



EXPLORER'S GAZETTE

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Uniting All OAEs in Perpetuating the History of U.S. Navy Involvement in Antarctica

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Old Antarctic Explorers Association, Inc

Jul-Sep 2007



A USAF maintainer looks on as USAP Personnel disembark from a C-17 Globemaster III at the Pegasus Runway

WINFLY DF-07 Completed — DF-08 Launched

Compiled by Billy-Ace Baker

OPERATION DEEP FREEZE 08 BEGINS WITH WINFLY FLIGHTS.—Christchurch NZ, by TSgt Shane Cuomo Air Force News Agency. The 2007–08 austral summer season started on 20 August ending more than five months of isolation for the research station as the first C-17 Globemaster III delivered passengers and cargo to McMurdo Station, Antarctica.

Landing 15 miles from McMurdo Station at Pegasus Runway, the C-17s will bring in scientists and support members to start early pre-summer projects, augment maintenance personnel and prepare skyways and ice runways at McMurdo Station.

The Winter fly-in, called WinFly, is the first of three phases for Operation Deep Freeze that sets the stage for the U.S. Antarctic Program.

“We bring people down who will begin construction on what is called the annual sea ice runway, which is very close to McMurdo,” said Lt. Col. Jim McGann, the 304th Expeditionary Airlift Squadron commander.

When people arrive at Antarctica, they have to take about an hour trip from Pegasus Runway to McMurdo Station. Once the 10,000 feet by 220 feet annual sea ice runway is completed, the trip will be just 10 minutes that allows quicker downloads and less exposure to the weather.

See: WINFLY on page 4.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

John Lamont West—OAEA President

TO ALL OAEs—It is my pleasure to announce that Valerie Ann Johnston has agreed to serve as the OAEA, Inc., Secretary.



Val is a graduate of Excelsior College, Albany, NY. She has extensive administrative and secretarial experience from both the military and private sectors of the business world. Val is currently engaged as a Level I Consultant with Booz Allen Hamilton, San Diego, CA. She is also a 30-year veteran. Val retired from the US Navy as a Master Chief Yeoman. She has experience in preparing and presenting special program/project briefings for Flag Officers/Senior Executives; eighteen years' experience with office management, training and professional development. Val will be a valuable asset as she serves the OAEA, as the OAEA Secretary.

The turnover of the OAEA Secretary duties will be a transitional exchange of responsibilities. The final/formal turnover portion of the Secretary will be during the second meeting of the Board of Directors at the 2008 Reunion in Pensacola, Florida. Up until the formal turnover, Jim O'Connell will continue to provide Val with lessons learned and with guidance on the OAEA procedures as he gradually relinquishes his responsibilities as the outgoing OAEA Secretary.

Mark your calendars: Old Antarctic Explorers Association, Inc. Reunion, 5–7 November 2008, Pensacola Beach, Florida. Plan on attending. More information on this gala event will be forthcoming.

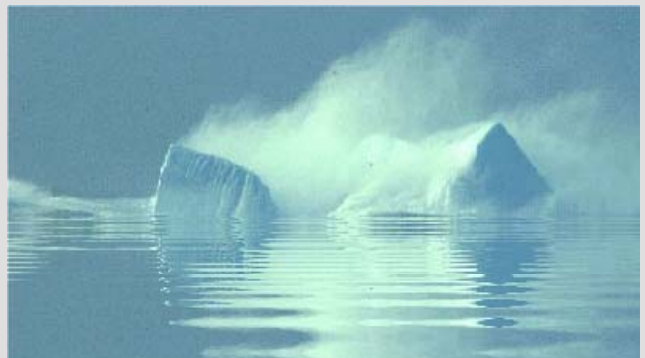
In 2008, the Old Antarctic Explorers Association, Inc., will be holding an election to fill the positions of President, Executive Vice-President, Treasurer, and two spots on the Board of Directors. Nominations, and volunteers seeking to submit self-nominations, to fill these positions should contact the OAEA 2008 Election Committee Chairman, Bob "Gabby" Gaboury. Information for contacting Gabby will be provided in the next issue of the Gazette and/or by separate correspondence.

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 loved ones, 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.

Editor's Note: If you served in Deep Freeze during the late 80s you may remember Valerie Johnston as YN2 Valerie Russell, or by her AFAN persona: "Va Va Voom, the Golden Voice of the South". Val served in the NSFA Admin Department during DF-77 & 78.



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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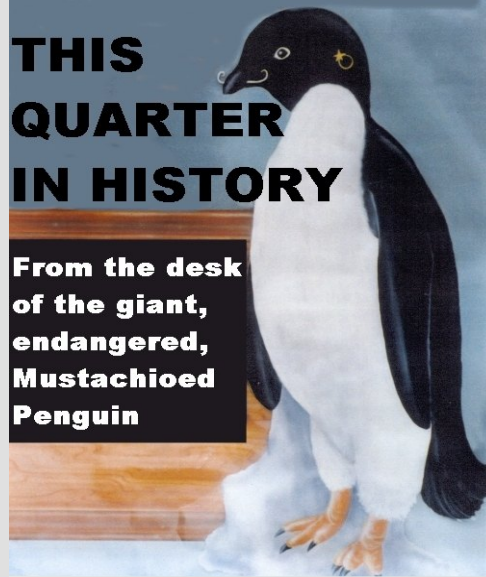
Chaplain – Denis Casey

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Parliamentarian – Jim Eblen

THIS QUARTER IN HISTORY

From the desk of the giant, endangered, Mustachioed Penguin



July Events

- 01 Jul 1896 Tom Crean appointed to Able Seaman and celebrates with double ration of grog.
- 04 Jul 1940 USASE West Base: Charles Passel and Al Wade create first "White Out Punch". Consisting of melted snow, lemon flavoring and 4-quarts of White Label Scotch.
- 05 Jul 1940 USASE East Base: 4th of July celebrations postponed for one day in order to include as part of the festivities a special "Mailbag" broadcast from the USA featuring Bing Crosby and Olivia Dehaviland. Reception was reported as "fivers".

August Events

- 20 Aug 1915 Mrs Chippy records in *his diary that the sky was full of floating castles and cathedrals. All hands came on deck to marvel at the splendid display of the *Fata Morgana* mirages. *Mrs Chippy was the *Endurance* ship's cat. Although he was tomcat that had been mistaken for a female the name stuck.
- 18 Aug 1965 Byrd Station husky mascot Mr Sastrugis aka "Gus" disappears from station
- 01 Aug 1967 RN-50 Nodwell lost through the ice off Hut point on fourth attempt to reach Cape Royds.

September Events

- 19 Sep 1902 Scott, Shackleton, and Barne abort Minna Bluff depot-laying expedition due to bad weather and return to base.
- 17 Sep 1969 4.9 earthquake recorded on Deception Island.
- 05 Sep 1971 The newly promoted and universally dreaded BMC Rittenour returns to the ice armed with report chits and sheep shears.

WINFLY DF-08 From page 1

"We like it because they build us a nice runway. They like it because the C-17 is closer and it makes the travel time a lot quicker," Colonel McGann said.



WinFly Deplaning

Operation Deep Freeze is a demanding mission due to the extreme adversity of the environment and remoteness of Antarctica. For WinFly, and for all of the seasons, there are few options. The C-17 carries unusual loads and has to deal with weather that can change in 30 minutes. To meet the challenges, a joint force of active-duty and Reserve members are assembled to complete the difficult tasks safely and efficiently.



Loadmasters unload a pallet from their C-17 Globemaster III during the winter fly-in for Operation Deep Freeze at Pegasus Runway. A C-17 and 31 Airmen from McChord Air Force Base, Wash., began the annual winter fly-in augmentation of scientists, support personnel, food, and equipment for the USAP at McMurdo Station.

"My pilots are picked for their judgment and their ability to make the right decision. The loadmasters are the same way," Colonel McGann said. "Both positions have to be highly intuitive. They have to be able to think on their feet and they have to be able to make the right decisions."

Transitioning McMurdo Station from a quiet, isolated winter camp to a logistical hub for the U.S. Antarctic

Program the C-17 had only a short window to deliver its passengers and cargo due to daylight and weather.

"The biggest challenges are weather, the complexity of the loads, and the time it takes to download and upload the aircraft," said Senior Master Sgt. Jim Masura, the 304th Expeditionary Airlift Squadron superintendent. "Time is limited due to daylight, and we have to get in and out as quickly as we can."

The U.S. military is uniquely equipped to assist the NSF in the accomplishments of its mission to explore Antarctica, and 13th Air Force officials have the capability to provide joint operational and logistical support around the clock.



Sorting WinFly Mail and Cargo.

Operation Deep Freeze is divided into three seasons: WinFly, main body and winter. It involves active duty and Reserve C-17 support from McChord Air Force Base, Wash. LC-130 from the NYANG and other aircraft necessary to support the mission, as well as Coast Guard icebreakers and the Navy Cargo Handling Battalion One to provide critical port services at McMurdo.

Blizzard batters McMurdo Station

About two weeks before WinFly the worst storm of the winter hit McMurdo on 8 August.

McMurdo was battered by the fiercest storm of the winter, unlucky

news for a group of Christchurch children. The station was hit by a ferocious blizzard, 140 kmh winds ripping siding off buildings, overturning shipping containers, felling power lines, and trapping 13 of the 120 winter-over staff inside the gym.

New Zealand's Scott Base escaped the worst of the storm. The 20 Kiwi workers were able to sit in front of their new gas fire in the refurbished bar and watch the windows flex in and out.

The storm was unlucky news for the children of the Cholmondeley Children's Home in Governors Bay, who were in line to get about \$1500 put into a sweepstake by McMurdo Station staff who made a bet on when the first serious storm of the winter would hit.

Usually each winter McMurdo is blasted by several storms severe enough to restrict all staff indoors but since the last flight left in February the weather has not been bad enough. If McMurdo Station had gone two more weeks until the first flight of the spring, all the sweepstake money would have gone to Cholmondeley.

Operation Deep Freeze underway in Antarctica

As the continental U.S. sweltered under an autumn heat wave, airmen from McChord Air Force Base, Wash., and the New York Air National Guard donned parkas for trips to the frozen bottom of the world.

Following on the heels of WinFly The 52nd year of the Austral Summer season of Operation Deep Freeze got underway with three C-17 missions from Christchurch, NZ, to McMurdo Station, according to the 13th Air Force.

Since seasonal operations began, the Air Force has moved 283 passengers and 106,299 pounds of cargo to the research station, which serves as the hub for the U.S. Antarctic Program, according to an Air Force press release.

Operation Deep Freeze is conducted by 13th Air Force-led Joint Task Force Support Forces Antarctica.

It includes C-17s and crews from the 62nd Airlift Wing at McChord and ski-equipped LC-130 aircraft and crews

from the NYANG 109th Airlift Wing. The C-17s ferry passengers and cargo from New Zealand to McMurdo, and the LC-130s carry them from McMurdo to research posts throughout Antarctica. The LC-130s will begin deploying to McMurdo in mid-October, according to the press release.

Operation Deep Freeze is a joint and total-force mission that has supported the National Science Foundation and U.S. Antarctic Program since 1955. It involves active-duty and reserve airmen and aircraft, a tanker and chartered cargo ship operated by the Navy Military Sealift Command, and the Navy Cargo Handling Battalion that provides port services at McMurdo. Coast Guard icebreakers and helicopter detachments also provide support. All deployed forces are scheduled to return to home station in March 2008.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Billy-Ace:

Thanks for running my letter about locating RM1 Al Allison in the Jul-Sep 2006 issue of the *Explorer's Gazette*. Someone finally contacted me with info about Al, but I regret to inform you that Al passed away on 14 Oct 1992. I am enclosing a \$50 donation and a membership application to make Al an OAEA Commemorative Member.

RMCM Tony Herman

Editor's Note: Tony's donation is greatly appreciated. Tony wintered at South Pole Station during DF-63. Al Allison wintered at South Pole Station during DF-61 and at Hallett Station during DF-63. May he RIP.

Billy-Ace:

I wanted to say thank you for the Jan-Mar 2007 newsletter on the latest happenings with the OAEA and updates on everyone.

I also wanted to let you know that I have had the opportunity to share with the Naval Reserve Center, Louisville, KY families on Family Day about the Old Antarctic Explorers Association and what it has meant to me in remembrance of my dad.

They truly enjoyed the pictures and letters that I have received from those knowing and working with my dad in the 40's and 50's.

I truly enjoyed reading about Gus Shinn becoming the first pilot to land an aircraft at the Geographic South Pole.

Someday I would like to go to Antarctica to McMurdo Sound and climb the mountain named after my dad. It would be interesting.

Am looking forward to the 2008 Reunion in Pensacola, FL.

Charlotte Dieckhoff

Editor's Note: Charlotte is the surviving daughter of deceased ADC Frederick Ferrara who was the crew chief on the P2V that made a transcontinental roundtrip flight from McMurdo to the Weddell Sea and return on 13 Jan 1956. Mount Ferrara in the Pensacola Mountains was discovered and photographed during the mission and was named in his honor. Charlotte deserves an Atta Boy for spreading the word about the OAEA.

Dear Editor:

The Apr-Jun *Gazette* was another great issue. But, in the *In Memory* column you have Herbert Hollick-Kenyon listed as Lincoln Ellsworth's co-pilot in the obits for Victor Marchesi and Charles Gibbs. Actually Hollick-Kenyon was the pilot and Ellsworth was the co-pilot. I wouldn't say anything, but Hollick-Kenyon was a fellow Canuck.

Bob "Gabby" Gaboury

Editor's Note: I have no excuse for the mistake. However, I have chastised my Proof-Reader/Fact-checker severely for the oversight.

Billy Ace, Hi.

Let me take this opportunity to thank you personally for putting Acy Patterson in touch with me three years ago. Since the day he first made contact and up until several months before his death there had been a constant exchange of topics of mutual interest, humorous videos, and not a few sea stories. Your good deed turned out to mean a lot to us both.

The *Gazette* is the only publication I receive that does not end up in the waste bin. Instead filed and reread from time to time, as always much appreciated. Regards and respects.

Jon Farrell

Editor's Note: Acy's death was reported in the Apr-Jun 2007 issue of the Gazette.

Billy-Ace,

My story in the Jan-Mar issue was kept intact despite the edits. I agree that you didn't detract from the gist of the story. I went through the Cruise Book and am still baffled at the true ID of the perpetrator. HE knows who he is, and maybe he will step forward. At least I only referred to him as a "WET BLANKET".

Mike Walsh

Billy-Ace

I received the two certificates today. One is the Commemorative Member Certificate for Al Allison. I will try to locate members of his family in California. If not, I'll keep it for the memories.

The other was the Little Blue Penguin Club certificate for my donations.

Tony Herman



New England Chapter Summer Meeting

By Marty Diller,

New England Chapter Secretary-Treasurer

The Chapter Officers opted to locate the 23 June Summer meeting in the western environs of New England in an attempt to lure OAEs out of Vermont, while still staying somewhat close to the southern/coastal population centers where most Chapter members reside. Unfortunately, this experiment was less than successful as only 45 attendees turned up at Rom's Restaurant in historic Sturbridge, Mass. Central and upstate New York OAEs were specially targeted with emails and flyers about the meeting, but we only saw one new face from NY, and our Vermont members didn't take the bait either. In total, 45 people, including 33 members, attended—down from an average of 55 attendees over the previous three meetings. On the other hand, only 43 attended last year's Summer meeting, so we'll just consider the turnout to be about average.

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, brought back from Pole by Jerry Marty, NSF's South Pole Station Construction and Maintenance Manager. CB informed the attendees that this flag would now be kept on indefinite display at Pole Station, starting with the upcoming Antarctic summer season.

CB also provided a Report on the commissioning of the USNS *Richard E. Byrd* (T-AKE-4), on 15 May 2007. The ship is the fourth of the 11-ship *Lewis and Clark* T-AKE class. CB attended the event in San Diego, described the ceremony and the fact that Bolling Byrd Clarke sponsored and christened the ship named for her father. See the Apr-Jun 2007 *Gazette* for details of the commissioning.

Under Old Business, the issue of developing a Chapter Education Committee was reviewed. Volunteers for this committee are still needed, and are encouraged to identify themselves to Anne Hazard at ahazard@gwi.net or 207 353 9068.

Other New England Chapter News

In 2004, CSC Al Jones, USN (Ret) of Woolwich, Maine, regularly attended New England OAEA meetings with his wife, Annette. Sadly, Al (VX-6 cook; DF-61 Williams Field EDF; DF-62 CHCH EDF) passed away in January 2005. He was a wonderful guy who enjoyed sharing Ice stories with others, and he always looked forward to attending each meeting. Last year, on behalf of the Chapter, the Chapter Board of Directors submitted an OAEA membership application with a monetary donation to the OAEA in Al's honor. With Annette in attendance at this meeting, Dave Hazard presented the framed Commemorative Membership certificate to her. The membership certificate is dated on what would have been Al's 77th birthday.



Dave Hazard Presents Commemorative Member Certificate for Al Jones to his widow Annette.

Featured Presentation

One of the newest Chapter members is artist Lisa Goren of Hyde Park, MA. Lisa made an Antarctic cruise in 1997 on M/V *Professor Multanovskiy* and was inspired by the beauty and color of the landscape and the water there at the height of summer. As the Guest Speaker for this meeting, Lisa presented some photos of her trip, and of course, some of her work: paintings of whales, icebergs, and the Antarctic landscape. Some of her art is also available on greeting cards and coffee mugs. For those who want to see for themselves, go to her website at: <http://www.lisagorenpaintings.com>.

Lisa's original "Three Penguins on Blue Ice" painting hangs in the Scott Polar Research Institute, in Cambridge, England.



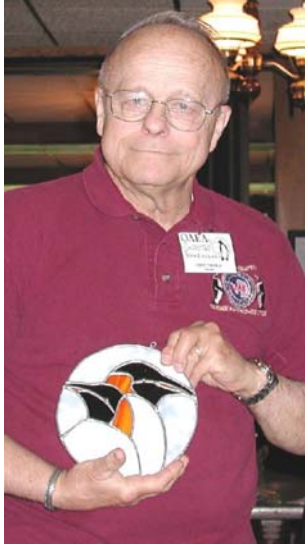
"Three Penguins on Blue Ice"



Left to right: Tom & Pris Noel, Fred Santino, Lisa Goren, and Bev Diller.

Fundraising

Reunion logo merchandise, including T-shirts, coffee cups, etc., was the main items offered to raise administrative funds. OAEA logo ball caps were also available. Newly available OAEA license plate holders proved to be hot items at this meeting. Also, the Chapter has 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. A wide range of items were donated by Chapter members and the Reunion Committee for the raffle and door prize drawings.



Chet Thomas' with stained-glass sun-catcher, made by Kathleen Donovan.

Raffle winners included: Al Buckes (Maori scarf); John Drews (Antarctic Penguin Club ashtray); Joyce Kessler-Drews (penguin-critter candle holder); Bob Epperly (framed R4D *Que Sera Sera* photos); Don Germain (pewter penguin Christmas ornament); John Giro (brownie mix in a decorative penguin container and framed photo of NYANG LC-130); Gloria Hollo (mini penguin wind chime); Dave Killian (OAEA ballcap); Al Lishness (penguin candle holder set); Bob Sexton (penguin candle holder set); Chet Thomas (handmade 7-inch diameter, stained-glass penguin sun-catcher). Door prize winners omitted due to space constraints.



Bob Epperly and Que Sera Sera

Meeting Schedule

Meeting attendees voted to hold the Fall OAEA-NE Chapter meeting on Saturday 13 October, in Brunswick, Maine, in conjunction with the 2007 Navy Birthday Ball Dinner/Dance at Naval Air Station Brunswick. The meeting is scheduled for 1:00 pm, and attendees are invited to stay overnight and attend the Ball (formal attire required), which goes from 6 pm until midnight.

23 June Attendees included:

From Connecticut:

- Gerry Chartier (*Eastwind* DF-60)
- Don Germain (MCB-1 DF-II)
- John Hollo (VX-6 DF-I & II) & wife Gloria
- Jim Kelly (ASA Det C DF-72-74) & guest Jessie McGuire
- Ron Ochsner (CBU-201 DF-69 70) & wife Paula.

From Maine:

- Marty Diller (VXE-6 DF-92-94) & wife Bev
- Dave Hazard (VXE-6 DF-71-74) & wife Anne (OAEA-NE Webmaster),
- Annette Jones (Al Jones widow)
- Al Lishness (VX-6 DF-II-IV 60 61)

From Massachusetts:

- Charlie Bevilacqua (MCB[Special], DF-I & II)
- Al Buckes (ASA DF-66-67)
- JT Drews (ITT Contractor DF-85) & wife Joyce
- Bob Epperly (VX-6 DF-III & IV)
- Lisa Goren (Cruise, Feb 97)
- Jim Pedone (CBU-201 DF-69)
- Fred Santino (VX-6 DF-65 66)

From Rhode Island:

- Dean Abbott (VX-6 DF-61 62) & son John
- John Forman (ASA DF-IV 60-63) & wife Peg
- John Giro (VX-6 DF-64-69)
- Mike Hall (VXE-6 DF-70-73) & wife Paula



(L to R): Fred Santino (standing) talks to John Giro; Jim Pedone and Marjory Spoerri with coffee mug from artist Lisa Goren. At back table: Barry (behind Giro) & Barb Chase, Bob Epperly, and Bob Sexton.

- John Hasty (ASA w/o DF-III) & wife Mary
- Dave Killian (VXE-6 DF-70-73) & wife Joan
- John Janke (ASA w/o DF-64)
- Pat "RedIron" McCormick (MCB [Special] w/o DF-I & DF-II)
- Bob Sexton (VX-6 DF-67 & 68)
- Chet Thomas (VX-6 DF-I II DF-58-62) & wife Cora

At-Large members. From New York:

- Bernie Benardello (VXE-6 DF-72 73) & wife Pat, from Lindenburg,
- Barry Chase (VX-6 DF-60-61 65-68) & wife Barbara, from Edinburg,
- Tom Noel (NYANG DF-88-98) & wife Priscilla, from Burnt Hills
- Marjory Spoerri, book collector from Stanfordville.

Three Ways to The Ice Revisited

By Billy-Ace Baker

This started out to be a Letter to the Editor concerning a story that first appeared in the *Explorer's Gazette* and later in *Wings of Gold*. I have since received several emails commenting on the story. The most recent concerned a letter written by Jim Cornwell.

The Apr-Jun 2006 issue of the *Explorer's Gazette* included an article titled "Three Ways to the Ice", by Maury Unger, about a couple of wayward USAF C-130s headed for McMurdo around the 1964–66 timeframe. This same article was also printed in the Spring 2007 issue of the *Wings of Gold* magazine.

Apparently this was not the first time the Air Force had gotten lost on the way to the ice. On page 21 of the Summer 2007 issue of *Wings of Gold*, this letter from Captain Jim Cornwell, USN (Ret.) was published:

Not the First Time the USAF Got Lost

The article, "Three Ways to the Ice", relates the misadventures of two USAF C-130s lost en route to McMurdo due to weak navigation skills. I was pilot of a P2V-7 in VX-6 during DF-60. We launched to find a MATS C-124 that was also lost, heading south over water, and beyond the point of no return. Our CO, Capt Bill Munson, was aboard as a passenger. We found and rendezvoused with the C-124 about 600 miles from McMurdo.

I believe our fitness reports soared from the elation in Capt Munson's voice. We steered the C-124 to McMurdo where it landed with one hour's fuel remaining. A senior USAF officer squashed a PAO release about the event, implying the crew wasn't really lost and would have eventually found their way to McMurdo. All I know is that our P2V-7 crew could not buy a beer as long as that USAF crew was on the Ice."



Captain Jim Cornwell, USN (Ret)

In a later email to the *Gazette* editor, Jim added the following comment: Looking back there's not much more to add to that story. When we launched from Williams Field, on what we hoped would be a successful intercept, all we knew was that a C-124 was lost and all they could see was water. Our assumption was if he were west of track he hopefully would eventually find landfall near Cape Adare. We headed out over the Ross Sea anticipating the worst-case scenario. Luckily after a few hours or so we were able to pick him up on UHF DF. We joined up on his wing, provided him a fix, had a nice chat, and headed home.

If I were to say that the Air Force crew appreciated our visit that day, it would be a gross understatement. The PAO

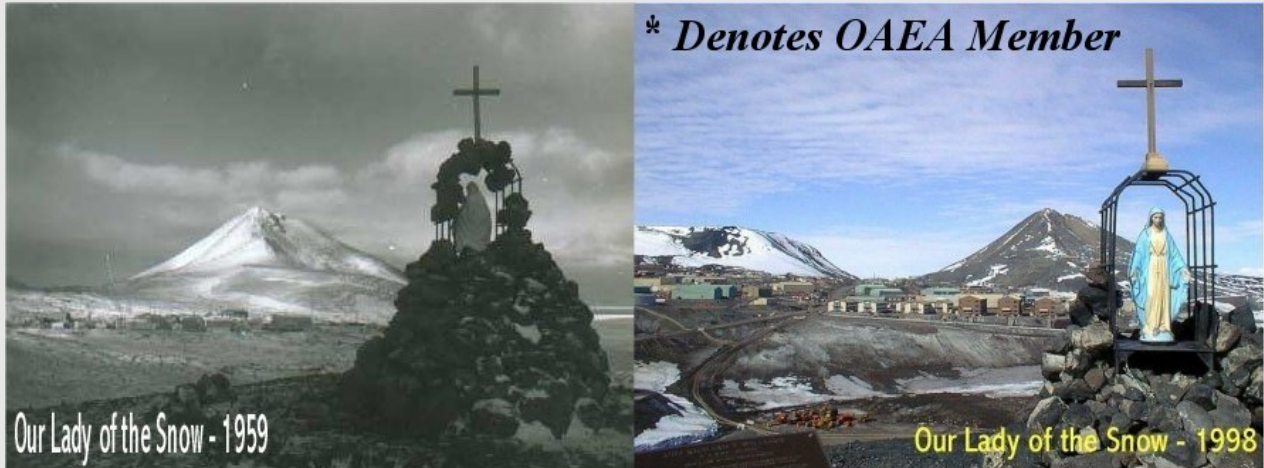
part of the story was sort of an anticlimax—the important thing was they made it to their destination.



P2V 437 (#1) crew, back row L/R: AD1 Harold Bracken, LT Cornwell, CDR Newcomer, AMSGT Warren, USMC. Front row L/R: PH1 Reimer, AT2 Lewis, AM2 Symonds, AD2 Jackson

When the Shoe Was on the Other Foot

When asked for comments Maury Unger had the following to say: I really don't have anything more to add to the "Three Ways to the Ice" article. However, I will say that I was involved in another navigation incident that occurred in Deep Freeze 66: I was hitching a ride with another VX-6 LC-130F crew. I navigated the leg from McMurdo to Christchurch, and the navigator for this crew took the leg back to McMurdo. Having experienced some hard liberty in Christchurch, I was dead to the world on one of the makeshift pallets back in the cargo bay almost immediately after take-off on that particular night. We must have been in flight for a good three hours when someone shook me awake. It was the navigator, and he was in panic mode, stating that he was lost. I went up to the flight deck and reviewed our navigation route. I don't remember all of the sordid details of how he got lost, but I believe it had to do with bad celestial navigation computations—remember we didn't have inertial navigation capability on those planes back then. I looked out the cockpit windows hoping to see some "user friendly" constellations from which we could take some celestial fixes. No such luck except for some constellations on the far horizon that I recognized and that were fast disappearing. That confirmed we were way off course. Hurriedly, I shot the stars I recognized in those constellations, and then did reverse computations using the Air Almanac to get the fix we so desperately needed. I was successful, and we made a 90-degree course correction in order to make it to McMurdo. When we stepped off the plane at Williams Field, the navigator thanked me for coming to his rescue. Interestingly, no other member of that crew ever said a word about what happened. It was as if it had been a normal flight, and the Puckered Penguins lived to fly another day.



I N M E M O R Y

*Minnie Dennie, 99, died on 23 August 2007, in Carmi, IL. Minnie was the mother of OAEA Memorial Member AMH1 William Chastain who served in VX-6 and was killed in a P2V accident at Wilkes Station on 9 November 1961.

OAE RCMC Dennis K. Stout, USN (Ret), 66, died on 4 August 2007, in Dale City, VA. Dennis wintered over as an RM1 with ASA at Palmer Station during DF-67. Stout Spur in the Pensacola Mountains is named in his honor.

OAE Frank Agapoff, 80, died on 31 July 2007, in Camarillo, CA. Frank was a member of Highjump.

OAE Jose J. Parodiz, 95, died on 4 September 2007, in Allentown, PA. While in the Argentina Navy Jose participated in several oceanographic expeditions to the South Atlantic and sub-Antarctic region.

Aubrey Halpern, 71, died on 12 April 2007, in Prestwich, Manchester, England. Aubrey was a Polar philatelist who specialized in Antarctic Postcards, and Antarctic Cinderellas.

OAE Capt Robert R. Zendt, USN (Ret), 68, died on 5 July 2007, in Macomb, IL. Bob wintered over at McMurdo during DF-70 as the station dentist.

OAE Brian E. Smith, 53, died on 6 September 2007, in Glen Ridge, NY. Brian was a civil engineer and worked for ITT at McMurdo and the South Pole during the 80s.

OAE Bernerd Hubert Burbank, 88, died on 20 September 2007, in Houlton, ME. Bernerd visited Antarctica during DF-65 as a guest of CNSFA.

OAE Charles Nilsen, 85, died on 2 June 2007, in Portland, ME. Before WW-II Charles served on a Norwegian whaling vessel in Antarctica.

OAE Terry Colling, died on 21 July 2007, in Wyoming. Terry was the RPSC South Pole Operations Manager from 2003–2006.

OAE Danny P. Martinez, 45, died on 16 July 2007, in Colorado. Danny served with Operation Deep Freeze. Unit and year(s) unknown.

OAE Wesley William Carscaden, 79, died on 30 May 2007, in San Francisco, CA. Wes served on the USMS *North Star* during the USASE (Byrd III Expedition 1939–1941).

OAE John B. Thune, 90, died on 16 September 2007, in Oakland, CA. John made numerous trips to Antarctica as a member of Mountain Travel Sobek expeditions.

OAE Imre Friedmann, died on 11 July 2007. Imre was a noted astrobiologist. He served with USARP from 1976-1987. Friedmann Valley in the McMurdo Dry Valleys is named in his honor.

OAE LCDR Ralph B. Griffin, USN (Ret), 79, died on 12 June 2007, in Waltham, MA. Ralph served on the USS *Philippine Sea* during Highjump.

OAE Harold W. Helfrich, Jr., 84, died on 4 March 2007, in Media, PA. Harold was a journalist with USARP during DF-61.

OAE Mike Clay, died on 15 September 2007, in Easton, MO. Mike served with MCB Special at McMurdo during DF-I. Mike was a member of the ADFA.

OAE Wally Herbert, 72, died on 12 June 2007, in Inverness Scotland. Wally served with the FIDS during 1954–57, and with the NZGSAE during DF-62. Wally was the author of several books about Antarctica. Herbert Plateau in Graham Land and the Herbert Range in the Queen Maude Mountains are named in his honor.

OAE Douglas C. Shaw, 70, died on 27 July 2007, in Borrego Springs, CA. Douglas served on the USS *Curtiss* during DF-II.

OAE CPO Harold R. Juhola, USN, (Ret), 75, died on 13 June 2007, in Zion IL. Harold was a member of Deep Freeze. Unit and years served unknown.

OAE Azel Thad Wall, died on 22 July 2007, in Greensboro, NC. Thad served on the USS *Philippine Sea* during Highjump as a Corpsman.

OAE Michael S. Terpilak, 78, died on 11 April 2007, in Bethesda, MD. Mike was a retired USPHS officer. He served with NNPU.

OAE James E. Starbuck, 60, died on 25 July 2007, in New Ipswich, NH. James wintered-over at South Pole Station during DF-70 as the Cosmic Ray technician. Starbuck Crater is named in his honor.

OAE Robert H. Snedeker, 84, died on 18 March 2007, in Winter Park, FL. Robert served as a photo interpreter on the USS *Edisto* during Operation Windmill. Snedeker Glacier is named in his honor.

OAE John David Lecik, 66, died on 3 September 2007, in Clinton Township, MI John served with the Seabees at Byrd Station during DF-60.

OAE Joseph D. Di Martino, 80, died on 15 August 2007, in San Diego CA. Joseph served on the USS *Mount Olympus* during Highjump as a diver.

OAE LCDR Jack S. Koehler, USNR (Ret), 79, died on 3 May 2007, in Allentown, PA. Jack was a member of Highjump.

OAE CWO Hugh Lee Hood, USN (Ret), 92, died on 21 April 2007, in Stockton CA. Hugh served during Highjump.

OAE LCDR Peter Dudley Blaxland, RAN (Ret), 86, died on 23 June 2007, in Sydney, Australia. Peter served as Medical Officer on the HMAS *Labuan*, the ship that was used to establish the first ANARE research stations. He was a member of the ANARE Club.

OAE Frederic St. Laurent Sr., 78, died on 25 March 2007, in Sanford, FL. He served on the USS *Philippine Sea* during Highjump.

OAE Edward Wade "Moose" Remington, 86, died on 7 February 2007, in Johns Island, SC. Moose was the IGY glaciologist during the first winter-over at South Pole Station during DF-II. Remington Glacier was named in his honor. He was a member of the ADFA.

*OAE COL John Roscoe, USMCR (Ret), died on 23 February 2007, in Riverside CA. John was a geographer. He compiled and edited the USN *Antarctica Bibliography* (1951). He served with Highjump and Windmill. Roscoe Glacier and Roscoe Promontory are named in his honor. John was also a member of the American Polar Society.



CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Denis Casey—OAEA Chaplain

Visitors to the Edinburgh Festival in 2006 were surprised to find this message on one of the billboards advertising a play:

**“TOM CREAN—ANTARCTIC EXPLORER”**

Crean an Irishman from County Kerry Ireland, had sailed with both Captain Scott on two expeditions and with Shackleton on the *Endurance* and he lived to tell the tale of all three voyages.

He did not keep a diary because he said, “I had better things to do at minus thirty than keep a diary”.

Although highly decorated by the British government, few have heard of Crean.

In 1893 he joined the British Navy and when he retired, with his pension he purchased a pub in his home village that he called the South Pole Inn.

This man who had spent a winter marooned on an ice pack. He had rowed over 700 miles in a tiny boat and had climbed 26 miles over unmapped territory in a non-stop forced march, ended his days serving pints of Guinness in Ireland. He died in 1938.

Today the story of Crean still lives on in the pub, but what impressed me the most when I had a pint there, was one of the locals who told me Crean was a man of great faith which Crean told all was the reason for his survival.

The play portrays Crean as a reluctant, humble hero. May we remember and salute Crean and all the heroes from many nations who are the first “Old Antarctic Explorers”.

D. Casey

Obit Messenger

by Billy-Ace Baker

RECENTLY I WAS ASKED WHERE I GET THE OBITUARIES that appear in the *Gazette*. The answer is: from a lot of places. Families or friends of the deceased forward a few. But most obituaries come to me from Internet sources.

I subscribe to Google News Alerts. This free service creates profiles that search the Internet for news releases containing keywords. I created several profiles that contain the word “died”. However, the main source of obituaries is from a paid service the OAEA subscribes to.

This service, Obit Messenger, screens Obituary Columns of 200 online newspapers. The subscriber selects a maximum of five keywords that Obit Messenger looks for. This is not many keywords for all the possible words that could appear in an obituary that would link the deceased to Antarctica.

I was made aware of Obit Messenger by K. C. “Big John” Henry who edits a submarine newsletter, He only uses three of his keywords to search for submarine related obits, so he uses the other two words to search for Antarctic related obits that he forwards to me. The additional words help out a lot and I am grateful for his donation.

Obit Messenger is far from fail-safe. I get a lot of obits that have phrases such as Joe Blow was a world traveler who visited every continent except **Antarctica**.

Getting back to obits that are forwarded to me by friends and loved ones. These obits rarely contain any mention of Antarctica, and are usually obits for OAEA members. I often wonder how many more obits I would receive via Obit Messenger if people who prepare the obits mentioned their loved ones Antarctic Experience? With that in mind I have written my own obit and have given a copy to my next of kin and the funeral home that I have my burial insurance with. I encourage all OAEA members to consider writing their own obit including their Antarctic service and make it available to whoever will prepare their obit.

GLOSSARY OF SNOW AND ICE

Compiled and edited by Billy-Ace Baker

Bergschrund — The crevasse that appears at the head of a valley glacier. Norwegian equivalent: *Bregleppe*.

Cirque Glacier — A glacier which occupies a separate rounded recess which it has formed on a mountain side. Spanish equivalent: *Glaciar de circo*.

Icefoot — A narrow fringe of ice attached to the coast, unmoved by tides and remaining after the fast ice has broken free. French equivalent: *Pied de glace*.

New Ice — A general term for floating ice recently formed. Norwegian equivalent: *Nyis*.

Old Ice — Floating ice more than two years old, up to three feet or more thick. When old ice is bare of snow, it is blue and lacks the greenish ting of second-year ice. Russian equivalent: *Mnogoletniy led*.

Yellow Snow — Discoloration of snow usually caused by human or animal urination. Yellow snow should not be eaten. German equivalent: *Essen verboten*.

OAEA Donor Awards as of 8 July 2007

Submitted by Jim O'Connell

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

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

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Do You Receive Your Gazette By US Mail Or Do You Download It From The Internet?

by Billy-Ace Baker

DURING FY-2007 THE OAEA SPENT NEARLY TWO THOUSAND DOLLARS PRINTING AND MAILING THE *Explorer's Gazette* to nearly 500 of our 1200 members. (See FY 2007 Accounting Statement on page 22 of this issue) This is a lot of money considering that our annual operating budget is capped at \$10,000. Granted some of our members are not Internet capable and the only way they can receive the *Gazette* is by "snail mail". However, there are more than a few members who are Internet capable, but who have requested to receive their copy of the *Gazette* by mail.

In the Jan-Mar 2006 issue of the *Gazette* I published an article outlining the problem and asked Internet capable members to opt out of receiving the *Gazette* by US Mail and to dig into their pockets and make donations to the OAEA to help pay for printing and mailing of the *Gazette* regardless of how they received the *Gazette*. Only a few people responded to that appeal and since then even more members have requested copies of the *Gazette* by mail.

When the OAEA Secretary mailed out the Apr-Jun 2007 issue of the *Gazette* he placed the following note on the front of the envelopes:

PLEASE NOTE

Although you have elected to receive OAEA communications electronically, this is being mailed to you per your request. If your preferences have changed, please contact the OAEA Secretary at penguin64@att.net

The OAEA Secretary informed me that he had a pretty good response from the note but still had a lot of fence hangers and he asked me to do another article about getting people to switch over to *Topica to save money.

I again urge all members to dig into their pockets and help support the *Gazette*, and for those members who are Internet capable to opt out of receiving the *Gazette* by mail.

**Note: Topica.com is the email system the OAEA uses to notify members when the Gazette has been posted on the OAEA web site.*



Deep Freeze '70 Reunion Held in San Francisco

I Left my Heart in San Francisco

by Pony Peverill

That's what everyone is thinking that attended the DF-70 Winter-Over and Summer Support reunion in San Francisco. About twelve OAEs and their significant other attended this great reunion from 25-29 July 2007. All had a great time. We all made a city tour and

Cockrill and George Olsson will be heading that event.

Most of us stayed at the Comfort Inn By the Bay, San Francisco. Nevin Vandergraft and wife Kathy along with George Clouser stayed with friends. George and Shirley Olsson drove their Motor Home from Orlando, FL. They stayed with friends in Dublin and took the BART every morning into the city.

And as they say, a great time was had by all—it was like having family there.

The 2007 reunion is behind us and now there are plans in the making for the 2009 DF-70 Reunion. Beef Cockrill and George Olsson along with their lovely spouses, Annette and Shirley, will be in charge of planning.



Group photo at wine tour. Attendees, not in order: RM2 John Pennington & Jennette, EA3 Dale Cockrill & Annette, CS1 George Olsson Shirley, ET3 Alex Decess & Cathe, BT1 Robert Long & CC, CM2 Bill George & Sue, CE2 Herm Scholtens & Esther, CM2 Arte Jacek & Alma, ABF3 James Flora & Barbara, RM2 William Peverill & Pat, CM2 George Clouser, CM2 Nevin Vandergraft & Kathy.

then took a boat out to the "Rock." No one got seasick, so I guess we still have our Sea Legs. Some of us were wondering if the inmates living conditions might have been better than ours on the ICE. One full day had us touring the Wine Country and enjoying some of the local spirits.

As usually, we found a local tavern, the "Black Magic Voodoo Lounge", right across the street from the hotel and it became our evening gathering place before turning-in. We spent time at Fisherman's Wharf and in China Town. When it came time to say our good byes it seemed to be harder than ever because we have become family. The next reunion is scheduled for Savannah, Georgia in the Spring of 2009. Dale



Pony & Pat Peverill at the Black Magic.

CALLING ALL DF-70 OAE's—ROLL CALL—MUSTER UP

It is time to muster up and let everyone know you are still kicking. A group of us had a great 2007 Operation Deep Freeze Reunion in the city by the bay.



Alex Decesse and Cathe enjoy a glass of wine.

Information will be coming out soon. It would be nice to get an email from each of you so we will know that we have a good email address for everyone. We will also be checking by snail mail so that everyone gets the word.



Annette & Dale Cockrill and George & Shirley Olsson.

When you answer the group email please make sure you use the "Reply to All" button so that your response will go to everyone. It has been very quiet on the net, so we need to get some dialogue going. Those that didn't make the 2007 reunion were missed. And we hope to see all of you at the 2009 DF-70 Reunion.

Editor's note. If you are Internet capable and did not receive the group email from Pony Peverill you can contact him at: wpeverill@earthlink.net

WEST COAST MEETING

OAEA West Coast Lunch

by Jim Maddox

On 11 August 2007 we had our best showing at this get together at the

Mongolian BBQ on a sunny day in the quaint town Camarillo, CA. Email invitations were sent to between 20 and 30 OAEs and we had 14 people

attend—eleven members, two wives, and one guest.

In attendance were: Bob Gaboury, Dick Masters, Harry Heverly, Maureen & Choyce Prewitt, Jim Eblen, Ralph Saukko, Millie & Cy Buehler, John Prichard (guest), Roy Allen, Val Johnston, Roy Lee, and Jim Maddox

After lunch, we all agreed that we had enough regular members to form an official OAEA West Group. Four members volunteered to be officers of the West Group: Jim Maddox as President, Jim Eblen as Vice-President, Bob Gaboury as Treasurer, and Val Johnston as Secretary. We decided to have three meetings a year at different locations in California, beginning in January 2008, in San Diego. At this time, the specific location and date has not been set we are tentatively considering 19 or 26 January. Jim Eblen is looking for a location.



Left to right: Harry Heverly, Dick Masters, Roy Allen, Jim Maddox, Ralph Saukko, Choyce Prewitt, Millie Buehler, Maureen Prewitt, Val Johnston, Roy Lee, Cy Buehler, and Jim Eblen. Inset Bob Gaboury.

Dave Bresnahan Retires From NSF

By Billy-Ace Baker

In early July I got wind of a rumor from several sources that Dave Bresnahan had resigned from the NSF. Dave and I go back a long way. When I was wintering at McMurdo during DF-67 Dave arrived in the middle of June on the first scheduled WinFly. I emailed Dave and asked him if the rumor was true. Dave confirmed that he was in the process of retiring from NSF and he sent me a copy of his retirement letter that he had submitted to Karl Erb.

Dave was associated with the USAP for over 40 years. After WinFly 67 he returned in 1968 as the Berg Field Center Manager. He began working for NSF OPP full time in December 1970 and made many summer deployments as NSF Rep Antarctica.

Dave served as the guest speaker at the 2005 OAEA Reunion in Oxnard California and he was also the keynote speaker at the OAEA Gulf Coast Group sponsored 50th Anniversary celebration of the First Aircraft Landing at the Geographic South Pole.

For a number of years my favorite photo of Dave was one that appeared in



Bresnahan 1967 and recent photo

the annual *Survival In Antarctica* booklet published by the NSF for the indoctrination of fengees. After over a dozen years or so they finally replaced the photo of Dave with one of a store dummy dressed in USARP clothing.

Dave's letter of retirement was too long for the available space, but a few of his words are quoted below:

"My decision to retire was one of the most difficult I have had to make. I am one of the lucky few that have been able to work in the most remote place on earth, supporting the national program in Antarctica, protecting the

environment and advancing the world's knowledge of this wonderful place we call *The Ice*".



Bresnahan dressed in USARP clothing

Tidewater Group Meeting

by Ed Hamblin

On Saturday 8 September a small group of diehard Tidewater area OAEs got together for a couple of hours. There was one "new face" in the group,

Robert Cardona, who was on the ice during summer seasons 1979 and 1980 to do some medical X-ray machine installations. Besides Robert, others who chose to come out rather than to go to the NAS Oceana Air Show were Brad Miller, Wayne Rogers, Charlie Thompson, Fred Nootnagle, Neil Sugermeier, Marty Nemcosky, and Ed Hamblin. At least for a while, the gray hair and aches and pains were forgotten while all revisited South Pole, Dry Valleys, penguin roundups, Scott Base excursions; at least in the mind's eye.

The next Tidewater get together will be in early December, at a place to be announced. The House Of Eggs Restaurant is up for sale, and may not exist, so the meeting

place is TBA. The Tidewater area POC is Ed Hamblin, phone 757 405 3362, email ehamblin@cox.net. If you want to be included in the Tidewater area email tree, let Ed know.



HM1 Robert Cardona Medical Repair Technician TAD From Hawaii installs new X-ray unit during DF-80



Pictured, from left: Charlie Thompson, Marty Nemcosky, Wayne Rogers, Robert Cardona, Fred Nootnagle, Neil Sugermeier, and Brad Miller. House of Eggs Restaurant inset.

NEW OAEA MEMBERS

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

Thanks to John Whitehouse, Marie Ventura, Jim Johnson, Tony Herman, Eugene Van Reeth, Billy & Joyce Blackwelder, James "Bill" Brown, Elaine Hood, Jim Mortier, and *Ice Cap News* (ASPP), for recruiting new members or for providing names and contact info for prospective members.

*Denotes Associate member

Allison, Ernest "Al" RM1	Commen	Hallett WO DF-63
Angerome, Joe A. AG3	Life	USS <i>Atka</i> 59-61
Barrell, John F. LT	Life	USS <i>Glacier</i> DF-64
Beckham, Jack CMSGT	Annual	USAF 137-AW 98-00
Benardello, Patricia CIV	*Life	Spouse
Capling, Robert E-9	Life	VXE-6 66-70, 73-76, 79-82
Clarke, Ian CIV	Life	FIDS 52-55
Derrough, Lois A. CDR	Life	NSFA 74-76
Edwards, Jack W. AG2	Life	USS <i>Edisto</i> DF-62
Elwood, Wm R. CIV	Life	McMurdo ATC 06-08
Fernandez, Elias AECS	Life	VXE-6 72-73
Findlay, James R. CIV	Life	USARP 80-82
Gallagher, Catherine	Life	Surviving Spouse
Giro, Mary V. CIV	*Life	Wife of John
Guidry, Monte CIV	*Life	Referral
Gurmain, Don Sr BUL3	Life	MCB-1 55-57
Halpern, Barry S. CIV	Life	DF-01 Tourist <i>Akademic Shokalskiy</i>
Hinger, Paula H. CAPT	Life	VXE-6 81-85
Jahn, Ted B. CDR	Life	NSFA 88-92
Johnson, Alfred E. YN2	Life	VX-6 DF-68
Kane, Thomas M. CIV	Annual	DF-06 WO RPSC
Kapocius, Algirdas LTJG	Life	USS <i>Glacier</i> DF-64
Kersten, William CIV	Life	USARP 81-82, 96-98
Kessler-Drews, J. CIV	*Life	Spouse
King, Jerry W. CE1/ENS	Annual	South Pole 58-59 & NNPU WO DF-66
Knapp, Lewis CD3	Life	MCB-1 56-58
Leslie, Vernon M. CPO	Life	VX-6 59-61
McCollum, Philip M.	*Life	Friend of OAE
Metcalfe, Charles 1stLT	Annual	63rd TCW DF-58
Michael, Ronald J. CIV	Annual	ITT WO DF-83, SS 85, RPSC 00-03
Moore, Bruce F. LCDR	Life	VX/E-6/NSFA 65-70
Nightengale, Karen CIV	*Life	GCG Groupie
Olsen, David A. AG2	Annual	NSFA DF-87 & 89
Osborn, Eric W. CIV	Life	ANARE 80-82, 89-91
Parkin, Dan RM3/CIV	Life	NSFA 76-80, H&N WO Pole DF-83
Pascua, Bernardino MS3	Life	USS <i>Glacier</i> 60 & 68
Pokrivnak, John M. EM3	Annual	USS <i>Glacier</i> 63-66
Rugg, Michael B. CIV	Annual	SRC DF-99, SpaWar DF-99 to Present
Scott, William SS1	Life	USS <i>Burton Island</i> 66-68
Smith, Karl A. SW1	Life	CBU-201 66-70
Speed, James CDR	Life	Surviving Son

Spinelli, Gene ETR2	Life	USS <i>Calcaterra</i> DF-66
		USS <i>T. J. Gary</i> DF-67
Stam, David H. JO2	Life	USS <i>Wyandot</i> 57-58
Summers, Harry LTJG	Life	Highjump TF68 46-47
Sumney, Wilbur UT1	Life	MCB-1 61-64/MCB-71 73-74
Tankersley, Jack ASCS	Life	VX-6 59-64
Toney, Philip A. RM2	Life	NSFA 77-79
Vasile, Raymond CIV	Annual	SRC 03-05
Warfield, Steph CIV	*Annual	GCG Groupie



REUNION INFORMATION

Send reunion information to Billy-Ace Baker at 850 456 3556 or upizauf@aol.com for publication in the *Gazette*

USS *Edisto* (AG-89/AGB-2): 1-5 May 2008. POC Glenn Smith, Director & Reunion Planner, PO Box 747, Mims, FL 32754-0747, 321 269 5637, ussedisto@bellsouth.net. The USS *Edisto* served during Windmill, DF-I, 61, 63, and 65.

MCB-71: Washington, DC (Arlington, VA), 5-10 Aug 2008. Details and POC info to be announced.

Det Alfa DF-73 Winter-Over: Seattle, WA mid-September 2008. Details and POC info to be announced when available

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

Det Alfa DF-70 Winter-Over: Savannah, GA, Spring 2009. Dates and details to be published later. See page 13 this issue for 2007 reunion report.

OAE LOCATOR

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

• Patrick "Rediron" McCormick is looking for information on the Crucifix in the photo below. Dave Grisez took the photo in November or December 1956. The caption under the crucifix reads; this Crucifix placed here at the request of St. Michael's School, Pawcatuck, Conn. U. S. A. Rediron has made two attempts to contact the school by letter in which he included a photo of the Crucifix and a followup telephone call. The only response he received was an answering machine telling him to leave a message. The Crucifix had to have been placed earlier (Operation Highjump?) than or early during Deep Freeze I. Rediron can be contacted at: 322 Nate Whipple Highway, Cumberland, RI 02864-3009, 401 333 5828, rimccormick@msn.com.



• Tom Hickman is looking for members of the MCB 8 Tower Crew who erected the COSRAY antenna during the summer of DF-64. The tower crew with 12 Seabees put up towers from 30 to 250 feet high to measure amount of cosmic rays hitting the earth. Tom can be reached at: tom2405@netzero.net, 719 546 2332, or 2405 Greenwood, Pueblo, CO 81003.

• James "Bill" Brown is looking for HM1 Don Poe who was his good friend at McMurdo during DF-III. Don was originally from Oklahoma and married a Kiwi lady. Bill can be reached at: billb29151@charter.net, 201 Creek Circle Road, Fairview, NC 28730, 828 338 0135.

• Michael Fendley is looking for information about the 1958 crash of the C-124 Globemaster *City of Chistchurch* in Antarctica. Michael is the son of T/Sgt Iman Fendley who was killed in the crash. Michael can be contacted at Yeldnef@hotmail.com, 424 Old Highway 5 South, Thomasville, AL 36784, 334 636 9960.

• Eric Jansson is looking for anyone interested in photos taken by his father during Operation Highjump. Eric's Dad was a USMC Photographer. Eric has painstakingly scanned many of his Dad's photos. A sample of the photos can be seen at: <http://s36.photobucket.com/albums/e33/job0777/> and click on the Highjump tab. Anyone interested in obtaining a CD of the photos may contact Eric at 10794 El Mar Ave, Fountain Valley CA 92708-5318, phone: 714 642 7613, or daymakereric@aol.com.



USS Sennet (SS-408). From the Jansson Highjump collection.

• Karen Damvelt, niece of Harvey Speed, is looking for information about the color scheme of *Que Sera Sera* for a model she is working on. Karen has been asked to write a memorial pamphlet or short remembrance of her Uncle and his travels and adventures including his Antarctic days. Any stories about her Uncle would be appreciated. She can be reached at kld46@charter.net, 4520 Croyden Ave, Kalamazoo MI 49006-3900, Home: 269-381-1486 Cell: 269-370-3376.

ACTIVITIES BY LOCALE

New England Area—See meeting information on page 6.

West Coast Group—See meeting information on page 14.

Tidewater Group—See meeting information on page 15.

Gulf Coast Group—See meeting information on page 19.

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

Ohio Valley Group—Edson Waite is looking for OAEs to start a chapter. He can be contacted at 660 Beatrice Drive, Dayton, Ohio 45404-1411, 937 233 0613, or ebw@thewaitegroup.com.

Antarctic Deep Freeze Association Plaque

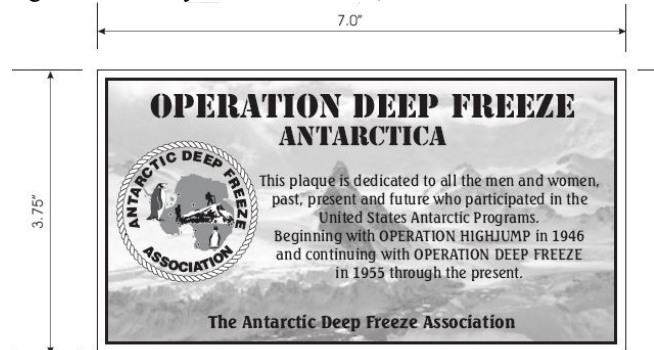
By Billy-Ace Baker

REPLICAS OF THE ADFA PLAQUE mentioned in the ADFA reunion article (*Explorer's Gazette*, Apr-Jun 2007, page 15) are available to ADFA members, and non-members, for \$150.00 (postage paid) by special order from the United States Navy Memorial Foundation.

These replicas are exact reproductions of the plaque displayed on the Memorial Wall at the United States Navy Memorial, Washington, DC. Plaques are mounted on a handsome hardwood base, suitable for hanging, displaying on a desk, or in a curio cabinet.

Order forms may be downloaded from the ADFA web page at: <http://www.oaedks.net/adfa.html>. Or if

you are not Internet capable order forms may be obtained by calling Paul T. Haley at 202 380 0760, Ext 760.



Reproduction of ADFA Navy Memorial Plaque.

All OAEs are invited to become members of the ADFA. Information for joining is available on the ADFA web page. If you are not Internet capable you can contact Dick Bowers at: 6404 Peace Place, Indianapolis, IN 46268 or by phone at: 317 280 1841

EATING PAVLOVA

Book Excerpt by Billy-Ace Baker

Douglas Mawson 1882–1958
Australian geologist, explorer,
and teacher

He had been crouching for hours over the pot, boiling the bones from the dog's carcass. Mertz had gone to sleep. When he woke Mawson was smashing Pavlova's bones with the spade outside the tent. He was cold and grim when he crawled back into the tent; he had Pavlova's four paws in his hands. He skinned the fur from them and dropped them into the steaming pot. After a while he looked at Mertz, his eyes solemn and bloodshot from the snow-blindness. "You know how she got her name, don't you?"

Mertz nodded: "Yes, I was on the ship."

[Flashback: aboard, the *Aurora* tied up on the Thames River, June 1911.]

He was busy in the cabin with a manifest when the gangplank sentry knocked at his door. "Here's a special lady to see you sir."

She seemed to fill his drab cabin with a radiance . . . moved with grace and smiled with deep charm when she said her friend Nellie Melba told her about a very brave young countryman

of hers who was to sail his ship to the bottom of the world. "I hope you will not mind that I come to see such a ship—and such a man." She held out her hand and he held it in shy deference.



Anna Pavlova

She handed him a wrapped box. "It is a present for you" . . . "I wish it to keep you safe and bring you home again." He unwrapped the box and found a ballerina doll on tiptoe in a blue tutu. "Take it in place of me." she smiled.

Mawson was touched and he asked her to christen his ship and be godmother to the *Aurora* for her Antarctic adventure. He found a bottle of wine and she poured some over the oaken forestem and asked God to watch over all who sailed in the ship. They could not waste the remaining wine; they drank it together in his cabin, and then Mawson escorted her to her waiting limousine. On the way she stopped to fondle a young husky, a bundle of brown and ochre fur. Anna Pavlova, one of the greatest ballet dancers ever, was godmother to his ship; and there and then he named the pup she fondled, Pavlova—the husky whose paws he was now boiling to jelly to help keep him and his companion alive.



Pavlova

Paraphrased from Mawson's Will page 137–138 by Lennard Bickel, 1977. Published in the United Kingdom as: *This Accursed Land*.

GULF COAST GROUP HAPPENINGS

by Billy-Ace Baker

AFTER SKIPPING JULY THE GCG met on 4 August at the Lakeside for an afternoon of food, drinks, and camaraderie. The highlight of the meeting was the presentation of a gift Associate Membership to our waitress Stephanie Warfield. In spite of harassment and wisecracks Stephanie has been a great waitress during all the meetings we have had at the Lakeside. She was genuinely surprised and thought that she had been called to the stage to pull a ticket for the 50/50 raffle. Speaking of the raffle, \$126 was collected and the drawing was won by Billy-Ace who donated his share back to the GCG treasurer.



New GCG Associate Member Steph Warfield Shows Off Her Membership Certificate

Thirty-five members and guest attended and new faces were Christean, daughter of Ed and Judy Owens. The youngest guest in attendance was Jon Christian Hollingsworth, 4½ month-old grandson of Jim and Pam Landy.

The Ladies of the Lakeside donated a windshield visor CD caddy featuring embroidered penguins for a door prize and Paul Dickson won it. Which reminds me, in the Apr-June issue of the *Gazette* it was reported that Paul had won the penguin ice bucket. In reality, Associate Member Chuck Minerman won the ice bucket. Chuck intends on making the ice bucket some type of traditional icon for the GCG.



Visor CD Caddy Door Prize won by Paul Dickson (Editor's Note: the CDs were not included)

At the 02 June meeting the members present voted to become an official chapter of the OAEA. Chuck Minerman and Billy-Ace Baker volunteered to look into becoming incorporated as a not-for-profit group and reported their findings at today's meeting. The pros and cons of becoming an official chapter were discussed. Possible representation on the OAEA BOD was the main benefit that outweighed the drawbacks involved. Roger Talbert, and Jim Landy were selected to be GCG President and Vice President respectively. Billy-Ace Baker was appointed to serve as Secretary/Treasurer. Les Liptak will continue to serve as the Master of Ceremonies at Gulf Coast Group meetings.



Les Liptak recovering from rotator cuff surgery. Les was allowed to go home for recuperating with a local pain killer hook-up. Or is it an in-flight refueler?

2008 REUNION COMMITTEE MEETING

The OAEA GCG 2008 Reunion Planning Committee met on 25 August at 10:00 in the Radford Room at the NMNA aboard NAS Pensacola. After everyone poured a cup of coffee, or opened a bottle of water, the committee got down to business.

Transportation was the first topic on the agenda. Chuck Minerman reported on air and ground transportation and it was decided that an official airline would not be designated for the Pensacola reunion. Beach Boy Trolleys was selected for group ground transportation to various locations and Enterprise was chosen as the official car rental agency.

Billy-Ace presented a report on a special reunion 18-month calendar. Concern for the expense was discussed and the committee decided to get another estimate for a fourteen-month calendar.

There was a general discussion concerning the publication schedule for the reunion special edition of the *Explorer's Gazette* and other advertising requirements, procedures, and timelines.

Paul and Judy Dickson briefly reported on the availability of "freebie" penguins.

The entertainment committee had demo CDs from PensaCola Steel and the Singing South Pole Seabee, but there was a lack of audio equipment in the Radford Room so the auditions will be presented at the next meeting.

Rules for vendors were discussed and it was decided that only OAEA members would be permitted to sell items at the reunion. Details and requirements to be published later.

The next 2008 reunion planning meeting will be held at 1000 on 3 November at the Lakeside Galley and Tavern.

1 September Meeting: There were 40 members and guests in attendance at the September meeting. Out-of-area members present were Hugh and Dianne King from Mandeville, LA. First time attendee, Elias Fermamdez (VXE-6 71-72) from Panama City Beach, joined the OAEA as a Life Member. Jim Speed, son of Harvey Speed, also signed up as a Life Member, and Karen Nightengale signed up as a Life Associate Member. Laura Gernigan's 13-year-old daughter Catherine was drafted to pull the tickets for the raffle and door prize. The 50/50 raffle was won by Joyce Blackwelder who donated her \$55 share to the GCG Kitty. The door prize, an OAEA patch, was won by Gary Skaar.



Les Liptak was absent so Billy Blackwelder volunteered to be the Master-of-Ceremony and he called on Chuck Minerman to report on Les's condition following his recent surgery (See photo on previous page). Bill Fazio was also asked to provide a health-and-welfare report on Bob Tippen who is hospitalized at the VA Hospital in Biloxi MS. A short progress report on the status of the GCG Incorporation was given by Billy-Ace



Billy Blackwelder acting MC

Laura Snow was the guest-speaker. Laura, a retired school teacher and school administrator, is the daughter of Ashley Snow who was a pilot during the US Antarctic Service Expedition 1939-41 (USASE). Since her retirement Laura has been researching the USASE for a book she plans to write about the expedition. Laura gave an outstanding presentation that was highlighted by a short PowerPoint slide show of the expedition.

Earlier in the year Laura made trips to Calif to interview Stephen Bryant, son of Herwil Bryant who was also a member of the USASE. She also visited the National Archives in Washington, DC to research the expedition.

Following Laura's presentation the meeting was adjourned and hugs were exchanged all around by those so inclined.



Guest speaker Laura Snow discusses the Byrd III Expedition

Gulf Coast Group Addendum

One of the OAEA Gulf Coast Group members is currently on the ice. Bill Elwood is an Air Traffic Controller and resides in Gulf Breeze, Florida, when he is not deployed. He reported that he was put to work in the GCA Tower as soon as his boots hit the ice.



OAEA GCG Member Bill Elwood

NMCB-71 PLYWOOD PLAQUE RETURNED FROM SOUTH POLE

by UTI Wilbur G. Sumney, Jr, USN (Ret)

Editors note: This article appeared in the June 2007 issue of Can Do Magazine. Wilbur Sumney does not have email so coordination for editorial purposes was conducted by telephone and snail mail.

I came back on active duty in September 1973 and joined MCB-71 in Davisville, RI. In October, I deployed on the first flight to the "Ice", and ended up as Camp Maintenance Supervisor at the Dry Gulch construction site at South Pole Station.

At some point near the holiday season, someone suggested that there should be a plaque to commemorate the men who worked on the projects at the Pole; the Geodesic Dome, Sky-Lab, Helium Generating Building, and so forth.

I informed the Detachment Commander, LCDR Carlson, what I planned to do. He gave me his blessings. So I commandeered a ¾ inch 4X8 foot sheet of plywood and put it in my work area. This was the Jamesway where the UTs worked with the snow melter, water purification, et cetera. I hung it on the wall of my "office" and started to work. With 14 or 16 gauge hard copper wire, I made some basic letter shapes, a short line, a longer line, and half-moon crescents, to make the various letters.

With pencil, I drew on the plywood, the battalion logo, the names of the battalion commander, AROICC, Det Commander, Chaplain, Company Commanders, and the names and rate of 137 enlisted men.

Then with a soldering gun and the letter shapes, I burned the images into the wood. It took about two to three weeks for the project. I put some white nylon line around the edge of the plaque and burnt my initials in the lower right corner. I burned out four soldering guns before the project was completed.

I don't remember who helped me, but we took the plaque to the archway entrance to the Dome, just inside on the right, and we hung the plaque on the left side of the arch leading to the generator building. I then took a picture of it, which I still have along with about 3000 other slides from my four trips to the domain of the penguin.

About a year ago, someone, I think it was Stanley Wiley, told me the plaque was in Port Hueneme, California. Through a telephone call I found this to be true. On 5 March 2007 I flew out to Port Hueneme for the groundbreaking ceremonies for the new CEC/Seabee Museum. I took some pictures and with the help of museum director, Lara Godbille, and curator Kim Crowell, I have more pictures and information about the plaque.

In DF-02, the Plaque was found by George Prehn, carpenter, and Kevin Bjella, carpenter apprentice. There were some small scratches and a gouge in the plaque, but this just gives it character. It was in excellent condition after being frozen for 30 years. It looks as good as the day that I made it. Incidentally, Kevin Bjella is now employed at the US Army Cold Regions Research and Engineering

Laboratory as a Research Civil Engineer in Hanover, NH, and he is also the Secretary of the American Polar Society. Kevin previously wintered at McMurdo and South Pole Stations.



Wilbur Sumney with MCB-71 Plaque at Seabee Museum photographed in March 2007

NSF South Pole Construction Manager Jerry Marty was responsible for making sure that the plaque got sent to the museum in Port Hueneme. Jerry has been in charge of the construction of the new elevated station at South Pole. He plans to retire from NSF after the new station has been dedicated.

After his deployment to the South Pole Wilbur was presented with a letter of commendation from the Commander Naval Construction Battalions, US Atlantic Fleet. The letter lauded his collateral volunteer duties of Camp Handyman and how he creatively designed and constructed several devices that contributed to recreation, health, and morale. Including such things as a billiard ball rack, a weight lifting bench, a sanitary shield for the cafeteria line, and the commemorative plywood plaque honoring those who served at the pole.

Wilbur still contributes to the recreation and welfare of others. He has constructed a train from his riding lawn mower, which is a big hit at birthday parties and other gatherings.



Wilbur with his lawn mower locomotive



1 October 2007

I certify that the below report is a true accounting of financial transactions conducted by the Old Antarctic Explorers Association, Inc during FY 2007 (1 Oct 06 to 30 Sep 07) and financial and membership status as of September 30, 2007.

James H. O'Connell
James H. O'Connell
Secretary/Treasurer

FY 2007 ACCOUNTING STATEMENT				
INCOME		EXPENSE		
Donations		7,823.06	Administrative Costs	3,264.63
BOD Overages	99.56		Office Supplies	2381.13
Memorials	447.00		Postage	883.50
Newsletters	50.00		Advertising(Recruiting)	1,360.93
Scholarships	4,797.00		Merchandise	937.83
Scholarship Memorials	50.00		Recruiting Packages	41.86
Undesignated	2,379.50		Recruiting Postage	381.24
Dues Payment		6,991.00	Donor Recognition	82.49
Annual Membership	1,200.00		Equipment Repair	129.00
Lifetime Membership	5,775.00		Internet Security	49.99
Mailing Surcharge	16.00		License	70.00
Entrance Fees		272.00	Miscellaneous (Unit Diaries)	325.00
Investment Market Change		1,529.29	Newsletters	2,068.90
Merchandise Sales		698.31	Miscellaneous	31.97
Sale Proceeds	1,565.25		Obit Messenger	199.99
Consignment Fees	-272.15		Postage	417.91
Cost of Goods Sold	-594.79		Printing	1,419.03
TOTAL INCOME		17,313.66	Returned Check	40.00
			Scholarship Award	250.00
			Tax Preparation	75.00
			Web page Expenses	324.84
			TOTAL EXPENSES	8,040.78

TOTAL INCOME – EXPENSES FY 2007	GAIN	LOSS
	\$9,272.88	

**FINANCIAL STATUS OF OLD ANTARCTIC EXPLORERS ASSOCIATION, INC.
AS OF 30 SEPTEMBER 2007**

Summary Statement		Asset Distribution Statement		
		Account	Tangible	Intangible
Beginning Balance 10/1/06	39,728.47	Bank Accounts	23,267.18	
FY 2007 Transactions	+9,272.88	Scholarship Fund	15,392.81	
Ending Balance 9/30/07	49,001.35	Accounts Receivable		440.49
		Merchandise Inventory		793.25
		Property (Undepreciated)		9,107.62
		Totals	38,659.99	10,341.36

**MEMBERSHIP STATUS OF OLD ANTARCTIC EXPLORERS ASSOCIATION, INC.
AS OF 30 SEPTEMBER 2007**

Membership as of 1 October 2006 – 1213			
Membership as of 30 September 2007 – 1346			
Membership Change +133			
Memorial Members – 61	Commemorative Members – 35	Annual Members 108	Lifetime Members – 1014
Deceased Members – 73		Inactive Members - 55	