



The Grumman-Northrop Grumman Retiree Club

Newsletter



May 2014

Volume 47, Issue 5

Circulation: 2857

CLUB HEADQUARTERS/ PARENT CHAPTER
Bethpage, New York
President, Betty Bohlander, (516-575-3777)

CHAPTERS / MEETING LOCATIONS:

California - Golden West / Pt. Mugu
President, Fred Syrett (805-647-4934)

California - San Diego / San Diego
President, Cliff Robinson, (760-749-8183)

Florida - First Coast / St. Augustine
President, Fred Bauer (904-819-9817)

Florida - Manasota West / Bradenton
President, Ted Martnes (941-926-8891)

Florida - Mid-West / Spring Hill
President, John Cornacchia (813-995-2902)

Florida - Southwest / Locations Vary
President, Carolyn Moors (239-283-8294)

Florida - Spacecoast / Melbourne
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President, Bert Moller (631-864-4377)

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President, Peter McNamee (252-288-4569)

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South Carolina - Coastal Carolinas / Myrtle Beach
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Texas - Houston / Houston
President, Angelo LaCognata, (281-326-1665)

Virginia - Central Virginia / Monticello
President, MaryAnne Muller (434-589-5565)

A Letter from the Retiree Club President

For some time now, the Directors and Officers of the Retiree Club have been discussing how we could modify the name of the Club to make it more in sync with the Northrop Grumman name, without losing our Grumman heritage.

Last year, we decided to start by changing the masthead on the monthly Newsletters. Of the four options presented to the Board of Directors, they unanimously chose to use the name: "The Grumman - Northrop Grumman Retiree Club". We started using that wording in the November 2013, Newsletter.

One of the reasons for wanting to make this change is obvious: The number of club members is decreasing as the years go by. There are many Grumman heritage people who have worked for Northrop Grumman for the past twenty years and are now retiring. While we welcome anyone who worked for Grumman or for Northrop Grumman to join, the general feeling is that the "Grumman-Northrop Grumman" name might be more of a draw for those who have worked for both companies.

continued on page three

An Invitation to all LM workers from the Cradle of Aviation

Cradle of Aviation's Celebration Of Apollo's 45th Anniversary

The Cradle of Aviation Museum ("the Cradle") will celebrate the most significant technical achievement in our history ... landing a man on the moon. The Cradle will also use the celebration to focus on the next generation of space flight and on Long Island's continuing role in space achievements.

The Cradle invites all who worked on the Apollo Program to be the guests of the museum at the Cradle, on July 12, 2014, from Noon to 4PM. Come to the Cradle to gather with your fellow LM workers and visit with some of the Apollo astronauts. Fred Haise and Walter Cunningham have accepted invitations, and the Cradle is awaiting confirmation from others.

continued on page three



Scholarship Fund Contributors

Thank You!
to the following for your
recent donations to our
Scholarship Program

- | | |
|---------------------|----------------------|
| Abbott, Marion | Arena, Aldo |
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Please Keep Your (Tax Deductible) Donations
Coming . . .

Send your checks (payable to **Retiree Scholarship Fund**) to: Scholarship Fund, PO Box 0748, Bethpage, NY, 11714-0748

GRUMMAN RETIREE CLUB NEWSLETTER

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Grumman Retiree Club
2014 All Chapter Scholarship Awards Program

Deadline for accepting completed
Applications is May 15, 2014.

Note: Applications must include Senior Year Load Subjects, even if grades are not available. Applications without the list of Senior Year subjects will not be accepted for evaluation. If an application has already been submitted without the Senior Year subject list, send the list NOW!

SCHOLARSHIP 50/50 RAFFLE
Members of All Chapters May Participate!

Enter often. Multiple winners possible.
 Max prize: \$500 for any one person, in any one drawing.

Winners announced in the Newsletter, after each quarterly drawing.

Send a filled-in raffle ticket (below) and a check (payable to *Grumman Retiree Club Scholarship Fund*), to PO Box 0748, Bethpage, NY, 11714-0748. Each raffle entry is \$5. (Please indicate how many raffles you are purchasing.)

Everyone has a chance to win.
This Raffle benefits the Scholarship Fund only.

2014 Scholarship Program
SCHOLARSHIP 50/50 RAFFLE TICKET

Name _____

Address _____

Town _____ State ____ Zip _____

Phone (optional) _____

Number of Raffles Purchased _____



Retiree Club President's Letter

(continued)

Sometime this year, 300 NGC employees will move to Melbourne, Florida. In time, they will retire and, hopefully, will join our Space Coast Chapter for the same reasons that we all joined the Club. The same situation applies to Northrop Grumman employees who are moving to St. Augustine this year and might one day become members of the First Coast Chapter.

We also feel it is time to design a banner to be used, together with the blue "Grumman Retiree Club" banner, to show the unity of the companies. The blue banner was made at the time of incorporation of the club and represents our Grumman heritage. The Grumman Retiree Club, Inc. is a 501(c)3 charitable organization and hence that name will be retained for legal purposes.

A new banner will be designed showing the Grumman Retiree Club logo in the center, "Grumman" and the Grumman company logo on the left, and "Northrop Grumman" and the NGC company logo on the right. The name at the top of the banner will be "*The Grumman - Northrop Grumman Retiree Club*". The name of each chapter will be at the bottom of the banner. The plan is to make these banners white.

It will take time to find a company to design and make the banners. However, we wanted to make our members aware of these plans now.

I will be in touch with all of the Chapter Presidents in the near future for their inputs and suggestions.

By: Betty Bohlander, Grumman Retiree Club President

Cradle of Aviation Invitation

(continued)

The former Grumman audio/visual staff will provide videos and NASA footage, which will be shown throughout the museum.

In addition, the Cradle has invited author Jonathan Ward who is writing a book, *All Systems Go: Apollo/Saturn Launch Operations at Kennedy Space Center*. Mr. Ward will be at the cradle to discuss his book, which should be out toward the end of the year.

The Cradle will also host a buffet dinner with the astronauts at 6PM. The cost is \$50 and reservations are required.

Each LM worker and a guest will receive free admission to the Cradle.

Please join the Cradle, the astronauts, the Retiree Club, and many former LM workers for this very special celebration of the crowning engineering achievement of the 20th Century. For additional information regarding the event or to make reservations, please call Carol Nelson, at the Cradle of Aviation, at 516-572-4026. Have your Perm # handy.

Please spread the word to your fellow Grumman LM colleagues!



Bethpage Chapter

Calendar

Membership luncheon-meetings are generally held on the fourth Wednesday of the month.

May 28 - Crest Hollow CC

Luncheon Reservation coupon - page 22
Speaker: Peter Rettaliata, former Director of Procurement for Grumman, and currently CEO of Air Industries Group, in Bay Shore, NY.

June 25 - Scholarship Luncheon

Luncheon Reservation form:
Page 23 of this Newsletter

2014 Defensive Driving Course

The cost for the AARP Defensive Driving course is:
Members: \$20; Non-Members: \$25

**2014 Schedule
June 10, Sept 10, Nov 5.**

Classes are held in Plant 25, 8:30AM Sign-In

To register, call Liz McGowan, 516-221-6573

Week Days Only

Call only between 6PM and 9PM.

Classes fill up quickly.

Check your expiration date; sign-up early.

Senior Blood Drive

May 27, 2014 at the Cradle of Aviation

For details, contact the Club office (516-575-3777).

Bethpage Chapter Meeting

April 23, 2014

The Club's first luncheon at Crest Hollow this year brought out an enthusiastic group of retirees on a nice, breezy spring day. At Noon, the Crest Hollow began serving their typical delicious meal. After coffee and dessert, the meeting was started with 2nd VP Pat Sullivan leading the Pledge of Allegiance. President Betty Bohlander asked for a moment of silence for our military heroes and loved ones.

The members were asked for corrections or additions to the March minutes as published in our Newsletter. There being none, the minutes were accepted as printed.

Betty introduced guest speaker Janine Valentiner, Regional Director of Business Development for Bristol Assisted Living. Janine was accompanied by Rachael Koutrouby, Bristol's Community Liaison. Janine oversees development of strategic corporate and professional relationships, the non-profit marketing initiative, and the community outreach initiative. She is a frequent speaker at events for senior groups where she educates on topics that impact the lives of seniors. She is acting co-chair of the Senior Umbrella Network (SUN) in Nassau, a member of SUN in Suffolk, the vice president of Gerontology Professionals of New York (GPNY), and the vice chair of the newly formed Long Island Family Caregivers Coalition.

Janine started her talk by introducing a recent book called the "Blue Zones", which describes a National Geographic expedition around the world to Blue Zones: areas in which people reach age 100 at ten times the average rate of the rest of the world. The book identifies the top five places; one of these is Loma Linda, California, an Adventist community, where residents outlive the average American by a decade. "Blue Zones" identifies the nine factors that these places have in common and calls them "The Power of Nine." The nine factors are:
1. Move naturally by walking and other normal daily chores, not necessarily with heavy exercise.
2. Have a purpose in life.



3. Downshift from stress through meditation and prayer.
4. Observe the 80% eating rule: you eat until you are 80% full and stop.
5. Eat lots of veggies - meat perhaps five times a month.
6. A glass of wine at 5 PM.
7. Develop a need to belong by attending faith-based services.
8. Hold family first (at Bristol, staff is family).
9. Develop meaningful associations with people you surround yourself with.

Janine extolled the merits of Bristol Assisted Living and described in detail how they try to adhere to the Power of Nine to enable all who reside there to enjoy and flourish in the experience. The most modern of technologies is utilized. Janine described a joint program the Bristol has with Hofstra University, in which seniors at the Bristol use a computer to SKYPE (a direct video link) real time with lecturers at the university and can have a direct Q&A capability with the professors. She laughingly, described one session where the seniors met with college students and discussed the similarities and differences between the sexuality on post WWII college campuses with that found on today's college campuses. Bottom line—maybe toga parties, Spring break in Cancun, and vodka consumption are new . . . but the rest of the “good stuff” is same ole-same ole. Guess time hasn't changed Mother Nature. Aren't scientific studies wonderful?

Bristol also has residents who have serious health issues. Here, as an example of modern techniques, Janine described how Equine therapy (interaction with horses) is used for some Dementia patients to help exercise the memory process. She has received positive feedback from the families of the sufferers, telling her that their Moms and/or Dads remember and talk about the horses that they have spent time with during the week, whereas they can't remember what they had to eat five minutes before.

At the end of her talk Janine noted that Grumman - Northrop Grumman retirees are immediately greeted with a \$1000 bonus upon joining the Bristol. Both Janine and Rachael were presented with gifts from the club with our thanks for a nice presentation.



L to R: Rachael Koutrouby, Betty Bohlander, Janine Valentiner

New Business-

- Betty Bohlander spoke about the Club's efforts to address the need for a new identity, to bring the Club more into sync with the Northrop Grumman name without losing our Grumman heritage. [**Editor's Note:** Betty's comments are presented in her letter to Club members, on Page One of this Newsletter.]
- First VP Bob Ripp spoke about the new Retiree Medical Plan mailing and subsequent informational meetings held during the week of April 20, at locations on LI. A show of hands indicated that almost all attended the meetings but a few people said that they had not even received the initial informational mailing. They were given the OneExchange phone number and told to contact them immediately. Bob stressed that everyone should go on-line or call OneExchange to provide them with a personal profile (Doctor's names and medications taken) and to set up an appointment for the final enrollment procedure. Bob noted that when registering for the insurance option of choice, husband and wife must register separately. After August 1, 2014, no more deductions for health insurance or prescription plans will be taken from your pension check. It will be your responsibility to pay for the insurance plan(s) that you choose. Bob also stated:
“Do Not Call The Retiree Office in Regard to the new Health Insurance Situation. We Cannot Help You. Call One Exchange.”



Committee Reports

Treasurer Reports:

- **Frank Rizzo** presented the Retiree Club Treasurer’s report; it was accepted as read.
- **Harry Daum** presented the Scholarship Fund Treasurer’s report, which was accepted as read.
- Harry also reminded us that the present Scholarship application period is up in May. He emphasized that retirees should get the application for family members who plan to submit an application for the award. This must be done quickly as awards are evaluated in May.

Travel - Nick Bazzicalupo (Prime Time Travel):

- June 3 - “Noshing through New York City.” A full day tour with radio personality Art Zimmerman providing lots of NYC trivia along the trip. Food sampling through Manhattan and the Bronx is key. Try Soul food in Harlem; DIM Sum in Chinatown; Knishes in a Jewish Deli; and Italian pastries and drinks in an Italian bakery. Watch a demo of Mozzarella making in the Bronx. \$93pp
- June 4th - “Philly Food Tour” - \$101pp
- June 8th - “Green Dragon and Shady Maple Smorgasbord” - \$71pp
-

Birthdays –Betty Bohlander (Ageless! - - ahh, come on Madam Pres); Anne Kalman (88); Rose Finamore (84); Harry Pro (87); Lynn Wesnofske (70); and Fred Pitterman (73). *Happy Birthday!* to all.

Anniversaries - Justin & Linda Perrote (46 yrs). Congratulations on your milestone.

Out of Town Visitor – Pauline Sandmann, from the Eastern LI Chapter. Welcome as always.

Get Well Card was sent to Barbara Nilsen . . . *We hope you Get Well soon, Barbara.*

Luncheons – Marion Abbott reminded everyone that the June 25 Scholarship luncheon will be at the Crest Hollow CC. Spend a wonderful afternoon with our fine scholarship recipients and their families.

Blood Drive - Harry Pro entreated everyone eligible to donate blood to attend the next drive, which will be held on May 27, at the Cradle of

Aviation. If you are over 75, you’ll need an OK from your doctor. Donors receive free museum tickets.

Prize Winners

Community Relations 50/50: Rose Finamore, Carol Schatzel, Kay Juner, and Harry Daum
Scholarship 50/50: George Young
Door Prizes: Paul Couluris and Karl Christ

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made, seconded and the meeting was adjourned at 3PM. Everyone bundled up to fend off the cold winds. *Come on, Spring !!*

Next Meeting: May 28, at the Crest Hollow CC. Lunch at Noon (\$10/member; \$20/non-member). Business meeting at 1:30PM. Luncheon reservation coupons [see page xx of this Newsletter) and checks (payable to Grumman Retiree Club, Inc.) should be sent to: Grumman Retiree Club, PO Box 476, Bethpage, NY 11714. **Please write “Luncheon” on the envelope so that it stands out from dues applications.**

By: Lou Kubat, Sec’y.

CALIFORNIA / Golden West

President Fred Syrett opened our April meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance and a prayer. Our program this month was a video presentation by Craig Kaston about an Ex-Vietnam pilot who was reunited with, and flew, an F-100 Air Force Fighter that he had piloted in the Vietnam War.

Fred Syrett gave a presentation on WW II about the number of aircraft and types built and cost of these aircraft at that time. His presentation included the amount of training time the young pilots got and the numbers of pilots lost.

Tom Maloney gave the treasury report.

50/50 winners: Leroy Chavez, Paul Cooper, and Don Coler.

By Paul Aanerud and Fred Syrett



CALIFORNIA / San Diego

No report of April activity.

who have interacted with the exchange have been pretty satisfied so far.

Nine 50/50 prizes were awarded.

Don't Forget - - Next Meeting: May 20

1. Our Spring Picnic at Treaty Park, in St. Augustine.
2. Hot dogs at 10AM, burgers on the grill at Noon. Bring a dish to share: Salad, side dish, munchies, beans, or some dessert would be great.
3. Everything else will be furnished by the Club.
4. Of course there will be our Bocce tournament. Anyone can join the play.

Hope to see you there!

By: Steve Cacace, Sec'y. sremkkc@comcast.net

FLORIDA/ First Coast

April 15, 2014

We had a nice crowd of forty-eight folks. Several guests attended and two of them joined the Club. *Welcome* Linda Long and Marc Oakley. Another guest, Mike Piluso, traveled 80 miles to attend, and Mary B. plans to rejoin the club.

Fred called us to order after our usual settle-in time, leading us in the Pledge, which was followed by Chaplain Janis' invocation.

After we satisfied ourselves at the buffet, Fred opened with welfare announcements:

1. Peter King, who recently underwent bypass surgery, is doing well.
2. Fred's wife, Marge, is well after her melanoma removal.
3. We received notice from the Grumman Committee that Gene Sirota has passed away. Gene was a LM program alumnus.

April Birthdays - Rhoda Lonnie, Joan Digilio, Anne Leone, Peter King, Barre Jenkins, Madelyn Langendorf, Alex Gaillard, William Worth, Arlene DeStefano, and Janis Porter.

Anniversaries - Madeline & Paul Coronato, Susan & Patrick Shoemaker, Virginia & Ed Deane, Catherine & Werner Langhauser, Jinny & Robert Rathje, and Patricia & William Worth.

No details on the new construction at the St. Augustine complex other than it is progressing.

There was very little talk of the new health plan setup. Several of us have registered and are reviewing the many options available. With so many more choices, it may seem a bit daunting, but those

FLORIDA / Manasota West

Our April 9, 2014, meeting was called to order by Vice President Bob Nyberg with the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance to our Flag. There were 16 members in attendance and one guest on yet "another" typical Florida spring day: sunshine, clear sky, great food, and drink, lots of boating activities at the Pier 22 marina in Bradenton, FL. For all of you power boat sailors: we even got to view a sailboat sinking, and a rescue by two seaworthy motorboats.

Jim Murray provided our Treasurer's report - which indicated we won't have to worry about Jim leaving the area on any extended vacations in the near future.

Secretary John Zinna introduced Grumman Retiree Roger Carpenter who now lives in the Bradenton area. Roger briefed us on his career at Grumman and some of his good memories. We hope to see more of Roger after our summer break, however we are competing with his golf membership. We remind Roger that at our meetings there are no traps, out of bounds, shanks, slices (except lime),



hooks or double bogies; just good friends and shared experiences and memories.

A healthy discussion ensued over the Northrop Grumman Health (Supplemental) insurance changes. New info is anticipated on May 1st. At the moment, the data is general and the accuracy of the info is in question. Drug plans will have to go to Medicare Plan D, which could increase cost, but is unknown at this time. There is lots of speculation and we are looking for better data over the next few months.

As a reminder: at our May 14th meeting, we will have Ron McCarty, from the Ringling Museum, as a guest speaker. Ron is the “keeper” of the Ca’d’Zan (House of John). This is one of the last of the fabled late-gilded-age mansions in America. This winter home of John and Mabel Ringling rests on 66 lush Sarasota Bay acres, which were left to the people of Florida in 1936. In 1948, to honor the accomplishments of John Ringling as the Circus Tycoon who united the Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey circuses, a circus museum was added to the property. To find out much more, don’t miss this meeting, which will be our last before the Summer break.

We encourage our members to bring guests. Also, if there are any Grumman retirees in the area, please join us at noon on May 14th at Pier 22 Restaurant in Bradenton, FL; good company, great stories, beautiful views, good food, and an occasional water event.

By: John Zinna, Sec’y (941-727-8952)

FLORIDA/ Mid-West

April 17, 2014

The meeting was opened by President John Cornacchia, at 11:30AM, with Greetings and a Welcome to the Grumman Retirees’ Club, Mid-West Florida Chapter

Chaplin Gus Kraye began our meeting with the invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance.

There were 15 members and 4 visitors. Our visitors were Liz & Mike Regiero, and past members Frank & Jessie Gabrus.

Our only Birthday for April was George Brumester. He will be 91. *Congratulations, George.*

April Anniversaries: Joan & Hank Mehl, 60 yrs; Frank & Jessie Gabrus, 60 yrs; and Liz & Mike Regiero. *“We Wish them the Best”.*

Minutes: There were no corrections to the March minutes. The Motion to accept the minutes as read was made by Ruthann Grishammer and seconded by Gus Kraye. The minutes were accepted unanimously.

The Treasurer’s report was given by Gus Kraye. The motion to accept the Treasurer’s report was made by Rich Arso and seconded by Madeline Arso. The report was accepted unanimously.

Sunshine Committee:

— Citrus County: All is well

— Hernando County: We are sorry to announce the passing of Bea Hall, who will be sorely missed. As Bea was our Sunshine Rep for Hernando County, Madeline Arso has volunteered to fill the position. If anyone has any information for that county, please contact Madeline.

There was no New Business.

We broke for lunch

Upon returning from lunch, we were expecting a speaker from the Crime Prevention Service. However, he was in an automobile accident this morning and was unable to attend. In lieu of just one speaker, all of our people who worked at Grumman spoke about their years with the company. The longest serving employee was George Brumester, with 44 years of service: he started in March 1941. Thank you all.

We had five 50/50 winners. *Congratulations!* to all.



The meeting was adjourned at 1:05PM. A fun time was had by all.

Future Meeting Schedule: May 22; Summer Recess; Sept 18; Oct 16 (Picnic); Nov 20; Dec 18.

All meetings are at 11:30AM, at the Buffet City restaurant, Route # 50, in Brooksville.

If you are in the area visiting, we would enjoy having you attend one of our meetings. It is a great time to meet old friends and new people who have the common bond of years of service with Grumman.

By: Kathy Cornacchia, Sec'y.

FLORIDA / SouthWest

No report of April activity.

Next Meeting: May 13, 11:30AM at the Golden Corral in Punta Gorda. New price is \$11 per person.

By: Tony Perre (239-731-7146)
tara88@comcast.net

FLORIDA / SpaceCoast

April 23, 2014

Club President Bob Prais called our meeting to order promptly at Noon and lead our 66 members and guests in the Pledge of Allegiance. Following a meaningful prayer, Sergeant-at-Arms Ed Romano announced the passing of our long time friend and club member Gene Sirota. Gene served as club president in 1991-92 and was active in promoting club activities until poor health necessitated moving back up North this past year.

The Suntree Country Club highlighted their seafood delight in our luncheon buffet, starting with hearty seafood chowder, followed with a cold seafood salad, and a hot shrimp and fish combo in creamy lobster sauce—beef was also available.

VP John Lau introduced our distinguished speaker,

retired USAF Major Joseph H. Reus Major Reus told us of his experiences in WWII, starting with ditching into the English Channel after his first mission over Germany, in 1943. Later, back in action, on his second mission he parachuted from a burning B-24, was taken prisoner by the Germans, and taken to Stalag 1 on the Balkan coast. In general, during John's 16-month confinement, he was treated quite well, with sports and entertainment. The prisoners were even allowed to collect mussels to supplement their meager diet. As the war drew to a close, the German guards left to surrender to the British and avoid being captured by the Russians. The Allied officers were held for some time by the Russians, until pressure from Washington succeeded in getting them released for transport back to England.

Side issue: When asked about the 16 RAF escapees, executed by the Germans (as shown in the movie, "The Great Escape,") John said they were told in England that - per Churchill's orders - all Nazis involved had been tracked down and executed. In contrast, some of the German fighter pilots have become good friends of our veterans.

John's subsequent 20-year career in the USAF included missions in North Korea and time in B-47s and B-52s. Back in Florida, he worked for ten years with our Grumman Gremlin Restoration Team.

Before proceeding with Committee reports, President Bob reported on recent developments concerning our NG Health Care Plan. We have been asked to contact our housebound retirees and have them get an advisor and, if necessary, get an advocate. Northrop Grumman has indicated that the use of an advocate is acceptable.

Treasurer and New Members:

- Bill Waldron detailed how both the General Account and Scholarship Fund are healthy.
- We are invited by the Vietnam and All Veterans of Brevard organization to attend their annual Awards Reception on May 18, to be recognized for our support of their transitional home. Ron Stinton will represent our club.
- We welcome Dale Lambert as a transfer member from the former Potomac Chapter.



Travel and Entertainment:

Our resident Gypsy, Maureen Ayers, reported on being greeted by -3 degree weather, snow, and avalanches in her recent trip to Montana. Closer to home, in South Carolina, she toured the Lake Merion area and was appalled by the number of store closings reflecting the faltering economy. More positively, a 100-mile pontoon boat ride on the St. Johns River with story-telling guides drew rave recommendations, as did a local visit to the Vierra Wetlands area (birds and gators galore) at the end of Wickham Road.

Historian/Grumman Gremlins: George Graefe proudly displayed the “recreated” cannon that the Gremlins will be installing to finish off one of their latest restorations. See if you can detect it on your next visit. With two F-86s plus the Canberra bomber in the works, members are invited to join the Gremlins on Thursday and resurrect their old skills.

Scholarship: Chairman Jim Glover thanked Committee members for giving up two days of their time to screen the very qualified submittals and come up with this year’s winners:

- George Skurla Scholarship: Mathew Adams – First in his class with a 4.0 average; studying Mechanical Engineering
- Club Scholarship: Megan MacKool – A 3.86 average, already involved in a NASA project, creating a CUDE Satellite. Her major is Electrical Engineering.

Communications: Don Powell reported from Barbados that the wind chill has them at 85 degrees. He sends thanks to our meeting callers.

Extra Bulletin: Past President Dan Postupack advised members to read up on alternate drugs and sources available to them as they enter the new drug plan. Case in point: he had to procure two different drugs, priced at \$140 each. As the result of a tip he was given, he made phone calls and wound up getting both for \$15.

April Employee Birthdays: John Middleton, Don Powell, John Kirwan, Frank Daidone, Bill Waldron, Joe Gioffre, Carol Sidorski, and Russ Weinert

April Spouse Birthdays: Gayle Middleton, Mary Adams, Beverly Heuer, Virginia Saladino, Donna Weinert, Blanche Soucheck, Ruth McDonald, Julie Gagliano, Anne Cioffi, Barbara Gelpi, and Elaine Daly

April Anniversaries: Rob & Maria Van Name, John & Mary Adams, Richard & Virginia Dillinger, Joseph & Agnes Gollhofer, John & Mary Kirwan, Ron & Jackie Winter, Gene & Joan Burgess, Joseph & Grace Guttadauro, Joseph & Rena/Catherine Wolf, Jim & Diane Glover, John & Blanche Soucheck, and Jerald & Lynn Ernst

Prizes:
- 50/50 Drawing: There were five \$10 winners (four of which were donated to the Scholarship fund).
- A box of Lindt chocolates and a \$25 Publix gift card were won by Angela Romano.
Congratulations to all!

Next Meeting: May 21.
Program: Awards to both our new scholars
Speaker will be Dr. Rick DiPatri, former Superintendent of Schools for Brevard County

By: Bill Steenson, Sec’y.

Future Meetings:
6/18, 9/17, 10/15, 11/19, 12/17

FLORIDA / Suncoast

No report of April activity.

Meetings: 10/15/14, 11/19/14, and 12,17/14. All at Hibachi Buffet, 49th. St. and Park Blvd., Pinellas Park, FL, at Noon.
Note: 12/17/14 is also the Anniversary of the First Flight, in 1903, by Orville Wright.

By: Patricia Newark, Sec’y, (727-360-7339)
lionpattysecretary@yahoo.com, newarkjohn@rocketmail.com



FLORIDA / Treasure Coast

Our April 7 meeting was held at Manero’s Restaurant, in Palm City, with 51 members and guests attending. President Bob Watkins opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance, and Chaplain Larry Regier gave the invocation.

Chaplain Larry announced the death of Gene Sirota. Our condolences go out to the family. Marlene Goetke has undergone glaucoma surgery and we wish her a speedy recovery.

Bob Watkins introduced guest speaker John A. Giltinan, who has been the Associate Car Curator of the Elliott Museum since 2010. The Museum is located on Hutchinson Island, in Stuart. The original museum was open from 1961 to 2010. The new building was dedicated March 2013, on the original site.

Mr. Giltinan presented a history of Sterling Elliott (1852-1922) and his son Harmon Elliott, and their inventions and contributions to the museum. Part of the museum contains the Elliott Hickory Bicycle (1890), Quadricycle (1889), and a Quadricycle Kingpin design. On display are a 1903 Stanley Sterling Elliott, an Elliott Turntable Patent, and an addressing machine. In addition, a 1909 Hupmobile, a 1936 Austin Nippy, and a 1904 Indian Motorcycle (to name a few) are on display. There is also a small Grumman exhibit.

Having been there personally, I can say that it is an interesting museum with a changing Exhibition Gallery, featuring prominent traveling exhibits; seven permanent collection gallery spaces; an art and teaching studio; plus the Angela Langford Outrigger Café. For those at the meeting who had never been to the museum, this was an educational presentation.

Dan Knowles gave a brief presentation on the new Northrop Grumman medical plan that is effective July 31st. He summarized the recent meeting he attended in West Palm Beach on the new plan. Dan encouraged all affected to make an appointment with Towers Watson to discuss options. At our June 19th meeting, we hope to have a representative from Northrop Grumman to explain the medical

options. Bob Watkins will have a set of questions that he will ask at that time.

Birthdays: Claude Rathgeber, Ceil L’Hommedieu, Harold Praeg, Joe Gilman, Lou Blum, and Jean Dombkowski

We welcomed visitors Al Pandl, and Lloyd & Diane Schilling. There were five 50/50 winners.

Next Meetings: May 15 and June 19 (last meeting till Sept. 18), at Manero’s Restaurant, Palm City

By: Joan Savio, Sec’y. (772-288-4246)
fj99savio@bellsouth.net

GEORGIA / Peach Pit

Our April 15, 2014 meeting was held at the Golden Corral Restaurant Milledgeville, GA, starting at 12:30PM. There were ten present when President Ted Zarkowsky called the meeting to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Next, he asked Chaplain Willie Collins to give the Blessing, which was followed by the meal and fellowship.

Old Business:

A motion, by Mike McCabe and seconded by Jesse Griffin, to waive reading of last month’s business meeting minutes was discussed. There being no comments, changes, and/or revisions either by proxy or by those present, the motion passed.

New Business:

1. Secretary Lew Iuliucci extended April Happy Birthday wishes to: Steve Willis [4/2], Julianne Nussberger [4/4], Theresa Simmons [4/4], Vince McNeese [4/6], Diane Gurr [4/7], Kathy Iuliucci [4/24], and Bill Stevens [4/30].
2. Anniversary congratulations were extended to: Jim & Martha Vinson [4/1], Jim & Delores Hicks [4/21], Gene & Pat Donovan [4/23], and Fred & Ann Peterson [4/25].
3. Treasurer Joe Sansotta gave a financial report including bank balance. He reported that this year’s Chapter Membership has dropped by ten



to 64 members. The Secretary has revised the membership mail list accordingly. Also, any gift checks for the Community Service Fund [payable to: Grumman Retiree Club, Inc.] and/or for the Club's Scholarship Fund [payable to: Grumman Retiree Club Scholarship Fund, Inc.], should be sent to Treasurer Joe Sansotta at the dues mail address.

4. The Secretary read the Year 2014 Annual Donation Plan. Following discussion, a motion by Ted Zarkowsky and seconded by Janet Sills to send the Plan for member vote was authorized. Accordingly, a Year 2014 Donation Plan Ballot will accompany this month's meeting minutes. It's returnable, to the Secretary, by May 19, 2014.

Joe Sansotta won the Community Service Fund raiser 75/25 raffle. He donated the winnings to the Community Service Fund. *Thank You, Joe.*

In Memoriam

Club Member Mario Guida passed away on March 27, 2014 in Summerfield, Florida. He is in our prayers. And our condolences are extended to his family.

We wish our members a Blessed/Happy Easter and Passover.

Community Service:

a.] Volunteerism continues as members and spouses aid various causes including Pints of Blood/Platelets.

b.] Following approval of the 2014 Donation Plan, a gift to the Mary Vinson Memorial Public Library will be made on Memorial Day [May 26, 2014].

c.] Financial giving and helping hand: [Chapter] funding for the three Colleges and the Public Library comes from every member's Chapter dues. Why? Because, participants who are educated here come from multiple communities as do our members. [Chapter] funding for the three Philanthropic gifts comes from our Community Service Fund 75/25 Raffle held at our ten meetings each year. Why? Because, these gifts are for local use and those attending meetings are typically local members. Also, this source of income subsidizes Scholastic gifts as required. Finally, funding for our two charitable gifts are primarily from individual members who make personal financial gifts to

the Fund. Why? Because, as was the case with Grumman employee voluntary participation in these same Charities, they determine the amount of charitable annual giving. And, with this in mind, this year's Donation Plan is the eighth consecutive year a diversified plan has been put to member vote each April with voting results and funding disbursement following the May meeting results. Thanks to every member for keeping the Grumman legacy alive and well, both through financial support and labor volunteerism. [This is the fourth, and final, in a series of Community Service Chapter goals.]

Program:

Wills & Power of Attorney was presented by Putnam County Probate Judge Patrice Underkofler. She talked about how the Court works, and about bringing Wills to probate. Judge Underkofler gave examples of issues to be considered, including joint trusts and Insurance beneficiaries, suggested Powers of Attorney, and Health documents [i.e. Living Wills]. It was interesting and informative. *Thank You*, Judge Underkofler, for your time and presentation. [Note: County Probate Courts have Internet web pages to assist those seeking information.]

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Willie Collins and seconded by Joe Sansotta. The motion passed and the meeting ended at 1:40PM.

Next Meeting: May 20, 12:30PM, at the Golden Corral Restaurant on North Columbia Street, in Milledgeville. The Program will be *River Cruises* presented by member Vince Ciampa.

By: Lew M. Iuliucci- Sec'y. (478-452-1357)
iuliucci@windstream.net

Maryland

No report of April activity



New England North

Winter break

New Jersey

The April 15, 2014 meeting was held at the Crestwood Family Restaurant with 11 members present. President Bill Staples called the meeting to order at 1:15PM. He mentioned that the March meeting had been cancelled due to snow.

The Minutes of the previous meeting and the Treasurer's report were accepted as read.

Sunshine Report – Chairlady Gloria Larsen read a letter from Bill Stokes and passed around a note and picture from the Smiths who are no longer able to attend the meetings. Gloria also read a letter from Marie Punturo informing us that her husband Lou had died. There was also a note from George Frankel's son, informing us that his mother had died and that George was now living with him.

April Birthdays: Carl Hein (1st) and Karl Noor (8th).

There are no anniversaries.

Old Business – Treasurer Al Larsen reported on the current club membership, and distributed new membership lists. He also asked for input regarding the membership. A short discussion followed.

New Business – Treasurer Larsen surveyed the members present regarding the new medical proposals from Northrop Grumman. A discussion followed regarding the various aspects of the material received by the participants. He also referred to the notice received regarding the pension plan. Al said he went on line and got a copy of the information referred to in the notice. Everyone thanked him for his research.

Ways and Means - Everyone present received a present.

Next Meeting: May 20, 1PM, at the Crestwood Family Restaurant.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:40PM.

By: Carolyn Kerr, Sec'y. (732-244-4483)

New York Eastern Long Island Chapter

VP Bob Albert called our April 16 meeting to order, with 17 Members present. Sergeant-at-Arms Richie Myers led the Pledge of Allegiance. VP Bob gave a short prayer with a moment of silence to honor our departed members and our troops in harm's way.

VP Bob read the minutes of the previous meeting, which were accepted as read.

Treasurer Lynne Miller was not present, so the reading of the Treasurer's report was waived.

Members welcomed Karl Himmelmann, transferring from the Virginia Chapter!

Pauline Sandmann rejoined our group after wintering in South Carolina.

Members then voted on a lunch site for May. Riverhead Crystal Gardens was chosen over "Hideaway" in Riverhead and the Coram Diner. Anyone with future meeting site ideas, let us know!

Lone Birthday reported was Leo Jasinski (39?!).

Mary & Bob Irwin celebrated 61 years of marital bliss! Congrats!

President Bert Moller reported the passing of George Styles on April 9, at age 97.

Past Prez Leo reported the death of another past Prez, Jim Golden, on April 13.

Fred Boerum also passed away in April.

Bill Mytko sent sympathy cards and a Get Well wish to the Hamilton's daughter after a foot injury.



Our condolences to all who have lost someone and best wishes for a speedy recovery to all our ailing members.

Any info concerning deaths, illnesses, etc: contact Bill Mytko (1-864-225-4927 or ermytko@aol.com).

In the absence of our Treasurer, the 50/50 drawing was not held (no tickets!)

Meeting Adjourned.

Next Meetings:

- **May 21**, at Riverhead Crystal Gardens (631-208-0101) 747 Old Country Road (East of Hospital Traffic Circle, in the King Kullen Shopping Center (look for the Firestone sign!)) Lunch \$11.
- June 18 - Location TBD
- July & August: No Meetings

Happy Easter and Passover wishes to all !

By: Bob Albert, VP(631-585-7987)

NORTH CAROLINA
Eastern Carolina Chapter

April 18, 2014

Forty-four members and guests traveled to New Bern, NC, to have a delicious lunch at “Famous Greek Restaurant”. Our Program Directors were President Pete McNamee and his wife, Nidda; our guests were Arlene & Bill Minerva.

The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance and an invocation given by Ken Gruebel. Pete then welcomed everyone and told members of a new member, Joseph Ram, from Apex, NC. Joseph worked in Melbourne, FL.

A discussion was held regarding the Northrop Grumman health benefits change. Members were told it is best to complete an online profile to facilitate choosing a new health plan, which must be in place by August 1st, 2014.

Fred Reynolds gave the Treasurer’s report: we’re in good shape. He also sent dues to Bethpage.

Rudi Wiehl brought some Grumman memorabilia for members to peruse.

Joe Mele did a “Show & Tell” about a project he and Flossie are involved in. Their project would replace the propellers used on wind farms and also cut down on the jet sounding noise. His company is called Meleform, LLC; he currently has a patent pending, which should be given to him very soon. It was a very interesting presentation and we wish him luck.

Pete announced the birthdays and anniversaries, Tom Schroder told a few of his many jokes, and Flossie read some of Joe’s funny stories.

Bob Lamberson picked our 50/50 winners: Wes Johnson, Mary Paulik (who donated the winnings to the Treasury- - (*Many Thanks*, Mary), Mary Olstad, Grace Lamberson, and Joan Willemesen. Grumman wine glasses, donated to the chapter by Bill Stanton, were won by Joan Willemesen and Fred Reynolds.

Pete thanked everyone for coming and wished all a safe trip home!

Birthdays: Dottie & Jim Karika (4/5), Ginger Reynolds (4/9), Ron Betts (4/10), Bob Lamberson (4/11), Patricia Jinks (4/12), Evie Gruebel (4/14), Gretta Rizzi (4/15), Inge Parker (4/19), and Ada Peoples (4/20).

Anniversaries: Karl & Pat Hermkind (4/8), Frank & Audrey Bollero (4/9), Artie & Fran Miller (4/10), Paul & Chris Albers (4/19), and Ray & Mary Rice (4/24).

Next Meeting: May 14, at the Carolina Grill, in James City, NC. Bob & Grace Lamberson are the Program Directors. Pete also told members that nominations will be taken for next year’s officers at the May meeting.

By: Dottie Karika, Sec’y. (dotjimk@att.net)



PENNSYLVANIA
Northeastern Pennsylvania Chapter

By: Edward J. Sparkowski, Sec'y/Chaplain
(570-698-7182) firefly417@verizon.net

SOUTH CAROLINA / Coastal Carolinas

April 2, 2014

Our April 2nd meeting was held at Ryan's, in North Myrtle Beach, with seventeen members in attendance and guest Theresa McMahon. After lunch, President Ronald Girardin called the meeting to order, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance, and a moment of silence, led by Sergeant-at-Arms Eldon Scott.

Everyone wishes John Culleton a very, "Happy Birthday!" We miss you, John, and Shirley, too!

Anniversary wishes went to Nancy & Don Webber, who celebrate 38 years of marriage on April 3rd.

Because I was not present at the March meeting, there were no March meeting minutes read, nor to be published in the forthcoming newsletter.

Don Webber gave the treasurer's report, which was accepted as read, seconded, and approved.

Please continue to keep Kay & Ted Hedin in your prayers.

Harold Katzenberger was the winner of the 50/50 drawing. Congratulations, Harold!

Dick Seidler led a discussion regarding the changes in healthcare plans.

Next Meeting: May 7, 2014, at Noon. Annual Picnic at Lorraine & Ron Girardin's home, 2035 Woodburn Drive, Myrtle Beach. Everyone is asked to bring a favorite picnic dish or dessert.

All Grumman, Northrop Grumman and Northrop retirees and guests are always most welcome.

By: Nancy Webber, Sec'y. (843-347-2113)
nwebber90887@sccoast.net

Hoooooooooray the snow is gone; the birds are back, and we can travel again, but we would like it a little warmer.

April 17 dawned bright and sunny, and the Zupps, Rademachers, Petersons, and Sparkowskis trucked to Kay's Restaurant in Lake Ariel for our meeting. Had a wonderful time reminiscing about the good old days when we used to get 40 to 45 members at a meeting. So if your ears were burning last Thursday, we were probably talking about you.

Treasurer Fred and Secretary Sparky went over the roster from Bethpage and discussed the members who are being dropped due to non-payment of dues. If anyone receives a call from folks you knew well at the Club, and they state they did not receive a newsletter, that is probably why. They will have to come back as new members.

We are now down to 42 Members in our Chapter. Should any of you decide to come back North, contact us and we will get you into our Chapter.

April Birthdays: Betty Heppler, Kathie Herling, Carol Lee, Peggy Petersen, Barbara St. Dennis, and Margaret Wroblewski.

April Anniversaries: Joseph & Jane Belding, Ed & Cheryl Hirsch, and Richard & Sally Petrusa,

A discussion was started about moving our luncheon elsewhere. It was decided that, until more interest is shown in the, we would stay where we are. Again, it was mentioned how many of us used to travel to the Raintree and came every month. Granted we are getting older, and some of us have moved, like one member who has moved to Georgia. But, without the interest why should we move?

Having said that, **our Next meeting will be May 15th**, at Noon, at Kay's Restaurant, Route 191, Lake Ariel, PA.

See you all at Kay's.



VIRGINIA / CENTRAL VIRGINIA

TEXAS / Houston

Our April 15 chapter meeting was held at the Clear Lake Park Building, on NASA #1 Parkway and was attended by a small group.

The guest speaker from NASA JSC was Dr. Nickie Duncan, Quality Engineer, Head of the Quality Control Department responsible for the aircraft flown by the astronauts. She explained her position with the aircraft located at Ellington Field (the jet trainers, Guppie and Gulfstream). She is also a qualified Flight Engineer and a certified A&P mechanic.

Dr. Duncan earned her Doctorate several years ago and has been very active in the aviation industry. At the end of the meeting, she invited the Grumman Chapter members to visit the facilities at Ellington Field.

We learned of the passing of long-standing member, Hank Hubb. The chapter extends their condolences to his wife Rose and their family.

We also learned of a memorable eulogy held for Gary Mead by his daughter, Alexandria, and ex wife, Julie, at the Butler Longhorn Museum. This was attended by a large number of close friends expressing their memories of Gary. We will keep Gary and Hank in our prayers.

At our next meeting, we will continue to take names of the members and family interested in attending the June meeting, for which we are planning a trip, with Dr. Nickie Duncan, to Ellington Field.

Next Meeting: May 20, 11:30AM, at the 1940 Hobby Air Terminal Museum.

See you then.

By: Charles Ashford, Sec'y. (281-474-7260)

Our April 9th meeting was opened with a prayer for the good health of those who were unable to join us, and with thanks for the food and fellowship.

Nine members met at Crab Louies Seafood Restaurant, in Midlothian near Richmond, VA, on a sunny, breezy spring day. The food was GREAT, as always, and was much enjoyed by everyone.

Present were Frank & Beverly Purstell, Tom O'Rourke, Maryanne Muller, Anna Dannenhoffer, Rich Benske, Ed Samson, and Fred & Marjorie Meiners

It was good to see Anna, whom we haven't seen this season.

We missed all those unable to attend, and pray that they are in good health and will be at some of our future meetings.

News:
Maryanne Muller handed off the reins of Presidency to Vice Pres Fred Meiners.

Maryanne had to give up the our Presidency because her husband is ill and needs her undivided attention. We wish Maryanne & Ray well, and thank them for their service. They will always be in our thoughts and prayers.

Treasurer Frank Purstell gave the balance in our account and all is well.

Frank also spoke about the problem that Bethpage has had with the membership (computer) roster and reported that the problem has been repaired.

Also, our local chapter has lost a few members for many reasons: we are down to 24.

To those of you who were members previously or who have never have been members of this chapter: we would love to have you join us! Please Call Frank Purstell (434-282-1303) to sign up.



We received a very nice letter from Karl Himmelman, a member who recently transported to Long Island, telling us how much he is enjoying his NEW DIGS in Port Jefferson. We miss him and wish him well!

We will also miss our dear friends Ed & Barbara Raulsome, and we wish them well, good health, and Luck in their new home in Myrtle Beach, NC.

Next Meeting: May 14, 12:30PM, at Michie Tavern, Charlottesville VA [I-64 to exit 121 - Route 20 South; follow signs for Thomas Jefferson's home, Monticello; follow Route 20 South to 2nd traffic light; make Left onto Route 53; go one mile, Parking lot is on right at the Grist Mill. If you drive under bridge to Monticello, you've passed it!]

Notice: Please notify Frank Purstell (434-282-1303 or srpurs@gmail.com) by Monday May 12 if you plan to attend the May 14 meeting, so that he can make reservations.

Last Meeting of the Season - June 11 -

Note Change in Location!!!

Our Annual Potluck, at the Meiners' Home, in Palmyra, VA.:Wright Ct, off Route 53, approx. 4miles West of the junction of Route 53 & US 15 South.

By: Marjorie Meiners, Recording Sec'y.
frmeiners@embarqmail.com

Nostalgia

In the March 2013 “Grumman History”, there was a report of the rescue of five fishermen in rough seas. This brought to mind a similar flight right here in our own neighborhood: this flight was from Grumman’s Bethpage airport.

I worked as lead-man of the Plant 4 Radar Shop. Our job was to bench test, install, ground test, and flight test radars for both production airplanes and “IRAN” airplanes. “IRAN” was short for an Air Force contract to “Inspect and Repair or Replace As Necessary” on the SA16 Albatross.

All of us in the Radar Room enjoyed the flight test part of our work on both the production aircraft (the S2F) and the IRAN Albatross. We set up a list of names; when your name got to the top, you were next to fly.

One day, Operations told the Radar Shop an SA16 was ready for flight test. My name was at the top of the list, so I went to Ops to join the crew.

The Plane Captain was to fly as co-pilot. The two mechanics lifted the floorboard and crawled down into the bilges to check for leaks when we landed on water. In addition, we had a radioman, an electrician, and me: the radar man.

The pilot, Joe Gaeter, announced that this was to be a routine IRAN flight test, and we would do the leak test on Candlewood Lake, in Connecticut.

As we walked across the Plant 4 apron, our tower called us on the P.A. system, and said: “Republic just said they have lost an airplane in Long Island Sound, and does Grumman have an amphib available to help look for he pilot?”

Our routine test flight suddenly became a Search & Rescue mission. We did a quick but safe pre-flight check and took off. As we turned North, the republic tower told us the pilot reported he was OK, in his one-man inflatable raft, paddling to a large rock in LI Sound. I saw a non-moving radar target in the middle of the Sound, and told the pilot. We decided that would be a good place to begin our search.

I gave pilot Joe range and bearing to the rock and he turned the airplane toward the target. At the same time, the co-pilot reported a movement on the rock. As we came closer, the co-pilot’s reported: “It’s a man, and he’s waving at us.”

Joe made a turn around the rock to check for boats, floating debris, or other rocks that would prevent us from landing. With no obstacles sighted, Joe landed the airplane.

Between Joe maneuvering the SA16 and the downed pilot paddling, we were soon next to the raft and pilot. When he was near our open door, we grabbed him and hauled him aboard. As soon as we told Joe that we had the pilot, he said, “Ready for take off; we’re heading for Republic.” Both towers were updated as the rescue progressed.

I asked the pilot what happened? He said: “When the tail came around to meet the nose, I decided it was time to eject.” I knew there was little chance of getting a straight answer.

When we arrived at Republic, there was a huge crowd to greet the wet-but-well pilot. There was a lot of hand shaking and backslapping. When the celebration quieted down, we got back into the Albatross and returned to Bethpage. Our “routine test flight” was over.

[For readers not familiar with the Long Island aviation environment of that time: Grumman’s operations and airport were in Bethpage; Republic Aviation Corporation designed and built Air Force airplanes in Farmingdale, where they had their own airport. The two communities are about ten miles apart.]

By: Harvey Abrams, 45529

In Memoriam

We extend heartfelt sympathy to the families and friends of those who have passed away.

Agiesta, Sophie	Bethpage, NY	03/21/14
Choy, Alfred H.	East Northport, NY	02/28/14
Gibaldi, Frank P.	Plainview, NY	02/24/14
Guida, Mario	Summerfield, FL	03/27/14
Harmon, Rodney	Los Angeles, CA	02/26/14
Hubbs, Henry	Friendswood, TX	03/23/14
Mulvey, Francis R.	Centereach, NY	04/02/14
Needham, Eileen	Rockville Centre, NY	03/00/14
Schenck, Herman F.	Bethpage, NY	04/16/14
Strnad, Robert F.	East Northport, NY	04/08/14
Styles, George H.	Smithtown, NY	04/09/14
Tascarella, Charles R.	Bridgeport, WY	04/17/14
Tveter, Dorothy A.	South Setauket, NY	04/03/14
Verity, Harry	Hewlett, NY	03/28/14
Vitale, Carmine C.	St. Petersburg, FL	03/20/14
Woelfel, Walter	Walton, NY	03/20/14

When reporting a death, provide the person's Name, Date of death, and the City & State of residence prior to death. Notices of member deaths should be e-mailed to the Club (grumrc@gmail.com), with "Death Notice" as the subject.

Grumman History - Chapter 22

COST OVER PERFORMANCE (1971)

The Tomcat crashed in the waning days of 1970. Undaunted, Grumman Aerospace's President Lew Evans said, "We've got a great airplane here. Although we've had a setback today, as far as I'm concerned, nothing will slow the program." Lew was correct. The fault, quickly found, was the result of [unintentionally] perfectly tuned vibrations, caused when one engine was throttled back to idle. These vibrations caused the titanium hydraulic lines to fail, leading to loss of control system hydraulic fluid and then total loss of aircraft control. The shock of the crash was quickly ameliorated when investigation showed that the remedy principally involved changing the hydraulic line clamps. Flight-testing resumed in May.

Grumman's other projects were doing well. In January, the EA-6B Prowler was introduced into Whidbey Island and fleet service; the 488th and final A-6A was delivered; and the third generation E-2C Hawkeye, now capable of detecting targets over land and water, had its first flight.

LM-8, carried aboard Apollo 14, became the third lunar lander on Feb. 5, when it landed within 100 feet of the chosen spot. Astronauts Shepard and Mitchell explored the area for a record-setting nine-plus hours. At the end of the second and final surface excursion, Shepard wanted to demonstrate his golf prowess to the global TV audience. Hampered by the stiff space suit, it took three one-armed swings to successfully stroke the ball. "Miles and miles and miles!" exclaimed Shepard as the ball sailed into the starry-blackness of the lunar sky, thereby becoming the longest drive in golf history.

Turmoil over Vietnam pervaded the headlines, as did stories of defense program cost overruns and Apollo mission costs. While these negative events were happening, Lew Evans was named CEO and Chairman of the Board of Grumman Aerospace, as Clint Towl became Chairman of the Board of Grumman Corp. "Doc" Tripp, LM Vice President, was compelled to write an article about the benefits of the manned space program and then Lew Evans penned an article about difficulties Grumman faced. Evans cited the public's anti-military/anti-technology sentiment while also faulting the aerospace industry's sloppy management.

William Proxmire, senator from Wisconsin and nightmare to the military establishment, had gained notoriety by awarding "Golden Fleece" awards to government programs he deemed as most wasteful. At his press conference in April, he cited both the F-14 and McDonnell's F-15 as expensive, too complex, too sophisticated, and not needed (he targeted other defense projects as well). Political and public pressure forced the Navy, a firm supporter of the F-14, to perform study after study to find a lower cost approach. One study involved modifying the F-15 for carrier operations, an idea pushed by Senator Symington from Missouri, the state where the F-15 was being built. Proxmire pushed for a "lightweight" fighter. All these studies continued to show the superiority of the Tomcat.

In the midst of this maelstrom, Grumman announced that the cost of the F-14 was to increase significantly due to both inflation and the general business downturn. Grumman's workforce had declined from 37,000 in 1968 to 24,000 as the Reduction in Force (RIF) ended the Fall of 1971. The resulting significant impact to overhead costs had not been properly considered when Grumman signed the F-14 contract.

Fighting against the negative tide of public pressure, Hawaii's Senator Inouye defended Grumman and the aerospace industry. He cited the Foxbat (Russia's latest fighter), the loss of over 370,000 skilled aerospace workers during the previous two years, the disaster of "total package procurement" contracting, and inflation that had increased from a three year average of 3%/year to over 5.5%. The battle of F-14 costs would continue to escalate for some time.

While the F-14 was Grumman's largest program, the wide spectrum of Grumman's activities continued unabated. Its "bread and butter programs" were doing well as the KA-6D, the tanker version of the Intruder, was acclaimed in the Navy press, and the E-2C went into production. Grumman Ecosystems became a separate subsidiary, with Bill Zarkowsky as President. Ecosystems' Gulfstream 1, outfitted with a sensor suite comprised of magnetic, infrared, and photographic detectors, prepared to take on its first major job, the geophysical survey of northern Greenland. Sales of Grumman's bi-plane Ag-Cat crop duster hit 877; the Department of Transportation awarded Grumman \$3.5 million to build a 300 mph train, the Tracked Air Cushion Research Vehicle (TACRV); and the Flagstaff hydrofoil boat, outfitted with a 152mm gun, hit its target three out of four times while traveling at 40 knots, providing Grumman bona fides in its quest to win the Navy's PHM hydrofoil gunboat program.

When the modified LM-10 lifted off in July, it carried life support allowing for greatly extended lunar stays and a lunar rover greatly expanding exploration capability. Astronauts Scott and Irwin compiled a record 18 ½ hours and 17 ½ miles traversed during three successful lunar surface excursions. Upon takeoff from the moon, the TV camera was positioned for the first time to transmit pictures of the LM ascent stage leaping off the descent stage as the ascent stage blasted off to rejoin the orbiting Command and Service Module.

The Space Shuttle study was extended for eight months. Notably, the Grumman/Boeing team achieved parity with Rockwell and McDonnell as NASA changed their preferred totally reusable vehicle approach to include the Grumman/Boeing external fuel tank configuration, as escalating costs pressed down on the Shuttle program. The competing industry teams were ready for the Request For Proposal (RFP), anticipated in mid-December. The future of the manned space business at Grumman depended on winning this program as the end of Project Apollo was clearly in sight.

Bad news came as Grumman was notified it had lost both the High Energy Astronomical Observatory (HEAO) and the PHM hydrofoil programs. Juxtaposed against those bad tidings was the good news that OAO-2 had – remarkably - achieved its third anniversary in space as 1971 ended.

Overall, 1971 was not a good year for Grumman, although it had fared better than most in the industry. While the F-14 had successfully completed the Navy's preliminary evaluation, Grumman continued to lose money on every aircraft. Grumman actually lost money in 1971 as sales dipped below \$800 million, down from \$1.2 billion in 1969.

As the Department of Defense and NASA continued to prioritize cost over performance, the nature of the aerospace business would be forever changed.

Larry Feliu and Ken Speiser

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MAY 28 LUNCHEON RESERVATION FORM

Member Name (PRINT) _____

Guest Names (PRINT) _____

No. of Members attending _____

No. of Guests attending _____

No. of Chicken _____

No. of Fish _____

Luncheon coupons should be mailed to

Grumman Retiree Club, Inc.
PO Box 476

Bethpage, NY 11714

\$10 per member - \$20 per guest
PLEASE RESPOND BY MAY 21

GRUMMAN RETIREE CLUB - SCHOLARSHIP LUNCHEON RESERVATION FORM

Menu Choices: Roast Beef, Shrimp Oreganato, or Penne Pomodoro

I wish to reserve seats at the **June 25, 2014 Luncheon (Noon – 4PM)** for these dues-paying Grumman Retiree Club members, their spouses and/or guests:

	<u>Full Name (please print)</u>	<u>Phone No.</u>	<u>Check One</u>			<u>Check One</u>	
			<u>Beef</u>	<u>Fish</u>	<u>Pasta</u>	<u>Retiree</u>	<u>Guest</u>
1.	_____	_____	___	___	___	___	___
2.	_____	_____	___	___	___	___	___
3.	_____	_____	___	___	___	___	___
4.	_____	_____	___	___	___	___	___
5.	_____	_____	___	___	___	___	___
6.	_____	_____	___	___	___	___	___
7.	_____	_____	___	___	___	___	___
8.	_____	_____	___	___	___	___	___
9.	_____	_____	___	___	___	___	___
10.	_____	_____	___	___	___	___	___
11.	_____	_____	___	___	___	___	___
12.	_____	_____	___	___	___	___	___

- ALL TABLES SEAT TWELVE. A **MINIMUM OF TEN IS** REQUIRED TO RESERVE A TABLE.
- **SEVEN DAYS NOTICE** IS REQUIRED IN ORDER TO RECEIVE A FULL REFUND.
- PLEASE SEND **ONE CHECK** TO COVER LUNCH FOR YOU **AND** YOUR GUESTS.

Attached please find \$ _____ representing **\$36.00** per person for _____ people.

Table Captain: _____

Address: _____

E-Mail address: _____

Remarks: _____

Ticket Purchase Deadline:

June 18, 2014

Please make all checks payable to: **GRUMMAN RETIREE CLUB**. Please send this form and checks to:
Marion Abbott, PO Box 476, Bethpage, NY 11714.
 No tickets will be issued.

To verify that your check has been received, please call Marion or Pat, at 516-575-3777.



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Editor: Neil Klaskin
 Nostalgia Coordinator: Charles Mooney

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Phone: (516) 575-3777
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