



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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Old Antarctic Explorers Association, Inc

Oct-Dec 2007



Photo by Margaret Adams

South Pole Station Christmas Tree — 25 December 2007

FUN AND GAMES AT THE SOUTH POLE

Compiled by Billy-Ace Baker

THE ABOVE PHOTO WAS TAKEN BY A YOUNG LADY FROM HOLDEN MAINE WHO SPENT THE ASUTRAL summer working at South Pole Station. Margaret, aka, Meg is now working as an Operations General Assistant (OPS GA). According to her in an email message "I lucked out; working as a cross between the Heavy Shop Ops GA and the Traditional Ops GA has given me the opportunity to work all over South Pole Station, while still forming specific ties with the mechanics in the Heavy Shop". Meg hopes to come back next year and work for Cargo, driving loaders. In the same email she said: "It seems

like a logical step after spending much of the season fixing them".

Meg was scheduled to leave the South Pole on one of the last flights out in February. However, she has volunteered to participate in the "Extended Season", and if selected, she will spend several more weeks as the cook at the Marble Point helicopter facility.

In spite of her full schedule as a "humble" GA, Meg also writes stories about life at the South Pole that appear weekly in the *Bangor Maine Daily News*.

[See: Christmas at the Pole on page 4.](#)

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

John Lamont West—OAEA President

TO ALL OAEs—As 2007 draws to a close, I pray that all had a very Merry Christmas and that you will each enjoy a prosperous, and Happy New Year in 2008.



Reviewing the events of 2007, we recall that Brandon P. Brunelle, grandson of OAEA member ABHC Chester E. Thomas, Jr., USN (Ret.) Little America V, DF-I Winter-Over, was the recipient of the Old Antarctic Explorer's Association scholarship award.

Several vacancies were filled as Ed Hamblin accepted the duties of the Scholarship Fund Committee Chairman; Robert "Gabby" Gaboury, agreed to carry out the duties of the 2008 Election Committee Chairman; Valerie Ann Johnston agreed to serve as the OAEA Secretary; Jim Landy agreed to accept a seat on the Board of Directors.

Plans for the OAEA 2008 Reunion in Pensacola, FL are well underway. More information will be provided in the Special Reunion Gazette that will be published early in 2008. Make plans now to attend this gala event that will be conducted during 5-7 Nov 2008.

Nominations for volunteers to fill the OAEA offices of President, Executive Vice-President, Treasurer, and two Director positions on the OAEA Board of Director will be sent out early in 2008. Please consider stepping volunteering to serve as an officer in the Old Antarctic Explorers Association. Complete your self-nomination forms promptly and return them to our 2008 Election Committee Chairman so that the Election Committee has adequate time to prepare ballots for the OAEA 2008 Election.

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

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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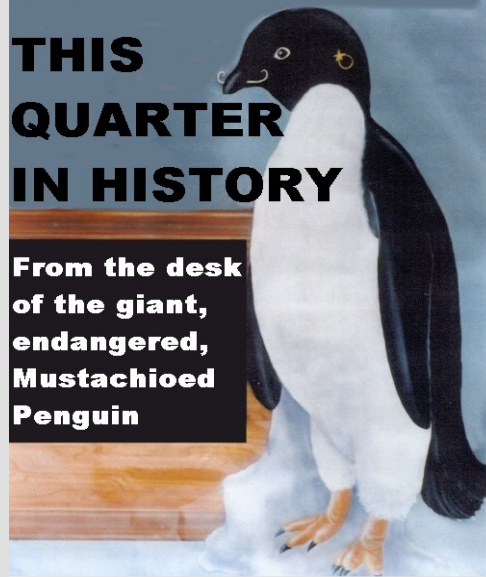
Chaplain – Denis Casey

Historian – Billy-Ace Baker

Parliamentarian – Jim Eblen

THIS QUARTER IN HISTORY

From the desk of the giant, endangered, Mustachioed Penguin



October Events

- 30 Oct 1820 The American sealer *Hersilia*, back in the South Shetlands.
- 30 Oct 1903 2nd LT Michael Barne RN leads support party towards the Pole for Scott
- 15 Oct 1940 Jack Perkins leads major sledge party out of USASE West Base.
- 18 Oct 1956 P2V Crash at McMurdo. Carey, Marze, and Miller killed. Hudman dies later
- 17 Oct 1965 PM-3A scrambled for training. Reactor brought critical and assumed plant load

November Events

- 15 Nov 1820 Palmer explores inside Deception Island
- 03 Nov 1902 Scott catches up with Barne support party
- 06 Nov 1940 Chile claims the Antarctic Peninsula and names it Bernardo O'Higgins Land.
- 19 Nov 1959 LT Tom Couzens RNZA Armored Corps killed in crevasse accident near cape Selborne
- 11 Nov 1969 The first party of women arrive at the South Pole. Cadillac Jack Paulus was the pilot

December Events

- 01 Dec 1820 Captain Alexander Clark's American sealing expedition fleet arrives at the South Shetlands
- 26 Dec 1833 British sealing captian Peter Kemp discovered Kemp Land (also known as Kemp Coast). On the way back home he fell overboard and drowned
- 31 Dec 1908 Shackleton reaches 86° 54'S, a new record
- 13 Dec 1947 Gregorio Portillo, Elbonian Air Force, flies from Argentina, across the Antarctic Circle, to drop mail over Deception Island
- 10 Dec 1985 Swan, Mear, and Wood reach the foot of the Beardmore Glacier

Christmas at the Pole From page 1



Christmas at South Pole a Unique Event

No doubt about it: I definitely had a white Christmas this year. That much was a given.

Despite the guarantee of white, we at the South Pole hardly ever get to see snow fall from the skies. For most of the year, it's too cold for it to snow. Our blankets of white pile up regularly from crystallization, and drift snow from the coast blows across the entire continent, daily challenging our fleet of bulldozers to keep the station clear. But for Christmas, it actually had grown warm enough for snowfall; small, dry flakes, but definitely snow.



Air Drop Boxes

It's not the only present falling from the skies. Five days before Christmas, we had our second annual airdrop of supplies. Everyone headed out to the edge of the station to watch the C-17 aircraft drop two-dozen parachute equipped crates. The atmosphere was festive as I rode out on a snow-mobile-towed cargo sled to watch our "Christmas presents" of supplies make an aerial landing. Once all the cargo had been dropped, the C-17 made a final pass, wagging its wings in a "Merry Christmas" gesture before heading back to McMurdo.

While we may have snow—and packages—literally falling from the skies, Christmas here is still very different from Christmas at home. I won't be driving through Bangor to look at the lights with my sister this year;

and, were we to string our Jamesway buildings with lights, it would never get dark enough to see them. Neither do we have a real tree.



South Pole Personnel Waiting For C-17 Air Drop

But we still make Christmas happen here. To augment our few artificial trees, station doctor Pat McGuire painted several trees and put them up on the walls around the station, inviting us to decorate them with pictures of our families and friends back home.

Perhaps the Christmas spirit came out the most, though, in the form of our special guests. On the morning of Christmas Eve, the International Trans-Antarctic Scientific Expedition (ITASE) traverse rolled into the South Pole. Its arrival marked the end of a long, continuing project that is a collaboration among many nations, chief among them students and researchers from the

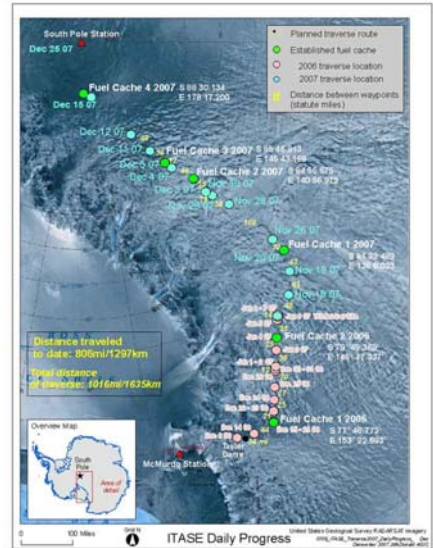


ITASE Fork Train Nearing South Pole Station December 2007

university of Maine.

The group affiliated with the University of Maine had been making their way slowly toward the South Pole from Byrd Glacier since late October.

They arrived just in time for Christmas. The holiday feeling was magnified as we shared it with the triumphant and safe end of a long journey.



The ITASE traverse's arrival marked the end of a six-season, 8000-mile project. The research caravan pulled by bulldozers and piston bullies. Imagine what it must have been like for them to see their first settlement in more than a month, arriving at last at the South Pole on Christmas Eve.

I'm sure that Christmas dinner made the trip worth it. Volunteers peeled potatoes to make real mashed potatoes, rather than the customary instant ones. For a further taste of home, our feast also included Maine lobster.

As we ate our real mashed potatoes many of our thoughts turned to loved

ones back home. Yet most of us were content in our South Pole Christmas, which might look different, but is still a wonderful Christmas: a bright, sunny and very white Christmas. Let it snow.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Billy:

I just read in the latest *Gazette* that Dennis Stout had passed away. I was really sad to hear that. He went through all the training and screening at the same time as you, Noah, and I did. I spent a lot of time on the radio at Byrd relaying traffic for him from Palmer. I also was stationed at NAVCAMSWESTPAC, Guam, at the same time he was in 1976-1978.

My wife and I are looking forward to attending the OAEA reunion in Pensacola Beach in November 2008.

Butch Suchland W/O DF-67

Dear Editor:

I've recently published a story of my experiences on board USS *Glacier* (AGB-4) during Deep Freeze 64 together with reminiscences of my acquaintance with Rear Admiral Richard E. Byrd. This is a story of growing up with Antarctica and learning, subsequently, how it shaped an entire career as an educator.

Dr. Susan Solomon, NOAA, Antarctic scientist, and recent Nobel Prize co-winner with IPCC and Al Gore called this a "rich and ripping read. . . ."

John Barell

Editor's Note: John Barell recently joined the OAEA as a Life Member. His book, Quest for Antarctica is available online from <http://www.iuniverse.com>. Barell is also the author of the novel: Surviving Erebus—An Antarctic Adventure that will be published in early spring of 2008. See reviews page 14

Billy-Ace - I have moved several times in the past few years, and haven't received a copy of the *Gazette* since the issue with info on the New England Reunion.

My Current address is: Leonard W. Mess 3920 SE 135th Lane, Summerfield, FL 34491. I would appreciate it if you could get this changed for me so I can start receiving the *Gazette* again, and keep up to date on what is happening in the OAEA.

Leonard Mess (WO DF63 VX-6 Det Alfa)
messyjonn@earthlink.net

*Editor's Note: Leonard, like numerous other OAEA members sent his change of address message to me instead of the OAEA Secretary. As far as I'm concerned this is not a big problem because I forward such messages to the Secretary. But his email focuses on an issue that is another common mistake made by numerous members. Leonard had opted out of receiving the *Gazette* by snail mail and had accepted topica.com notification when the *Gazette* is posted on the OAEA web site. In other words he should be checking the OAEA*

*web site and not his snail mail. The Jul-Sep 2007 issue of the *Gazette* contained another article requesting that members opt out of receiving hard copies via snail mail and/or to make a donation to the OAEA for printing and mailing expenses.*

Dear Mr. Billy:

It is so sad to see the names of friends in the In Memory column. I was 73 yesterday, so we are all about that age.

It's about time I joined the OAEA. Please send me a membership application.

CMC Jippo Lakey
WO DF-71

P.S.: If you communicate with Graham Crooks, please tell him we apologize for breaking his arm when we threw him out the windows at the McMurdo CPO Club. But, I did take him to the doctor.

Editor's Note: Graham Crooks was the Post Master at Scott Base during DF-71. Graham died on 1 September 2002 in Auckland, New Zealand. He is a Commemorative Member.

Dear Editor:

Eating Pavlova in the Jul-Sep issue was a very interesting and though provoking article. It raises more questions than it answers. The 'symbolism' jumps off the page! She would have been in her early 20s and Mawson in his late 20s at the time of the incident. Both had already been 'around the world', and probably in more ways than one.

They took the bottle of wine and retired to his cabin. We all know what follows a statement like that on pay-TV.

"Take it in place of me." She said... what did she really mean? Didn't she like men? She never did reveal if her manager was also her husband ... maybe that was only a cover to hide her real preferences. Was she really saying "here is something to play with on those cold Antarctic nights, because you will never play with me"?

"On the way [to her waiting limousine] she stopped to fondle a young husky ..." Exactly how did she fondle the dog? Was it a simple back rub, or an erotic brushing of other parts of the dog's body?

Maybe that is why the Pavlova cakes that we all love are a soft-centered meringue dessert. Even when Mawson ate the dog named after her I think he was symbolically indeed —Eating Pavlova.

Pig Pen

Editor's Note: Pig Pen, aka K. C. "Big John" Henry is the author of When Violence Erupts and Gallant Lady. Henry wintered at Eights Station during DF-63 and McMurdo during DF-67.



New England Chapter Fall Meeting

By Marty Diller,

New England Chapter Secretary-Treasurer

Early in 2007, some of the Chapter members who are ex-Navy began discussing the possibility of attending the annual Navy Day Ball at Brunswick Naval Air Station as a group—an opportunity for members (both civilian and ex-military) to meet in a formal social setting for dinner and



Paula Hall to Marty Diller: "Are you sure you haven't had just a little too much scotch?"

entertainment. The idea was proposed as an item of new business at the Spring meeting and attendees responded positively. Some preliminary planning and gathering of information was done in preparation for the Summer meeting, at which time attendees voted to hold the Fall meeting in Brunswick the day of the Navy Ball dinner-dance, on 13 October.

In all, 42 people, including 32 OAEA members, attended the Saturday afternoon Chapter meeting at the China Rose Buffet Restaurant. Nineteen stayed over-night and attended the Navy Ball—dining and dancing the night away. In addition, on Friday night the Dillers hosted an Open House and we had a nice turnout of folks who came into town for all, or just some, of the weekend's Chapter events. And for the really curious out there, of the ex-military members who went to the Ball, only CWO4(CEC) Charlie



At the Navy Ball: (L to R) Mike Hall, Dave Hazard (his best side), Mary Pellegrino, and Anne Hazard.

'CB' Bevilacqua, USN (Ret.) showed up in uniform—he sported his mess dress blues for the Navy's 232nd Birthday celebration.

Chapter Business

To accommodate those who would need some time to dress and prepare for the Ball (where cocktails began at 6 pm sharp), the afternoon Chapter meeting



Attendees enjoy the China Rose Buffet restaurant fare. Seated, left side of table: Jim Pedone, CB Bevilacqua and Al Kapocius. Seated, Right side: Martha Pedone, John & Gloria Hollo (partially blocked), and Larry Srock.

was shortened and did not include a guest presentation. The business

portion began with the Pledge of Allegiance, led by Charlie 'CB' Bevilacqua.

Marty Diller presented the annual Treasurer's report. The Chapter finished another fiscal year in the black. Primary sources of income being meeting raffles, general donations and dues. Primary expenses being postage and administrative supplies. Meanwhile, Chapter membership has reached 159.

Committee reports included an update on Chapter efforts to establish a Polar Oral History program and an education program. The Chapter Board of Directors appointed Anne Hazard to chair the newly established

Education Committee, and Anne reported that she has exchanged emails with American Polar Society (APS) representatives about starting up an educational outreach program. Additionally, she has contacted both the



At the Navy Ball: (L to R) Bernie Benardello, Mike Hall, Dave Hazard, Dave Killian (behind), Marty Diller and Nick Pellegrino.

APS and Byrd Polar Research Center about how best to conduct polar oral history interviews of Chapter members.

Fundraising

2006 Reunion merchandise are still offered at reduced prices. Including OAEA ball caps. OAEA license plate holders were a big seller. The Chapter is still selling Noel Gillespie's book *Courage Sacrifice Devotion*. A bookplate, signed by the author, accompanies each book. All these items are also available by mail.



Larry Srock helps Nick Pellegrino show off his raffle prize – a framed photo of a NYANG LC-130 (donated by the NYANG and OAEA member Tom Noel).

Meeting Schedule

The next OAEA-NE Chapter meeting is scheduled for 1:00pm on Saturday, 19 April 2008. It is hoped that we can

return to the Yantic River Inn in Norwich, CT, where the June 2006 meeting was held.

Attendees

From Connecticut:

- John Hollo (VX-6 DF-I & II) & wife Gloria

From Maine:

- Marty Diller (VXE-6 DF92-94) & wife Bev
- Kathy Donovan (M/V *Marco Polo* cruise Feb 03) & husband Steve
- Dave Dubois (NSFA McM w/o 73, DF72-73/78-79)
- Dave Hazard (VXE-6 DF71-74) & wife Anne (OAEA-NE Webmaster)
- Annette Jones (spouse of the late Al Jones)
- Al Kapocius (HU-4 Det AOIC on USS *Glacier* (AGB-4) DF64)
- Al Lishness (VX-6 DF-II-IV, 60, 61)
- Gary Newquist (NSFA DF69-70, McM w/o 70) & wife Karen
- Bob Rainville (VXE-6 DF73-74, 74-75) & wife Jeannine
- Larry Srock (CBU-201 DF69-71; MCB-71 DF72, 73)

From Massachusetts:

- Charlie Bevilacqua (MCB(Special), DF-I & II)
- JT Drews (ITT Contractor DF85) & wife Joyce

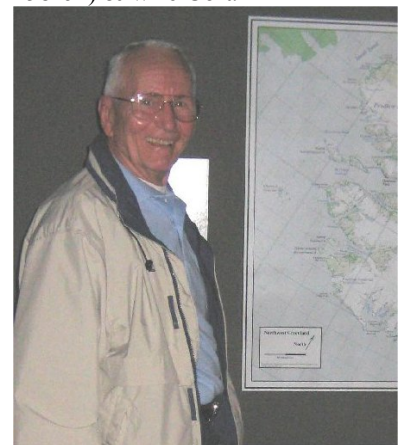
- Mac McKenna (VXE-6 Para-Rescue Team DF70-72) & wife Nancy
- Jim Pedone (CBU-201 Palmer Station DF69) & wife Martha
- Roy Roberts (AN VX-6 DF62, 63) & wife Kathleen
- Fred Santino (VX-6 DF65, 66) & Elizabeth Mariasca.

From New Hampshire:

- Win Hames (VX-6 DF-II/III/IV LA-V) & wife Janet
- Art Smith (ASA, DF92, 93) & wife Marilyn.

From Rhode Island:

- John Giro (VX-6 Power plants/QA DF64-69)
- Mike Hall (VXE-6 DF70-73) & wife Paula
- Hoot Hartman (ASA w/o DF63; VX-6 DF69, 70)
- Dave Killian (VXE-6 DF70-73) & wife Joan
- Nick Pellegrino (VXE-6, DF71,72) & wife Mary
- Bob Sexton (VX-6 DF67, 68)
- Chet Thomas (VX-6 DF-I-II & DF58-62) & wife Cora



Barry Chase at the Bowdoin College 'Peary-MacMillan Arctic Museum' in Brunswick, ME. A map of Greenland depicts some of the territory covered by RADM Peary during his expeditions to reach the North Pole.

Rounding out the group were our At-Large members. **From New York state:**

- Bernie Benardello (VXE-6 DF 72, 73) & wife Pat, from Lindenburg
- Barry Chase (VX-6 DF60, 61 & 65-68) & wife Barbara, from Edinburg.

Last Flight Out Of South Pole Station

By Captain Eugene Van Reeth (USN Ret)

Editor Note: This article appeared in the Encore page of the January 2008 issue of Military Officer Association of America Magazine. Because the MOAA editors took some editorial liberties with the article, Captain Van Reeth asked that I print the unexpurgated version in the *Explorer's Gazette*.

The "Operating Season" in Antarctica runs roughly from mid-October to mid-March, or the months of the Austral Spring and Summer. During the "Off-Season", mid-March through mid-October, only the greatly reduced "winter-over" crews remain on station, maintaining their stations and operating systems, and of course, continuing to support the scientists who are conducting their projects. During the early days of the Navy's Operation Deep Freeze, Antarctica was an all-male domain, and modern satellite communications and the Internet were non-existent. The wintering crews at their stations were totally isolated from other human contact and the outside world except by radio contact.

The South Pole Station undoubtedly was the most isolated, inhabited place on earth during the austral winter. The wintering crew, military and civilian, were thoroughly screened, physically and psychiatrically, prior to spending almost seven months together—in well below zero temperatures, with much of that time during the round-the-clock total darkness of the polar austral winter.



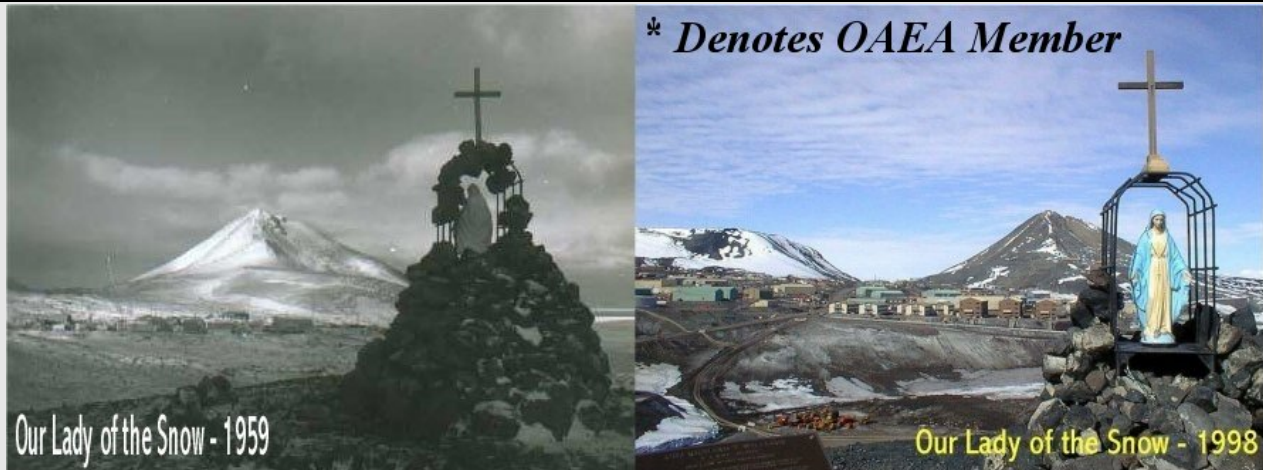
CDR Eugene Van Reeth & CM2 Dennis "Hair" Havlin DF-71

Accordingly, the last flight into and out of the South Pole, sometime in early-mid March, was a special occasion—usually loaded with all the fresh food that could be fitted aboard, and any other last-minute necessities required by the polar crew for their long winter night. Senior officers and the chaplain usually accompanied this flight, and the South Pole cook—a very talented individual—put on a sumptuous table before the aircraft left. Speeches were made, toasts were offered, the chaplain gave his blessing for

the winter, and so forth. Once the aircraft left there would be no other human contact until the following October, when the temperatures had to "warm up" to at least 50 degrees below zero before the relief aircraft could safely fly in. During the austral winter there is no possibility of an aircraft safely landing at the Pole, until about mid-October.



On this particular flight, the lingering farewells had been made and our flight crew and passengers had re-boarded our now empty, ski-equipped C-130 aircraft for the flight back to our home base at McMurdo Station. As we taxied out to the skyway we noticed the entire station crew—military and civilian—had come outside and were lining up along its edge. As I lined up the aircraft for takeoff they stood at attention in a proper military formation. As I advanced the power levers for our take-off slide they rendered a smart military salute. There were several people in the spacious cockpit of the aircraft, including the chaplain, who wanted a last glimpse of pole station. The chaplain spoke for us all when he said: "Aw, now, that's pretty wonderful. Those fellas didn't have to come out in this bitter, windy cold to see us off." However, as the plane began to slowly accelerate and pass the crew standing along the edge of the skyway, they all simultaneously turned 180 degrees—obviously on a given signal—and . . . "moon" us!



I N M E M O R Y

OAE SDC Otis Hughes Pineo, 91, USCG (Ret), died on 16 December 2007, in West Boylston, MA. Otis served in Antarctica as a steward for Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution. Year(s) unknown.

OAE SWC Charles O. Glenn, USN (Ret), 77, died on 11 December 2007, in Gulfport, MS. Charles served in Antarctica with the Seabees. Unit and date(s) unknown.

OAE Lawrence Manthe, 69, died on 10 December 2007, in Bismarck, ND. Larry wintered at Byrd Station during DF-67 as a meteorologist. Mount Manthe is named in his honor.

OAE Michael Lynn Stover, 66, died on 8 December 2007, in Bucyrus, OH. Michael served on the USS *Glacier*. Year(s) unknown.

OAE Guy J. Denoux, 58, died on 7 December 2007, in College Station, TX. Guy served with the USAP as an Oceanographer in 2004.

OAE ATC Thomas Gray, Jr., USN (Ret), 66, died on 1 December 2007, in Titusville, FL. Tom served in VX-6 from 1964-1967 as an aircrew member.

OAE Edward W. Wilczynski Sr., USCG (Ret), died on 1 December 2007, in Atlantic City, NJ. Edward served on the USCGC *Westwind*. Year(s) unknown.

OAE LTCOL. James F. Delaney USAF, (Ret), 73, died on 22 November, 2007, in Leesburg, FL. James served with the 63rd Troop Carrier Wing during DF-62 as a C-124 Navigator.

OAE Bernard Powers Sims, 86, died on 25 November 2007, in Livingston, NJ. Bernie visited Antarctica as a tourist and celebrated her 80th birthday while on the trip.

OAE Kenneth Stoll Scharman, 88, died on 19 November 2007, in Tucson, AZ. Kenneth visited Antarctica as a tourist.

OAE Garry A. Beale, USAF, (Ret), 60, died on 17 November 2007, in Saratoga Springs, FL. Garry served in the NYANG and made several deployments to Antarctica. Year(s) unknown.

OAE Dr. Eugene L. Boudette, 81, died on 10 November 2007, in Gilmanton, MA. Eugene was a USGS geologist and a member of the USARP Marie Byrd Land Traverse during DF-60. Boudette Peaks is named in his honor.

OAE Blair Allen Borgerd, 79, died, on 8 November 2007 in Rancho Bernardo, CA. Blair was a member of Highjump.

OAE CMSGT Raymond "Ray" Alvin Neyland, USAF (Ret), 81, died on 4 November 2007, in Weatherford, TX. Ray served as a radarman during Highjump.

*OAE Bolling Byrd Clarke, 85, died 3 November 2007, at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania. Bolling was the daughter of explorer RADM Richard E. Byrd, USN. Bolling was an OAE in her own right—in 1989 she went on a three-week cruise to Antarctica. She was also a member of the American Polar Society, the Antarctic Society, and the Antarctic Deep Freeze Association. See *Explorer's Gazette* Volume 7, Issue 2, Apr-Jun 2007 cover story.

OAE Laurence Benton Bodinson, 88, died on 29 October 2007, in Kansas City, MO. Lawrence visited Antarctica as a tourist in 2003.

OAE William H. Chapman, 80, died on 26 October 2007, in Fairfax, VA. Bill was a USGS cartographer during the IGY and was a member of the Horlick Mountains Travers during DF-IV. Mount Chapman is named in his honor.

OAE CMC Edwin Louie Welk, USN (Ret), 70, died on 23 October 2007, in Strasburg, ND. Ed was in MCB (Special) at McMurdo during DF-II. He was a member of the ADFA.

*OAE EQCM John H. Forman, USN (Ret), 78, died on 20 October 2007, E. Greenwich, RI. John aka "Seabee" served in ASA and wintered-over during DF-IV and DF-63. He was also a member of the ADFA. Forman Glacier in the Queen Maud Mountains is named in his honor.

OAE David O. Barnett, 76, died on 30 October 2007, in Las Cruces, NM. David wintered at Siple Station. Year and unit attached to unknown.

*OAE Capt Thomas "TK" Jones, USN (Ret), 76, died on 04 November 2007, in Gulf Breeze FL. TK served in MCB (Special) and ASA. He wintered at Little America V during DF-III and was the OIC of four traverses. TK was also a member of the ADFA, and the OAEA Gulf Coast Group.

OAE Rolf (Opa) Doebbeling, 71, died on 26 October 2007, in Salt Lake City, UT. Rolf visited Antarctica as a tourist.

OAE AMC Shahin "Shane" Mansour, USN (Ret), 45, died on 16 October 2007, in Oklahoma City, OK. Shane served in VXE-6 as a Flight Engineer from 1986-89, and 1992-1996.

OAE Philip Hardy West, USN (Ret), 72, died on 13 October 2007, in Louisville, Ky. Philip served on the USS *Arneb* during DF-IV.

OAE CPO David R. McCartney, USN (Ret), 77, died on 11 October 2007, in Santa Cruz, CA. David served with the Seabees. Unit and date unknown.

OAE Norman Louis Spruill, 74, died on 10 October 2007, in Brookfield, WI. Norman served as a LTJG on the USS *Edisto* during DF-IV.

OAE George G. Burns, 73, died on 13 September 2007, in Maywood, CA. George served on the USS *Curtiss* during DF-II.

OAE Robert LaRue Miller, 72, died on 28 October 2007, in San Francisco CA. Robert served as a Merchant Marine on a Deep Freeze supply ship. Unit and year(s) served unknown.

OAE Jack L. McCauley, 72, died on 28 November 2007, in Hanover, PA. Jack served as an engineman on the USS *Glacier* during DF-I and II.

OAE Helen "Patsy" Mellon Schmidt, 92, died on 19 September 2007, in Westmoreland County, PA. Patsy visited Antarctica in 1999 on a Russian icebreaker as part of a penguin research team.

OAE Santo "Sam" Cali, 68, died on aa June 2007, in Halfmoon, NY. Sam visited Antarctica as a tourist.

OAE GMSC Alton Francis Minter, USN, (Ret), 88, died on 11 July 2007, in Reno, NV. Alton served in Deep Freeze on an USN icebreaker. Unit served on and year(s) unknown.

OAE CWO Glenn F. Peterson, USCG, (Ret), 77, died on 14 April 2007, in Viera, FL. Glenn visited Antarctica as a tourist.

OAE Charles R. Walgreen Jr., 100, died on 11 February 2007, in Northfield, IL. Charles was the retired CEO of Walgreen's Co. that was founded by his father. When he was 89 Charles sailed his yacht to Antarctica. The Walgreen Coast was named for his father by RADM Richard E. Byrd.

OAE Samuel DeLong, M.D., 85, died on 9 February 2007, in Tulsa, OK. Samuel served during Highjump as a medical officer.

OAE Helen Donegan, 77, died on 11 March 2007, in Laguna Hills, CA. Helen visited Antarctica five times as a tourist. She left no heirs.

OAE Francis Michael Egan, 89, died on 15 March 2007, in San Mateo, CA. Frank served on the USS *Curtiss* during Highjump.

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Denis Casey—OAEA Chaplain

Christmas is not usually associated with Antarctica or the South Pole.

After all, Santa Claus traditionally begins his journey way up north. December is also one of the busiest months in the Deep Freeze year and between working over 12 hours daily, nearly 24 hours of sunlight, the absence of family and children, it is nearly a miracle that Christmas gets celebrated way down south.

I remember my winter-over Christmas in 1966. I am still in awe at the numerous requests for religious services both Catholic and Protestant.

For some the celebration of Christmas was just a pleasant pause to mark the closing of another year.



For many others the birth of Jesus Christ is, and was, a great occasion to celebrate the great love our God has for the world by sending his only begotten son.

Any difference among us underscores the fact that each of us comes to God in our own way.

I am reminded of a verse of a lovely poem by the Spanish poet, Leon Felipe.

No one went yesterday
Nor goes today
Nor will go to morrow
By this path
That I go.
For each man
God reserves
A new ray of the sun's light
And a virgin path.

D. Casey

OAEA Website Guest Book

by Billy-Ace Baker


AT THE GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING AT THE Warwick, RI OAEA Reunion on 18 Aug 2006 OAEA Member Farrell Whitney expressed his concern for the inappropriate entries on the OAEA website Guest Book (GB). Since I am also the Webmaster, I responded to the complaint and indicated that action had been taken to eliminate these types of entries. I further explained that GB SPAM is a continuing problem on many websites and not exclusive to the OAEA. I had previously set controls on the GB to eliminate posts with offensive and vulgar language. However, this action did not eliminate spammers who posted message with links to their web sites. After the R.I. Reunion, I closed the GB to postings until I reviewed and approved or rejected each post on a case-by-case basis. This screening action caused a delay in posting. Some people would cancel their posting rather than go through the hassle of the approval process. While others would repeat the post numerous times when their post did not immediately appear.

Most of the SPAM entries on the GB were created by an automatic process. In order to eliminate those postings a type of challenge/response test is now used to determine that the user who is posting to the GB is not run by a computer BOT. The challenge/response involves one computer asking a user to complete a simple test that the computer is able to generate and grade. Because other computers are unable to solve the test problem, any user entering a correct solution is presumed to be human and is permitted to post to the GB. The test requires that the user type the letters of a distorted image, sometimes with the addition of an obscured sequence of letters or digits that appears on the screen.

Since the implementation of the challenge/response test visitors are able to post their messages immediately without waiting for me to approve each posting. The illustration

below is the test screen that will appear when visitors to the GB post their message.

Verification:



I can't read this

Enter the code shown into the box below:

This helps prevent automated comments.

GLOSSARY OF SNOW AND ICE

Compiled and edited by Billy-Ace Baker

Blow Hole — Opening through a snow bridge into a crevasse or system of crevasses that are otherwise sealed by snow bridges. Norwegian equivalent: *Fykhull*.

Fast Ice — Sea ice which remains fast along the coast. Fast ice may extend a few feet or several hundred miles from the shore. Spanish equivalent: *Hielo fijo*.

Icicle — A hanging spike of clear ice formed by the freezing of dripping water. French equivalent: *Glaçon stalacite*.

Rafted Ice — A form of pressure ice in which one floe overrides another. Norwegian equivalent: *Lett skrud is*.

Close Pack Ice — Composed of flow mostly in contact. Russian equivalent: *Splochenny led*.



OAEA Donor Awards

Submitted by Jim O'Connell

There are now 73 Little Blue Penguin, 39 Bronze Adelie, 2 Gold Adelie, 4 Silver Adelie, and 1 Emperor Club Members. Asterisks indicate new donors, or donors who have reached the next level.

BLUE Donations of \$50 (1st 100 only)
2006 OAEA Reunion Committee

*Anderson, Stuart & Audrey
Baker, Ashlee F.
Baker, Billy-Ace
Baker, Jamie
Baker, Sean
Baker, Tracey
Biery, Roger W.
Blackwelder, Billy
Blewett, Thomas
Bolt, Ron L.
Boyer, Robert E.
Bracken, Harold
*Buehler, Cyril
Cabrera, Quirino
Callender, Gordon W.
Capozzoli, Albert A.
Communicator Group Fund
Conklin, Harold
Cordes, Fauno
*Damvelt, Karen
*Debacker, Ann
DeLeon, Emilio
Dieckhoff, Charlotte M.
Diller, Marty & Bev
Dostal, W (Dusty) A.
Dryfoose, Buz & Sam
DuBeau, Earl
Epperly, Robert M.
Eubanks, Paul
Gillich, Pete D.
*Giro, John
Hall, Richard M.
*Halpern, Barry
Hartman, Susan M.
*Helfrich, Carl & Barbara
Henley, Elizabeth

Henley, Joseph
*Herman, Andrew "Tony"
Higdon, John C.
Hilt, John W.
Hutchinson-Sabbatini, Kristan
Jernigan, Laura
Konrad, Bradley, N.C.
Konrad, Kerry
Konrad, Robert D.
Konrad, Robert K. A.
*Landy, James
*Landy Pam
Lippka, Ray E.
Loftus, Leo G.
Morris, Marion E.
Morton, John E.
Moulder, Evelyn
Munson, Evelyn
OAEA Gulf Coast Group
O'Neal, Jerry
Owler, Robert
Phillips, Elmer F.
Rubin, Harry
Spindler, Bill
Snow, Laura
Snyder, Mary Margaret
Spaulding, Richard
Splain, Vincent F.
Taylor, William C.
Toney, Phillip
Tri Star Engineering, Inc
VX/VXE-6 Para-Rescue Team
Werner, Alexander
West, John Lamont
Whitehead, Eugene
Wick Jr. Howard J.
Wilson, Gwendolyn
*Wilson, John "Moon"
Yow, Maxine V.
BRONZE Donations of \$100
*Baker, Ashlee F.
*Baker, Jamie
*Baker, Sean
*Baker, Tracey
Biery, Roger W.
Bolt, Ron L.
Boyer, Robert E.

Bracken, Harold
*Buehler, Cyril
Cabrera, Quirino
Capozzoli, Albert A.
Conklin, Harold
Diller, Marty & Bev
Dostal, W. A. "Dusty"
Epperly, Robert M.
Hall, Richard M.
*Halpern, Barry
Henley, Elizabeth
Henley, Joseph
Higdon, John C.
Jernigan, Laura
*Konrad, Bradley, N.C.
*Konrad, Kerry
*Konrad, Robert D.
*Konrad, Robert K. A.
*Landy, James
*Landy Pam
Morton, John E.
Munson, Evelyn
O'Neal, Jerry
Owler, Robert
Phillips, Elmer F.
Snow, Laura
Snyder, Mary Margaret
Spaulding, Richard
Splain, Vincent F.
Taylor, William C.
Toney, Phillip
Werner, Alexander
Whitehead, Eugene
*Yow, Maxine
GOLD Donations of \$500
Cordes, Fauno
*Herman, Andrew "Tony"
SILVER Donations of \$1,000
2006 OAEA Reunion Committee
Baker, Billy-Ace
*Biery, Roger
VX/VXE-6 Para-Rescue Team
EMPEROR Donations of \$5,000
Communicator Group Fund

Gazette Delivery by Internet Download VS US Mail

by Billy-Ace Baker

APPARENTLY THE ARTICLES ABOUT THE EXPENSE INVOLVED WITH PRINTING AND MAILING THE *Explorer's Gazette* to over 500 members has had positive results. Over 75 members who previously received their copies by snail mail have opted out and have elected to receive notification, via Topica.com, when the *Gazette* has been posted on the OAEA web site. This large number of new Topica.com registrations will definitely take a big bite out of printing and mailing costs. However, the job is not

yet done. More of the expenses need to be eliminated. If you know of any members who have email but are not on the Topica.com list, please tell them to contact the OAEA Secretary for instructions on how to receive their OAEA communications electronically to help defer costs.

I again implore all 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 receive the *Gazette*.



Bad Santa at McMurdo and Fist Fight at South Pole Antarctic Christmas Fun

Compiled by Billy-Ace Penguin Baker

History repeats itself. During DF-82 this Santa (NSFA SKC Dave Shugart) at McMurdo was accused of “inappropriate touching”, but not by the young Navy Officer (NSFA Ensign Sara Reid) who thought that Santa was cute—in a fatherly way.



Bad Santa DF-82 Version

Christmas celebrations in Antarctica got a little out of hand this season, with a groping Santa, a drunken car chase, and a bloody fist fight.

Complaints of “inappropriate touching” were made against a Santa who had posed for photographs on a decorated snowmobile at McMurdo station on the edge of the continent, New Zealand’s *The Press* reported.

The bad Santa in Antarctica had his festive cheer cut short when he was hauled before management over allegations of “inappropriate touch-ing” during the annual Christmas party at McMurdo. Santa had been sitting on a decorated snowmobile posing for photographs with revelers when complaints were made. The bad Santa episode was one of a spate of

incidents just before a delegation of high-powered US dignitaries visited Antarctica. The group included members of the US Congress who are influential in setting the United States Antarctic Program (USAP) budget.

“I can confirm that Santa was indeed overly touchy,” said one of the ladies at the party. The buzz among the women was to not sit on Santa’s lap this year.

The incident was followed by another in which a staff member, suspected of drunk-driving, raced along an icy road in a four-wheel drive vehicle, chased by a fire engine, before she was intercepted. Believed to be Antarctica’s first car chase on Ross Island, where the longest thoroughfare is the 3km gravel road between McMurdo Station and Scott Base. She drove past Scott Base and crossed onto the Ross Ice Shelf on a road to the ice runway, where she was intercepted by another fire engine and taken back to a meeting with her supervisor and the McMurdo Station manager.

McMurdo Station is home to about 1000 US scientists, and military and civilian support personnel during the summer months and is the largest community in Antarctica.

At South Pole Station, a worker had to be flown out to a hospital in Christchurch after his jaw was broken in a Christmas fist fight with a coworker. It was reported, but not confirmed, that the argument was over whether or not Santa Claus was real. The attacker in the South Pole brawl was fired.

A ski-equipped USAF Hercules had to make an unscheduled flight from McMurdo to the South Pole to collect the victim who was believed to have suffered a broken jaw.

He was flown back to the ice runway at McMurdo, and taken by helicopter to the nearby medical center, where it was decided his injuries were too serious to be treated in Antarctica. The man was flown back to the runway, and boarded the Hercules—accompanied by a flight nurse and a paramedic—for the flight to Christchurch.

McMurdo personnel were expecting a day off for Christmas, but dozens of support workers had to return to work to help with the medevac.

One worker estimated the flight cost about \$500,000.

South Pole Station is one of the most expensive places to visit on the planet, with winter medevacs costing up to \$2

million. Raytheon public relations manager Val Carroll said she knew nothing of the circumstances which caused the South Pole fight.

Only two other polar medevac flights have occurred in recent years, including a late winter airdrop in 1999 for a woman doctor who developed breast cancer and required urgent treatment.



Bad Santa DF-07 Version

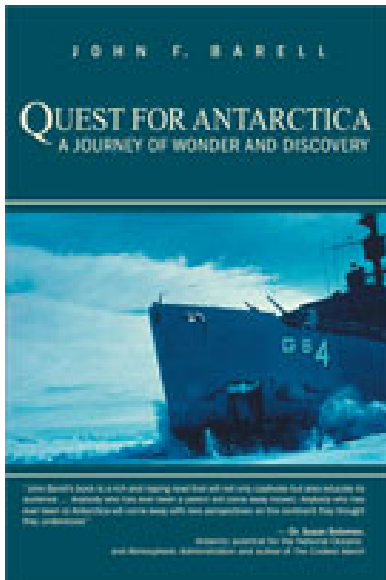
BOOK REVIEWS

Compiled by Billy-Ace Baker

OAEA LIFE MEMBER JOHN BARELL has written two books about Antarctica. The first—*Quest For Antarctica*, released in 2007 is about his childhood obsession with Admiral Byrd; the second a novel about Captain Sir James Clark Ross's epic voyage to Antarctica—*Surviving Erebus*.

LT John Barell was the Operations Officer onboard the USS *Glacier* during DF-64.

Barell became fascinated with Antarctic exploration early in life and sailed there with the US Navy after college. For years afterward Antarctica has served as his model in all aspects of his life.



Quest for Antarctica

Barell's book not only captivates but also educates its audience. The book is a personal journey, guiding the reader through the life of the author and his Antarctic fascination. It explores how a young man developed an abiding interest that drew him ever southward to Antarctica; this human story is both moving and insightful, coming from an educator. It also is a tale of human exploration of the continent itself, probing its geography and history, and providing a first person account of a remarkable journey in that most forbidding, yet enticing land. Finally, it is a slice of life in the Navy during an

epoch era, touching on a diverse canvas of naval history and its central role in the U.S. involvement in the Antarctic. Anybody who has ever been a parent will come away moved. Anybody who has ever been to Antarctica will come away with new perspectives on the continent they thought they understood.

Comments from Reviewers:

“What a wonderful book. I couldn't put it down. It is a masterful combination of Antarctic History, the story of icebreakers and life on the ice and a family tale. The snippets of history were a great addition.”

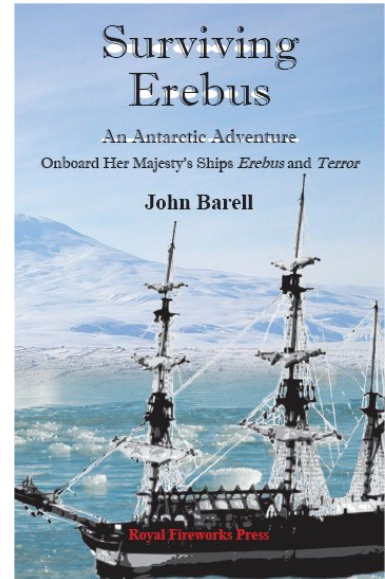
—Captain Ross Hatch, USN (Ret). Great-great grandson of James Ross served as the Operations Officer before Barell.

“John's book shows that encountering the Antarctic, reading histories of Antarctic exploration, and serving in the Navy teach lessons for living that are transferable to other life situations. Through his own experiences, his failures, and successes, he stresses the importance of continually asking questions and highlights the need to be bold, courageous, and willing to test oneself.”

—Dr. Susan Solomon, Antarctic scientist, Nobel laureate 2007, National Medal of Science winner 1999. Author of *The Coldest March—Scott's Fatal Antarctic Expedition*, 2001.

“Having ‘been there and done that’ I can attest to accounts of the Roaring 40s and Furious 50s as the *Glacier* made her way south from New Zealand to the ice pack. Mr. Barell's quality narratives are a result of his profound examination of the historic record of Antarctica His desire to explore the danger and sense of adventure of early Antarctic heroes is juxtaposed with personal ‘explorations’ of life's mysterious paths results in a terrific book.”

—Eugene Rodgers, historian and author of *Beyond the Barrier—The Story of Byrd's First Expedition to Antarctica*, 1990.



Surviving Erebus

An Antarctic Adventure

According to the publisher, his second book, *Surviving Erebus An Antarctic Adventure*, is due to be released sometime in April 2008.

During this adventure story set in the nineteenth century on the historic voyage of Sir James Clark Ross to Antarctica in 1839, David Smythe, a stowaway and very curious young sailor, is forced to fight for his survival—first among the crew and second, out on the vast Ross Ice Shelf while nearly frozen to death. He must decide whether or not to save a shipmate who has plunged down a crevasse, one who has been his major tormentor during the entire voyage.

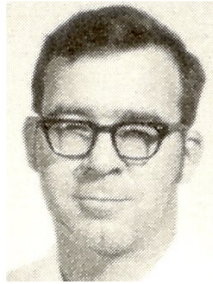
Smythe and the crew experience attempted murder, ship collisions, nearly being frozen in for a winter in the Bay of Whales and the ship's sinking. He learns the value of Ross's order: “Stay roped together!”

Both books may be viewed online at: <http://www.morecuriousminds.com>. Copies may be ordered from Barnes and Nobel. In addition John has submitted a request to be a vendor at the November 2008 OAEA reunion and will have copies of his books available for sale to attendees.

OAEA SCHOLARSHIPS

by Ed Hamblin

One of the programs in place inside the OAEA is the mechanism for the awarding of scholarships to deserving undergraduate students in need of financial assistance. Scholarship eligibility is limited to high school graduates who are associated with or mentored by a current member of the Old Antarctic Explorers Association. Eligible applicants must be accepted for undergraduate enrollment at an accredited college or university.



The scholarship program is funded primarily from member contributions that earn income to be used for scholarship awards. Life Member Dick Spaulding set the precedent for contributions to feed the scholarship "kitty" by his pledge during the 2002 reunion to raise funds for the scholarship program. During the Oxnard 2005 reunion Dick presented the chairman of the Scholarship Committee with a significant check from the Para-Rescue Group, challenging other groups to do the same. Since then, the OAEA Communicator Group with Billy-Ace Baker at the helm has contributed \$5000 toward the scholarship program, and is on track for another major contribution this year. Dick's challenge still stands. The scholarship program will be as robust as the funds that go into it. We would like to see other groups within the OAEA rise to Dick's challenge, and we will make certain all group donations are recognized at this year's reunion.

The steps to applying for an OAEA scholarship award are simple and straightforward. Completion of the application by the OAEA sponsor and the scholarship applicant, and addition of some supporting documentation are all that is required.

The head of the OAEA Scholarship Committee is Ed Hamblin, of Chesapeake, Virginia. He is asking that applications for the 2008-2009 school year be received for review NLT 15 June 2008. Instructions for completion and mailing of the application are on the application form itself.

Ed is also looking for a volunteer from the General Membership who would be interested in serving as the third member of the OAEA Scholarship Committee. If interested, contact Ed by e-mail (ehamblin@cox.net) or telephone at 757 405 3362. The duties of the committee member would be to review the application and supporting documents to help in the selection process for scholarship awards, with an equal voice in the scholarship award decision process. This year's selections will be completed during the summer months.

Ed. Hamblin

Ed Hamblin
Chesapeake, VA

Basler Crashes While Taking Off from Remote Field Camp

NSF Press Release 21 December 2007—A National Science Foundation (NSF)-chartered aircraft operating in Antarctica crashed shortly after take-off earlier this week while providing support to a group of researchers at a remote location on the southernmost continent. None of the 10 people aboard was injured, but the DC-3 Basler was severely damaged.



The aircraft, which is owned by Kenn Borek Air Ltd., a Canadian aviation firm, experienced difficulties in taking off from a field site near Mt. Patterson in West Antarctica on the morning of 20 Dec, local time, roughly 550 miles from McMurdo Station, NSF's logistical hub in Antarctica.

The six passengers aboard the plane were part of the NSF-funded portion of the international Polar Earth Observatory Network (POLENET) project, which is deploying GPS units and seismic sensors across Antarctica to make observations that are vital to understanding how the massive ice sheets are changing. In turn, these measurements are critical to understanding how ice sheets affect sea level worldwide, and global climate in general.



As a matter of routine, the incident is under investigation by the Department of the Interior's Aircraft Management Division (AMD). AMD has contacted the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) about the incident.

Because the cause of the accident is under investigation, NSF will have no further comment, pending the conclusion of that investigation

NEW OAEA MEMBERS

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

Thanks to Glen Harris, Pam Landy, Mike Hall, Karen Damvelt, John "Moon" Wilson, Billy Blackwelder, Glen Kellerman, Bob Eppard, Leo McGregor, Jim Bain, George Kittredge, Fred Santino, "CB" Bevilacqua, Bob Sexton, Gus Shinn, Bill Sladen, John Dorpinghaus, John Shank, Eugene Van Reeth, Joe Hawkins, USS *Archerfish* Decklog, John Jaminet Jr., Dick Spaulding, Beverly Diller, Ed Hamblin, George Lewis, DF-70 Crew, Jim Johnson, Dick Norwood, George Parker, Bruce Raymond, and Tony DeLeon, for recruiting new members or for providing names and contact info for prospective members.

*Denotes Associate member

Ainley, David CIV	Annual	NSF 1968 to Present
Babin, Dana B. PH2	Life	NSFA 78-81
Bishop, Billy T. SW1	Life	ASA WO DF-67
Cherry, David MIL	Life	MCB6 DF65
Damvelt, Karen L. CIV	*Annual	Harvey Speed's Niece
Fales, Lloyd CIV	Annual	USAP DF-07
Flynn, James E. CIV	*Annual	USDAO Wellington
Granakis George QM3	Life	USCGC <i>Edisto</i> DF-61
Gratton, John W. CMH3	Annual	ASA DF-62
Hair, Robert CIV	Life	Tourist Ship 2002
Hebert, Raymond E-9	Life	USCGC <i>Eastwind</i> USCGC <i>Edisto</i>
Hendrickson, R. A. E-5	Life	DF-III USS <i>Wyandot</i>
Hepinstall, Pat Stew	Commem	PANAM DF-III
Hoover, Rex A. CE1	Life	PM3A WO DF-66
Hunter, James AMH3	Life	VXE-6 83-86
Irlacher, Leonard CDR	Life	VX-6 62-64
James, Walter EO3	Life	CBU-201/MCB-71 69-72
Jones, Arthur W. CDR	Life	VX-6 57-59
Kanonas, Paul HMCS	Life	VX-6 64-66 ParaRescue Team
Lanyon, Margaret CIV	Life	CHCH Support 60s through 90s
Lakey, Jippo CMC	Life	ASA WO McM DF-71
Lapean, Thomas E-5	Annual	VXE-6 71-73
Marquardt, R. W. AMH2	Life	VX-6 62-64
Miller, Kenneth CMCS	Life	NSFA DF-76
Myers, Dale D. SK2	Life	ASA DF-71 WO
Oconnor, Timothy AME2	Annual	VXE-6 73-77 ParaRescue Team
Pineda, Alfredo M. LT	Annual	NSFA 92-93
Pitz, Curtis L. ET2	Annual	NSFA 87-90
Rugg, Michael B. CIV	Annual	SPAWAR 98-08
Sieber, James A. UT2	Life	NSFA DF-76
Slivonik, Wesley ETN2	Annual	ASA DF-71 WO & SS 72-73
Stein, Kenneth A. CDR	Annual	VX-6 68-69
Stewart, John CIV	*Life	Author
Stowman, David E-6	Annual	VXE-6 75-80
Wilson J.L. "Moon" ADC	Life	VXE-6 77-80

REUNION INFORMATION

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

USS *Atka* (AGB-3): Fort Mitchell, KY 1-4 May 2008. POC Carl Brown, browncarlione@aol.com, 616 308 4846. USS *Atka* participated in pre-DF, DF-II, III, 60, 62, 64, and 66.

USCGC *Eastwind* and USCGC *Westwind*: Branson, MO, 19-23 May 2008. POC Louie LaRiccia, 623 434 6805, louie-vicky@msn.com, 3039 W. McRae Way Phoenix, AZ 85027. USCGC *Eastwind* served during DF-I, 60 through 67. *Westwind* served during DF-III, 67, 68, and 71.

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

MCB-71: Washington, DC (Arlington, VA), 5-10 Aug 2008. POC Jerry Montecupo, jmontecupo@comcast.net, 412 373 3096, 2548 Pitcairn Rd, Monroeville, PA 15146. MCB-71 served during DF-71 to 75.

USS *Merrick* (AKA-97): Portland, OR, 7-11 Sept 2008. POC Dick Bonn, 503 982 7117, dcbonn@wbcable.net. USS *Merrick* served during Highjump.

USS *Currituck* (AV-7): Location Portland OR, 4-7 Sept 2008. POC Robert Curtis, va52gunner@aol.com, 360 433 9759. USS *Currituck* served during Highjump.

USS *Curtiss* (AV-4): Branson, MO, 3-6 Sept 2008. POC John C. Ekstadt, jcekstadt@frontiernet.net, 952 891 5954. USS *Curtiss* served during DF-II

USS *Wilhoite* (DER-397): Branson, MO, 17-21 Sept 2008. POC John Mauldin, cporetm@cox.net, 405 354 9204. USS *Wilhoite* served during DF-61

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

USS *Yancey* (AKA-93): Seattle, WA, Oct 2008. POC George Clifton, 708 425 8531, clifs@ameritech.net. USS *Yancey* served during Highjump.

USCGC *Southwind* (WAGB-280): Charlestown, SC, 16-20 Oct 2008. POC Edward Clancy, 904 242 9070, clancyedward@bellsouth.net. USCGC *Southwind* served during DF-68, 69, and 72.

Old Antarctic Explorers Association (OAEA): Pensacola Beach, FL, 5-7 Nov. 2008. POC Les Liptak, lcliptak@cox.net, 850 492 1666, 5220 Choctaw Avenue, Pensacola FL 32507.

OAE LOCATOR

Send locator notices to the editor at upizauf@aol.com, 850 456 3556, or at the address on page 3.

- Heather Peters Miethe is looking for anyone who served with her father CDR Vernon W. Peters. Her Dad was in VXE-6 from 1971 through 1974 and was CO during DF-74. During DF-72 he was the Ops Officer and was on LC-130 BUNO 148321 when it crashed on 4 Dec 71. He passed away in 1979 when she was 8-years-old. She would especially like to talk to anyone who has photos or memorabilia. Her contact info is as follows:

P.O.Box 2031
Wrangell, AK 99929
Phone: 907 874 3906
Email: hjmiethe@aptalaska.net



Commander Vernon W. Peters, USN

- Nancy Etchemendy will be sailing on the R/V *Nathaniel B. Palmer* in the Weddell Sea in late May. Nancy is an author of children's books, primarily science fiction aimed at 8–12 year olds. There will be a second follow-up cruise in March 2009 on which she will also be a member. Nancy plans to do interactive blogs aimed towards high school and elementary aged children during the cruise and following it. She will also be writing one or more books from her experiences. Nancy needs help getting the word out to schools, public libraries, and other institutions that reach school-aged children. Nancy would like for any OAE with a school connection to contact her:

Email: nancy@etchemendy.com
Website: <http://www.etchemendy.com>



- Peter Rejcek, editor of the *Antarctic Sun* is looking for OAEs to profile, preferably, but not limited to, anyone who is still involved in the program. If you have an interesting story and would like to be profiled in the *Antarctic Sun* please contact Peter:

Raytheon Polar Services
7400 S. Tucson Way
Centennial CO 80112
Email: Peter.Rejcek@usap.gov
Phone: 720 331 3316
Website: <http://antarcticsun.usap.gov>



- The Davisville, Rhode Island Seabee Museum is seeking donations from Seabees and those who served with the Seabees. Their goal is to raise \$200,000 in the next two years. The money will be used to improve and upgrade the present inadequate facilities. There is also a commercial development adjacent to the Seabee Museum. This will include a hotel, retail shops, restaurants, and a sports center. The New Boston Developers have pledged \$20,000 to the Seabees for landscaping and improvements. New Boston has also pledged a matching donation of \$50,000. Any OAE who would like to help the Seabees raise the matching funds should contact them at:

The Seabee Museum and Memorial Park
21 Iafrate Way
North Kingstown RI 02854
Website: <http://www.seabeesmuseum.com>

ACTIVITIES BY LOCALE

New England Area—See meeting information on page 7.

West Coast Group—For information contact Jim Maddox: 2820 W. Dartmouth Drive, Lancaster CA 93536, 661 945 0469, or jmaddflynnav@cs.com.

Tidewater Group—For information contact Ed Hamblin: 3104 Deepspring Drive, Chesapeake VA 23321, 757 405 3362, or ehamblin@cox.net.

Gulf Coast Group—Meetings held in abeyance until a new meeting site is located.

PNW Group—Jerry Schleining continues efforts to contact OAEs in the PNW to start a chapter. Any OAE living in Oregon, Washington, or Idaho should contact Jerry: 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. Contact him at 660 Beatrice Drive, Dayton, Ohio 45404, 937 233 0613, or ebw@thewaitegroup.com.

Bulgaria Antarctic Base Welcomes Members of Sunk Antarctic Cruiser

Compiled by Billy-Ace Baker

6 December 2007—A passing Norwegian cruise ship plucked the 154 passengers and crew, Americans and Britons among them, from lifeboats from a Canadian cruise ship that struck submerged ice off Antarctica and began sinking.

The Chilean navy said the MS *Explorer* finally slipped beneath the waves about 20 hours after the predawn accident near Antarctica's South Shetland Islands.

No injuries were reported, although passengers endured subfreezing temperatures for several hours as they waited in bobbing lifeboats for a Norwegian liner that took them to a Chilean military base in the region.

Before the survivors were taken to the Chilean Station the members of the 16th Bulgarian Antarctic Expedition had offered them refuge as long as they brought their survival rations and hand-warmers with them to augment the dwindling food and fuel supplies at Base St Kliment .

Bulgarian Nationals Stanko Mihalev and his wife Svetlana, were together on board the 2,400-ton Canadian MV *Explorer* were busy telling reporters their story.



MV Explorer

Mihalev, a senior maintenance technician on the ship stayed behind together with the captain of the liner trying to pump out water while the other passengers were abandoning the ship. "It was scary. I was afraid for my life, the sailor admits.



Bulgarians Stanko Hihalev and wife Svetlana in red

Svetlana Mihaleva was already in a liferaft in the ice-cold sea, while her husband pumped out water on the ship in a final attempt to prevent sinking. He saw Svetlana

about 5.30 am when he finally abandoned the ship with the other crew members who stayed behind.

The *Explorer* sank on 23 November was specially designed to sail among ice and passengers had paid \$8,000 for the dangerous cruise near Antarctica.

Hunger and cold threaten the 16th Bulgarian Antarctic Expedition

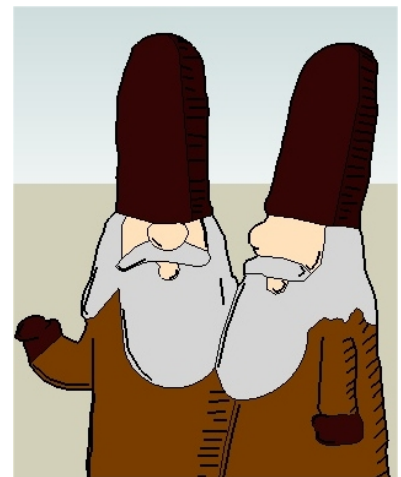


Bulgarian National Antarctic Base St Kliment

The first group of the 16th Bulgarian Antarctic Expedition is now at the southernmost port in Patagonia, Chile. According to a previously arranged program the expedition should buy and transport foodstuffs and fuel for the opening of the Bulgarian Antarctic base St. Kliment Ohridski. The expedition coincides with the International Polar Year that is celebrated once in 50 years worldwide. However, an alarming message from the Spanish ship that should provide the Bulgarian expedition with foodstuffs and fuel was received—the ship cancelled the re-supply mission because of severe weather conditions in the region.

Bulgaria started Antarctic activities as early as 1967–69, when a Bulgarian meteorologist took part in the 13th Soviet Antarctic Expedition (SAE). In the summer season of 1987–88, six Bulgarian scientists participated in joint projects with the British Antarctic Survey and the SAE.

This first Bulgarian Antarctic program was aimed at gathering valuable experience both in carrying out scientific research and the organization of logistics in Antarctica. A permanent Bulgarian Antarctic base was then established.



Leaders of 16th Bulgarian Antarctic Expedition discuss survival options

GULF COAST GROUP HAPPENINGS

by Billy-Ace Baker

6 October Meeting: There was no scheduled guest speaker for this meeting, but Billy Blackwelder showed some of his Dry Valley videos. Billy also donated a headless ceramic penguin that will be used for holding future 50/50 raffle tickets. I guess someone figured that adding a ball cap and a pair of sunglasses would make the penguin more lifelike.



Headless Pete

There were 36 members and guest in attendance including Bill Tippin recently off the binnacle list, but not fully recovered from his recent hospitalization. The Ladies of Lakeside donated four penguin cannisters and these were divided into two separate door prizes—that were won by Bob Jones and George Griffin.



Life Associate Member Phil McCollum flanked by Ladies of Lakeside Associate Members Susann Hebb and Janey Wiles. Gary Skaar in back.

The 50/50 tickets were sold by Sean Baker while Pam Landy distributed the door prize tickets. There was a futile attempt to have Pam and Jim Landy's grandson, Christian Jon Hollingsworth, draw the tickets, but after he tried to eat one of the door prize tickets this plan was abandoned and the tickets were drawn by, Associate Member, Steph Warfield. TK Jones' wife Pat won the 50/50 drawing and she took home \$58 as her share.



Ticket Eater Christian Jon



Glen Harris Tries to get Steph's Attention.

About the only official business of the meeting was that OAEA Director Jim Landy donated \$100 to the OAEA Election Fund and \$100 to the Scholarship Fund. Associate Member Pam Landy donated \$100, to the Scholarship Fund. See Donor Awards elsewhere in this issue.

Candid photos were taken by Sean Baker, Lennie Bourgeoise, and Phil McCollum. They took many more photos than could be included in this article, but their efforts are appreciated.

Billy-Ace announced that future GCG meeting notices that appear in the Pensacola News Journal will be in the Friday edition instead of the Saturday edition. Notices will continue to be disseminated by US Mail postcards, and by the GCG Collective email message. A date for the next meeting was not decided on.

ANTARCTIC TARTAN

Compiled by billy-Ace

Antarctic Tartan

Inspired by the colors of the geography and natural history of the continent, the tartan totally symbolizes the southern continent, the seas and ocean surrounding it, making an attractive combination of colors.

With a large square of white at the center, representing the ice covered continent, a thin cross of blue was added to represent the four compass points and where they bisect at the geographic South Pole. The gray rock of nunataks and partially buried mountain ranges were symbolised by a band of gray within the white of the continent, while rocks emerging at the edges of Antarctica were represented by a broader band of gray.

On these rocks orange lichens grow and so a band of orange lies adjacent. The color orange is also one of the colors of Emperor Penguin's plumage, and this together with the following bands of yellow, black, and white (representing their plumage and black and white of marine mammals), symbolize the land and marine animal life of Antarctica.

The thin band of white also represents the thin ice shelves covering the shallow continental margins, the pale blue that follows the blue shelf seas, whilst the dark blue adjacent represents the deep Antarctic Ocean. The thin band of white on the outside symbolizes the Antarctic front, the limits of the Antarctic Ocean. Finally the dark color of the ocean surrounding the light color of the continent is symbolic of the somber darkness of the Antarctic winter against the enlivening light of the summer.



Antarctic Tartan Designed by Celtic Originals Aros, Mull, Scotland

Village Maid wears Antarctic tartan

The sound of the Scottish bagpipes has always stirred the soul in its countrymen but for Highland dancers, the music also moves their feet—no matter where they're born. Gwynne Bilski performs at Excalibur Theatre Arts studio going over some dance moves her students will see hundreds of times as they learn Highland Dancing. She's been dancing with Excalibur since the age of 9. Last year, she got her dancing instructor certificate so she can pass on her skills and love of dance to others.

Now at 17, the Duchess Park student plans to study journalism and dance, hopefully at Concordia next year.

Bilski has studied many dance disciplines, but Highland dancing has a special allure and always draws her back.

"I took it up and ever since then, I really love it," she said. Her favorite dance is called Village Maid. Her favorite tartan is the one she is wearing called Antarctic Tartan.



Gwynne Bilski Antarctic Maid

"It was designed for a man who was going on an expedition to the Antarctic and was going to be wearing a kilt," she explained. "It has a bit of yellow running through it which is nice."

Excalibur's artistic director, dance instructor and studio owner Bonnie Mathers encourages dancers to try Highland dance for endurance, she said.

As for tartans, Mathers said she prefers to see dancers in dress tartans for competition. "They can pick whatever tartan they like for competition. Any tartan with white in it is a dress tartan," she said.