decides to hold mid-winter Day celebrations on Friday night (22 June) in order to have a 48-hour holiday.

USNS *Richard E. Byrd* From page 1

Frederick J. Harris, President, General Dynamics NASSCO; Rear Admiral Charles H. Goddard, USN; and, Rear Admiral Robert D. Reilly, Jr., USN, Commander, Military Sealift Command (principal speaker). Mrs. Bolling Byrd Clarke, Admiral Byrd's oldest daughter and the ship's sponsor, christened the ship by breaking the traditional bottle of champagne against its bow.

were present at the launching of this newest ship named in honor of Admiral Byrd were recognized during the launching ceremony.



USS *Richard E. Byrd* (DDG-23)

the Navy in November 2007. When the USNS *Richard E. Byrd* joins the fleet, its primary mission will be to deliver more than 10,000 tons of food, ammunition, fuel, and other provisions to combat ships at sea.



Count Down Clock at Launching of REB



L/R Navy Secretary Donald Winter looks on as Matron of Honor Marie Giossi, Bolling Byrd Clarke Ships Sponsor, & NASSCO President Fred Harris Breaks Champagne bottle on the Ship's Bow

The T-AKE class incorporates international marine technologies and commercial ship-design features, including an integrated electric-drive propulsion system, to minimize operating costs over its projected 40-year service life.



Bolling Byrd Clarke Ship's Sponsor

The contract to build the ship was awarded to NASSCO (National Steel and Shipbuilding Company) of San Diego, California on 18 July 2003. She was launched from the building ways into the San Diego Bay on the evening of 15 May 2007; Bolling Byrd Clarke broke the ceremonial bottle of champagne on the ship's bow to start the launch amid fireworks and fanfare. The ship is scheduled to be part of the Pacific Fleet.

Rear Admiral Charles H. Goddard, USN, program executive officer, praising the T-AKE class of ships, in his comments remarked: "The T-AKE ship we will launch today is not just 25,000 tons of steel. It is 25,000 tons of quality, technology, and support to the naval forces. God bless the crew of USNS *Richard E. Byrd* and America."

The first ship to be named after Admiral Byrd was the USS *Richard E. Byrd* (DDG-23) a guided missile destroyer that served from 1964 to 1990. Several plank owners of DDG-23 who

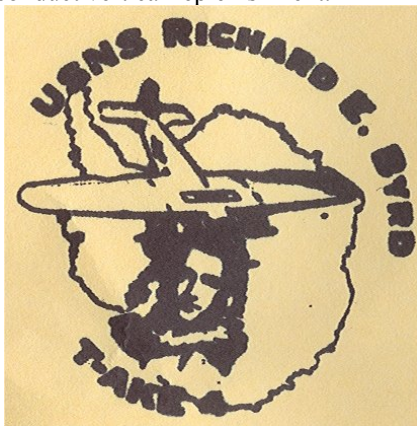
USNS *Richard E. Byrd* is the fourth of 11 dry cargo-ammunition ships being built for the Navy that include Lewis and Clark (T-AKE-1), Sacagewea (T-AKE-2), and Alan Shepard (T-AKE-3). NASSCO began constructing the 689-foot-long ship in February 2006. The ship is scheduled to be delivered to

"This ship is a great acquisition for the United States and a great advancement for the Navy," said Secretary of the Navy Donald C. Winter. "A great ship like this will provide the support for all the activities overseas for the next 40 or more years."

Designed to operate independently for extended periods at sea while

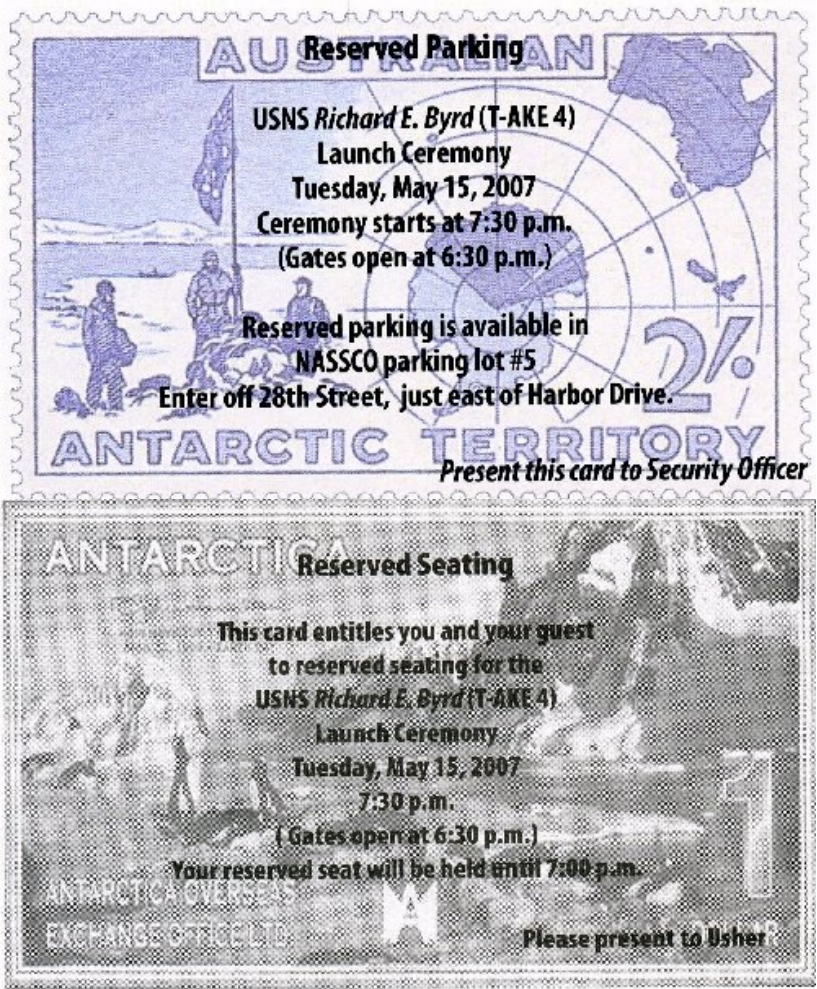
providing replenishment services to U.S., NATO, and allied ships, the USNS *Richard E. Byrd* will directly contribute to the ability of the Navy to maintain a worldwide forward presence. Ships such as the USNS *Richard E. Byrd* provide logistic lift from sources of supply either in port or at sea from specially equipped merchant ships. The ship will transfer cargo, such as ammunition, food, limited quantities of fuel, repair parts, ship store items, and expendable supplies and material, to ships and other naval warfare forces at sea.

The USNS *Richard E. Byrd* is 689 feet in length, has an overall beam of 106 feet, a navigational draft of 30 feet, and displaces about 42,000 tons with a full load. Powered by a single-shaft diesel-electric propulsion system, the ship can reach a speed of 20 knots. As part of the Military Sealift Command's Naval Fleet Auxiliary Force, the ship will be designated as a U.S. Naval Ship and will be crewed by 124 civil service merchant marines. The ship will also have a military detachment of 11 Sailors to provide operational support and supply coordination, and when needed, the ship will carry a helicopter detachment consisting of two helicopters and 39 military personnel to conduct vertical replenishment.



USNS Richard E. Byrd philatelic rubber stamp (cachet) image that was on a manila envelope mailed to the Gazette Editor by NASSCO PAO

The RSVP invitations sent to the invitees included cards for reserved parking and reserved seating cleverly, done on enlarged versions of an Australian Antarctic Territory postage



stamp and an Antarctic Overseas Exchange Currency \$1 bill.

OAEA President John Lamont West was in attendance and although he said that he didn't see anyone that he knew, he did say: "I bumped into Mike and Laura Kissel shortly after the launching ceremony concluded" John further stated: "I had the opportunity to chat with them after I backed into the bumper of the rental car they were driving". According to Laura Kissel: "Yes, he backed his pickup truck right into the rear bumper of our rental car. These things happen". Apparently there was no discernible damage to either vehicle.

Laura said: "The ceremony was really spectacular! I've never been to anything like this before, so I was very impressed. The ship itself was huge, and festooned with buntings and red, white, and blue balloons. At the moment of the

launch, red, white, and blue streamers unfurled from the bow, and fireworks were set off. Bolling Byrd Clarke, accompanied by her daughters, Lee Clarke Byrd and Marie Clarke Giossi, christened the ship. Many employees of NASSCO were in attendance. They obviously had a lot of pride in this ship. The San Diego Marine Corps Band provided the music, which was all patriotic in nature and perfect for this event. I enjoyed it tremendously."

And Laura added: I didn't see anyone else at the event that I knew, but there were literally hundreds of people. Many of the Byrd family were in attendance, included children. The family looked like they were having lots of fun together, like a big family reunion for them.

Editor's Note: Laura Kissel is on the staff of the Byrd Polar Research Center at Ohio State University.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Billy-Ace:

Thank you for the gift membership in the OAEA. I have always been interested in the South Pole (sic) and was not aware of the group until the 50th Anniversary of the South Pole landing celebration at the Naval Aviation museum where I volunteer. I hope the Gulf Coast Group likes the pictures I have taken of the activities.

Mary Lou Platt

Editor's Note: Mary Lou is a volunteer at the Naval Aviation Museum. The Gulf Coast Group inducted her into the OAEA. She first became interested in Antarctica when her son applied for the Antarctic Boy Scout program, but he didn't pursue the assignment because he received an appointment to Annapolis. Mary Lou is also a volunteer at the Pensacola Library. When she is able to attend GCG meetings she photographs everyone in attendance and carefully documents the subject of each of her photographs.

Dear Billy:

This is a "no shitter" about my hero Jim Landy. One night we arrived in ChiChi on a flight from Mac Town and we all went to the SPO Club for a few drinks. We--the crew of XD 03 (or was it XD 06?)--were standing there just about to down some well deserved adult beverages and the OOD walked in and asked if we were from the flight that just arrived from the Ice. Jim turned around, (beer in hand) and replied, "Yes!" And the OOD told us that they had another bird up and ready to go to the ICE and we were going to do a "turn around" flight and go right back. Jim replied, "I can't take this crap any more." As I remember it he took his Ray Ban Triple gradient sunglasses off (or out of his pocket as it was night and I don't think he had them on.) and threw them on the floor and stepped on them with his "Herman Nelson Survivor Boots" and said, "I can't see this crap anymore" Then he took his watch off his wrist and threw it on the floor and stomped on it and said, "I don't have time for this crap anymore." Then he threw himself on the floor and started rolling around and said, "I can't stand for this crap any more."

Everyone stared in amazement. It was a beautiful moment to see a senior enlisted Sailor seriously push the envelope. But at the end of his tirade Jim got up off the deck and put down the beer without a drop touching his lips and we all reported to Penguin Ops and headed back to the Ice.

I am pretty sure there was another Flight Engineer in the bar at the time. His

name is Virgil Harris and, if you don't believe me, he could confirm this story.

I admired Jim Landy so much--I never found my place in the Navy and I guess that is why I left.

I have had a very successful career with TRW Defense and Space Systems now owned by Northrop Grumman but I would not trade my five years with VXE-6 for my 25 years with Northrop Grumman.

Sincere Regards

PH2 Richard L. Horton

Editor's Note: This was a plausible story until the narrator stated that Virgil Harris was a witness. Now I am not so sure of Horton's credibility.

Hi Billy,

Another great job on the Gazette. Great issue with all the photos and specials. I really look forward to this each time it's published. Gives me a chance to remember some of the best moments in my Navy career with some of the finest Navy men around (no women during my time). Thanks for all your efforts.

Tom Orr

VXE-6 67-69

Hi Billy-Ace:

We hope you had a grand time at the ADFA gathering. Pictures, perhaps?

Buz sold a few of the tumblers at the OAEA Spring Fling and we donated two of them to the raffle. He currently has 13 tumblers remaining so maybe you can remind folks in the next Gazette?

Sam Dryfoose

Editor's Note: This may be the last chance to own an OAEA Tumbler. They are \$15 each or four for \$40. The tumbler is six inches tall and will hold 12 ounces of your favorite beverage. Shipping and handling will vary based on number of tumblers ordered. Anyone interested should contact Buz at: buzsam@aol.com or 812 988 2637.



Billy-Ace,

Vol 7, Issue 1, was a great Gazette. I read it all even though I do not know many of the OAEs. Great job, but I couldn't find the 2006 archives.

Aloha, Tony Herman

Editor's Note: Tony was not the only member who noticed that the 2006 Gazette archives had not been posted. The link has since been activated and the 2006 archives are now available on the OAEA web site.

New England Chapter Spring Meeting

By Marty Diller,

New England Chapter Secretary-Treasurer

With almost six months since their last meeting, New England Chapter members took advantage of a rare, mild day during this year's (so far) unusually cold Spring weather, and turned out in record numbers to meet in southern Maine on the last day of March. Chapter VP, Fred Santino, located a site large enough to handle more than 50 people. It was a good thing he did because 62 attendees—including 44 members—showed up at the Bull N'Claw, a steak and seafood restaurant on US Rt. 1 in the town of Wells.

Chapter Business

The business meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance, led by Charlie 'CB' Bevilacqua, who customarily provides the US and POW/MIA flags at all Chapter meetings for this purpose. The US flag is the official South Pole Station flag and had just arrived from Pole, compliments of Jerry Marty, NSF's South Pole Station Construction, and Maintenance Manager.

Under "Old Business" the problem of Chapter Member Dues was reviewed. At the last meeting, a Dues Committee was formed, and in October, letters were sent to all members reminding them of their dues status. In addition, the Committee conducted a 'Dues Drive' during the Jan-Feb timeframe, in which volunteers

telephoned members who had not responded to the October dues letter. As a result of the Committee's efforts, the Chapter saw a 130 percent increase in dues payments, and now over 75 percent of the members' dues are up to date—a substantial increase from just 35 percent dues paying members at the last meeting.

The most significant new item of business addressed at the meeting involved plans to add new web pages to the Chapter's website. Webmaster Anne Hazard outlined plans to develop:

- **"Dedicated "Oral History" page.** With the Byrd Polar Research Center's polar history program unfunded at this time, the primary goal for this web page is to provide links to other sites where OAEs can go to record their experiences in Antarctica. This page is under construction at this time, but finding an Air Force history website to link to has proven to be a challenge.

- **"Educators" webpage.** Intended to provide educators and others a source for information about Antarctica. An "Education" Committee of volunteers will need to be formed to identify and carry out the Committee's primary goals, which are envisioned to include, but not be limited to:

- Web page development and design,

- Compilation of a list of OAEs for a "Speakers Bureau", members of which would make presentations about "Living and Working in the Antarctic" to school children and

other interested groups and organizations throughout New England, and

—Develop media for presentation use and assist Speaker Bureau members in making these presentations.

- **Interested volunteers** are encouraged to identify themselves to Anne Hazard (207-353-9068).



Whit Whitney, Bob Epperly, and Al Lishness. Bob Sexton sits in front.

Featured Presentation

One of the inspirations for establishing a Chapter "Educators" web page involves Rye, NH, middle school teacher Robin Ellwood, who was the guest speaker for this meeting. Robin has a BA in Zoology and regularly goes to Antarctica as part of NSF's Teachers Experiencing Antarctica (TEA) Program. Robin was kind enough to lend some cold weather gear to the 2006 Reunion Committee for display last year, and Anne Hazard has since come to better know her and her involvement with NSF through TEA. During the past summer season, Robin was dive master for a team working in the Dry Valleys' lakes where they gathered data on lake temperature, light levels, PH, salinity, oxygen and sulfur levels, etc. She has been invited to permanently join the team as dive master, which would mean going back to Antarctica every other year. Her slide and video presentation, *Secrets below the Ice* was very well received by meeting attendees, and included info on some of the science she was involved with, as well as fascinating photos and



Jim Kelly (left foreground), John Janke, Dave Dubois, John Hollo (top, center), Cora Thomas, Gloria Hollo, and Mike Hall. Bev Diller in right foreground.

video of the Antarctic landscape and underwater life.



Guest Speaker, Robin Ellwood, and her pal, Puckered Pete.

Other New England Chapter News

Secretary Marty Diller briefed the group on proposed administrative changes to the Chapter's Article of Incorporation: (1) delete two articles not required by the state of Maine, and (2) reword the Chapter's statement of purpose to match that of the Association (the Association's statement of purpose was changed by the OAEA Board of Directors in October 2006). Members in attendance approved both changes in a vote by show of hands.

Fundraising

Reunion logo merchandise, including t-shirts, coffee cups, etc. were the

featured items for sale at the meeting, and OAEA logo ball caps were also available. Also, the Chapter has



Quentin Risher (USS Arneb, DF-II-IV) shares Ice memories with Dean Abbott (VX-6, 61 & 62), and his son John.

obtained a quantity of Noel Gillespie's book about VX-/VXE-6, *Courage Sacrifice Devotion*, and is selling them for \$25.00 to raise funds. A bookplate signed by the author accompanies each book. Reunion merchandise found its way into the day's raffle drawing as well. All raffle prizes were either donated by Chapter members, the Reunion Committee, or provided by the Chapter. Winners included:

- Bob Berube (CBU-201 68-69), brownie mix in penguin packaging,
- Charlie Bevilacqua (MCB Special DF-I & II), 50th Anniversary Cover of *Que Sera Sera* landing at the South Pole,
- Bob Busch (VX-6 61-64), OAEA ball cap,
- Hank Campbell (MCB-8 DF-63), Dr. Jerri Nielsen's book, *Icebound* on tape,

- Barry Chase (VX-6, DF-60, 61, 65, 66-68), set of two penguin candles,
- Barbara Chase (spouse), set of two lanterns from Reunion banquet,
- Ed Cunningham (ASA 65-66), set of two lanterns from Reunion banquet,
- John Dever (NNPU DF-61), bottle of 'the Little Penguin' Australian Chardonnay,
- Bob Epperly (VX-6 DF-III & IV) handmade leather mouse pad,
- Jim Kelly (ASA Det C 72-74), set of penguin earrings and handmade stained-glass penguin sun catcher,
- Bob McGarry (VX-6 61-62), penguin toy,
- Karen Newquist, penguin ice cube trays,



Karen Newquist is all smiles after winning a penguin ice cube tray.

- Nick Pellegrino (VXE-6 71-72), framed penguin photos, brownie mix in penguin packaging, and bottle of 'the Little Penguin' Australian Chardonnay,
- Quentin Risher (USS Arneb DF-II-IV), set of two lanterns from Reunion banquet.

Meeting Schedule

The next OAEA-NE Chapter meeting is scheduled for 1:00pm on Saturday, 23 June 2007. Fred Santino has volunteered to lead the hunt for a suitable meeting site in western Massachusetts, in an attempt to entice our Vermont members to come out and join us. OAEs in nearby central NY State will also be notified about the June meeting.



Watching the presentation "Secrets Below the Ice": John Dever, Kathy Donovan, Marilyn Smith, Dawn Dever, Art Smith, and Carl & Nancy McKenna.

WELCOME TO ANTARCTICA

By Billy Crowe

“Welcome to Antarctica, folks, and Mr. Crowe, welcome back”. Those were the words that greeted me as I stepped back onto Antarctic soil 50 years after first being on the ice with Operation Deepfreeze II in 1956. Several months ago my wife and I made the trip there with a tour group, flying from Jacksonville, FL, to Dallas to Santiago, Chile, and then a four-hour flight to Punta Arenas, Chile. There we boarded the *Nordnorge*, a Norwegian Cruise Line ship, for a fourteen-day cruise. We selected a smaller ship as they are allowed to go ashore on the continent of Antarctica using the PolarCirkel boats. The *Nordnorge* had its own fleet of these landing vessels for shore excursions, carrying eight passengers, and a staff member. There were about 235 passengers on board from many countries and we learned, that for many, Antarctica was the last continent they were to visit. We were in the company of some serious travelers.

After leaving Punta Arenas, we sailed the scenic Magellan Strait and made a close pass by Tucker Island, famous for its colony of Magellanic penguins. Everyone was on deck to see the penguins and take pictures. We wondered what the penguins thought of us, with our similar blue & black expedition jackets that had been issued to everyone on board. We all looked alike, so did the penguins! That evening there were lectures about the area—animals, history, plants of the region, and a movie about Chile.

Traveling thru the Paseo de Montanas, there were rocks and glaciers on either side, and it made for some beautiful camera shots. We docked later that day at Puerto Natales in the heart of Patagonia, and had an opportunity to walk around the city.

Leaving Puerto Natales, we cruised the 150-mile long Beagle Channel to the southernmost part of Patagonia and the beautiful Chilean Fjords. The weather was beautiful and the captain was able to make a close pass by one of the many glaciers.



Steps from "PolarCirkel" boats to top of Cape Horn (about 100 steps in all)

We arrived at Puerto Williams, one of the world's southernmost towns and, later that day, made a visit to Cape Horn at the southern tip of South America by PolarCirkel boats. It was a wonderful experience, and although it was a long climb to the top on wooden stairs, the view was magnificent and well worth it. We saw the monument in the form of a large relief sculpture depicting an albatross in flight, and the lighthouse.



Albatross statue on Cape Horn

Thanksgiving Day found us cruising the Drake Passage that connects the southern Atlantic and Pacific Oceans on our way to Antarctica. There was a little rolling motion of the ship, but according to the crew, the conditions were some of the best they had experienced. We had a turkey dinner, complete with cranberry sauce and stuffing and the seventy-plus passengers from the United States enjoyed it very much. Later that day there were lectures about the



Billy A. Crowe aboard the *Nordnorge* cruising the Magellan Strait

Antarctic and the Antarctic Treaty that has made the continent into an area with no military activity and subjected to its authority. It is felt that the onboard education of the passengers helps to prepare them for their unique visitation experience and to enable them to make the most of their days on the continent.



Whalebones at Polish Camp

When we awoke the next day we could see the glaciers and mountains of the northernmost tip of the Antarctic Peninsula and the South Shetland Islands. The temperature was 36 degrees, sunny, with calm waters. The first of the small boats left at 8:30 a.m. for “Yankee Harbor” on Greenwich Island, home to thousands of gentoo penguins. Our boat group left in mid-morning and it was a good thing as we had time to put on all the clothes necessary for the trip. Long johns, fleece pants and jackets, rain pants, gloves, blue “Antarctic” jacket, topped off with a life vest. All passengers had to go to deck three at water level where rows and rows of rubber boots were exchanged for our shoes. It took a few minutes to find the right size but even with a couple of pairs of heavy socks, the fit wasn’t that great. After finding the correct size we sloshed thru a large tub of water that also sprayed water on the boots and headed down the ramp for our few minutes ride to the island in the open boat. Our driver wasted no time in getting us to land and we were glad of the rain pants as we experienced some spray along the way. We saw many gentoo penguins and elephant seals while there, and some penguins came right up to us—great for camera shots—then after about an hour it was back to the ship so others could make the trip. Landing groups cannot exceed about 100 people for each excursion for safety and environmental reasons. In the afternoon we made another landing at Deception Island, an old whaling camp with black volcanic sand. After walking up a large hill, we had a great view of the area. Some of the group even went swimming in the waters of the bay and then jumped into a small pool of warm spring water that the guides had dug near the edge.

We made stops at Culverville Island where there was a rookery with thousand of gentoo penguins, several seals sleeping on the beach, and a whale in the distance. Later that

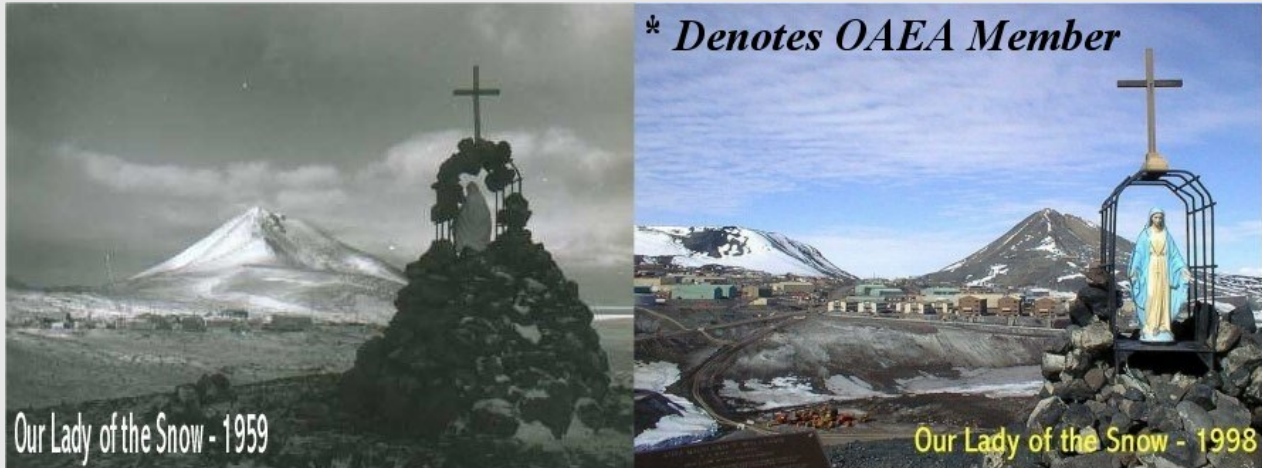
day we visited an abandoned Argentine base where it was very hard getting out of the small boats due to the rocky shoreline. We had to walk thru the snow to get to the path the guides had make earlier, and found we could only go about two-thirds the way up the hill because the path was very narrow and climbing was hard. Most of the group took the easy way down and tucked their jackets under them and slid down the hill toward the beach. There was a nice trail after a few had gone down, so we joined the group and found it was much easier than walking back. On the way back to the ship our driver took us by glaciers and skua nests—a wonderful day with lots of beautiful scenery.

We were to go into the Lemaire Channel but could not as several large icebergs had blocked the area. Instead the crew took us by small boat along the glaciers where we got a close-up view of the shades of blue deep within the glaciers. Later we anchored off Half-Moon Island where there were chinstrap penguins, kelp gulls, and Antarctic terns. Other landings were made at Port Lockroy that was originally a British base and now has become one of the most visited sites in Antarctica. Restored in 1996 by the Antarctic Heritage Trust, it operates as a museum and is kept as it was in the 1950s, with a post office and souvenir shop. We mailed ourselves a letter from there, and had our passports stamped as well. King George Island on shores of Admiralty Bay was another stop where we saw the bright yellow buildings of the Polish base. Whalebones still litter the beach and the bay is now home to a Brazilian station and American and Peruvian summer camps. An Adelie penguin rookery is also there and we were advised not to leave the beach as it is an “Area of Special Scientific Interest” and cannot be entered by visitors.

Our final stop was to be at Brown Bluff, but we could not go ashore due to the ice on the beach. Instead the captain sailed a scenic route to the Weddell Sea and Antarctic Bay where we saw gigantic icebergs—some almost a mile long and half a mile wide and rising 100 feet above the water. It was an awesome sight and one we will always remember. In fact, the entire trip was one of a lifetime as we look back on all the sights we saw and things we experienced. All passengers were given a book about Antarctica and a certificate stating, “Following the footsteps of the brave polar expeditioners, you have reached the Antarctic Coastline.”



Abandoned Argentine camp



I N M E M O R Y

OAE SMC John William Dennis, USN (Ret), 84, died on 9 June 2007, in Winter Haven, FL. John served aboard the USS *Wyandot* during DF-65.

*OAE ADC Donald C. Mitchell, USN (Ret), 75, died on 5 June 2007, in Clearwater, FL. Don served in VX-6 from 1958-60. He wintered at McMurdo during DF-IV as an AD1.

*OAE ADC William D. Bridger, USN (Ret), 74, died on 30 May 2007, in Lafayette, LA. Bill served in VX-6 from 1961-65, and 67-69 as a LC-130 Flight Engineer. Mount Bridger in the Victoria Mountains is named in his honor.

OAE Chief Edward "Bugsy" Siegel, USN (Ret), 71, died on 30 May 2007, in Oak Harbor, WA. Bugsy served in VX-6.

*OAE CEC Acy "Pat" Patterson, USN (Ret), 75, died on 28 May in New Milton, Hampshire, England. Pat wintered over at Wilkes Station during DF-II. Patterson Rock was named in his honor by C. R. Eklund.

*OAE Father William Menster, 94, died on 14 April 2007, in Dubuque, IA. Father Bill was a chaplain with Highjump. Menster Ledge is named in his honor. See *Explorer's Gazette*, Winter 2004, for more information about Father Menster.

OAE Ralph Mervin Littlewood, 79, died on 20 May 2007, in Salt Lake City, UT. Ralph was a member of Highjump. Unit served with unknown.

OAE Arthur W. Francis, 70+, died on 19 May 2007, in Haverstraw, NY. Art was cryogenic consultant at South Pole and McMurdo Stations, 1989-1992.

OAE Donald Eugene "Curly" Wohlschlag, 88, died on 15 May 2007, in Port Aransas, TX. Don was the professor of Biology at Stanford University and served on the USNS *Eltanin* and at McMurdo with the USARP from 1958 through 1964. Wohlschlag Bay, on the West side of Ross Island, is named in his honor.

OAE AKC Daniel E. "Ooh-Rah" Brienzi, USN (Ret), 75, died on 6 May 2007, in North Kingstown, RI. Dan served in VX-6 during DF-69.

OAE SMSGT Clayton "Lou" Costello, USAF (Ret), 68, died on 3 May 2007, in Warner Robins, GA. Lou served with VX-6 as a USMC Avionics technician. Dates unknown.

*OAE SKC David Ray, Shugart, USN (Ret), 70, died on 25 March 2007, in Moore, OK. Dave Served in NSFA during DF-79 through DF-82.

OAE Jack S. Koehler, 79, died on 3 May 2007, in Allentown, PA. Jack served with the Coast Guard during Operation Highjump.

OAE Anna Nicole Smith, 39, died on 8 February 2007, in Hollywood, FL. Anna went to Antarctica with a small group of climate geologists and measured the thickness of the ice sheet in connection with her belief that apocalyptic Global Warming is a hoax. Location and date unknown.

OAE William D. Hahn, 72, died on 24 April 2007, in Pensacola, FL. Bill served aboard the USS *Atka* during the IGY station survey mission to the ice in 1954-55 before the commencement of Operation Deep Freeze.

OAE Robert Bruce McDole, USCG (Ret), 59, died on 18 April 2007, in Dallas TX. Robert served aboard the USCGC *Glacier*.

*OAE Richard H. Reysen, 72, died on 9 October 2006, in Orlando, FL. Richard served as a DT2 on the USS *Glacier* during DF-III and IV

OAE David Lee Barnhill Poirier, 63, died on 13 April 2007, Descanso, CA. David was a Radioman who wintered-over during the 70s.

OAE Donaldford Hal "Tuffy" Locklar, 67, died on 9 April 9, 2007, in Jacksonville, FL. Don served in VX-6 in the 1960s.

OAE Vernal Storrings, 69, died on 1 May 2007, at the VA Medical Center in Syracuse, NY. Vernal served on the USS *Brough* during DF-II and III.

OAE Jonathan Morrow, 28, died on 29 April 2007, in a climbing accident at the Grand Teton National Park. Jonathan wintered at McMurdo with the USAP during DF-04 and DF-05.

OAE Travis Harrison Cresswell, died on 27 March 2007, in England. While on vacation. Travis spent 11 austral summers in Antarctica in the tourist industry. He served on the cruise liners MV *Marco Polo* and MV *Discovery*.

OAE John M. Sieburth, 79, died on 7 December 2006, in West Kingston, RI. John was a scientist with the IGY during DF-III and deployed to the ice aboard an Argentine icebreaker.

OAE Cecil Max Browning, 80, died on 21 February 2007, in Zanesville, OH. Cecil served on the USS *Sennet* (SS-408) during Highjump.

OAE Robert Austin Bergs, (SS), USN (Ret), 83, died on 27 February 2007, in Sarasota, FL. Robert served aboard the USS *Philippine Sea* as RADM Byrd's aide during Highjump.

OAE Everett A. Arnes, 91, died on 19 February 2007, in Sedro-Woolley, WA. Everett was a photographer with the USASE (Byrd III) during the austral summer 1940-41.

OAE Harvey G. Berube, 67, died on 6 February 2007, in Enumclaw, WA. Harvey served on the USS *Staten Island*. Year unknown.

*OAE LCDR Garland M. "Skip" Renegar, USN (Ret), 88, died on 3 February 2007, in West Des Moines, IA. Skip was an R4D pilot who served in VX-6 as a pilot from 1959-62. Renegar Glacier is named in his honor.

OAE PRC George R. Gowen, Jr., USN (Ret), 78, died on 23 January 2007, in Levittown, PA. George served in VX-6 as a parachute rigger and a member of the Para-Rescue Team during DF-III and IV.

OAE A. Lincoln "Brad" Washburn, 95, died on 31 January 2007, in Bellvue, WA. Brad was a member of US National Committee for the IGY and served at McMurdo during DF-III. Mount Washburn in the Ellsworth Mountains is named in his honor. He was a member of the Antarctic Society and the American Polar Society (APS).

*OAE LCDR Calvin Luther Larsen, USN (Ret), 79, died on 10 January 2007, in Sequim, WA. Calvin wintered-over at Little America V during DF-II with MCB (Special) as a PHC. During DF-69 LT Larsen served in VX-6 as a navigator and photographic officer. Mount Calvin is named in his honor. He was also a member of the ADFA and the APS.

OAE Captain Victor Marchesi, 92, died on 27 December 2006. Victor served aboard RRS *Discovery II* in January 1936 he helped rescue Lincoln Ellsworth and his Canadian co-pilot, Herbert Hollick-Kenyon, from the Ross Ice Shelf. He also served in the Falkland Islands and Antarctica with Operation Tabarin during WW-II.

OAE PNC Charlie B. Rector, USN, Ret., 80, died on 11 October 2006, in Biloxi, MS. Charlie served during DF-II.

OAE James M. Bermingham Sr, 77, died on 31 October 2006, in Dover, NH. James was a Seabee heavy equipment operator and made three deployments to Antarctica. Unit served with and dates unknown.

OAE Charles Wildred James Gibbs, 98, died on 12 October 2006, in Brisbane, Australia. Charlie was part of a RAAF team assigned to search for American Explorer, Lincoln Ellsworth, and his co-pilot, Herbert Hollick-Kenyon in December 1935.

OAE ETCS Max Milien (SS), USN, (Ret), 63, died on 28 September 2006, in Hampton, VA. Max served on the USS *Glacier* during DF-63.

OAE CDR Archer E. Church Jr., USN (Ret), died on 7 July 2006. Archer was the DF-43 ACOS for Construction during DF-68. Church Ridge in Victoria Land is named in his honor.



CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Denis Casey—OAEA Chaplain

ANTARCTICA IS FULL OF contradictions. Its face is inhuman, yet from its silences are coming a rich store for scientific research.

It's a land of warring elements where men have lost their lives in high endeavors; yet it is a continent of peace where no shot has been fired in anger, and no blood shed in war.

"Under the Antarctic treaty the scientists and support people of many nations work in harmony and mutual trust, demonstrating to the world, a successful experiment in



international cooperation". These words written by G.W.Markham in 1962 still ring true to this day.

From the book of Ecclesiasticus chapter 43 we can read. "By His commands He sends the snow, He speeds the lightning as He orders. In the same way His treasures open. And the clouds fly out like birds. In His great might He banks up the clouds. And shivers them into fragments of hail. We could say much more and still fall short. To put it concisely "He is All".

The bridges of political understanding coupled with the beauty of God's creation stand out as a great example in our very disturbed world and remind each of us that we can cooperate without compromising.

D. Casey

What Do You Call a Flock of Penguins?

by Billy-Ace Baker

RECENTLY AT A GULF COAST GROUP OAEA MEETING there was some discussion as to what a "flock" of penguins is called. The Cat Man of La Rue remarked that he didn't know, but he volunteered that a bunch of cats are known as a "clutter". I listened for about as long as I could and piped up with; "it depends"!

Everyone looked at me as I explained that penguin chicks in a huddle are known as a "crèche", penguins on land, or ice, are known as a "waddle" and a group of penguins in the water are known as a "raft". There was some speculation as to whether I was telling the truth or not. Since I never let the truth get in the way of a good story I will never tell whether I was speaking the truth or if it was some more Fiction, Fantasy, and Fact From Baker's Almanac. But take a moment to reflect on the words of this song:

A Raft of Penguins

By Ian Anderson

A raft of penguins on a frozen sea
Expectant faces look down on me.
Waddle uneasy.
The whistler plays.
Counting eleven, they begin to pray.
Tenuous but clinging, the missing link
Joins us, closer than we might think.
Some half remembered coarse jungle drum
A naked heartbeat, trill and hum.
This world's no stage for the faint at heart.
Each symphony, a sum of parts.
Each overture, a sweet foreplay.
Let's crash and burn some other day.
Bonded in terror or suspicion deep
Tentative tiptoe or giant leap
Call down the angels to guide them in
A raft of penguins takes to the wing.
It matters not that they can't fly.

GLOSSARY OF SNOW AND ICE



Compiled and edited by Billy-Ace Baker

Bight — An extensive crescent shaped indentation in the ice-edge, formed either by wind or current. Spanish equivalent: *Caleta plano*.

Calving — The breaking away of a mass of ice from floating glacier, ice front, or iceberg. Norwegian equivalent: *Kalving*

Finger Rafting — Pressure process by which one floe overrides another; most commonly found in new and young ice. A type of rafting whereby interlocking thrusts are formed alternately over and under the other is known as finger rafting. French equivalent: *Chvauchent de digite*.

Ice Blink — White glare on underside of clouds, indicating a presence of pack ice that may be beyond the range of vision. German equivalent: *Eisblink*.

Lead — A navigable passage through floating ice. Danish equivalent: *Rende*.

Rotten Ice — Floating ice which has become honeycombed in the course of melting, and which is in an advanced state of disintegration. German equivalent: *Verrottetung Eis*.

9th Antarctic Deep Freeze Association Reunion

Deep Freeze Reunion

By Elaine Hood

The biennial Deep Freeze Reunion was held in Corpus Christi, Texas, May 8–11. Floyd Woody's daughters hosted the reunion. Woody was the corpsman for DF-I personnel at Williams Air Facility/McMurdo Station.

Ninety people were in attendance of which over half were Deep Freeze veterans and the remainder were family members.



South Pole flags courtesy of Charlie Bevilacqua

The reunion commenced Tuesday evening May 8 with a delectable BBQ dinner hosted by Woody's daughters. All agreed it was probably the best BBQ meal ever enjoyed.

The program began Wednesday morning May 9 with a Memorial conducted by Charlie Bevilacqua. Attendees volunteered names of members who had passed away since the last reunion as well as names of members who could not attend the reunion due to health problems. Two flags, an American, and an MIA flag, flown over the South Pole were presented. The MIA flag had been signed by military veterans working at the South Pole. The flag will be taken back to the South Pole next season to have additional signatures added.

The morning's program proceeded with a presentation by Jerry Marty, National Science Foundation, describing the current status of science and construction projects at the South Pole. Jerry gave an update on the new elevated station, which is complete with



100% occupancy and transition of all support functions and science from the dome and arches to the new facility. The remaining significant project milestone is construction of the Logistics/Do Not Freeze/Waste Management facility. Discussions are underway for a formal station dedication; one of the timeframes being considered is January 2008. The enormous science projects currently underway include the new South Pole Telescope constructed last season and the ongoing IceCube project. A National Geographic Society documentary of the station construction and 21st Century science has been in the making during the past four summer seasons with national airing scheduled for this fall.

A special guest of this year's reunion was Dr. Don Farquhar from Canada. Dr. Farquhar is conducting research on Dr. Isaac Taylor (DF-I) for a scholarly report and was eager to visit with people who had known him personally. Stories were offered by many who recalled Doc Taylor as a serious man who knew how to have fun when the occasion called for it.

Wednesday evening an informal session was held with Dave Baker presenting video footage he took on a recent cruise along the Antarctic Peninsula. Baker was invited to be a speaker on board the SS *Endeavor*, a luxury cruise liner.

Following the video footage, a webcam teleconference was set up with some members currently wintering at the South Pole (see sidebar on next

page). The Deep Freeze veterans in Corpus Christi were able to see and talk to the people at Pole and vice versa. The people at Pole asked questions such as what the Deep Freeze veterans had used for heavy equipment, had done for recreation, and what kind of meals they had. Many comments were offered to the current wintering personnel and good laughs were had.



Elaine Hood (RPSC IT) & Jim "Doctor Penguin" Wallace USARP DF-63

Thursday morning's agenda began with a presentation by Elaine Hood from Raytheon Polar Services. Raytheon is the main logistical contractor to the US Antarctic Program and Elaine gave an overview of last season illustrated with photos of South Pole, McMurdo, and Palmer Stations, as well as the two research ships operated by the National Science Foundation.

Next was a presentation by Tom Noel, retired New York Air National Guard officer. He presented two documentaries about the NYANG. The first one was about the Guard's support of both the Arctic and Antarctic programs. The second one was about Dr. Jerri Nielsen's medical evacuation from the South Pole in 1999.

The reunion concluded Thursday evening with a banquet and the auction of Antarctic memorabilia.

The next reunion is planned for June 2009 in Madison, Wisconsin, hosted by Dr. Ed Ehrlich, DF-I. See Bill Stroup's summary below.

South Pole Video Conference Participants

- Bruce Bramwell, Vehicle Maintenance Facility Supervisor. CM2 USN Seabee Duty Station: ACB-1 1989-1994
- Robert Hoskins, UT Maint Foreman. MTI (SS/SW), USN 1978-1999
- Neil Davis, Sous Chef Airman 1st class USAF 857 SPS (security police) 1988-1991
- Jack J. Anderson, UT, Corporal USMC Acft Armament Technician 1974-1977
- Daniel B. Pitts, Water & Power Supervisor. SSGT Helicopter Mechanic USAF 1974-1980
- Dan McCloskey, UT SGT USMC VMA-211 "Avengers" Ejection Seat Mechanic 1993-2000
- Bruce W. Staeheli, Doctor CAPT USNR, Naval Aviator Ship's Surgeon USS *Harry S Truman* (CVN75) March 1968-July 1975 (Active Duty). September 1969-November 1974 (Reserves). August 1999-September 2001 (Reserves)
- Robert Reynolds, Sat Comms SGT US Army. Sat Comms 1989-1998
- James Walsh, Comm Technician. AT2 USN, VA 85, USS *Forrestal* 1979-1983
- Jordan Anderson, Network Engineer
- Dave Benson, Systems Administrations,
- Andres Martinez, Winter Site Manager,

Summary of Events

By Bill Strouip

The 2007 reunion was a Texas size success. Late Tuesday afternoon Floyd Woody's family hosted a delectable BBQ dinner. It was, without a doubt, an icebreaker that set the tone for an enjoyable three days.

Wednesday morning Charlie Bevilacqua presided over the remembrance services. Attendees were extended the opportunity to recognize close friends who were deceased or incapacitated.

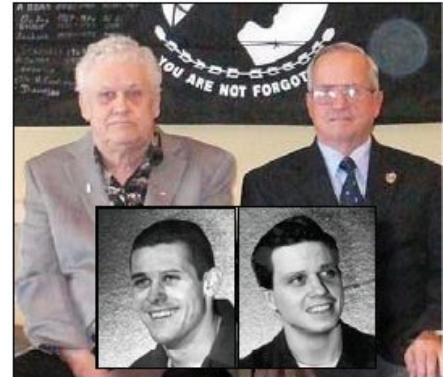
Jerry Marty followed with yet another interesting and informative presentation of the current status and activities at Amundsen-Scott South Pole Station. Jerry mentioned that he was considering retiring in two years.

Wednesday evening Dave Baker presented video of a recent cruise he took along the Antarctic Peninsula. This was followed by a webcam teleconference with some members currently wintering at the Pole.

The first presentation Thursday morning was given by Elaine Hood. Elaine's service with Raytheon took her to the Ice on several occasions. Her presentation was an overview of the services and activities provided by the on station personnel with photos from the all US Antarctica Stations as well as two NSF research ships.

Tom Noel retired NYANG officer, presented two documentaries about the

NYANG. The first was about polar support programs. The second featured Dr. Jerri Nielsen's medical evacuation.



Mel "The Singing Seabee" Havener and Ken "Junior" Waldron before and after photos

The Thursday afternoon business meeting had three topics on the agenda. First, Dr. Ed Ehrlich volunteered to host the 2009 reunion. The venue will be in the Madison, Wisconsin area. The dates will be 2-4 June.

The second item was approving a motion to purchase a Plaque for the Commemorative Wall in the Naval Heritage Center in Washington, DC. The 7"X3.5" plaque will contain the ADFA logo and this inscription.

This plaque is dedicated to all the men and women, past, present, and future who have participated in the United States Antarctic Programs. Beginning with Operation Highjump in 1946 and continuing with Operation Deep Freeze in 1955 through the present.

The third order of business was the election of Officers and Directors, from the members present. They are Gerry McKee, Chairman; Billy-Ace Baker, Vice Chairman; Dick Bowers, Historian; Ken Waldron, Vice Historian; Bill Stroup, Treasurer; Jim Bergstrom and George Ramsden, Directors.

The reunion was brought to a close with a very good buffet banquet and our customary live auction. Even though we missed Bev Hurd and her usual large financial contribution we were still able to net \$1720.



ADFA Members Group Photo. Dr Penguin provided everyone with an 8X11 glossy

Tidewater Group Meetings

by Ed Hamblin

Editor's Note: The Tidewater Group met on 10 March, for coffee, sandwiches, and a few sea stories but Ed was under the weather and he never kept any notes, so the only info he sent to me were a few photos and the schedule for the next meeting.

The Tidewater Virginia Old Antarctic Explorers "social group" got together on 2 June for a couple of hours. Wayne Rogers, Bill Raymus, Charlie Thompson, John Strider, Jim Silverstorf, Brad Miller, Bob Cantrell, and Ed Hamblin enjoyed each other's company in a very animated gathering. Wayne Rogers, being the most recent Tidewater area addition to the group, was pumped for his information about Operation Highjump.



Bill Raymus and Ellen Darby at the 10 March Meeting

Brad Miller also generously rounded up as much recent Antarctic news and pictures from the Internet as he could, printed it out, and provided that as meat for some of the discussion.



Wayne Rogers and Jim Silverstorf

There was some talk very briefly about the next symposium with several OAEA local members expressing their interest and intent to go. After a quick couple of hours of "do you remembers"

and show-and-tell, everyone went their separate ways until next time.



Bill Raymus and Brad Miller Listen Incredulously to one of the many Ice Stories

Although regular reminders of the Tidewater area gathering are sent out to about 30 known area Old Antarctic Explorers, "walk ins" are more than welcome. The group gets together once



John Strider at the 10 March Meeting

a quarter at the House Of Eggs Restaurant on Military Highway in Norfolk. The next get together will be on 8 September at 1500/3PM, the weekend following Labor Day. If you aren't on the distribution list and would like to be, the Tidewater POC is Ed Hamblin at (757) 405-3362; or e-mail at ehamblin@cox.net.



Les Kunde at 10 March Meeting



Bob Cantrell



Charlie Thompson



Fred Nootnagle at 10 March Meeting



Ed Hamblin Circa 1977

NEW OAEA MEMBERS

The below listed personnel have joined the OAEA since the Jan-Mar 2007 issue of the *Gazette*.

Thanks to Gus Shinn, Pam Landy, Curly Olds, Bob Eppard, Ed Waite, Tom Noel, Richard Horton, The OAEs and FNGs Email Group, Elisabeth Rider, Friends of SPRI, Virgil Paulk, Tom Dunn, Robert McLaren, Charles Lagerbom, eBay, Bob Leyshion, Trevior Boyd, Lennie Bourgeois, Tony Herman, Sebastiano Milardo, Dian Olson Belanger, John Stewart, Bill Spindler, John West, Sedge West, and Elaine Hood for recruiting new members or for providing names and contact info for prospective members.

*Denotes Associate member

Bruno, Charles F. AT2	Life	VX-6 1962-64
Cash, Tom L. LT	Life	VX-6 1962-64
Cook, Michael D. EO2	Annual	NSFA DF-76 & 77
Crooks, Graham KIWI	Commem	WO Scott Base DF-71
Cushman, Chas. LCDR	Annual	Attaché to Chilean Navy Mission 1978
Densman, Larry RMCM	Life	NSFA WO DF-78
Downs, Gerald CS3	Life	USS <i>Edisto</i> DF-61
Emmons, Millicent	*Life	Wife of Don
Fisher, Michael D. JO3	Annual	NSFA DF-67
Flint, Robert C. LCDR	Life	ASA DF-72
Ford, Art B. CIV	Life	USARP 60-86
Garrett, Royce R. CAPT	Life	USCGC <i>Northwind</i> DF-80
Gibbs, George W. SDC	Commem	USASE 1939-41
Goren, Lisa F. CIV	Annual	Feb 97 Tour
Green, Duane CPL	Life	USMC Operation Windmill USS <i>Edisto</i>
Henry, Leilani CIV	Annual	Surviving Child USASE
Horn, William SM3	Life	USS <i>Arneb</i> 1959-62
Horton, Richard PH2	Life	VXE-6 DF-79 & 80
Kittredge, George	Life	Operation Highjump
Kolozy, Mark M. TSGT	Annual	109 AW 00-Present
Koza, Thomas R. AG3	Life	ASA DF-63
Lauden, Thomas S. CIV	Life	5 trips 60-2000
Lea, Grady F. HMCS	Life	USS <i>Edisto</i> 60-64
Lewis, David CIV	Life	VX-6 DF-61
Mason, Jerry D. ABH1	Annual	NSFA 1983-86
McGarry, Robert E. AN	Life	VX-6 61-63
McGowan, Warren S1C	Life	USS <i>Mount Olympus</i>
Meriwether, Carl L. MM2	Life	USS <i>Yancey</i> HJ
Morton, John A. LCDR	Commem	OIC VX-6 WO DF-64
Norwood, Richard CAPT	Annual	NZ Attaché DF-93
Olander, Raymond ET1	Commem	WO DF-63 Eights
Olds, Curly CDR	Life	ASA XO DF
O'Meara, James CIV	Life	Cruise Ship 2007
Patterson, Peter CIV	*Life	Friend of DF
Petitt, Joseph R. CIV	Life	1990-Present Palmer
Platt, Mary Lou CIV	*Life	GCG Groupie
Poitevant, Bobby RMC	Commem	WO DF-71 Palmer
Pon, Jane, CIV	Commem	Tourist
Robinson, George PH3	Life	USCGC <i>Eastwind</i> 62-64 & <i>Southwind</i> 68-69

Semington, R. Ron RM2	Life	DF-III
Starr, James SWCM	Commem	ASA DF-66 & 67
Statler, William CUCM	Annual	DF-III & WO DF-63
Studley, James B. MAJ	Life	86 ATS DF-65
Thau, George H. CUCM	Life	NSFA WO DF-73
Tiscareno, Fred AMS2	Annual	VXE-6 1974-78
Tollefson, Truman CE2	Commem	WO DF-63 Eights
Turner, Terry A. LCDR	Life	VXE-6 81-84
Ward, Robert I. CWO	Commem	USMC WO DF-II
West, Larry CIV	*Life	Son of Sedge
Williams, Dale H. CDR	Life	ASA DF-66, 67

REUNION INFORMATION

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

USS *Mount Olympus* (AGC-8). Branson MO, 17-21 Sept. POC Karen Stelle, Karen@bransonfun.com, 417 334 1850. USS *Mount Olympus* participated in Highjump.

USS *Wilhoite* (DER-397): Silverdale, WA, 2-5 Oct. POC Richard Scheeder, wilhoite397@msn.com. 360 830 5175. USS *Wilhoite* participated in DF-61

USS *Philippine Sea*: Washington, DC, 3-8 Oct. POC Chuck Davis, 941 743 5460, chuckdavis1@earthlink.net. USS *Philippine Sea* participated in Highjump.

USS *Yancey* (AKA-93) All Eras: Washington, DC, 11-14 Oct. POC George Clifton, 708 425 8531, clifs@ameritech.net. USS *Yancey* participated in Highjump.

USS *Henderson* (DD-785): San Francisco, CA, 20-23 Sept. POC Richard Sierra, 650 952 7440, dixera@yahoo.com. The *Henderson* participated in Highjump.

USS *Yancey* (AKA-93) Highjump Group: Wheeling, WV, 26-29 Sept. POC Willard Becker, 304 242 6342, wilcar229@verizon.net

USS *Pine Island*: Indianapolis, IN, 16-18 Oct. POC Steve Johnson, 918 398 0548, qusakamoto@aol.com. USS *Pine Island* participated in Highjump.

New Zealand Antarctic Society 50th Anniversary of NZ involvement in Antarctica. Christchurch, NZ, 28-30 Sep. POC P.O. Box 404, Christchurch 8140, New Zealand, or headconsultants@xtra.co.nz.

Old Antarctic Explorers Association (OAEA): Pensacola, FL, 5-7 Nov. 2008. POC to be announced.

USS *Cacapon* (AO-52). Branson, MO, 19-23 Sept. POC Harold Byrd, byrdhouse140@verizon.net 951 765 0600. The USS *Cacapon* participated in Highjump.

NMCB 1: Nashville, TN, 5-7 Oct. POC Peter Dowd, 781 837 0393, mcb1reunion@verizon.net. MCB 1 participated in DF-II & IV. The entire battalion deployed with DF-62.



OAE LOCATOR

Send locator notices to the editor at upizauf@aol.com

- Steve Cross is looking for Gene Burkhalter, or for anyone who knew him. Steve was on the ice in 1984 when he met Gene or Eugene. Gene may have been out of Travis AFB and worked in Aircraft Maintenance. Steve can be contacted at scross@shastacollege.edu, 530 244 9017, or 4310 Eden Ridge Ct, Redding CA 96001.
- Jason Lynn Christchurch New Zealand is trying to get in touch with Dana Harvill who was with VXE-6 in the early 80s. Jason can be reached at: jasonlynn@ihug.co.nz.
- M. Wayne "Ollie" Blanchard would like to hear from anyone who was in VX/E-6 with him from 69-71. He can be contacted at: pogiiwayne@yahoo.com.
- Tom Koza was an AG3 at McMurdo, Beardmore, and Eights Station during DF-63. He was "drafted" into MCB-8 to help construct the radar structure. He would like to hear from guys from that time frame. Ed can be reached at: trkoza@bellsouth.net, 407 259 2867, or 121 Goshawk Terrace, Winter Springs, FL 32708.
- Leo Murawski, aka the Polish Cowboy is still looking for any w/o Seabees and the rest of the DF-77 w/o crew. Cowboy can be reached at: Leonmurawski@yahoo.com, 850 638 9269, or 501 2nd St, Chipley FL 32428.
- Larry Densman NSFA Communications would like to hear from anyone from the McMurdo w/o DF-78 crew. He can be reached at: rmcmw23@hotmail.com, 281 648, 9927, or 16123 Tibet Rd, Friendswood, TX 77546.
- Dave Buddenhagen w/o DF-63 is looking for HAM Radio operators for Echolink contacts. Dave can be reached on the W7RTK Echolink repeater node #3505. His callsign is KA8SNK. Dave can also be reached at davidbuddenhagen@hotmail.com, or 863 763 1464.
- Beau Myers is looking for RM3 Gene VanHorn, w/o McMurdo DF-68 and JO3 John Swantek, McMurdo summer support 68 and 70 in order to settle some poker debts. Beau can be reached at: bmyersjr@yahoo.com.
- EN2 Garland Summerall and FN E. A. Worth served on USS *Arneb* (AKA 56) during DF-63. They would like to hear from some shipmates. Garland can be reached at gsumm@pa.net, 717 264 6013, or 1019 Stoneybridge Dr, Chambersburg, PA 17201.
- Robert A. Foust aka The Amish Man. Served on USS *Arneb* as an EM3 during DF-I. He would like to hear from anyone who was on the *Arneb* at that time. He can be reached at: sugardaddy322001@yahoo.com, 440-548-7522, or 16539 State Road, Middlefield, OH 44062.

West Coast Group Meeting

By Bob "Gabby" Gaboury & Jim Maddox

The West Coast OAEA Group held a meeting on 3 March at The Way-Point Inn at the Camarillo Airport. There were ten area OAEs who gathered at the restaurant for lunch and sea stories. This was the best turnout for a meeting since the January 2005 OAEA Reunion.

Attendees were Richard Masters NSFA Penguin Power Plant Crew DF-75 W/O; Bob "Gabby" Gaboury NSFA Power Plant Supervisor DF-75 W/O; Jim Maddox VX-6, 66-70; Harry Heverley, ASA WO DF-61, 66, and 71; Ralph Saukko, VX-6 58-62, 64-67; Doug Flynn, unit and date unknown; Allen Cox VX/VXE-6 1961-67 and 1978-80.

The next meeting is scheduled for 11:30 on 11 August at the Mongolian Barbecue at 2123 Ventura Blvd, Camarillo, CA. All OAEs in living in the area, or visiting, are invited to attend. Anyone who would like more information can contact Jim Maddox at email: jmaddflynav@cs.com, phone: 661 945 0469; or Gabby Gaboury at email: bobgaboury@aol.com, phone: 805 388 4755



Some of the West Coast Group. Left to right: Gabby Gaboury, Rich Masters, Ralph Saukko, Harry Heverley, Jim Maddox, and Doug Flynn.

ACTIVITIES BY LOCALE

New England Area—See meeting information on page 7.

Gulf Coast Group—See meeting information on page 22.

Tidewater Group—See meeting information on page 16.

PNW Group—Jerry Schleining retired from the VA last year and he has been devoting some time attempting to contact 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 8th St, Gresham, Oregon 97030, 503 661 2986, or csmgis@verizon.net

West Coast Group—See meeting information above.

Ohio Valley Group—See meeting information on page 19.

Ohio Valley Group Deep Freeze Spring Fling 2007

By Ed Waite

A group of Old Antarctic Explorers met in the Dayton Ohio area on 27-29 April for the second Deep Freeze Spring Fling.

We gathered at the Holiday Inn at Fairborn Ohio on Friday evening about 1730 for conversation and light dining. We were 31 strong and had representation from DF-I by two members, Eugene Ellena and Bill Littlewood and DF-06 by Ethan Dicks who returned from the Ice in November 2006.

We shared stories, renewed old friendships and made new friends for several hours through the evening and enjoyed sandwiches and snacks provided by Pam Waite for the evening.

We had the opportunity to view several presentations via computer projection onto a makeshift screen. Two power point presentations and a video clip were shown and later we viewed a slide show of perhaps 100 pictures from back when? It was a great evening that finally wound down about 2300.

Saturday morning found us traveling to the nearby National Museum of the USAF for a day of sights and sounds. First thing off we met with a photographer who took a group photo of all those who arrived on time. Unfortunately, five people arrived late and missed out on the photo.

During our lunch break, Major General Charles Metcalf, retired, who is the Director of the museum, visited us. We were pleased to learn that he piloted planes to the Antarctic during his active duty years, and hopefully he

has become an OAEA member since the meeting. General Metcalf spent most of an hour visiting with those of us present.



Marty Diller & General Charles Metcalf

Saturday evening we gathered at the Holiday Inn for a semi-formal dinner buffet of Teriyaki roast beef and chicken breasts with mushrooms.

Following dinner, we began an hour or two "Storytelling" as has become a tradition. Each member, including wives had the opportunity to stand and relate an interesting story. We heard some incredible stories from days gone by right up to the present.

We wound down about 2300, as everyone was tired from the long day at the museum. Sunday morning we gathered for a meeting to discuss our future as a chapter of the national organization. The final result of that meeting was to remain a group and to plan for another smaller gathering in the future, perhaps in Indiana in August or September and perhaps next spring in Lower Michigan. This in hopes that we will be able to attract additional members by moving the meeting locale.

The Fling went very well I think. We had three last minute no-shows,

but otherwise it went well. I should mention that the USAF Museum contacted me repeatedly about the goings on and finally revealed that the



Ed and Pam Waite

senior official at the museum, General Charles Metcalf, was a former Deep Freeze C-124 pilot. I gave him an application to join the OAEA and I have been told that he is going to join us. He did reserve a place in the museum cafeteria so he could easily find us at lunchtime Saturday and he came and visited for about 45 minutes. He had good conversations with Marty Diller, Dave Hazard, Buz Dryfoose, and myself along with all others present.

According to Marty Diller: "It was a very successful event with about 30 attendees. Well organized and everyone had a great experience. the camaraderie and good-fellowship enjoyed whenever two or more OAEs gather. Simply put, Ed Waite did a great job".

Editor's Note: For a complete collection of Spring Fling photos go to the Waite Group web page at: <http://www.thewaitegroup.com> and click on the Deep Freeze link.



L/R: Norval Weitz; George Parker; Sam Dryfoose; Buz Dryfoose; Joe Henley; Betsy Henley; Eugene Ellena; Bill Littlewood; Larry Ellena; Bob Williams; Marty Diller; Bill Savarda; Bob Stone; George Moore; Lavonne Halloway; Phil Halloway; Elaine Swinney; Charlie Swinney; Bruce Mabley; Richard Borgerding; Tom Noel; Edson Waite; Jerry Kessens; Dave Hazard

First OAEA Scholarship Grant Awarded

By Billy-Ace Bakeer

In the President's Corner of this issue John West announced that Ed Hamblin had stepped forward to fill the vacant chair of the Scholarship Committee and that the first ever OAEA Scholarship had been awarded.

The OAEA Educational Foundation has existed since the formation of the OAEA. Grants have not been awarded until now for a variety of reasons. Basically, there were insufficient funds available. Funding for the Foundation consists of a onetime transfer of OAEA funds in the amount of \$5,000, donations from the Para Rescue Group in the amount of \$1,000, and the Communicator Group in the amount of

\$5,000. There have been small amounts ear-marked for the Educational Fund donated by individual OAEA members, but these donations have been few and far between. All scholarship funds have been placed in a separate investment account and only the earned interest will be used for scholarship awards. Semi-annually, the Treasurer transfers all accumulated educational fund donations to this account.

The 2007 OAEA Scholarship in the amount of \$250 was awarded to Brandon P. Brunelle. Brandon is the grandson of OAEA member ABHC Chester E. Thomas, Jr., USN (Ret.) Little America V, DF-I Winter-Over.

Brandon provided letters of acceptance from the University of Rhode Island and from the University of Maine. His stated goal is to earn an Electrical Engineering Technology degree at a school nationally recognized in the field of electrical engineering. At the time the scholarship was awarded Brandon had not reached a final decision on which university offer to accept.

Donations to the OAEA Educational Foundation should be sent to the OAEA Secretary at the OAEA Administrative Office address on page 3. Please make your check or money order payable to the OAEA Educational Foundation.

THE DOGGY MEN

Book Review by Billy-Ace Baker

The *Doggy Men*, by Hwfa Jones, is small in content—only 56 pages, but large in meaning. Hwfa—a Welsh name, pronounced Hoover—spent several years at Halley Bay the most southerly British Antarctic Survey (BAS) Base, and was lucky enough to do some of what turned out to be the last BAS dog sledging journeys. This book was written to raise money for a memorial fund for the BAS dogs.



Mitral, his nose scarred from fighting with other dogs. Generally it was not his fault. He was not too bright and just got into trouble with bigger dogs.

Hwfa reported that the Memorial Fund has been doing well since it was launched in October last year. "We have about 25% of the total required for the memorial already. Most of this is in small donations from the guys who were there and knew the times when the Dogs were so essential to travel there." The book kick started the Fund and has

been publicized on *Z Fids* (the Halley Bay website), and has been reviewed in the BAS Club Newsletter



The Hobbits Taking a Well Earned Break

The Madrid Protocol of 1991 banned all dogs from Antarctica and all Australian and New Zealand dogs were removed. When the ban went into effect the only Australian base still operated dog teams was Mawson. These dogs went to a facility in Ely Minnesota, where it was stipulated that they be kept together as working teams, in conditions as near as possible to those experienced in Antarctica.

I was surprised to learn in Hwfa's book that the BAS dogs were disposed of in the 70s—almost 20 years before the Madrid Protocol ban.

In addition to the story of the Doggy Men the book contains a Dog Index with names of the dogs from Abdul to Zork including Sex, Parents, and Born/Died dates. There is also a list of terminology and a full-page about a dog

named Boo Boo whom the FIDs named a mountain for. The location of the mountain is a secret and is known only as Boo Boo's Lost Mountain. There is also a list of personnel who were at Halley Bay during the time that Hwfa was.

The Doggy Men were forced to kill their teams because of a cold, distant order, sent by men with a taste of sherry on their lips, and congratulating themselves for signing a treaty. Done in the name of preserving the environment. Hundreds of dogs were shot and their bodies dumped out of sight in crevasses.

Hwfa said: "All the dogs in the history of Antarctica caused less pollution or damage to the environment than a single LC-130 flight."

"The Doggy Men looked down and saw the shapes deep in the ice but have kept the secret so long that they are as sure now that it was imagined, as they were sure then it was real. An insubstantial vision; prophetically a part of their spirit, preserved forever and forever lost".

Send orders for the book and donations to the memorial fund to this address:

Hwfa Jones
47 Penkett Rd., Wallasey Wirral
Merseyside CH45 7QG England
hwfa.jones@googlemail.com

QUE SERA SERA COMING OUT PARTY

by Billy-Ace Baker

The below photo of *Que Sera Sera* (QSS) was taken at McMurdo in 1958. Stripped of wings and tail section QSS was being prepared by Air Development Squadron Six personnel for shipment to the Smithsonian Institute in Washington, DC. AD2 Donald Mitchell stands in the foreground reading the logbook of QSS.



The photo below is how QSS appeared on 31 October 2006 during the 50th Anniversary of the first aircraft landing at the Geographic South Pole. This time the aircraft is missing a wing, part of the tail, and is badly in need of a paint job due to damages inflicted by Hurricane Ivan in 2004.



As was reported in the Jan-Mar 2007 issue of the *Explorer's Gazette* Les Liptak informed the OAEA Gulf Coast Group (GCG) during the February meeting that restoration of Ivan caused damages was approximately 80 percent complete. A contractor using Hurricane Ivan insurance money did painting and reattaching the wing, fixing the rudder, and patching a big hole in one side. Museum volunteers will do the rest of the restoration. Some immediate items to be accomplished is getting new tires and replacing the Teflon on the skis. Right now the tires won't hold air and QSS has to be dragged around on the skis causing further wear and tear. Nothing has been done to the interior. The museum currently has QSS on the sponsor program list for \$100,000.

On 3 March, a message was received from Sean Brown which he had posted on Dave Riley's website. Sean was in Pensacola and he reported that the company he worked for, Marianna Aeromotive, had received a contract to repair Hurricane Ivan damages to the 32 outdoor display aircraft at the National Museum of Naval Aviation (NMNA). Sean's personal involvement with the restoration was that he was the individual who had the job of painting QSS after the

company's sheet metal personnel got done. Sean included some photographs and noted that some finishing details needed to be completed, such as the prop-warning band, *Que Sera Sera* on nose etc., and the wings needed to be reinstalled as may be seen in the photo below.



On the morning of 21 March, eight members of the GCG and guests, were given a flight line sneak preview of QSS and a tour of the restoration facilities in the hangar used for that purpose. The newly painted QSS looked a lot better than it had looked in 25 years and much better than it did the last time we had an opportunity to get up close as can be seen in the photo below



On 27 March word was received that NMNA had sent a press release to the local media that there would be a press conference and viewing of the newly painted QSS on Thursday 29 March 2007 at 1400 at the NMNA, NAS Pensacola. A heads-up message was sent to those GCG members who have email capability, but because of the short fuze not many people turned out. However, including the media and museum officials there were from 25 to 30 people present. Attendees of note were RADMs "Doc" Abbot former CTF-43, Senator (Alabama) Jerry Denton who was also a Vietnam POW, and COL Tom Noel, USAF former NYANG Squadron C.O. NMNA Director VADM Gerald Hoewing was in attendance and Captain Bob Rasmussen was the speaker for the event. Bob, who is museum director, said he hopes to have the *Que Sera Sera* displayed inside the museum someday, but he added that the museum lacks sufficient space now. However QSS can be viewed during one of the four "flight line" tours the museum conducts daily. The flight line is open during normal museum operations, from 9:30 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. every day of the year, except Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's Day.

GULF COAST GROUP HAPPENINGS

by Billy-Ace Baker

We have had three monthly meetings and two outings to view the freshly painted *Que Sera Sera* since the last issue of the *Gazette*. The OAEA 2008 Reunion Committee has also had

two meetings since the last *Gazette*. Plans for the reunion are proceeding smoothly.

24 March Meeting:

There were 34 members and guests in attendance at the March meeting including Karen Nightengale guest of Billy and Joyce Blackwelder. Out of area members present were Jim Burlock and his wife from Pass Christian, MS. The 50/50 raffle was won by Jim Landy who donated his \$56 share to the GCG Kitty. Door prizes were won by Judy Dickson, Marquerite Burlock, and Glen Harris. John Jaenisch was the guest-speaker. John was in VXE-6 in 1985-88 and 1994-97. He gave an overview of his two tours in the squadron and told some humorous stories about his deployments to the ice that he made with Jim Landy and a tour of duty they shared in Rota, Spain. However, Landy didn't seem to think the stories were so funny.

Unexpected attendees were Jim and Carolyn Speed who had stopped at the Lakeside for lunch. Jim is the son of Harvey Speed a VX-6 pilot who wintered at Little America V during DF-II. Jim didn't know about the meeting and was only alerted to our presence in the Tavern when they heard "Beardmore Glacier" come over the restaurant PA system.

21 April Meeting: There were 31 members and guests at the April meeting. Out of area members from Lake City, FL were Bob Conner, his wife and a female guest. Al rogers was the winner of the 50/50 raffle and he also won the door prize. Al took home \$52 as his share of the raffle. In lieu of a guest speaker a 43-minute video of vintage 1958 Operation Deep Freeze activities was shown and was followed by a second video of the 50th Anniversary celebration of the first aircraft landing at the Geographic South Pole.



Shelly Ragsdale, NMNA PAO Prompts Gus Shinn for TV Interview at 29 March QSS Press Conference

Laura Jernigan produced a photo of her deceased father CWO Robert I. Ward, USMC. As was reported in the Jan-Mar issue, Ward was one of five Marines who wintered during DF-II. As far as can be determined they are the only Marines who ever wintered during the history of Operation Deep Freeze. Laura submitted a Commemorative membership for her Dad and generously donated \$100 in his name. Information about Ward and the other Marines who wintered would be appreciated by Laura.



CWO Robert Ward, USMC

02 June Meeting: There were 29 members and guests at the June meeting. The slight decline in attendance may have been due to the decision to move the monthly meetings back to the first Saturday of the month resulting in some members not getting the word. OAEA Life Member Robert Konrad, 4-years-old was elected to pull the tickets for the raffle and door prizes. The raffle was won by Ed Feeney who donated his \$34 share to the GCG. The Ladies of Lakeside donated two Lakeside Galley & Tavern ball caps and these were won by Charlie Henke and Sean Baker. A penguin ice bucket door prize donated by Con Jaburg was won by Paul Dickson.

The guest speaker was Jim Baker who is a volunteer for the Young Eagles program that gives free plane rides and instructions to young people between the ages of 8 to 17. Les Liptak gave his rendition of a Plane Captain dealing with a full grown canine passenger on a flight from South Pole Station to McMurdo Station while trying to make French onion soup for the aircraft crew.

After an absence of over three months for new lettering and some additional patches, the GCG OAEA flag was back on the Lakeside Tavern wall.



Jim Baker



The next GCG OAEA meeting will be at the Lakeside at 1300 on Saturday 4 August.