



The Grumman Retiree Club Newsletter



March 2013

Volume 46 , Issue 3

Circulation: 3670

CLUB HEADQUARTERS/ PARENT CHAPTER
Bethpage, New York
President, John Vosilla (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, Burt Stern (941-378-7082)

Florida - Mid-West / Spring Hill
President, Richard Arso (352-684-0842)

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

Florida - Spacecoast / Melbourne
President, William Steenson (321-751-3446)

Florida - Suncoast / Pinellas Park
President, Benjamin Hurley (727-527-7281)

Florida - Treasure Coast / Port St. Lucie
President, Nancy Schaefer (772-878-2295)

Georgia - Peach Pit / Milledgeville
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Maryland - Glen Arm / Belair
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New England - New England North / Dorset, VT
President, Bill Egnor (802-446-2062)

New Jersey - Garden State / Lakehurst
President, Al Larsen (732-350-1170)

New York - Bethpage Chapter & Club HQ
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New York - Eastern Long Island / Riverhead
President, Bert Moller (631-864-4377)

North Carolina - Eastern Carolina / Locations Vary
President, Peter McNamee (252-288-4569)

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President, Charles Dowd (570-491-2125)

South Carolina
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President, Ronald Girardin (843-903-7116)

Texas - Houston / Houston
President, Angelo LaCognata, (281-326-1665)

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

Virginia - Potomac / Locations Vary
President, Ed Barron (202-244-6808)

From the President

I've been asked by several members to provide more information about the company and its activities. Beginning with this issue, we planned to have a page of news and information from various company sources.

As we were going to press we had several press release summaries ready to go. However, the company made an announcement on March 4 that I know is of much greater interest to you and you may have already heard about it.

The company announced that day that a reorganization is going to occur. It will affect Bethpage and many of its current employees, as well as sites around the country that are part of the Aerospace Systems sector. While the changes are significant, the employees were told that they won't be completed until 2015.

Bethpage will become the sector's center of excellence for electronic attack, which is the work done for the Prowler, Growler, and, we hope, the soon to be awarded new tactical jamming system for the Navy.

However, the Hawkeye program will be moved to Melbourne, Florida, and the unmanned Navy program, formerly known as the Broad Area Maritime Surveillance System and now named Triton, will be moved to California. St. Augustine will also be a center of excellence.

The text of the release is on page three for you to read.

When I wrote the first submission of my letter I was looking forward to our first speaker of the year at our February membership meeting. We are very grateful for the update that Jacob Rice gave the many members who attended the meeting. There is a brief overview of his discussion in our meeting report, which, ironically, illustrated the changes in the company's structure over the past decade. The realities of life can quickly change.

We have two speakers "penciled-in" for our meetings in March and April. However, we may be making a change in speakers. Look for an email and check the web site for details. I hope we have as good a turnout in March as we did for Jacob.

Until next month, best regards. By: John Vosilla

* * * * *

Like the Old Days!

Long Island members: Want to relive the enthusiasm you had when you were first involved in building airplanes and spacecraft? Attend these upcoming *FIRST* Robotics events. You'll have a fun time watching these high-schoolers put their robots to the test in fierce competition. More than that, the young men and women will be happy to have an audience cheer them.

Long Island Regional *FIRST* Robotics Competition

David S. Mack Sports & Exhibition Complex at Hofstra University

There is no charge for admission.

April 4: 10AM - Practice begins

April 5: 9:00AM - Opening Ceremony

9:30AM - Competition begins

4:30PM - Awards Ceremony

April 6: 9:00AM - Opening Ceremony

9:30AM - Competition begins

1:00PM - Playoff matches and Awards Ceremony



Scholarship Fund Contributors

**The Scholarship Fund directors and
The Grumman Retiree Club thank
the following for their recent donations:**

- | | |
|----------------------|---------------------|
| Abrami, Barbara | Allison, Joseph |
| Arcas, Noe | Arena, Aldo |
| Arseneau, Louis | Baumgartner, Joseph |
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| Boisits, Carole | Bonanno, Victor |
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| Christ, Karl | Chrysler, Scott |
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| Cipriani, Sylvia | |
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| Coningsby, Frederick | Conolly, Michael |
| Corrao, Richard | Cosumano, Joanna |
| Danos, Stavros | De Stefano, Vincent |
| Difalco, Dominic | |
| Dluginski, Ronald | Errig, Charles |
| Farkas, Milton | Fawcett, James |
| Frank, Charles | Frank, Roseanne |
| Friedrichs, John | Garlasco, Frances |
| Gilmartin, George | Goldstein, Robert |

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Scholarship Fund Contributors

(continued)

- | | |
|---------------------|---------------------|
| Grossman, Emily | Hemmerdinger, Louis |
| Jacob, William | Juengst, Stephen |
| Kaufhold, Gerard | Keck, Edmund |
| Kerns, Charles | Kielbasa, Joseph |
| King John | Kutner, Marianne |
| Leib, Jean | Lewin, Norman |
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| Michalowski, Andrew | Michelon, Lawrence |
| Moebes, Richard | Moore, Thomas |
| Munro, Robert | Mustapich, Richard |
| Myers, Robert | Newman, Thomas |
| Nocella, Frank | North, Lee |
| O'Rourke, Robert | Obertis, Mario |
| Orr, Richard | Preiser, Gustave |
| Razziano, Margot | Rehm, Joan |
| Saffron, Stanley | Santos, Anna |
| Scaffer, Aronld | Schatzel, Paul |
| Schauer, Berthold | Schmitt, Charles |
| Secrengost, Pomea | Sibley, Stanford |
| Siegel, Herbert | Smedfjeld, Harriet |
| Smith, W. | Stalb, Alan |
| Steel, Herbert | Terry, Joe |
| Troje, Adolf | Weihs, Sidney |
| Wirth, A. | Woessner, Richard |
| Yerden, Raymond | Zimbalatti, Anthony |

+ + + + +

**Please Keep Those (Tax Dedectible) Donations
Coming . . .**

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

Every little bit counts . . . it all adds up!

GRUMMAN RETIREE CLUB NEWSLETTER

(USPS # 023-096) Volume 46, Issue 2, March 2013,
is published monthly except August by Grumman
Retiree Club, Inc., 600 Grumman Road West, M/S
Z49-25 Bethpage, NY 11714-5000. **Periodical
postage rates paid at Bethpage, NY.** Subscriptions
rates of \$11 are paid through membership dues.
POSTMASTER: Send address changes to:
Grumman Retiree Club, Inc. c/o Command Printing,
P.O. Box 9040, Farmingdale, NY, 11735.



Northrop Grumman News

Northrop Grumman Announces Centers of Excellence in Florida, California and New York

FALLS CHURCH, Va.– March 4, 2013 – Northrop Grumman Corporation (NYSE:NOC) announced today it is designating five centers of design and integration excellence in support of its Aerospace Systems sector’s manned aircraft, unmanned systems and electronic attack businesses. In addition, the company announced plans to close an Information Systems sector facility in Dominguez Hills, Calif.

“Consolidating these centers of excellence will improve our strategic alignment with our customers’ need for increasingly innovative and affordable products, services and solutions,” said Wes Bush, chairman, chief executive officer and president of Northrop Grumman. “We continuously examine our operational capacity to determine how we can leverage it in the most efficient and cost-competitive manner. Given the current budget environment, it is imperative that we act to enhance future performance, innovation and affordability for our customers.”

The Manned Aircraft Design Center of Excellence will be located in Melbourne, Fla., and will include aircraft design work currently being performed at the company’s Bethpage, N.Y., facility. The B-2, F/A-18 and F-35 programs will remain in Palmdale, El Segundo and Redondo Beach, Calif., respectively.

The company’s Unmanned Systems Center of Excellence will be located at its Rancho Bernardo facility in San Diego, Calif. Two programs will transition to that center: the MQ-4C Triton program from Bethpage, N.Y., and the NATO Airborne Ground Surveillance program from Melbourne, Fla.

An Electronic Attack Center of Excellence will be located in Bethpage, N.Y., and will include the Aerospace Systems’ Electronic Attack program team.

The company has designated two Aircraft Integration Centers of Excellence, one in Palmdale, Calif., and the other in St. Augustine, Fla. Current integration activities in Moss Point, Miss., and New Town, N.D., are not included in this transition.

The company will close its Dominguez Hills, Calif., facility as part of its long-term effort to reduce facilities and costs. This facility supports the development and integration of C4I networked communications capabilities and solutions, and mission support work for the Information Systems sector. This work will be transitioned in phases to other company facilities beginning in 2013. Northrop Grumman also announced plans to complete the closure of its Electronic Systems sector’s Norwalk, Conn., facility, including radar test range operations.

This press release was issued as we were preparing to go to press with the newsletter. It is the full text of the press release, but for the full text of other press releases, go to:

<http://www.northropgrumman.com/mediaresources/Pages/newsreleases.aspx>



**2013 All Chapter
Scholarship Awards Program**

Applications for the 2013 Awards

Applications are now available for the 16th Annual Scholarship Awards Program. Applications may be obtained at your local meetings, on line at *grummanretireeclub.org* or by mail (self addressed, stamped envelope) to Scholarship Fund, PO Box 0748, Bethpage, NY, 11714-0748.

The Scholarship Fund directors and the Grumman Retiree Club thank you for helping to continue the Grumman tradition of supporting education.

Please Keep Those Contributions Coming

Your membership contributions are the engine that allows the scholarship awards to be an ongoing Retiree Club program for all members. All donations for the Scholarship Program are tax deductible. And don't forget:

Every little bit counts . . . it all adds up!

To make your tax deductible donation to the Scholarship Fund, send checks (payable to *Retiree Scholarship Fund*) to

Scholarship Fund,
PO Box 0748,
Bethpage, NY, 11714-0748

**Scholarship Awards Program Mail-In Raffle
First Quarter 2013 Winners**

Richard Fox & Sophia Agiesta each won \$250 in the first-quarter 50/50 raffle.

**The next drawing will be at the
Scholarship Awards Luncheon, June 26.**

**2013 Scholarship 50/50 Raffle
Members of All Chapters May Participate!**

Enter often.

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

Winners will be 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.**

**2013 Scholarship Program
SCHOLARSHIP 50/50 RAFFLE TICKET**

Name

Address

Town _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone (optional) _____

Number of Raffles Purchased _____



Bethpage Chapter Calendar

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

**03/27 - Luncheon Meeting - Milleridge Inn
Luncheon Reservation Coupon: page 22**

Mark your calendars now for:

June 26: Scholarship Luncheon

September 18: Picnic

December 11: Holiday Luncheon

2013 Defensive Driving Course

The cost for the 2013 *AARP Defensive Driving* course is TBD. Call for details.

2013 schedule:

June 4th, Sept 10th, Nov. 7th

Classes are held in Plant 25.
8:30AM sign-in.

To register: call Liz McGowan
(516-221-6573),

Weekdays Only!

Call between 6PM and 9PM.

Classes fill up quickly.

Check you expiration date; sign up early.

Senior Blood Drive

May 28 and Sept. 3,

at the Crest Hollow Country Club

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

Bethpage Chapter March 27 Meeting

Todd Phillips, Bethpage Federal Credit Union assistant vice president, will talk to us about how to preserve our wealth in retirement. Even though

many of us are well along in our retirement years, we still have many years to go. This is not a sales promotion. Rather, from our friends at BFCU it is a brief education on how to protect and grow what we have worked so hard to save.

Bethpage Chapter

Our February 27 meeting was held at the Milleridge Inn, on a mild day. Happy that there was no snow in the forecast, club members turned out in droves. They were welcomed with a robust and delicious meal a la Milleridge. The 150 attendees were happy for the cold weather break.

President John Vosilla called the meeting to order at 1:30PM. Sergeant-at-Arms Pat Sullivan led the Pledge of Allegiance, which was followed by a moment of silence for our deceased members and our armed forces throughout the world.

The president asked for corrections or additions to the January minutes as published in the newsletter. No changes were offered; the minutes were accepted as printed.

John introduced guest speaker Jacob Rice, Northrop Grumman Aerospace Systems' manager of Business Development (AS). Jacob is responsible for supporting AS East Coast international capture programs, developing and implementing strategic initiatives to bolster the capture of these campaigns, and negotiating industrial cooperative agreements with AS's international customers. These industrial cooperative agreements, which are part of all foreign contract awards, are called "offsets" and typically include agreements to produce parts in the country that is buying our product, mandatory co-production, licensed production, sub-contractor production, technology transfer and/or foreign investments. Jacob's responsibilities include intra- and intersector offset assistance to other company elements. Prior to this assignment, Jacob served as Offset Project director for the E-2T Offset Program for Taiwan. In all, he has 35 years of engineering and business management experience in the aerospace and consumers products industries and over seven years as a helicopter pilot in the Marines, leaving active duty as a captain.



Bethpage Chapter (continued)

Jacob presentation showed the evolution of the company's product line, starting with the merger with Grumman, later the addition of Westinghouse (which became our Electronic Systems sector), the acquisition of TRW, the sale of the ship building sector. He concluded by showing the widely diverse corporation as it is today, with operations in almost every state and in countries around the world. An enthusiastic round of Q & A followed his talk. The club presented Jacob with a token of our appreciation.

John then introduced longtime Bethpage Chapter retiree Ernest Finamore who - over the years - has generously donated his time and talents working with the Grumman Retiree Aircraft Restoration Team. The team is still active today and Ernest is now the manager. The team has worked with the Cradle of Aviation Museum at Mitchell Field for the past 10 years. Ernie's discussion of the team history, past accomplishments and their present efforts will be presented in the "Nostalgia" section of the Newsletter. [Editor's Note: See page 18.]

Committee Reports

Community Relations – Betty Bohlander reported that the Bethpage Federal Credit Union has created a disaster relief fund, in association with the United Way of Long Island. This fund will be aimed at Long Island victims of Hurricane Sandy. Make a donation to the Club for this disaster relief fund. BFCU will match our donation to the United Way of Long Island. Betty thanked the members who have already made their donation to the club for this purpose.

Scholar Luncheon - The 2013 Scholarship Luncheon will be held on June 26, at the Crest Hollow Country Club. The weather will be beautiful. It's a fun day and very satisfying to honor the outstanding student award recipients.

Treasurers' Reports –

** Frank Rizzo presented the Retiree Club treasurer's report, which was accepted as read.

** Harry Daum presented the Scholarship Fund treasurer's report. It was accepted as read. Harry

reminded us that the cutoff for acceptance of scholarship applications is May 15th. Students should submit the applications as early as possible.

Travel - Nick Bazzicalupo (Prime Time Travel): All of these trips are discounted \$5pp to Grumman retirees.

** 04/03: Staaten Inn, "Best of Broadway Show." Listen to and sing along with Broadway tunes from the '40s till now. Incl one-hour open bar, full course dinner and dancing. \$93pp.

** 04/20: Botanical Gardens "Orchids and Azaleas." Tram ride to view the many types of azaleas throughout the park. See the beautiful orchids inside the conservatory. Lunch at Mario's on Arthur Avenue and shop for Italian delicacies. \$94pp.

** 04/21: "Rich Little" at the Queensborough Theater. Enjoy the Canadian master mimic of over 200 voices. See and hear the '50s rock 'n' roll group, "The Four Freshmen." \$169pp.

Happy Birthday! Richard Busch (90 on 2/23); Ernest Finamore (87 on 2/26); James Oakes (69 on 2/2).

Anniversaries: Lee & Ann Olivier, 64 years on 2/27. Congratulations on your milestone.

Get Well Wishes were sent to Francis "Shrimpie" Froehlich and Ernst Troglauer. We hope both of you are feeling much better, very soon.

Out-of-Town Visitor: Eastern LI Chapter's Pauline Sandman. Welcome back, Pauline.

Prize Winners

- Community Relations 50/50: Ann Saffron and Matthew Messina.

- Scholarship 50/50: Arlene Vosilla.

- Door Prizes: Marie Visconti, Sid Weihs, Joe Ciccone, Herb Steel, and John Wallace.

- Scholarship Mail-in-Quarterly: Richard Fox and Sophie Agiesta, both of the Bethpage Chapter.

Next Meeting: March 27 at the Milleridge Inn. Lunch (\$10/member; \$20/non-member) at noon; Business Meeting at 1:30PM. BFCU's Todd Phillips is scheduled to be our speaker. Coupons and checks (payable to *Grumman Retiree Club*) should be sent to: Grumman Retiree Club, Inc., PO Box 476, Bethpage, NY 11714. Please write "Luncheon"



on the envelope so that it stands out from dues applications. Questions? Call the club office at 516-575-3777.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made, seconded, and approved. The meeting was adjourned at 3PM.

By: Lou Kubat, secretary

CALIFORNIA / Golden West

Meeting dates: 3/12 (2nd Tues.) and 4/9 (2nd Tues.)

After lunch at the Fraternal Order of Eagles, in Oxnard, President Fred Syrett opened our February meeting, at noon, with the Pledge of Allegiance. Vice-President John Torkelsen followed with a prayer for our service members all over the world, and for our members and families who are suffering.

We were honored to have as our speaker Navy Captain Lawrence Vasquez, who took command of Naval Base Ventura County in February of last year. Captain Vasquez was designated a Naval Aviator in 1990. At sea, he commanded the "Wolf Pack" of HSC-45.

The Wolf Pack is a twelve-aircraft helicopter squadron tasked with providing combat-ready helicopter detachments on board surface combatants.

Captain Vasquez also served with the Helicopter Anti-Submarine Squadron community, deploying on cruisers, destroyers, and frigates. He served in Afghanistan as Commander, Provincial Reconstruction Team Farah. Captain Vasquez earned a master's degree in public administration from Harvard University.

As a comment on the general situation in the Navy today, Captain Vasquez noted that the Navy is feeling the strain of budget and personnel cuts with fewer personnel and ships covering the same area of responsibility as before. Deployments at sea have been extended beyond normal to an average of seven to nine months and as long as

10 1/2 months. The Navy has been ordered to shift emphasis from the Middle East to the Pacific Ocean.

Even to those of us who worked at NAS Point Mugu and are now retired, it comes as a surprise to realize that Naval Base Ventura County is by far the largest employer in the area, with over 19,000 people working and bringing a \$1.9 billion impact to the county's economy.

The naval base includes the Point Mugu Naval Air Station, the Port Hueneme Sea Bee Headquarters, the Navy and Marine Engineering Test & Development Center and portions of the Port of Hueneme Deep Water Port. It also has telemetry and tracking operations ongoing on San Nicolas Island, shared by 100,000 sea animals, about 85 miles off the coast.

NGC E-2C Hawkeye squadrons are based at Point Mugu, along with a Naval Air Systems Command electronic warfare laboratory. The unmanned aerial Fire Scout vehicle will be maintained at Point Mugu and the latest, Littoral Combat Ship Development, will be maintained at Port Hueneme. This involves ships with interchangeable mission modules.

Since the captain's flying career was mainly with rotary wing aircraft, the club presented him with a number of pictures of famed Grumman fixed wing aircraft so that they may not be forgotten.

Thanks to Craig Kaston for taking charge of the PowerPoint projection setup and to Ken Korsberg and the Eagles volunteers for the facilities and food.

Faithful member Bob Monetti was absent because of some necessary medical testing. We wish him the best.

The meeting was well attended. It was nice to see Bob Fischer, Stan Szydowski, and east-coaster Bob Edwards greeting old friends.

By: Paul Aanerud, Sec'y, and John Torkelsen, VP.



CALIFORNIA / San Diego

No report of February activity

FLORIDA/ First Coast

Thirty-one members attended our February 19 meeting. President Fred Bauer greeted all and led the pledge, which was followed by a prayer led by Janet Cassford.

We all enjoyed our usual buffet lunch and fellowship.

Fred began by announcing that Augie Kubart is home recovering from surgery. Fred's wife, Marge, attended today; she is also recovering nicely from surgery. Marge was one of seven 50/50 winners (as usual).

Our May picnic is booked for May 21, at Treaty Park, in St. Augustine.

Ralph Davies brought up the issue of the club receiving death notification of past and present employees.

The possibility of better communication with the Grumman facility was discussed. Perhaps a few members who have close ties with active employees may help, but it appears an official company contact has not proven viable. More discussions may follow. In the meantime, if you learn of such news, please forward the information to Fred or me so that we can alert the members with an e-mail.

Treasurer's report by Fred for vacationing Bob Rathje:

- (1) 62 paid members.
- (2) About 21 members need to send their \$15 dues before March 1. Mail to: Bob Rathje, 11046 Castlemain Circle East, Jacksonville, FL 32256.

Anniversaries: Mary & Lloyd Gillespie, and Fran and George Deangelis.

Birthdays: Audry Umbach, William Lainhart, Augie Kubart, Josephine Soldt, Donald Schroeder, and Betty Rosone.

Next Meeting: March 19, at New Century Buffet, US-1, So. St. Augustine

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

FLORIDA / Manasota West

Our February 20, 2013 meeting was opened by Vice President Ted Martines with the pledge to the flag. There were 14 members and three guests present. Nancy Winding reported that President Burt Stern had called to let us know that he is still quite ill and is not able to attend. We are all praying for his early recovery.

Treasurer Jim Murray made his financial report. As usual, we are still in the black. However, there are still some 2013 dues unpaid.

50/50 Club was won by: Nancy Winding, Con Gilsean, and Lucille Alloca.

Bob Nyberg advised that he had spoken to Siggy Feuersanger's wife Bobbie to check on Siggy's condition. Bobbie indicated that he was the same and is still in the Life Care Center on Tuttle Avenue, in Sarasota, FL. Visitors and cards are welcome.

The balance of our meeting time was enjoyed by socializing over lunch.

As usual, we invite all retirees to join us for lunch at noon, at "Pier 22 Restaurant," on the beautiful Manatee River, in Bradenton, FL. We normally meet on the third Wednesday of each month.

By: Nancy Winding (941-355-7888)

Follow-on report of visit to Siggy Feuersanger:

"Beth and I visited Siggy today (Feb. 24) in the



Life Care Center (very nice place) and he looked great! I think he may have recognized me and we had a great conversation. His son (the pilot) and his wife were there and they sure are taking very good care of him. He seemed to know that he was going to be moving to NC, but I couldn't be really sure. I told him as soon as I saw one I would make a model of an ME-109 and he gave a great round of claps!

"Please forward this to the group, and I would encourage folks to visit him before he moves. The Life Care Center is just north of University, on Tuttle."

Beth and Bob Nyberg

2013 Meeting Schedule
03/20, 04/17, 05/15; 10/16, 11/20, 12/11
(No Meetings: June, July, Aug, Sept)

FLORIDA / Mid-West

President Richard Arso opened our February meeting with 21 members present. Chaplain Gus Krayer gave the invocation and led the membership in the pledge to the flag.

The minutes of January were read and approved.

Treasurer Gus Krayer gave his report, which was also approved. The audit will be done by Bill Shay, John Cornacchia, and Gus Krayer.

There were no birthdays or anniversaries for February.

Citrus County Sunshine Chairman Gus Krayer told us about the passing of Harvey King, on Feb. 7, 2013. He was a member in good standing and always attended meetings with Marie, his wife. He shall be greatly missed.

Hernando County Sunshine Chairman Bea Hall was absent, not feeling well. So, we did not have a report for Hernando County members.

President Rich Arso asked our previous chaplain, Art Bellion, to come up front. The membership

gave Art Bellion a service award for all his work and dedication to the chapter.

We had five 50/50 winners.

Next Meeting: March 21, 11:30AM, at Buffet City, in Brooksville on Rte. 50. Please try to attend our meetings, which are about good friends, good food and lots of fun things to do. We hope to see all of you in March.

By: Joan Mehl, sec'y. (352-686-2735) and Richard Arso, president (352-684-0842)

FLORIDA / SouthWest

No report of February activity

FLORIDA / SpaceCoast

We had five guests as well as members at the February 20th meeting, which was held at the Suntree Country Club. We had a special cake to celebrate the chapter's 30th anniversary on February 16th.

President Bob Prais welcomed the members and guests and led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance. Sergeant-at-Arms Ed Romano gave a timely invocation.

John Lau introduced Mr. Jason Holland, VP, financial advisor, and regional manager for the PNC bank. Mr. Holland gave a brief overview of the PNC bank. He said that, although their current presence in Florida wouldn't reflect it, PNC was the 6th largest bank in the U.S. and that they were growing in Florida.

Mr. Holland then introduced Pierre Vogelbacher, V.P., senior wealth panner; Eric Sommer, V.P., senior relationship manager; Karen Vitt; and, Crystal Nelson. Mr. Vogelbacher then gave an informative presentation on estate planning.



His message was not so much to explain the tools of estate planning (wills, trusts, insurance, etc.), but to stress the need to update your documents on a regular basis to keep current with the many changes that life brings:

1. Changes in family circumstances: adding a child or grandchild, marriage, divorce, health issues, etc.
2. Changes in your wealth: acquiring assets, selling or losing assets, etc.
3. Changes in tax codes and laws.
4. Failure to keep your plan up to date may lead to unintended outcomes, which would not be in accordance with your wishes.

Pierre ended with the following top ten reasons why you need to update your estate plan:

1. Your plan has not been updated to consider the 2012 Tax Payer Relief Act.
2. You have had changes to your family dynamics (death, marriage, divorce, children, grandchildren, etc.)
3. You want to protect your assets from creditors. Although you can't set up trusts to hide from creditors, you can set up your estates to protect assets from lawsuits.
4. You want to control who is in your estate.
5. The people you've named as guardian for your children and trustee for your heirs are no longer on your "A" list.
6. You have moved to Florida since your estate plan was done. Despite similarities, laws in every state have something different that warrants a review.
7. You do not have a revocable living trust. Revocable trusts avoid court supervised probate and guardianships. Living trusts can be very important if you have out-of-state real estate in your name, which would require two probates, one in Florida and one in the state where the real estate is located.
8. You do not want your children to become "trust fund babies." Giving your children large sums of money can destroy their motivation to become successful; just look at the lottery winners who have filed for bankruptcy. Proper planning can encourage education, reward hard work, and teach proper charitable giving while preserving your estate for your family's genuine needs.
9. Someone in your family has "special needs." Family members with mental or physical disabilities,

addictions, etc., need special treatment in your estate plan. For instance, proper planning can make funds available for treatment without giving the beneficiary control over the funds, and can provide for a disabled beneficiary's needs to be met without disqualifying them from governmental assistance, such as Medicaid.

10. The Number One Reason To Have Your Estate Planning Reviewed Is — You Don't Have A Plan! Surveys repeatedly show that people do not even have simple wills.

Meeting Minutes: A motion was made, seconded, and passed to accept the January meeting minutes as published in the newsletter.

Community Relations - A condolence card was sent to Rita Francisco's family on Rita's passing. Bob told a joke about Florida guys waiting for Happy Hour to buy cheap drinks, in honor of Rita.

Treasurer's Report- Bill Waldron started with a joke in Rita's honor. A detailed report on debits and credits of the Space Coast Club (SCC), finances was presented. The SCC and the scholarship funds show positive balances. He reminded us that it is time to pay our dues (\$15) for 2013. Currently, we have 123 paid members.

Our visitors were Bill & Clare Eighmey, Joe & Gloria Renderio, and Mike Lasquadro.

New members are Joe & Maria Sobierajski.

Travel and Entertainment - Maureen Ayers reported on the successful trip to Cape Canaveral. A good time was had by all. She reminded us that this is a FREE trip on Wednesday or Thursday. She updated the information on the Savannah trip. There are 37 people going. There are five people going on the Biltmore Estate and Ashville, NC, trip on May 26 – 31. There is also a trip to Miami and Key West, Fl. for November 5 – 7. If interested in any trips, contact Maureen at 321-634-1940.

Historian Report- George Graefe mentioned the TICO Air Show coming up on March 22 – 24. The Thunderbirds will be there. The Gremlins are very busy getting the planes ready for the air show. Restoration work continues on the B-57 British



version of the Canberra bomber and the Tiger. The F-4 is being prepared for paint.

Communications - Don Powell reported all is well.

Scholarship – Bob reported that the high school students' applications should be arriving by the end of March. The committee will meet in April to pick our two 2013 winners. Our club received an award from the Brevard County Scholarship Committee. Ron Stinton, who received the award for our Club, showed it to us.

Old Business: Nothing

New business: Bob Watkins has copies of a DVD about Roy Grumman for \$10 each. Call Camille Steensen at 751-3446. A motion was made by Ed Romano to support last month's speaker Major Walters' organization, the Triad, with a \$100 donation. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Employee Birthdays February: Gordon Woodruff, John Adams, Richard Masiello, Joseph German, Joyce Erickson, Brian MacCarthy, William Santiago-Calo, Tracy Wood, and Howard Dunn.

Spouses Birthdays February: Sheila Bigel, Katherine Petrovits, Pauline Christensen, Leonora (Lee) Combs, Josephine Carter, and Kathleen Downey.

Anniversaries February: Patrick & Mary Ranieri.

We had four 50/50 winners plus the special gift.

Next Meeting: March 13. The speaker will be Danny Knowles. See you all in March.

2013 Meeting Schedule:
4/10, 5/15, 6/19,
(no meetings July, August)
9/18, 10/16, 11/13, 12/11

FLORIDA / Suncoast

VP Lyn Mohr opened our Feb. 20, 2013 meeting,

with 11 members in attendance, at noon at the Hibachi Buffet on Park Blvd and 49th street. Sgt.-at-Arms John Kucin led the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by Patricia Newark giving a prayer for our retirees and our Armed Service men and women in harm's way.

Pres. Ben Hurley was with his wife, Anna, who is in Largo Medical Center recuperating from an operation. Members donated, and flowers were sent.

We had one birthday to celebrate.: Our very own St. Valentine's birthday baby boy: Antonius Giouvalakas (79). The Suncoast Singers sang "Happy Birthday." Tony's wife, Sofia, had a special birthday cake made for us to join in the party to celebrate Tony's big day. Congratulations!

And belated brthday wishes on Helen Barth's December birthday. Once again, our singers sang "Happy Birthday." Congratulations!

50/50 Winners: Bob Barth and Caesar Colasuonno, who returned their winnings, and Helen Barth.

A motion to close the meeting was made by Patricia Newark, seconded by Tony Giouvalakas, and approved.

Next Meetings: March 20 and April 17, 2013.

By: Patricia Newark (727-360-7339,)
newarkjohn@rocketmail.com

FLORIDA / Treasure Coast

The Treasure Coast Chapter had a rousing February meeting on the 21st with 74 members and guests attending. The meeting was held, as always, at Manero's Restaurant in Palm City, Florida.

Following the Pledge of Allegiance, the invocation was given by Chaplain Lawrence Regier, who first reported that Richard Terry had passed away on February 7th at the age of 91. Our prayers go out to the Terry family and friends.



It was also reported that Carl Caputo fell and broke his hip and is in the hospital. Speedy recovery, Carl!

President Watkins introduced our speaker, Mike Roberts, who heads up the Road to Victory Military Museum (RTVMM). Mike spoke about his father, who had served in the 101st Airborne in World War II. He listened to his dad talk to other vets and became very interested in their stories. His dad had some souvenirs that he had brought back from Germany with swastika insignas on them, which he still has.

Mike's passion for collecting his own World War II memorabilia started with an old military jeep that he found in a pond and bought for \$500. What first began as a mobile museum has progressed, with his collection and a plethora of donated items, into what it is now the RTVMM. The housing of the items is only one part of the project. The museum also has restoration projects (a WWII Higgins boat and the WWII Camp Murphy building from which it operates), and every Memorial Day they have *Operation Take Time to Honor*, which honors men and women killed in action, and, in partnership with the City of Stuart and the Veterans Council of Martin County, the RTVMM partners for the Memorial Day and Veterans Day parades. For more information or to donate items, you can contact them at RTVMM, 319 Stypmann Blvd., Stuart, FL 34994

Our evening at the Lyric was a great success with 39 members and guests attending. The Duprees were wonderful and \$390 was donated to the Scholarship Fund!

Birthdays for February included Pat Bernardo, Bob and Irene Falkowski, Marilyn Fink, Fred Savio and Connie Ludwig.

Two anniversaries: Claude and Joann Rathgeber, 48 years, and Lawrence and Doris Regier, 21 years. Happy Birtherversary was sung to all.

Two visitors were welcomed: Anna Bonura and Jim French. Welcome and come back soon!

Following the 50-50 drawing, the meeting was adjourned.

Next Meeting: March 21, at Manero's.

By: Nancy Schaefer, nmscha@aol.com

GEORGIA / Peach Pit

Our February 19, 2013, meeting, which began at 12:30PM, was held at the Golden Corral Restaurant on N. Columbia St., in Milledgeville, Georgia. There were 23 present when President Ted Zarkowsky called the meeting to order and introduced our program speaker, Putnam County Sheriff Howard Sills, and Chief Deputy Russell Blenk.

Sergeant-at Arms Wendell Barr led the Pledge of Allegiance. Chaplain-Designee Jesse Griffin gave the blessing, which was followed by the meal and fellowship.

Old Business

A motion to waive reading of, and to accept, the January 15, 2013 meeting minutes was made by Wendell Barr and seconded by Ernie Godbee. There were no changes offered, either by proxy input or from those present, and the motion carried.

New Business

1. Secretary Lew Iuliucci extended February happy birthday wishes to: Fred Peterson [6th], Willie Collins [11th], Al Duspiva [16th], Ruby Avant [18th], Delores Hicks [20th], and Art Minardi [28th].
2. Wedding anniversary congratulations were extended to: Bill & Jackie Holsenbeck [12th], Al & Marion Duspiva [16th], Lew & Kathy Iuliucci [17th], Bill & Barbara Ann Schwendler Jr. [20th], and Leroy & Daisy Nash [24th].
3. Joe Sansotta reminded members that members' \$15 annual dues checks and any Community Service Fund checks should be made payable to *Grumman Retiree Club, Inc.* These checks should be mailed before February 28, 2013, to: Joe Sansotta, 3748 Sussex Drive NE, Milledgeville, GA. 31061-9360. Beginning on March 1, 2013, Retiree Club HQ will revise its membership records and the newsletter mail list, to add new members



and drop non-renewal members.

4. Checks for the Retiree Club's College Scholarship Fund should be made payable to: *Grumman Retiree Club Scholarship Fund* and mailed to Joe Sansotta's address (listed above). Joe will forward Scholarship Fund checks to club HQ.

5. Following his report on our bank account balance, Joe Sansotta acknowledged two new members, Gary Hagland and Bobby Chester, who were first-time attendees at a meeting, and new member David Childs, who resides in Savannah, GA. Welcome aboard, Gary, Bobby, and David.

6. Gary Hagland won the 75/25 Community Service Fund raisers. Congratulations, Gary, on your "beginner's luck!"

Community Service

Volunteerism continues and at least one member donated the Gift of Life [i.e. a pint of blood] to the American Red Cross.

Program: "Law Enforcement & Gun Control"

Our program was presented by Sheriff Sills. Sheriff Sills is also currently the head of the State of Georgia's County Sheriffs Association. Joining him was Chief Deputy Russell Blenk.

This was a very timely topic in light of the current gun control debate within the U.S. government. With regard to gun control, Sheriff Sills pointed out there are already enough laws on the books that - if enforced - would correct the problem since the vast majority of gun crimes are by criminals, and by previous offenders who have been given early release from prison sentences for prior criminal acts.

Also, law enforcement today is complicated by the fact that, whereas several decades ago - when the State of Georgia's population was 4.5 million - there were 17,000 residents with mental health issues being treated at Central State Hospital [CSH]. Currently, the state's population is 10 million and zero are being treated at CSH, since it was ordered closed by the government, thus transferring the mental health issue to the criminal justice system, where one in every five inmates in county jails has some mental health problem. The criminal justice system is not equipped, or funded, to address such problems.

Thank You, Sheriff Sills, for a very informative program.

A motion to end the meeting was made by Mark McCulloch and seconded by Brenda Harvill. The motion was approved, ending the meeting at 1:30PM.

Next Meeting: March 19, 12:45PM, at the Triumph Plant (Hwy 22W, Milledgeville, GA.) The Program: "Site Overview. It will be followed by a one-hour guided plant tour. [Note: everyone planning to attend **must notify** Secretary Lew, **in advance**, of intentions to attend and **must declare USA citizenship status**. And, as is the case for access to any defense contractor's property, those who are not a USA citizen "will be vetted through Homeland Security" by Triumph's corporate management, to validate current residency status prior to admittance to the plant and participation in the plant tour. Also, that same security clearance attendee list is used for food service's meal planning].

By: Lew M. Iulucci, Sec'y. (478-452-1357)
iulucci@windstream.net

Maryland

Our chapter meetings are scheduled for the third Tuesday of each month, with one meeting each quarter being an evening meeting. Meetings are currently held at the Golden Corral, 706 South Philadelphia Blvd, Aberdeen, MD.

February Meeting

The chapter members present revisited the possibility of having some type of social gathering. We discussed the possibility of a picnic, a dinner, or some other event, but did not reach a final decision. We'd like to invite not only club members, but also anyone who worked at the Glen Arm plant (56). We also discussed a visit to the B & O Railroad museum. More discussions on these topics are planned for the next meeting.

Membership renewal and new membership application forms were reviewed. As of meeting day, the chapter had 27 paid members with several more expected.



On a sad note, we all took a moment to remember our good friend and fellow Grummanite, Fred Keif. Fred was a lead-man in the Conventional Mill Section at Plant 56. He was one of the original members of the Glen Arm Retiree Club and over the years he held the positions of president, VP, and treasurer. Fred passed away in December 2012.

Board members are needed. Anyone interested in being considered for a position on the board, such as treasurer, secretary, etc.? Please let us know you are interested and that you would like to be considered in our next elections.

Let us know your birth dates and wedding anniversaries so we can post them in the newsletter.

Next Meeting: March 19, at 6:30PM, at the Golden Corral, Aberdeen, MD.

Hope to see you there. If you know of any Grummanites who are not yet club members, please invite them to the meeting. Our meetings are casual and informative.

If you have and questions or suggestions, please contact:

Rolfe Feser (410- 661-2580) poppyro@verizon.net
or
Joe Svach (410-836- 8393) jam.svach@comcast.net

New England North

New England North Chapter is on Winter Break

New Jersey

No meetings in January or February.

Next Meeting: March 10, 2013.

NEW YORK / Eastern Long Island Chapter

Vice President Bob Albert welcomed 20 members to our February, 2013 meeting. Prez. Bert is still in sunny Florida. Sgt.-at-Arms Richie Myers led the Pledge of Allegiance and VP Bob read a short poem about winter (after our "NEMO" snowstorm!). We then observed a moment of silence to honor our troops and all ailing and deceased members.

VP Bob read minutes from January (no meeting).

There was no treasurer's report because Lynne is ailing. Get well quick!

No anniversaries for January or February, but Mary Irwin [1/10] and Marv Thorne [2/21] were birthday celebrants. CONGRATS!

Mytko Report: Eugene Bagnell, Sr. is undergoing kidney dialysis three times a week. Card was sent to Gene. I had a nice conversation with him during the week. Our prayers go out to him and his family. Contact Bill Mytko with information regarding sickness, deaths, etc. (1-864-225-4927, mytko@yahoo.com)

Group then discussed other meeting places for lunch, for example, The Seacove, in Center Moriches [\$22 + Tax and Tip] and Tong Fu Chinese Buffet, in Riverhead [\$7.95 + Tax and Tip]. Decision to be made next meeting??

Members were reminded about 2013 dues: Prez Bert wants them ASAP, so you don't lose your newsletter! Dues are \$13. Send check (payable to ELI Grumman Retiree Club) to Bert Moller, 33 Ramsey Rd, Commack, NY 11725. On your check, please PRINT your name, address, and phone number. Thanx!

50/50 drawing winners: Fred Losee, Leo Jasinski, and Lou Puccio. All donated winnings back to the club. Thanks, Guys!

Marty Getzelman regaled our group with a collection of his humorous anecdotes, which were very well received. Meeting then adjourned.

NEXT MEETING: March 20 at Holiday Inn Express



(Rte. 58, East of Tanger Outlets & Riverhead Raceway - (Indian is back!) Lunch (\$14) at noon, meeting at 1PM. Please contact Bob Albert (631-585-7987) by Monday of meeting week for head count

Future 2013 meetings: April 17, May 15, June 19

Happy St. Pat's Day!

By: Bob Albert

NORTH CAROLINA
Eastern Carolina Chapter

Our Valentine luncheon was held on Feb. 13th, at "Famous Restaurant," in New Bern, NC. Program directors Joe Mele & Flossie had Valentine mugs filled with candy for the ladies, and a beautiful Valentine cake with the names of the February birthdays inscribed on it. The 26 members and guests enjoyed the great food and wonderful service.

The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance and invocation read by Joe Mele in the absence of Ken Gruebel. Ken had heart surgery and - though he is doing well - was unable to attend the meeting. We welcomed back Rosemary Daidone, who had missed a few meetings due to health problems.

President Pete McNamee read the birthdays & anniversaries for January and February. He announced that Fran Archey passed on January 30th. **Pete told members the next meeting will be Wednesday, March 13th**, with Bob Lamberson as program director. Bob has reserved the "Carolina Grill," in Havelock, for the meeting; he also brought pictures from the Air Museum in Havelock, which is very near the restaurant.

In the absence of Treasurer Fred Reynolds, Bob Lamberson gave the treasurer's report. We are fortunate to have a healthy treasury.

The meeting was turned over to Tom Schroder for the telling of some very funny jokes. Tom also brought two more of Bob Demarodas' planes for

auction. One was a Japanese Zero and the other was a German Stuka. Funds collected via the auctions were given to the Treasury.

Wes Johnson called the 50/50 winners: Al Northrup, Marty Olstad, Carol Peralta, and Pat Johnson.

President Pete announced that the April meeting will be chaired by Jim Karika & Tom Schroder. He then wished everyone a happy Valentine's Day and a safe trip home.

January Birthdays: Al Northrup (2nd); Bob Glowacki (3rd); Mike Savastio (3rd); Joe Bollero (5th); Joan Willemssen (6th); Vynne Wendell (12th); Marlene Wiehl (12th); Bernadet Bird (14th); Rosemary Daidone (23rd); Dick Schneider (25th); Kermit Nicholson (29th); and Marty Olstad (31st).

January Anniversaries: Dick & Carol Walsh (1st); Irv & Diana Peterson (1st); Bernie & Kathy Kuntz, (2nd); Bill & Inge Parker, (2nd); Bob & Peggy Dunlop (7th) and Dave & Ruth Shannon (26th).

February Birthdays: Audrey Bollero (1st); Helen Guarino (1st); Fred Jinks (9th); Tom Schroder (10th); and Mary Olstad (29th).

February Anniversary: Ron & Barbara Betts, 26th.

By: Dottie Karika, sec'y. dotjimk@att.net

PENNSYLVANIA

Northeastern Pennsylvania Chapter

No report of February activity.

SOUTH CAROLINA / Coastal Carolinas

A nice warm February 6th, with a lovely ocean view from Damon's Restaurant which was the meeting place for the second month of 2013. Eighteen members and four guests enjoyed lunch in the private room reserved by Nancy and Don Webber. Prior to the meeting, guest speaker Lance Corporal



Julie Smith, a police officer from the North Myrtle Beach Police Department, gave a speech pertaining to identity theft, identity theft protection, and Internet safety. She distributed three handouts on these subjects to our members and guests. She also answered questions and displayed the heavy equipment she must carry with her during her daily job, including her gun, stun gun, baton, and handcuffs.

Julie also teaches a self-defense course to women. It was a very interesting segment of our meeting. Many thanks to Vice President Janice Hanlon for obtaining today's guest speaker.

President Ronald Girardin called the meeting to order, and led the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silent prayer in memory of past members and our service members overseas. Sgt.-at-Arms Eldon Scott was not present at the meeting.

In addition to Julie, our other guests were Sally Banker, whom we have not seen in a long four years, Sally's daughter, Deborah and Deborah's husband Harold Gross. Harold is a retired Nassau County police officer, so we were all well-protected during the meeting. It was so nice to see Sally and meet Deborah and George.

Faithful guest Theresa McMahon was missing from the meeting due to a health issue. Please keep her in your prayers.

Another member, who has not been seen at our meetings for the past year or so, was present at this meeting: Great to have you back, Marie Smith!

We all wished a very happy birthday to: Tom Mugno, Lorraine Girardin, Harold Katzenberger, Ronald Girardin, Josephine Clark, Marilyn Jelis, Mary Moran, Helen Timoney, and Don Webber.

There were no anniversaries for February.

The secretary read the minutes of the January meeting. A motion to accept the minutes as read, was made, seconded, and approved.

Don Webber gave the treasurer's report, which was

accepted as read.

In addition to Theresa, Dot Hoffmann called John Lewis, John Culleton, and Sally Banker, to inquire about them. Please keep these people in your prayers. In addition, please mention Kaye Katzenberger in your prayers: Kaye is scheduled to have a medical procedure at the end of this month.

First prize from the 50/50 drawing went to our guest, Harold Gross. Congratulations, Harold! Second prize was awarded to Bernard Mascara, who seems to have gotten his winning streak back.

Please continue to keep your eyes and ears open for speakers for future meetings. If you know of any person whose occupation or hobby would be of interest to the club, perhaps they would be willing to give a presentation on the subject and have lunch on us.

Mark your calendars for:

April 3rd, at Sakura Hibachi Buffet.

May 1st, for club picnic at Lorraine & Ronald Girardin's home, 2035 Woodburn Drive, Myrtle Beach. Members are asked to bring a favorite picnic dish; the club will provide the meat.

We welcome all Grumman, Northrop, and Northrop Grumman retirees, as well as their guests.

By: Nancy Webber, sec'y. (843-347-2113)

TEXAS / Houston

No report of February activity



VIRGINIA / CENTRAL VIRGINIA

Spring Is Just Around The Corner . . .
So Says That Furry Little Critter
From Pennsylvania

We had a good luncheon on a sunny February day at Crab Louie's in Mildlothian. A robin was observed the other day - another good indication of approaching spring weather. Eight CVC'rs attended, enjoying good, delicious seafood and good drink.

Karl wishes to thank all members for their condolences and heartfelt sorrow on the passing of my wife, Bernice. It's good to have such good friends at times like this.

Birthdays celebrated in the last two months: Rich Benske - Jan 18; Fred Miners - Feb 10; Bev Purstell - Feb 14; Karl Himmelmann - Feb 14; Doris Parsons - Feb 25.

For those (like me) who forgot to pay the dues, please do so. Send to Frank Purstell.

Do not be surprised: Tom O' Rourke won 50/50 raffle . . . again. Four times in a row - - and next month is the *Luck of the Irish* month - - makes the odds pretty high for the rest of us.

The members of CVC continue to wish Nancy & Sam Fletcher the best for her rehabilitation from paralysis.

Next Meeting: March 20, 12:30PM, at Fork Union at the Family Restaurant, route 15 just south of the Academy.

Future Meeting Schedule
- April 3 - 12:30 Boychikss in Glen Allen
- May 8 - 12:30 Topeka Steak House, Pantops, Charlottesville

VIRGINIA / Potomac

No report of February activity

Special Anniversary Nostalgia

40th Anniversary of the Aircraft Restoration Team

Forty years ago, in March 1973, the U.S. Navy asked Grumman to restore an F4F-3 Wildcat for display in the Air and Space Museum in Washington, D.C. The Navy requested that all the control surfaces be repaired and the fabric covering these surfaces be replaced.

Arthur Romeo, a Grumman inspector with an FAA rating, persuaded both Grumman and the Navy to ship the damaged aircraft to the Grumman facility in Bethpage. Grumman provided workspace in Warehouse 6, and agreed to supply all power and available tools to accomplish the repair.

Romeo organized 20 retired assembly mechanics and started the Retiree Club's Aircraft Restoration Team. They worked every Tuesday, 8AM to 3PM, and - in the spring of 1974 - the Wildcat was delivered, totally restored.

This successful restoration led to other requests from the Navy and various museums, driving Grumman to provide larger repair facilities in the Plant 4 hanger and ultimately in the large hanger in Plant 1.

Northrop Grumman continued support of restoration efforts up to and including the F8F-1 Bearcat that was shipped to Thailand in 2003. This restoration effort, which was completed in seven years, returned the aircraft to full flying status. In all, 11 aircraft and two Lunar Modules were completed.

After the Plant 1 hangar was sold, the team did not disband. Rather, the 14 retiree volunteers, whose average age was 70, transferred their efforts to the Cradle of Aviation Museum, welcomed to their new home by museum Curator Joshua Stoff.

Through the last 10 years at the museum, the team's accomplishments include a complete restoration of an E-2C Hawkeye, restoration of an OV-1D Mohawk (minus final paint), restoration of several cockpit sections, the fabrication of "hands on" exhibits for the museum, and many smaller projects.

By 2011, the attrition rate had left the team with only five Grumman retirees: Ernest Finamore (manager), Richard Griffin, Sal Buonincontro, Bernie Kurz, and Richard Tartaglia. In June 2011, the Cradle of Aviation's volunteer coordinator assigned two Pan American retirees, Jim Votra and Geno Vivero, to the team. They are both top-grade aircraft metal smiths and mechanics. Their expert help is greatly appreciated.

By: Ernest Finamore

In Memoriam

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

Amico, Arthur Sr.	Bellmore, NY	08/23/12
Halsey, Richard E.	California, MD	11/12/12
Lengyel, Louis	East Patchogue, NY	01/21/13
MacLean, John A.	Richmond, KY	01/18/13
Minicozzi, William E.	Levittown, NY	01/15/13
Parker, Gordon C.	West Islip, NY	01/20/13
Smith, Jerrilynn	North Babylon, NY	12/26/12
Snyder, Joseph	Ridgefield, CT	01/00/13
Stevenson, Richard C.	Central Islip, NY	02/07/13
Terry, Richard 'Dick'	Jensen Beach, FL	02/07/13

Our deepest apologies to Walter Smith, who was mistakenly listed in February's In Memoriam. We extend our sincerest condolences to Walter on the passing of his wife, Jerrilynn, also a former Grummanite.

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 12 Transcending Silver (1955-1956)

1955 was Grumman's Silver Anniversary. Since opening its doors in 1930 the Wildcat, Hellcat, Avenger, Guardian, Panther, and Cougar, were pivotal in enabling Naval aviation to defend America. Grummanites were proud of both this formidable history and their Grumman Family membership. And 99.09% of the Grumman family showed this pride by opting to participate in the U.S. Payroll Savings Bond drive. For this best in-class performance, Grumman would receive a U.S. Treasury citation later in the year.

However, dwelling on past achievements was a fleeting activity as the Cold War continued to accelerate the need for more modern aircraft. Grumman thrived on these challenges. By January 19, the first ever carrier onboard delivery (COD) aircraft took to the air. It was derived from the hunter-killer S2F antisubmarine aircraft by deepening the fuselage and removing the radome, the Magnetic Anomaly Detector (MAD) boom, and the supporting electronics. When a wide cargo door was incorporated, the increased interior space provided room for nine removable passenger seats and cargo tie-down fittings. It was designated the TF-1 Trader (aka C-1A).

Albatrosses continued to garner headlines, such as when one rescued five fishermen in seas so rough takeoff was impossible; it taxied 45 miles to "home." And then there was the record breaker: a 98-mile, open-sea, taxiing rescue of a downed pilot.

That February, the Navy recognized the Cougar's status as their standard carrier-based fighter by adopting it for the Blue Angles. Also, the Cougar F9F-8P photoreconnaissance version made its first flight. The -8P's elongated nose and cannon removal made space for a camera system capable of providing a 10-mile wide strip of terrain photography across the entire U.S.

The *Plane News* that February (1955) published the prizewinners to William Caputo's amazing question, "When Do You Think Man Will Reach the Moon?" Warren King and Harold Jackson's responses were, "25 years" and "50 years," respectively. Good guesses, but wrong! It would be in just 14 years.

In June, Grumman had its first Silver Anniversary luncheon at the Beau Sejour where A.P. Loening and L. Slechta from the board of directors toasted the remaining 19 founding members and presented all with gold watches.

The digital age came to Grumman when the state-of-the-art IBM 650 digital computer was installed in Plant 5. This was a first for the New York area, as this magnificent machine, with its magnetic core memory, could store up to 20,000 digits!

The first supercarrier, CV-59 *USS Forrestal*, was commissioned in October. It was the first American carrier designed from the outset for jet operations and it featured three essential innovations pioneered by the British: the canted deck, the steam catapult, and the mirror landing system. In August, a Grumman Cougar, piloted by CMDR R.C. MacKnight, made the first night carrier landing, on the carrier *Bennington*, using the experimental landing-mirror system.

The momentum of 1955 accomplishments continued unabated into 1956 in January when a new and larger Albatross made its first flight with Norman Coutant and Roy Seligman at the controls. To meet special Air Force needs, the SA-16B had longer wings, 25% more wing area and enlarged tail surfaces, resulting in improved rate of climb, increased payload, lowered stall speed and extended range while increasing speed by 25-35 knots. Few new SA-16B's were built, but were to be made by converting SA-16As during the Inspect & Repair As Necessary (IRAN) program.

The production lines were humming. S2F-1 and -2 Trackers, F9F-8 Cougars, SA-16A Albatrosses and TF-1 Traders "flew" out the factory doors.

The Tiger program, created as a fallback aircraft in case either the Crusader or Phantom programs faltered, was having its own problems as J-65 afterburner issues delayed the program. It was now clear that Grumman was not going to provide the next generation Navy fighter since both the Crusader and Phantom programs were yielding higher performing aircraft. The Tiger production run, while ongoing, was going to be relatively short. The souped-up, J-79 powered F11F-1F Super Tiger had its first flight in May; however, it was unwanted by the Navy, but would be offered to international markets. While this was a blow to Grumman, unbelievable ideas were being fleshed out in the back rooms - ideas that would lead to more than a decade of stunning innovation and success.

On September 21, 1956, Flight Test proved again that they could provide stunning excitement. On that day, test pilot Tom Attridge was to perform a routine gunnery test by strafing the ocean's surface south of the Peconic River facility. Flying his F11F-1 in a shallow dive, he fired a four-second burst at 13,000 feet, steepened his dive, and fired his guns again at 7,000 feet clearing the gun belts. Suddenly, the plane rattled and the windshield buckled inward. "It must be a bird!" thought Attridge. He headed for home.

Attridge also saw a sizable gash on the outboard side of the right engine's intake lip, and the engine was not responding. Just a half-mile from the runway the engine quit. With its gear up the Tiger ripped through woods, its right wing shearing off and creating a 300-foot path of destruction. Attridge, with a leg and three vertebrae broken, crawled from the cockpit. He was extricated by a Grumman stand-by helicopter that landed on Central Suffolk Hospital's front lawn in just 13 minutes. Tom completely recovered.

What went wrong? A post-flight investigation showed it wasn't birds. He had actually caught up to his own bullets (luckily they were inert and defective). Those bullets had punctured the windshield, the engine, and the nose. Tom Attridge shot himself down!

Cougars continued to make history by being the first aircraft to land on the super-carrier *Saratoga*, setting a world speed record for a coast-to-coast round trip, having the -8P's enter the fleet, and completing first flight for the two-seat F9F-8T trainer. The TF-1Q, bristling with antennas and stuffed with electronics to become an electronic countermeasures test bed variant of the Tracer, had its first flight. The acquisition of a 50% interest in Dynamic Developments of Babylon was a step to address the hydrofoil boat market potential being studied by the Office of Naval Research.

These years were the seeds for a dramatic future assuring the 13,074 employees that their generation would transcend the heritage established by Grumman's first 25 years.

By Larry Feliu and Ken Speiser

Chapter 12 Bibliography and Notes

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Mail your check(s) and this
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1. Member Name (print) _____ Badge# _____

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3. City _____ State _____ ZIP+4 _____

4. Telephone Number (____) _____ E-Mail (please print) _____

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(A) Check/Money Order # _____ Date _____

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7. Please Check: New Member _____ Renewal _____ Surviving Spouse _____

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Note: All donations are tax deductible.

QUESTIONS? Call the Club office at (516)-575-3777.

Visit the Club Web Site at www.grummanretireeclub.org

Your Membership Renewal IS Being Processed

If you've sent in your 2013 membership dues, but the address label on your newsletter still says "2012," don't worry. During December, January, and February, the Retiree Club office is swamped with member renewals. It takes a lot of time for our hard-working office volunteers to verify each person's information and then update each and every member's record. Once that work is done, the year will change on your address label. Please give us a couple of newsletter issues to change the date.

We're on it!



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