



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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USS Edisto (AGB-2)

2008 USS *Edisto* Reunion

by Glenn Smith

After 18 months of planning, the third reunion of the Navy Icebreaker USS *Edisto*, (AG-89/AGB-2), was held 1–5 May 2008 at the Newport News Marriott Hotel, Newport News, VA. With 126 shipmates and guests attending. Situated between Norfolk and Williamsburg at the Oyster Point Town Center, Newport News, the Marriott hotel was just a few short minutes from Norfolk attractions and Colonial Williamsburg.

It all started in 2006 when Kathie and I accepted an invitation from the Norfolk Convention and Visitor Bureau (CVB) to check out the area hotels and attractions. Acting on a tip from a friend and fellow Planner, Bob McAnally, USS *Iwo Jima* Association, we visited the hotel and soon after meeting with Sales Manager Karen Murrell, we quickly decided it was a “No Brainer.” If there was any

See: [USS *Edisto* Reunion](#) On page 4.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

John Lamont West—OAEA President

TO ALL OAEs—It is my pleasure to announce that RADM J. Lloyd “Doc” Abbot Jr., USN (Ret) has agreed to serve as the Old Antarctic Explorers Association (OAEA) Museum Coordinator/Committee Chairman.



As OAEA Museum Coordinator/Committee Chair, “Doc” will initially identify members to serve on the OAEA Museum Committee. The committee will provide exploratory efforts to identify and quantify Antarctic artifacts currently in the possession of the OAEA and determine the need for a repository for the artifacts. “Doc” will kept us up-to-date as he and his committee submit reports on their activities and findings. Welcome Aboard “Doc”. (See related story on page 14)

Our Election Committee has been extremely busy this quarter. Nominations for the various officers to be elected are in, ballots have been printed and mailed. You may also download a ballot from <http://www.voteoaea.com/>. All ballots *must* be received by the OAEA Election Committee by 15 September 2008. Vote early.

The OAEA 4th National Reunion to be held in Pensacola, Florida 5–7 November 2008 is just around the corner. Our Reunion Committee has done a great job getting the word out. You may download the Special Edition No. 4, *Explorer's Gazette* from our website <http://www.oaea.net> for information on hotel reservations & rates, a reunion registration form, and many other details. Make your hotel reservations early—don't delay, because as the Reunion Committee has advised us, Pensacola is a Snow Bird destination in the winter time. (See reunion update story on page 14)

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..

To those who have lost a loved one, please accept my heartfelt sympathy and condolences. 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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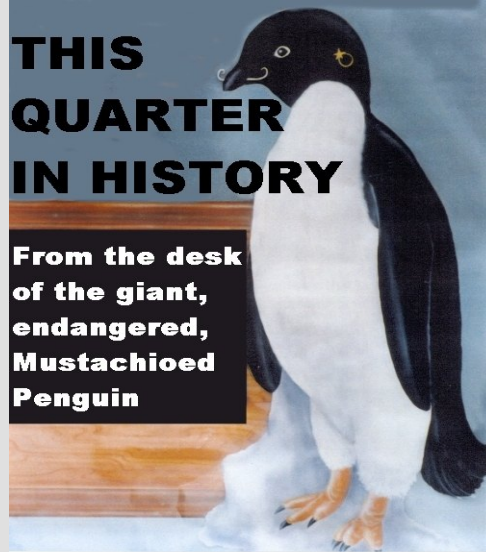
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THIS QUARTER IN HISTORY

From the desk of the giant, endangered, Mustachioed Penguin



April Events

- 17 Apr 1916 Shackleton relocates Elephant Island camp from Cape Valentine to Cape Wild.
- 01 Apr 1940 East Base personnel dine on a fine steak dinner with Chilean wine and rattlesnake cocktail made from real rattlesnake meat.
- 07 Apr 1934 Alone at Advance Base RADM Byrd records in his diary: "A funeral gloom hangs in the twilight sky. This is the period between life and death. This is the way the world will look to the last man when it dies."
- 16 Apr 1967 Scott Base personnel venture out on new sea ice for the first time this winter.
- 19 Apr 1972 PM-3A scrambled due to plant malfunction.

May Events

- 20 May 1946 USS *Edisto* launched in San Pedro CA.
- 01 May 1964 Charles Swithinbank celebrates May Day at Novolazarevskaya Station drinking orange juice and de-icing fluid cocktails.
- 21 May 1967 The ASA Det Alfa CO vetoes the Punctured Penguin DF-67 winter-over mascot. The mascot had been designed to protest broken promises and bad orders.
- 01 May 1997 FCCM Charles Gallagher, USN (Ret) dies from apparent heart attack at McMurdo.

June Events

- 27 Jun 1911 Wilson, Bowers, and Cherry-Garrard depart for Cape Crozier on mid-winter trip to the Emperor Penguin rookery. "If you march your winter Journeys you will have your reward, so long as all you want is a penguin's egg." —Cherry-Garrard
- 21 Jun 1964 Charles Swithinbank celebrates Mid-winter Day at Novolazarevskaya drinking de-icing fluid on the rocks.
- 04 Jun 1975 USCGC *Polar Sea* launched in Seattle WA.

USS Edisto Reunion From page 1

doubt about our decision, Cheryl Morales of the Newport News Tourism Development Office and her sidekick Karen Ebert quickly dispelled any reservations that we may have had. This was a CVB and hotel that did what they said they would do.

The feedback from attendees would indicate that a great time was had by all. In the Slide Show links at the end of this article, the Internet capable readers can see photos that have been posted. These photos were taken by: myself, Gerald (Jerry) Downs, Faye Heidel, Weldon Koenig, Ray Koski, Gene Fettinger, Richard Griswold, Ed Schardein, and Betty Green. If I missed anyone, please let me know and I will give credit. Not all photos are posted because together we took hundreds of photos but those selected were put into slide shows that sort of sums up the event commencing with "The Beginning" where Kathie, Odell Paulk, Jerry and Judy Downs assisted in getting the Gathering Room ready. It should not go unnoticed that Jerry built the stand for the Edisto Association Bell and he made a lot of beautiful clocks with ship's logo which he donated as door prizes.



One of the Clocks Donated by Jerry Downs

Thanks to all of you for your help and for your attendance and a special thanks to our guest Shannon Ward for helping Jerry and I dole out the door prizes.

Hats off to the entire Marriott hotel staff for making this the best reunion

yet. And a special tip of the hat to Jameika Biggs who located Ray Koski's door prize he left behind in his room. We can only hope that other military groups like ours will "discover" the Newport News Marriott.



USS Edisto Association Bell

Additionally, we enjoyed two days of tours booked through Phillips Destination Management Services that consisted of two bus loads to Colonial Williamsburg, Mariners Museum and USS Monitor Center and two bus loads on a second day tour to Norfolk to visit the Nauticus, Battleship USS Wisconsin, lunch at the Free Mason Abbey Restaurant, and a two-hour river cruise aboard the Victor Rover.



Details of USS Edisto Bell Plaque

At the general business meeting, the following officers of the USS Edisto Association were reelected: Virgil Paulk, president; Gerald Downs, Vice President; Bill Gallant Secretary; James Jensen Treasurer. Glenn Smith will continue as Reunion Planner.



Virgil and Odell Paulk

There are fourteen slide shows that provide an overview of our event, commencing with photos of the hotel and surroundings and ending with checkout. The slide shows may be viewed by clicking on the links below. Some contain a number of photos so be patient, as it will take several seconds to download.

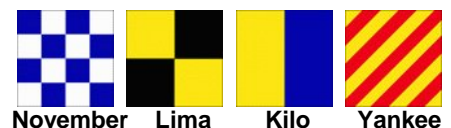
Newport News Gathering Reception	Free Mason Abbey Victor Rover Business Meeting
Williamsburg USS Monitor BBQ Dinner	Sunday downtime Banquet
USS Wisconsin	Penguin Photos Checkout

Slide Show Table. You Will Need to be On Line to View These Links

Editor's Notes:

1. The Slide Show Table above is a first for the Explorer's Gazette. If you are Internet capable and on-line just click on one of the words in the table and you will be connected to the web page with the photos for that Slide Show.
2. A brief history of the USS Edisto was included in the story of the USS Edisto Association Second Reunion in the Oct-Dec 2006 issue of the Explorer's Gazette.
3. The names of 3356 crewmembers of the USS Edisto have been extracted from US Navy Unit Diaries microfilm rolls. 1192 members have been located, 1072 are known to be deceased, and 1092 have not yet been accounted for.

CQ CQ DE



November Lima Kilo Yankee

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

B-A:

Regarding the letters in the Jan-Mar 2008 *Gazette*, maybe the Coke guys are the same ones who asked us, when they found out we were in Antarctica at one time or another.

"Did you see many polar bears while there?" Could be that their confusion on this might be the OAEs fault? I think most of us answered: "Plenty of them, one behind every tree."

R.D. Wright

Editor:

In the 'In Memory' section of the Jan-Mar edition you list Bob Thomson as Sir. Bob was never knighted, thus was not "Sir Bob". He was awarded a couple of OBEs, but that's not even close.

John Stewart

Aka Black Jack of Ballarat

Editor's Note: My bad. Sorry about that.

Billy ace:

I read your *Gazette* on my computer. Great Job.

Denis Casey

DF-67 WO Chaplain

Dear Chief:

I just read the latest newsletter. Actually, it's the first one that I've read since I joined. I was really amazed by the cover photo of McMurdo. My God, how it has changed since 1979. It's hard to believe. I read the whole newsletter in about 15 minutes and because I am a greedy and selfish SOB I was disappointed when I reached the end and there wasn't anything more to read.

My hats off to you. What an outstanding publication. The story on the NCHB-1 was terrific. I remember the USNS *Schuyler Otis Bland* (T-AK-277). I think it was in McMurdo in 1977 or 78 and had hit an iceberg in the bow and several compartments of cargo were damaged.

In August, I'm having what remains of my personal belongings shipped to Thailand where it looks like I'm going to be living for the foreseeable future. As soon as I can unpack, I'll see I can find a photo of the *Bland* Iceberg Damage.

I'm seriously considering coming to the reunion in November. I'll let you know soon if I can get a liberty pass from my wife.

PH2 Richard L. Horton

Editor's Note: Richard was the editor of the DF-79 combined NSFA/VXE-6 Cruise Book Twenty-Five Years on the Ice.

Hi Billy-Ace:

I downloaded this issue of the *Explorer's Gazette* and passed it around here on the boat. One of our guys is from Newfoundland (pronounced new FOUND land) and did he ever enjoy the article on CDR Jack Bursey!

By the way, I worked on the ice pier the same year on the *Maumee* and all I can remember is the pallets of beer mysteriously breaking apart now and again. Did you know a pallet consists of 75 cases?

Good stories and good issue.

Hope to see you in Nov. I'm trying to be there.

Daniel E. Bolton

Editor's Note: Dan is on an oilrig off the coast of Angola.

Most Reverent Ali-Ben.

I just downloaded the OAEA *Explorer's Gazette* and was looking at the front page. Geeze, look at all the 3-storey buildings! And that ship is docked where we used to roll Pee-barrel's down the hill along with all the other trash including an old fire truck! Unbelievable. How'd they dredge that place to get a ship in there? Wow, I am impressed. Is Radio still up on the hill or did they tear it down? I remember when the Nukey-Poo scrambled in '63 because of a 10-cent fuse and we were without power for several hours. Radio got really cold. Do they still "mine" snow for water? Showers once every 10 days? Crap in the 55-gallon drums? How about "House Mouse"? 45 years really went by fast and look at all the changes.

Guhor

Winter-Over DF-63

Editor's Note: When Guhor, aka RM2 Howard Wick, wintered-over the resupply ship and tanker had to anchor eight miles out from McMurdo.

Dear Editor:

I received three great emails and also a letter. Thank you so much for helping me. It has been wonderful sharing the letters and emails with my family. I am finally getting to know who my dad was and I'm able to share that with my children. I really appreciate your organization for helping me fill in some important blanks. Thank you,

Heather Peters Miethe

Editor's Note: Heather's post looking for info about her father CDR Vern Peters (CO VXE-6 DF-74) appeared in the Locator Column of the Oct-Dec 2007 issue of the Gazette.



Billy-Ace:

I let my VFW dues expire, so I was unable to list the OAEA 2008 Reunion notice in the VFW Magazine for you. However, my friend Frank Hilliard, who is the editor of the VFW Newsletter in Baguio, PI, submitted the OAEA Reunion Notice to the VFW Magazine for us.

Aloha, Tony Herman

Editor's Note: Please convey my gratitude and the appreciation of the OAEA to Frank for doing this for us.

Billy,

Retirement has been busier than I expected. I didn't see the article in the Jul-Sep 2007 issue of the Explorer's Gazette until someone pointed it out to me recently. Thanks for the nice words.

As you well know, the best people in the world, the true characters that make it happen, are the ones that work in Antarctica. I was truly fortunate to spend my career working in the program. I have many professional and personal relationships with individuals that followed the same path I was lucky enough to discover. I have tried to answer the question, why do you keep going back? There is no doubt it's because of the place, but equally, if not more important, it's the people. Why did a group of old hands accept me when I entered their special place in the middle of the winter? Because they wanted to share their experience, I guess. I know I have followed the example set by you and many others over the years in sharing. Do they all get it? No, for sure. But, some did, some more than others.

Thanks for sharing that first winter so many years ago and continuing to share my friend. And please delete that wonderful picture!

Dave Bresnahan

Billy-Ace:

I saw the topica.com notice that the OAEA Donor Club list had been updated on the OAEA web site. I sent you \$100.00 in 2005, but my name is not on the list.

Alex Decess

Editor's Note: Your donation was for the OAEA Communicator Group Fund. The individual names of the donors for the Communicator Group and the Para-Rescue Group were published in the Explorer's Gazette when the collected funds were turned over to the OAEA. I am working on getting the individual names of the donors for both the Communicator Group and the Para-Rescue Group uploaded to the web site, so you will eventually see your name there. Please have patience. And please keep your donations coming.

Billy-Ace:

Reading the most recent Gazette reminds me of a conversation that you and I had at the OAEA Rhode Island Reunion about a world premiere of the movie *On the Beach*. Our conversation was the fact that in 1959 we had the world premier of this movie at McMurdo. It was quite a production with "stars" and "starlets" coming by weasel in appropriate premier attire. You did not remember anybody ever talking about this. It (the movie) was shown on all seven continents, I believe the only time that this had ever occurred. Maybe some of the gang on the ice during that time would remember more about this. I remember this as a lot of fun. Great work on the Gazette.

Gerald R. (Russ) Livermore
VX-6 1959-1962

Editor's Note: I remember the conversation. I have never been able to confirm or disprove your claim. Anyone else remember this event?

Billy-Ace:

I appreciate the many hours you spend in keeping all of us up-to-date. My three years in VX-6 were the best of my 20 years. I believe the volunteer aspect of the program was partly responsible and our officers were great. I spent one season at Little America V and for some reason it was not recorded.

Keep up the good work Billy-Ace. I have registered for the reunion and made hotel reservations for my wife, Janet and myself.

Winters Hames
HMC, DF-II,III,IV with VX6

Editor's Note: Full details for contacting Win regarding his search for someone who can verify his presence at LAV are contained in the Locator Column of this issue.

Billy-Ace:

I note that Margaret Lanyon is not a member of the OAEA. That lady most assuredly should be a member, having been with Deep Freeze throughout the 60s and 70s. She made several trips to the continent. Lanyon Peak in Victoria Land is named after her. She's retired now and is living in Christchurch.

I'd like to send her a gift membership. Is there a precedent for this? Let me know and I'll fill out an application for her.

Gene Van Reeth

Editor's Note: You are welcome to gift her a membership. Be sure you put on her application that she made several trips to the ice so she will be a Regular Member and not an Associate Member. Two of the main reasons why I gift memberships are: 1. The person is reluctant to join because they don't think they are worthy. 2. They may be financially unable to join.

New England Chapter Spring Meeting

By Marty Diller,

New England Chapter Secretary-Treasurer

Once again, having a six-month break between the Fall and Spring meetings has culminated in a new meeting attendance record for the OAEA New England Chapter (OAEA-NE). The previous record of 62 attendees was set at last year's Spring meeting, and that record was shattered this year when 87 attendees—including 61 members—showed up at Pelly's 19th Hole restaurant in North Kingstown, RI, on 19 April. Sixty-one members equates to 38% of the Chapter membership in attendance—very impressive! Pelly's is located on the site of the former Quonset/Davisville CPO club.



Pelly's 19th Hole Restaurant

Featured Presentation

Our guest speaker was Ms. Marie Ventura, granddaughter of LCDR Bill Counts, a Navy pilot who died in November 1961 when his ski-equipped P2V *Neptune* crashed immediately after takeoff from Wilkes Station,

Antarctica. Marie is a Class of 2008 double-Master's candidate in European and American History at Providence College, RI. Having grown up hearing family stories about her grandfather and his duties as a member of the Navy's Air Development Squadron Six, Marie had always wanted to conduct more research into the Navy's role in Antarctic research.

A college class on the history of Rhode Island gave her the perfect opportunity for this, and she interviewed many ex-Navy men in the area, including some Chapter members who served at the Quonset and Davisville Navy bases, to create the DVD *Hello Quonset*. She shared that brief DVD about how the Quonset and Davisville bases supported Antarctic research and the role the bases played in the communities that surrounded them, with the meeting attendees.

Marie has noticed that since the base closures in the early 1970s, there is very little existing information available locally about the missions supported by Quonset and Davisville. Determined to do something to correct this, Marie is seeking grant money to expand her DVD into a full-length TV documentary about the men who served there and their families. She plans to cover all aspects of the impact the bases had on the local communities: population, economic, educational, social, traffic, and infrastructure, charities and volunteerism, etc. We congratulate her for completion of her Master's degrees and wish her luck with her future plans for *Hello Quonset*. Meanwhile, she is continuing to seek out and interview those who served in the military in Rhode Island. We're hoping to see her work on the History or Discover Channel someday soon!

Chapter Business

The business meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance, led by Charlie 'CB' Bevilacqua, who regularly provides the



Left end of near table is Lou & Nancy Ventura with daughter Marie (ballcap). Marie showed her Hello Quonset video. On the far side of table: next to Marie is Chet Thomas, then John Giro, Barry Chase, and Bob Sexton. Near side of table: next to Nancy is Don Gianelli, Cora Thomas, Barb Chase, and Irene Cowan & Don Germain. In lower right corner is Anthony Richards' guest, Sarah.

US and POW/MIA flags at all Chapter meetings for this purpose.

- Under "Old Business", a report on the progress of obtaining OAEA "class rings" was provided by Dave Hazard, who reported that non-gold rings would cost about \$200 each, and a one-time \$500 die charge would need to be factored in. More research into pricing and ring design is needed, as well as a way of attracting more buyers in order to offset the cost of the die charge.
- The most significant new item of business addressed at the meeting involves the 2008 election of Chapter officers for President, Vice President, and Director. President Dave Hazard and VP Fred Santino are not eligible for re-election, but Mike Hall, who holds the Director position in question, is eligible for re-election as Director. The nomination and election process is conducted via the US mail.

Fundraising

New, limited-edition, color OAEA-logo belt buckles were the featured fundraising items at the meeting, and OAEA-logo ball caps were also available. Seventeen of the first fifty belt buckles (see photo) were spoken for at the meeting. The Chapter Board of Directors has voted to donate belt buckle #001 to the 2008 OAEA National Reunion Committee with the intent that it be used to raise funds for the OAEA Scholarship Program.



OAEA Logo Belt Buckle. Approximate Size: 3X4 Inches

Of the others, sixteen people who prepaid for the belt buckles had their names drawn out of a hat, and the drawing results were: Mrs. Nancy (Counts) Ventura (002), Bob McGarry (003), Chet Thomas (004), Gary Newquist (005), Jack Jennings (006), John Giro (007), Dave Hazard (008), Tom Kane (009), Barry Chase (010), Quentin Risher (011), Bernie Benardello (012), Jim Heffel (013), Dave Killian (014), Billy-Ace Baker (015), Paula Hall (016), and Don Germain (017).

Further distribution of the OAEA-logo belt buckles is on a first-come basis. The belt buckles can be obtained for \$20

plus \$4 shipping and handling. Just go to the 'OAEA-NE Merchandise' link on the OAEA website (www.oaea.net), or contact Dave Hazard directly at: 207-353-9068.

Also, the Chapter still has a quantity of Noel Gillespie's original-edition books about VX/VXE-6, *Courage Sacrifice Devotion*, and is selling them for \$25.00. A bookplate signed by the author accompanies each book. For the raffle, prizes were either donated by Chapter members or the Chapter. Leftover 2006 Reunion merchandise found its way into the day's raffle drawing as well.

Raffle winners included: Jim Dodge with three winning tickets (glass penguin paperweight; *New Pole Station Construction* DVD; *Deep Freeze-I* DVD); Joyce Kessler-Drews (*Antarctica*, book by Charles Neider); JT Drews (New Pole Station sticker); Bob Epperly (New Pole Station sticker); Don Germain (New Pole Station patch and *Penguin on Ice* print); Don Gianelli (Little Penguin wine, Merlot); John Giro (Little Penguin wine, Chardonnay); Mike Hall (*Penguin on Ice* print); Paula Hall (Powerball ticket); Jim Heffel (wooden, outdoor penguin welcome sign); Jack Jennings (*Flight to South Pole* DVD); George Lewis (framed photo of NYANG LC-130); Peggy Lippka (Little Penguin wine, Shiraz); Bob McGarry (*Flight to South Pole* DVD); Gary Newquist (New Pole Station commemorative coin); Nick Pellegrino (Little Penguin wine, Cabernet); Ron Ochsner (*Deep Freeze-I* DVD); and Lionel Sirois (OAEA-logo ballcap).

In addition, Bob Epperly brought a guest, Scott Bergeron, who successfully completed an expedition to the summit of Mount Vinson in December 2007. Scott donated a print for the raffle, titled *Vinson Camp 2*, which was won by Nick Pellegrino. We anticipate that Scott will share photos and details of his expedition as the guest speaker at a future Chapter meeting.



Raffle/Door Prize Table

Meeting Schedule

The next OAEA-NE Chapter meeting is scheduled for 1:00pm on Saturday, 12 July 2008. For this meeting, the Chapter will return to Rom's Restaurant in Sturbridge, MA, site of last year's Summer meeting. Fred Santino has volunteered to coordinate lunch and meeting arrangements with Rom's. Hopefully, our Vermont members will find Sturbridge to be close enough to drive to. OAEs in nearby central NY State will also be notified about this meeting.

How the PM3A Bobsled Crew Earned a Scott Base Ski Club Patch

By Rex A. Hoover

Prologue: It was quite a journey from MCB-10 to Crew V (DF-66). It began when I was a 19-year-old Construction Electrician spending many of my working days inside a leaky tent set up over a wet ditch on the Aleutian Island of Adak Alaska. I was in that ditch splicing lead-covered cable mistakenly dug up by my Equipment Operator brethren. The reason I mention the leaky tent is that I was making splices in cables using the old technique of a solder pot and wiping the joint. Solder and water are mutually exclusive, that is they cannot occupy the same space. So when water drops into a solder pot, anyone nearby ends up wearing hot lead. As I worked, I concluded that volunteering for the Navy's Shore Based Nuclear Power Program was a great idea.

What they neglected to tell us "volunteers" is that I would have to spend 12 winter weeks in Great Lakes Illinois taking a Basic Electronics Course, and then 52 weeks in a grueling test of endurance attending the Nuclear Power Plant Operators Course at Fort Belvoir, VA, all to get ready to spend 14 months at the bottom of the planet where a heat-wave is -10°F and the wind can actually blow you away. You see, the Navy, in its infinite wisdom, chose to put their Nuclear Power Plant in Antarctica instead of Hawaii. What were they thinking?

In retrospect, it was a journey well-worth the taking. I made some great friends, saw some extraordinary things, and most importantly, developed a purpose for my life secure in the belief that I could accomplish anything I was willing to commit to.

This is the story of the famous, or infamous, "bobsled" caper. The group of us took this thing on a ride down a glacier one afternoon and it was a *once* in a lifetime experience. I say *once* because even we weren't dumb enough to do it a second time. This is what happened, as I remembered it some four decades later.



Bobsled crew Jerry Schloredt, Leonard McGregor, Rex Hoover, Russ Anderson, and Jack Ashenden

The bobsled was engineered by Leonard and Jerry and with Jerry as our guide; we dragged the sled up the road and over what seemed like miles of packed snow to reach the top of a small mountain. On the way, we passed the McMurdo doctor and dentist out in their truck on a routine medical run. We stopped briefly to chat, and then continued up the mountain while the doctors continued down. It was a bright sunny day with the temperature cold enough to freeze the beer and put ice crystals in the Scotch we were carrying as survival rations in the event of an emergency. We eventually reached the top where all we could see was a downhill slope that disappeared from view after a distance of about 1/2 mile. Jerry explained that we needed to travel downhill with constant steering to the right or we would end up going off a hundred foot high cliff at the bottom edge of the glacier. With appropriate fortification of our resolve from the little bit of unfrozen booze in our pockets, we climbed on the bobsled and promptly descended the mountain at what felt like the same speed we would achieve jumping out of a 40-story building. About the time we crested the first, and shallowest part of the mountain slope, we lost two of our riders. The three remaining continued with Mac in front, Jerry behind Mac, and me on the brakes at the rear. When we went over that crest, our speed increased significantly and Jerry yelled, "put on the brakes". I yelled back "I got them on". It seems that the two pipes Mac and Jerry designed for brakes actually made the sled go faster when put into position. That is the second time I knew we were not operating in a method consistent with good mental health, the first being, when we got on the damn sled in the first place!



Ski patch awarded to the NNPU Bobsled Crew

So down the side of this glacier we went, at a speed that no human being should reach without being surrounded by a motorized vehicle of some kind. After what seemed like at least a mile of travel, Mac began yelling, "Get off the sled". What you have to envision when you read this is that the temperature was well below zero, it was a bright sunny day

on the side of a huge white glacier, we were traveling very fast, and only Mac had goggles! Squinting into the bright light with a cold wind in your face and no goggles means tears, not clear vision, so Jerry and I couldn't really see what was happening. We assumed Mac was concerned about going over the cliff at the bottom, so our well considered response was "no, we're riding it to the bottom". After Mac repeated his plea several times we decided to honor his request and ended up crashing into a wall of snow. It seems Mac and Jerry's sled design didn't allow for departure while in motion.



Notorious Hut 14 Bar

It was then that we found out that Mac's leg had slipped under the runner and we were bouncing down the side of the glacier riding on his ankle! Mac insisted on walking back to Hut 14 without aid, and of course we went along since he can be just a tad stubborn. When we got back to Hut 14 and pulled his boot off, Mac's ankle puffed up in the most gorgeous shades of red, purple, and green, much like a Hawaiian sunset.

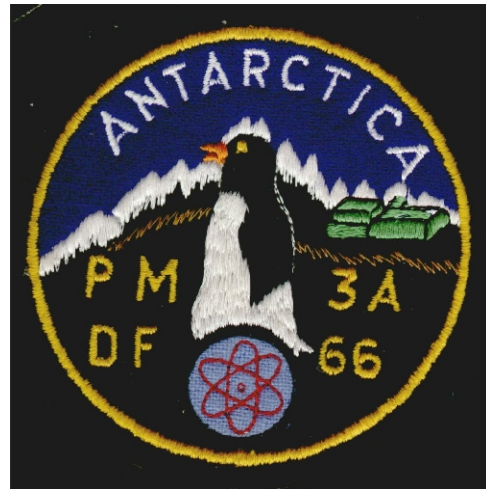
I assume that the rapid swelling and colorful appearance of his leg prompted Mac to change his mind about accepting a little help from his friends, because he allowed us to half carry, half drag, him to sickbay. So here are the same guys who the doctor saw several hours ago dragging a sled up the side of a mountain, dragging one of their group into sickbay with a nasty looking ankle. When the doctor asked what happened, we explained that we were having a party in Hut 14 (which was a common occurrence) and Mac twisted his ankle while stomp dancing. The doctor, with a grin on his face and a twinkle in his eye, filled out the medical form accordingly.

The next day the base commander had a notice posted that we had to tone down our parties since they had gotten so active that someone got seriously hurt. There were 110 men on the base, 109 knew what happened. Can you guess which one didn't?

I had the opportunity to see that glacier from a helicopter later and it was a good thing I didn't see it before the ride. There was not enough "idiot water" on the ice to get me to do something that crazy with the full understanding of what I was doing. And it did reinforce my resolve to seriously question any further requests from Jerry to join another of his adventures.

As the word spread of our little ride, the Kiwi's at Scott Base were so impressed that they gave us a party to celebrate our adventure, and presented us with Scott Base Ski Club patches.

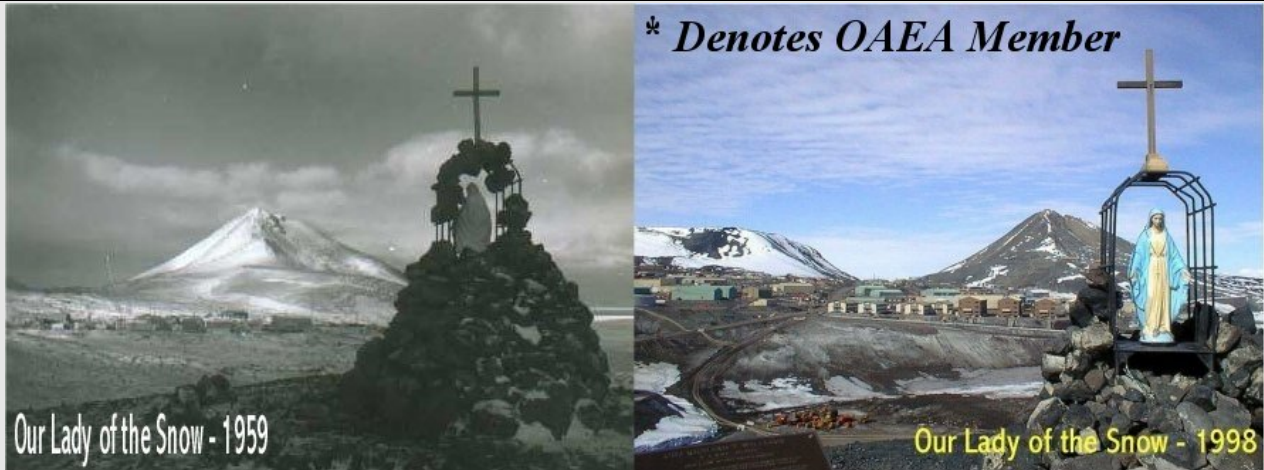
And the best part, Mac lost his limp after only a few years.



PM3A Crew 5 Patch

Epilogue: And Crew 5 set a record that winter for the longest continuous operation of the Nuclear Power Plant without a SCRAM.

R 111340Z OCT 66
 FM NAVFACENCOM
 TO RUHPMA/NAVNUPWURU DET MCMURDO
 INFO RUECW/CNO OP-07, OP-075
 RUECYG/COMNAVSUPFOR ANT
 RUEGPM/COMANTARCTICSUPACTY
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 RUCKHC/CINCLANTFLT
 RUEGPM/COMCBLANT
 BT
 UNCLAS
 PM-3A DETACHMENT CREW V COMMENDATION
 1. FOR LT THOMAS L. BOENNINGHAUSEN; I TAKE PLEASURE AND PRIDE IN COMMENDING YOU AND THE MEMBERS OF CREW V ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A NEW RECORD FOR CONTINUOUS POWER OPERATION FOR MILITARY REACTORS. THE NEW RECORD OF 3390.4 HOURS WHICH SURPASSES THE PREVIOUS RECORD OF 3355.5 HOURS IS A TRIBUTE TO YOUR PERFORMANCE AND EFFECTIVENESS THROUGHOUT THE LONG ANTARCTIC WINTER NIGHT. AS YOU PREPARE TO TURN THE PLANT OVER TO CREW VI IT GIVES ME GREAT SATISFACTION TO CONGRATULATE YOU AND YOUR CREW ON YOUR PERFORMANCE WHICH IS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE HIGHEST TRADITION OF THE NAVAL SERVICE.
 RADM W. M. ENGER, ACTING CHIEF OF CIVIL ENGINEERS,
 SENDS.
 BT



* Denotes OAEA Member

Our Lady of the Snow - 1959

Our Lady of the Snow - 1998

I N M E M O R Y

OAE Robert Eugene Stafford, 81, died on 25 June 2008, in Atlanta, GA. Robert served in UDT-4 during Highjump.

OAE Gary E. Potter, 67, died on 20 June 2008, in York, PA. Gary served on the Ocean Station Vessels, USS *Brough* during DF-II and III, and the USS *Peterson* during DF-60.

OAE Howard J. Adams, 72, died on 16 June 2008, in Wilmington, NC. Howard participated in Deep Freeze during the IGY as a member of the USN.

OAE Marie Gilbert Gieseke, 84, died on 11 June 2008, in Santa Cruz, CA. Marie visited Antarctica in 2004 as a tourist.

OAE Anne Martindell, 93, died on 11 June 2008, in Princeton, NJ. Anne was the first female ambassador to New Zealand (age 65) and she visited Antarctica in 1980 while serving in that capacity.

*OAE ATCS Alton L. Lishness, USN (Ret), 77, died 9 June 2008, in Bangor, ME. Al served in VX-6 during DF-III through DF-61. Lishness Peak is named in His honor.

OAE Wayne Kirby, 63, died on 8 June 2008, in a helicopter crash in the Sam Houston National Forest in Texas. Wayne worked for USAP contractor Petroleum Helicopters. Year(s) unknown

OAE Raymond G. LaBonte, USN (Ret), 81, died on 6 June 2008, in Scarborough, ME. Raymond served during Windmill.

OAE BUCM George Bernhard Gierloff Jr., USN (Ret), 72, died on 3 June 2008, in Cottonwood Heights, UT. Bernie wintered-over at Byrd Station during DF-61 as a Builder and he served in MCB-71 during DF-71 through 75. Gierloff Nunataks is named in his honor.

OAE Roy Martindale "Fritz" Koerner, 75, died on 26 May 2008. Fritz was a member of the Falkland Islands Survey in 1957 and wintered-over two years at the Hope Bay Station as a meteorologist. During DF-67 he spent the austral summer at US Plateau Station. Koerner Rock was named in his honor.

OAE Dr Robert Andrew Paterson, PhD, 82, died on 14 May 2008, in Blacksburg, VA. Robert was a biologist and served with USARP from 1972 through 1977.

OAE John Michael Roberts, 88, died on 6 May 2008, in Twyford, England. Michael was a medical officer with the FIDS and wintered-over at Base D (Hope Bay) during 1947.

*OAE Tony L. Carr, Sr, 63, died on 13 April 2008, in North Augusta, SC. Tony served in VX-6 during DF-64 and 65.

*OAE Rudolf Aarne Honkala, 84, died on 16 May 2008, in Bethel, ME. Rudi wintered-over at Wilkes Station during DF-II and at Palmer Station during DF-67 as a meteorologist. He was also a member of the Antarctic Society, the American Polar Society, and the Antarctic Deep Freeze Association. Honkala Island is named in is honor.

OAE ENC (SS) Michael C. Geletka, USN (Ret), 87, died on 10 May 2008, in Scarborough, ME. Mike served on the USS *Sennet* during Highjump.

OAE John "Jack" H. Robinson, 70, died on 6 May 2008, in Center Township, PA. Jack served in Antarctica during the IGY.

OAE Dr Charles Summerson, PhD, 93, died on 28 April 2008, in Columbus, OH. Charles was a USARP geologist during DF-63. Mount Summerson is named in his honor.

OAE Cheri Diane Williams 61, died on 18 April 19, 2008, in Willmington, NC. Cheri Visited Antarctica as a tourist.

OAE Ronald "Ronnie" Louis Lesch, 55, died on 14 April 2008, in Florence, AL. Ronnie worked several seasons in Antarctica. Years served and unit unknown.

Jesse Lewis "Hobby" Hobson, 90, died on 11 April 2008, in Warrenton, VA. Hobby was involved with testing photographic equipment that would be used by Deep Freeze photographers.

OAE Frederick Louis Ott, died on 10 April 2008, in Washington Highlands, WI. Louis visited Antarctica as a tourist.

OAE CDR Maurice Burke Jackson, USN (Ret), 88, died on 5 April 2008, in Virginia Beach, VA. Maury served as the XO on the USS *Curtis* during DF-II.

OAE Wayne Lee Bohannon, died on 5 April 2008, in Dayton, OH. Wayne was a Seabee and wintered-over. Year unknown.

*OAE JOCM Leo G. Loftus, USN (Ret), 84, died on 4 April 2008, in Kiarnock, VA. Leo was in NSFA from 60-64. Loftus Glacier is named in is honor. He was also a member of the Antarctic Society.

OAE Samuel H. Hallahan, 68, died on 5 April 2008, in Lake George, NY. Sam served on the USS *Glacier* during DF-60.

OAE ENC James Bond Carey Jr., USCG (Ret), 78, died on 1 April 2008, in Chesapeake, VA. Unit and year(s) unknown.

OAE Anthony Joseph Benson, 75 died on 1 April 2008, in Denver, CO. Anthony wintered-over at South Pole Station during DF-66 as a Hospital Corpsman (HM1) with ASA. Benson Knob is named in his honor.

OAE Theodore Albert Cheney, 80, died on 28 March 2008, in Bridgeport, CT. Theodore served during Highjump.

OAE Blaine Whitt, 74, died on 19 March 2008, in Richmond, VA. Unit attached to and year(s) unknown.

OAE Christopher Simon Crinks, 69, died on 10 March 2008, in Plymouth, England. Chris made several trips to Antarctica and the Falkland islands as a member of the British Merchant Navy.

OAE CAPT Hubert "Glen" Glenzer, USN (Ret), 83, died on 10 March 2008, in Anchorage AK. Glen served as a LTJG, helo pilot on the USS *Burton Island* during Windmill. Glenzer Glacier is named in his honor.

OAEA Leo A. Staub, 80, died on 2 March 2008, in Wrentham, MA. Leo served during Highjump.

OAE CWO Herbert H. Petzold, USN (Ret), died on 10 February 2008 in Northridge, CA. Herb served during Highjump.

OAE John McWethy, 61, died on 6 February 2008, in Keystone CO. John visited Antarctica twice as a news correspondent.

OAE Peter J. Morgan, 78, died on 14 January 2008 in Deer Park, IL. Peter served during Highjump.

OAE LCDR (SS) Andrew Thomas Malleck, USN (Ret) 88, died on 12 January 2008, in Waterford, CT. Andrew served during Highjump.

OAE John Wayne Legendre, 65, died on 3 January 2008, in Midland, TX. John served in Antarctica. Year and unit unknown.

OAE RMC Daniel M. Gardiner, USCG (Ret), 46, died 1 January 2008, in Gilford, NH. Dan served on an icebreaker. Year(s), and name of ship unknown.

OAE Thomas J. Blair, 81, died on 22 December 2007, in St Louis, MO. Thomas served during Highjump as a CS1 on the USS *Cacapon*.

OAE John Patrick Gallogly, 61, died on 10 December 2007, in Salmon, ID. John worked in Antarctica for five seasons.

OAE CDR Thomas McKenna Meredith, USN (Ret), 82, died 8 October 2007, in Bloomfield, CT. CDR Meredith visited Antarctica as a tourist.

*OAE SWC Chester "Chet" Frank Gilman, USN (Ret), 73, died on 23 January 2007, in Orange Park FL. Chet wintered at McMurdo with ASA during DF-63.

OAE MTC James D. Wright, USCG (Ret), 61 died on 20 Jan 2007, in Deptford, NJ. James served in Deep Freeze. Unit and year(s) unknown.

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Denis Casey—OAEA Chaplain

“Great God”; this is an awful place”.

These words are attributed to Captain Robert Scott when he first arrived at the geographic South Pole.



I wonder what he would say in 2008.

I recently saw a television show on the construction of the new station at the South Pole. Afterwards, I looked up the cruise book of Deep Freeze 1967. Conditions have indeed changed.

School children and indeed many of their parents are amazed when they learn that Antarctica is a huge landmass covered with ice. And when they ask of pictures of polar

bears and Eskimos, they are disappointed to learn that there are none at the South Pole.

Polar scientists are constantly leaving their mark. We now have studies of the continent's fierce climate, amazing discoveries of wild life, climate changes, polar deserts, and the list goes on and on.

They have created much more interest in the continent. Visits by tourists add to new appreciation of this wonderful place.

I am reminded of the old proverb “Hats off to the past; coats off to the present”.

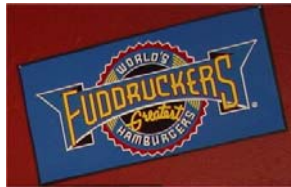
Once again the words of the psalmist ring out, “I will sing your praises, God my King, I will bless your name forever. Men will proclaim your fearful power and I shall assert your greatness; they will celebrate your generous kindness and joyfully acclaim your righteousness”.

D. Casey

OAEA Southwest Meeting

By Jim Maddox

The OAEA Southwest group held our second annual lunch/meeting on 17 May at Fuddrucker's located in Lake Forest, CA which is south of the old El Toro MCAS. We had 21 members, w/family and guest attending—our best showing yet! All enjoyed a tasty lunch, social time, and chat about the old days on the ice. Some members brought some cruise books and photos for others to reminisce and enjoy.



The group's officers met and discussed the requirements that must be met to get a tax-exempt 501-C-3 status that is required by the OAEA By-Laws. Until all those requirements are met, it was agreed that the group would continue to hold meetings as an OAEA social



group. The next OAEA Southwest lunch/meeting will be on 4 October in Camarillo, CA. If anyone would like to contact our group our address is OAEA West, P.O. Box 81242 San Diego, CA 92138.

Members who attended were: Hal & Consuelo McKoon, Ken & Rhodora Stein, Dick Masters, Gus Hermes, John & Marilyou Beiszer, Jim & Ruth Eblen, Ralph Saukko, Cy & Mildred Buehler, Doug Cronse, Bob & Linda Gaboury, Myron & Joy Drinkwater (Guest) Roy Allen, Val Johnston, and Jim Maddox.

If any OAEA members, or any other OAE, would like to join us at our next lunch/meeting on 4 October, you can contact me at 661-945-0469 or jmaddflynav@cs.com.

Jim Maddox

OAEA MUSEUM COORDINATOR

by Billy-Ace Penguin Baker

On 24 May 2008, OAEA President John West announced to the Board of directors (BOD) that RADM J. Lloyd "Doc" Abbot, Jr., USN (Ret) had agreed to serve as the OAEA Museum Coordinator/Committee Chairman.

"Doc" is a graduate of the U. S. Naval Academy, Armed Forces Staff College, National War College, and holds a Masters of Science Degree in Business Administration from George Washington University. He has held numerous command and flag officer billets, including that of Commander, Naval Support Force, Antarctica (2/67-6/69). RADM Abbot currently serves on the BOD of the Naval Aviation Museum Foundation, USS *Alabama* Battleship Foundation, and other organizations. He has recently been elected President of his Naval Academy Class (1939).

OAEA President West tasked RADM Abbot to:

- Put together a team.
- Identify and quantify Antarctic artifacts currently in the possession of the OAEA.
- Determine the need for a repository for the artifacts.
- Lay groundwork to nurture a relationship with a suitable facility/organization willing to provide a permanent display of the historical Antarctic Artifacts.

OAEA President West emphasized that:

- Ownership of artifacts to be retained by the OAEA.
- Final contractual approval to enter into an agreement with a third party facility/organization rests solely with the OAEA BOD.

RADM Abbot was scheduled to be at NMNA Pensacola on 4 June 2008 to attend a Golden Eagles luncheon. He decided that would also be an opportunity to inform the museum of his appointment as OAEA Museum Coordinator;

he requested a meeting with Capt Rasmussen. Due to a previous commitment, Capt Rasmussen was unable to attend but sent Hill Goodspeed as his representative. Hill oversees the NMNA Collections Management program and is the museum library manager.

The meeting started at 1100 and Hill had to leave early for another appointment, but that was time enough for RADM Abbot to outline his appointment and a tentative plan of attack. RADM Abbot gave Hill a copy of his appointment letter and a copy of the OAEA By-Laws to pass on to Capt Rasmussen. Hill made several remarks about personal artifacts and memorabilia. He stated the NMNA is very interesting in obtaining historical clothing and uniforms and has a preference, or need, for such items more than they desire or need personal papers and/or books.

Before RADM Abbot had to leave for his luncheon, we discussed options and I provided him with background on donated artifacts currently in the possession of the OAEA. I briefed him on museums that already have Antarctic displays, or have plans for such displays. RADM, Abbot asked questions about the OAEA Officers and BOD and how we operated. He seemed pleased that most OAEA business is conducted by the BOD and that this procedure was ratified at the 2005 Oxnard reunion. He compared the OAEA operating policy to that of the Naval Academy Alumni Organization Board of Trustees. In conclusion, RADM Abbot asked what I thought of the possibility of the OAEA becoming aligned with numerous instead of a single museum. This was not a new concept to me, several other people have suggested this type of arrangement. RADM Abbot asked me to think about it. We agreed to continue discussions via email and the meeting was concluded.

OAEA 2008 REUNION UPDATE

By Jim O'Connell, Reunion Committee Chairman

The summer is passing quickly and the OAEA 2008 Reunion Committee has been hard at work getting the final details in place for the November reunion. At the most recent meeting we agreed that it was time to send out a status report.

To meet the desires of those who want to attend to reminisce and socialize with other OAEs, the committee has set forth a schedule that will permit each attendee to do just about anything he or she wants. Instead of setting up specific outings as has been done in the past, we elected to make information on activities and points of interest available and a representative from one of the local transportation companies will be on hand to provide tours to local attractions. Although each day has something planned, there will be ample time for individual activities. Basically, Wednesday night will be a social gathering, Thursday will be filled with a guest speaker and membership meeting with open social time in the evening, Friday will be open with a banquet/buffet and entertainment in the evening. There will be snacks and live entertainment throughout the entire event.

If you plan to attend the reunion but have not yet registered, you are encouraged to do so as soon as possible. Although the registrations deadline is 1 October, the sooner we get them the easier it will be for us to make commitments with the hotel. While discussing reunion attendance and funding, we felt that we are falling short on the attendance we calculated necessary to fund the reunion. The maximum attendance was set at 500 and we estimate that we need at least half of these (250) in place now to ensure we can fund the expenses set up in the hotel contract but we only have about one quarter (125) in place.

Before making any decisions that would affect the reunion, the committee agreed to notify the membership of the need to expedite their registrations and they would meet again the end of August. If registrations are not up to where they need to be by then we will have to look at our options, so once again, if you plan to attend the reunion, we encourage you to send in your registration as soon as possible. You can download a replacement registration form from: <http://www.oaea.net/OAEAReunionFL2008.pdf>.



OAEA TIDEWATER GROUP MEETING & NEWS

by Ed Hamblin

The sort of quarterly Tidewater OAE get together happened on 14 June. Some of the regular crew got together on a Saturday for a few ice stories, a few laughs, and a good lunch. This time, the big topic was "What did they need all the condoms for?" referring to the article that made the news about the 16,000+ prophylactics that were sent to the ice before the winter-over period. All of us present agreed that this was a true indication the ice was a far different place from when all of us had been there. As a group, we did seriously discuss the possibility of hosting the Williamsburg Navy Cargo Handling Battalion Sailor Of the Year at one of our quarterly Saturday afternoon "high teas".

The general take was that it was a reasonably good idea, and hopefully, the scheduling and logistics can be worked out with the command. (For those who may not know, the



Navy Cargo Handlers are regularly deploying to the ice for ship offloading; they are the only Navy unit still directly involved in the Antarctic program). We are also hoping to get someone down from the unit who deployed last season, so they can bring us up to date from their perspective, and possibly share some recent photos. (*Editor's Note: The Jan-Mar 2008 Explorer's Gazette cover story featured NCHB-1*)

This particular gathering was smaller than most; present were Ed Hamblin, Bill Raymus, Fred Nootnagle, Neil Sugermeyer, Brad Miller, and Marty Nemcosky. The group has met once a quarter for several years. The meeting place is the House Of Eggs Restaurant in Norfolk (rumored to be for sale, but still there). The next meeting will be on 12 September. All area OAEs are invited, and will be welcomed. Ed Hamblin is the Tidewater POC; if you aren't already receiving his emails and want to be included on his email tree, drop an email to ehamblin@cox.net. If you don't have email but want to be included, contact Ed by telephone at 757 405 3362. Hope to see you there!

Ed Hamblin



Pictured from left: Marty Nemcosky, Neil Sugermeyer, Brad Miller, Bill Raymus, Fred Nootnagle, and Ed Hamblin

NEW OAEA MEMBERS

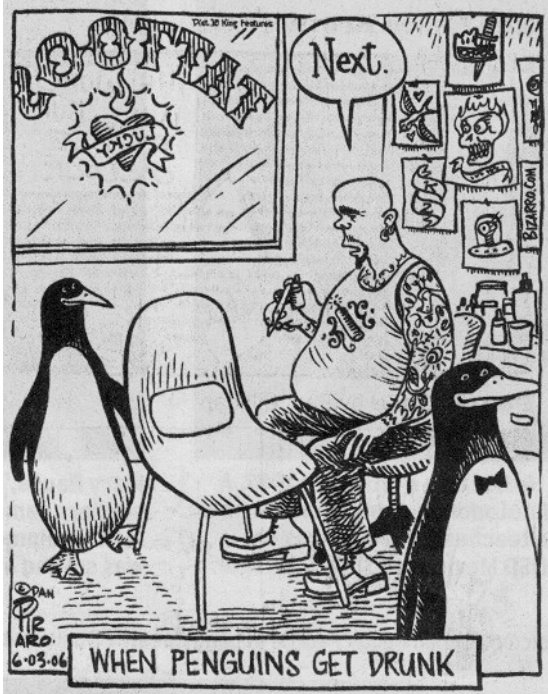
The below listed personnel have joined the OAEA since the Jan-Mar 2008 issue of the *Gazette*.

Thanks to Lynette Bishop, Mike Hall, Nick Pellegrino, Marty Diller, Billy Blackwelder, Elaine Hood, Phil Holloway, Les Liptak, Doc Abbot, Google News Alert, Hoot Hartman, Black Jack Stewart, Donna Startz, and Jim Johnson, for recruiting new members or for providing names and contact info for prospective members.

*Denotes Associate Member

Adams, Meg CIV	Annual	DF-08 South Pole & Marble Point
Bohner, Robert MIL/CIV	Life	86-92, 97-98, 01
Carson, Skeeter CIV	Life	08 Cruise MS <i>Fram</i>
Carson, Chris CIV	Life	08 Cruise MS <i>Fram</i>
Culbertson, James AD1	Life	USS <i>Staten Island</i> 60-61
Erickson, Roger LT	Life	DF-64
Gardiner, James CD1	Commem	DF-I & II Army-Navy Trail Party
Hayson, Noel CIV	Life	ANARE 49-50
Hoffmaster, Brian AMH3	Annual	VXE-6 1993-97
Leighton, Bill EM2	Life	USCGC <i>Burton Island</i> 1967-70
Lusk, Stanley CS3	Annual	ASA 71-73
Wafer, Lionel CIV	Commem	Surgeon on 1687 voyage south of 60S
Wright, Edward CIV	Life	BAS 76-79

Bizarro by Dan Piraro



REUNION INFORMATION

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

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.

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

USS Currituck (AV-7): Location Portland OR, 4–7 Sept 2008. POC Robert Curtis, 360 433 9759, va52gunner@aol.com. 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, 405 354 9204, cporetrn@cox.net. USS *Wilhoite* served during DF-61

Det Alfa DF-73 Winter-Over: Seattle, WA 3–7 Sept 2008. POC Ron Hudson, 503 620 3515, cdrsalmdr@netscape.net, 16715 SW Cambridge Ln, Durham OR 97224

USS Pine Island (AV-12): Atlantic City, NJ, 14–16 Oct 2008. POC Susan Crotzer, 205 621 3106, reztor@bellsouth.net. USS *Pine Island* served during Highjump.

USS Hissem (DER-400): Kissimmee, FL, 7–7 Oct 2008. POC Bob Morstadt, morstadt@optonline.net, 631 981 2584, USS *Hissem* served during DF-64

USS Yancey (AKA-93): Seattle, WA, 2–5 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, 888 6th St N. Jacksonville Beach FL 32250. 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.

Det Alfa DF-70 Winter-Over: Savannah, GA, Spring 2009. Dates and details to be published later.

ADFA: Madison, WI, Spring 2009. Dates and details to be published later.

OAE LOCATOR

Send locator information to the editor at upizauf@aol.com, 10819 Berryhill Road, Pensacola FL 32506, or 850 456 3556.

- HMC Winters Hames, who was in DF-II, III, and IV, is looking for anyone who remembers him being at Little America V. The one season he spent at LAV has not been recorded. Hopefully someone will vouch for his presence and get it in the records. Win can be contacted at: hameswinjr@aol.com, PO Box 364, Center Harbor NH, 03226, or 603-253-4867.
- Glen Kellerman editor of the *Retired Seabee Directory* is trying to locate a Seabee by the name of Albert M. Poe. Albert made two trips to Antarctica. Glen can be contacted at: eqpackrat@daol.com, 11257 Vidalia Road, Pass Christian, MS 39571-9057, or 228 2559687.
- Tom Ross is trying to locate Richard (Dick) Atkins and/or Wayman (Fuzz) St. John. Both were on the ice as AC1s in the early to mid 60s. St. John wintered over during his tour. Tom served with them at NAS Albany from 1967-1970. Tom can be contacted at: rmurdock@carolina.rr.com
- Michael Davis is looking for Jack Torbert and Glenn Laithrop, or anyone who knows their whereabouts. Torbert and Laithrop were VX-6 pilots during DF-I. Michael can be contacted at PO Box 88, Cust, North Canterbury 7444, New Zealand, or custodian@ihug.co.nz.
- Tony Herman is looking for anyone who knew an ET1 Burke who was at South Pole Station during the summer of 59, 60, or 61. Burke may have also had some involvement with the AMRAD station K1NAP in Davisville. Tony can be contacted at: hermana001@hawaii.rr.com, 94-1054 Paha Place, N6, Waipahu, HI 96797, or 808 678 6936.
- Tony Romig is looking for anyone who knew his great grandfather Amory Bud Waite. Bud was a communications specialist with the US Army Signal Corps. He was a member of the Byrd 1933-35 Expedition, Operation Highjump, Pre-Deep Freeze on the USS *Atka* 1954-55, Deep Freeze III, and DF-60, Tony can be contacted at: 58 Massapoag Ave, Easton, MA 02356, or tromig@metatomix.com.
- Ruth Meger is trying to locate Al Shackelford who was the editor of the DF-73 NSF/VXE-6 Cruise Book. Al was a LTJG at the time. Ruth can be contacted at foofie57@gmail.com, or 6813 Vincent Avenue South, Richfield, MN 55423, or phone: 612 869 6638.

ACTIVITIES BY LOCALE

- New England Area**—See meeting information on page 7.
- West Coast Group**—See meeting information on page 13.
- Tidewater Group**—See meeting information on page 15.
- Gulf Coast Group**—See meetings information on page 18.
- 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.

GLOSSARY OF SNOW AND ICE

Compiled and edited by Billy-Ace Baker



- Accumulation** — The process by which snow, ice, or water, in any form are added to a glacier, floating ice, or snow cover. It is the opposite of Ablation. German equivalent: *Zuwachs*.
- Bummock** — From the point of view of a diver, a downward projection from the underside of an ice canopy. It is the opposite of Hummock. Spanish equivalent: *El Mogote*.
- Crevasse** — A fissure formed in a glacier. Snow bridges often hide crevasses. French equivalent: *Crevasse*.
- Glacier** — A mass of snow and ice continuously moving from higher to lower elevations, or if afloat, continuously spreading. Danish equivalent: *Gletcher*.
- Tabular Berg** — A flat-topped iceberg. Most tabular bergs form by breaking from an ice shelf and show horizontal banding. Norwegian equivalent: *S Tavle fjell*.

Gulf Coast Group Happenings

By Billy-Ace Penguin Baker

3 May 2008—On a rainy afternoon, the Gulf Coast Group held their first meeting since October. Our host was the Shrimp Basket Restaurant in Warrington and 33 members and guests, and one visitor, showed up in spite of the rain. Our newest potential member Quinn Evans made her first appearance. Quinn was in NSFA and deployed to the ice during DF-82. Our visitor was Joe Neideg, a retired Department of the Navy civil servant. Joe is planning a trip to Antarctica on a tour ship and saw our meeting notice in the *Gosport*.



Stan Foster, Gus Shinn, and Gary Forney at the Shrimp Basket

When we found out that the Shrimp Basket didn't have any video equipment our Vice President, Jim Landy, and his wife Pam, purchased a VCR/DVD player and donated it to the GCG. Sean Baker hooked up the newly acquired equipment to the flat-screen TV in the Shrimp Basket bar that had been reserved for our meeting. However, hooking up the equipment proved to be an exercise in futility because our scheduled guest speaker, Bill Elwood, never made an appearance. Bill was supposed to show a video of his Antarctic Experience this past austral summer as an Air Traffic Controller.

Stan Foster donated a Navy (BUAER) vest-type flight hood that was issued to him in 1955. The hood will be added to the small, but growing, horde of donated artifacts that I am holding until we (OAEA) find a suitable place for displaying member donated artifacts and memorabilia.

GCG Master At Arms, Charlie Henke, volunteered to circulate though the group selling 50/50 raffle tickets and ensuring that everyone had signed the muster sheet. Skullduggery was suspected when it was announced that Charlie had won the raffle and took home \$30 as his share.

Les Liptak served as the MC and made a few announcements concerning the pending OAEA reunion. Les has served as the GCG MC since 2002 and would like to step down as soon as someone volunteers to take his place. Are there any takers besides, Billy Blackwelder and Gary

Skaar? Give me a call or send me an email if you are interested.

Mid-Winter Day 21 June 2008—For the second month in a row, the Gulf Coast Group meeting was almost rained out. Gary Skaar suggested that this meeting be held at the NASP Aviation Museum and since he volunteered to make the Cubi Point Café reservations I agreed with his suggestion as long as he would also volunteer to act as the MC and he graciously accepted my terms. The meeting was called to order and Gary had everyone stand, introduce himself or herself, and provide a brief resume of their Antarctic Experience.

In spite of the heavy rain falling across most of Pensacola and the surrounding area the museum was very crowded and 41 members and guests showed up for the meeting. Actually, four of the guests were OAEs who had recently competed a trip to Antarctica on a tourist expedition. Mike and Jeanne McGrath and their neighbors Skeeter and Chris Carson went on an Antarctic cruise in February onboard the Norwegian expedition ship *MV Fram*. We are hoping that they will agree to be guest speakers at a future GCG meeting. Attendees from out of the area were Shelby Gene Connell, Daleville, Alabama, and Bob Conner, Lake City, Florida. Recently located OAE Quinn Evans, NSFA Supply DF-83 signed up as a Life Member of the OAEA. Welcome aboard Quinn. Skeeter and Chris Carson also joined as Life Members.



Chris & Skeeter Carson and Jeanne & Mike McGrath on MV Fram, February 2008

Bill Elwood who was scheduled to the guest speaker at our 3 May meeting showed up and the wait was well-worth it. Bill was a great speaker and his video dog-and-pony show was outstanding. When Bill never showed up at the 3 May meeting he used the excuse that he went to the Perdido Shrimp Basket by mistake. At today's meeting, he blamed it on his GPS navigation system.

In addition to Bill's ability as a speaker, the video was great and included footage of the DF-08 operating season at McMurdo Station. The video included a clever animated cartoon-like video of missing bowls from the galley that was an entrant in the annual 48-hour video contest.



You, back in the rack!

I was so impressed by the missing bowl video that I later asked Bill by email for some more details. When I didn't hear from him right away, I then asked Elaine Hood of Raytheon Polar Services. As it turned out, both Bill and Elaine replied on the same day and identified the creator of the film to be a Kiwi by the name of Anthony Powell who resides in San Juan Capistrano, CA. Anthony has worked for the USAP for many years and has wintered-over eight times. I contacted Anthony and found out that he is currently wintering-over at McMurdo. Anthony told me that the video was made for the first Antarctic 48-hour film making competition at McMurdo Station in 2006. It won best film that year. Film requirements were: it had to be made in Antarctica within a two-day time frame, had to contain a bowl, an ice cream cone, a sleeping person, the sound of a phone, and the line "We've lost another one". Anthony made the film by himself, with some help from his wife Christine. He said: "It took about four hours to film, then most the next day to edit and add sound effects and so forth". Anthony went on to say "We will have this winters 48-hour film making competition on the first weekend of August. So far McMurdo Station, Scott Base, South Pole Station, Palmer Station, Mawson Station (Australia), Casey Station (Australia), Neumayer (Germany), Halley (British), and SANAE (South Africa) have all said they are going to participate this year." Should be a lot of fun, as this is the first time it has become an international event.

Anthony's award winning video, *Bowl on the Run*, starts out with a scrolling marquee reading: "Over 100 Bowls have gone missing from the galley this winter". Then you see scenes of the bowl speeding down hallways, through offices, and living-quarters. It ends when someone stops it with a well-placed foot and the bowl comes to a screeching stop and mutters, "Oh Rats", and the foot orders the bowl back into the rack. The video can be viewed at the following

web site: <http://www.youtube.com/antzarctica>. In addition Anthony has a blog page and a photograph page at the following URLs:

- <http://www.frozensouth.com> and
- <http://www.antarcticimages.com>

One of the more interesting things that Bill spoke about was the moving of the Flight Following radio circuits from McMurdo Station to a remote facility at NAS Charleston, SC. Instead of deploying to the ice this season, Bill will be heading to Charleston in early October and will be working in the Remote Operations Facility (ROF) for the long range air traffic control for the summer season this year. The idea SPAWAR has is to reduce the footprint of people on the Continent. Bill said: "Since we don't use radar, they remote the frequency we use to talk to the airplanes to South Carolina via a phone patch". According to Bill: "This is the first real test of the system. We tested it briefly last year and worked out some of the bugs". Initially there will be controllers at both ends in case the link breaks. Bill went on to say "We will also handle other functions from Charleston like issuing Notice to Airmen (NOTAMs) for all the airports and airspace in Antarctica, we update the Air Force tracking system (GDSS) so they know where their airplanes are at all times, we handle computerized flight plans for off-continent flights and generally keep up with the day-to-day movements of all aircraft on the continent."

Bill said, that at the beginning of each operating season, New Zealand releases the Antarctic airspace to SPAWAR and a NOTAM is issued and then SPAWAR is responsible for any situations that occur while under SPAWAR control. Then when the USAP air operations are completed for the season the airspace is returned back to New Zealand and they retain control until the US again assumes control for the first flight of the summer season.

To me, this sounded like a lot of political correctness. What do the NZ authorities control when the United States is not flying?



Bill Elwood self portrait on top of Ob Hill DF-08

Following Bill's presentation, Laura Snow, (daughter of Chief Ashley Snow who was an enlisted pilot on the USAS 1939-41 Byrd III Expedition), read a passage from Herwil Bryant's Byrd III Journal that was appropriate for today's date:

**Friday June 21, 1940
Mid-Winter Night**

According to Antarctic tradition, Mid-Winter Night calls for a Celebration. Our predecessors south of the Circle have always made a point of greeting the sun's return southward with fitting ceremony. The inaugural issue of a camp newspaper came out and will speak for itself, as well as for the fine dinner we had.

Herwil Bryant wintered-over at East Base as a biologist during the Byrd III expedition. His son and daughter-in-law are OAEA members.

Following Laura's reading of the Bryant passage, Gary asked me to give a brief overview of the November OAEA reunion. My presentation consisted mainly of a review of the dates and location of the reunion and stressed that everyone should register as soon as possible so that the committee could form some idea of projected income from the reunion. (See 'Reunion Update' on page 14.)



What do you mean, smile? I am smiling. But if we don't get more OAEs committed to attend the reunion I may start crying.

After my brief but eloquent dissertation, Gary asked everyone to think about where and when we should hold the next meeting.

Before the meeting started, Pam Landy circulated through the room selling 50/50 raffle tickets. The tickets were placed in a political correct penguin that is a prototype of a set of eight that Billy Blackwelder is making from one-gallon mayonnaise jars to hold raffle tickets at the reunion. After Gary made the last announcement, a ticket was drawn from the jar and Shelby Gene Connell claimed her prize, which amounted to \$54.



OAEA-GCG President Roger "Duck" Talbert and wife Raney—A Duck Married to a Kiwi. As the Old Saying goes: Birds of a Feather Flock Together.

At each meeting, I have a problem, or perceive that I have a problem of getting everyone to sign the muster sheet. I usually pass the sheet around to the early attendees and when the meeting area starts to fill-up either GCG Master-at-Arms, Charlie Henke or Sean Baker will take the sheet from table to table asking people to sign in, but they are not always in attendance and this was the case at the 21 June meeting. There wasn't much wiggle-room in the meeting area, but Bob Conner managed to take the sheet around the room and the MC also asked the attendees to make sure they signed in. However, when I got home and wrote-up the minutes of the meeting and a story for the Gazette I found at least six people that I knew were there had not signed. I wonder how many other slipped through the cracks? Anyway to make a long story even longer please make an effort at future meetings to sign in. This includes not only OAEs but spouses, guests, wannabees, and groupies as well.

Thanks to everyone who made this meeting a success.



Jeanette and Jim Norris

