PRESIDENT’S REPORT

I am sad to say that this will be my last opportunity to reach out to our members as President of your Association. I am amazed how quickly the year has passed, and now realize that I have left some work undone. That’s on me. I do hope to continue to support the Association via Jim Maxwell, your next President. I am confident Jim will lead us well and I urge everyone to reach out to Jim and offer your helpful hand. I am amazed how quickly the year has passed, and now realize that this will be my last opportunity to reach out to our members as President of your Association. I am

There is some good news to report.

- We have contained the cost of producing the Aerograph and Bellinger List. They are now at a sustainable level. Thanks to all who have chosen to receive these core products electronically. Of the more than 330 copies of the Bellinger that would have been printed at a large cost, less than 25 printed copies were requested and provided. Many thanks to Gary Cox, our Editor, and all those who contribute. Please let Gary know how much you enjoy the Aerograph. It is a big undertaking and we are fortunate to have Gary manning the Editor’s desk.
- The Association will adopt its first annual Budget this year! This will help ensure our sustainability over time even if we end up in a deficit spending environment. Many thanks to Libby O’Brien, Chuck Steinbruck and the Finance Committee for their work in making this possible.
- The Scholarship program continues to thrive under the management of the AMS. This year’s Awardees were incredible. Thanks to Lloyd Corbett for representing NWSA at AMS’s annual meeting in Atlanta. Please continue to donate!
- We are about to celebrate one of the best attended reunion in many years in Pensacola. It is reported that Pat O’Brien is rightly claiming the return of the Blue Angels in honor of our reunion. Go Pat!
- The early plans for our next reunion in Nashville are underway. Earl Kerr, our very experienced reunion planner, is on this one like a dog on a bone! I am sure he is getting help from Tom Miovas, but PLEASE give Earl a call and offer your help. There is no local chapter so it makes the reunion that much more difficult. If you live within 250 miles of Nashville you are local! Please choose to get involved and attend.
- Most importantly, we continue to see new first time members join the Association! We need to do much more but it is encouraging to see shipmates want to reconnect. With that said, we must acknowledge those who have passed. The recent demise of the Airship chapter is an example of the transition. Hard to imagine not having a chapter in Lakehurst! Time for a new chapter to stand up somewhere new. It only takes a few interested shipmates, young or old, to make it happen.

Thanks for all your support during this past year and I will look forward to the future, supporting the Association in whatever manner I am able.

Best regards,
Mike Gilroy

INSIDE THIS ISSUE
- President’s Report 1
- Sec/Treas. Report 2
- Editor’s Desk 2-3
- Association Officers 3
- Message Concerning Reunion #41 3
- Sailors of the Year 4-5
- Best Experiences/Biographies 5-7
- Binnacle List 7
- Letters & Etc. 7-9
- Travel Via the Moon 9-10
- Chapters’ News 10-15
- In Remembrance 15-20
- Articles 20-21
- Reunion #40 Pensacola Itinerary 22
- Membership App. & Info Change 23
- Back Cover & Reunion Appeals 24

http://www.navalweather.org
Attention on Deck!

Now is a good time to begin receiving your Aerograph by email or downloading it from www.navalweather.org. We are committed to serve our membership in the best manner and want to reassure anyone who prefers a printed copy that they will continue to receive one in the mail. It is important that we hear from you if we are to be able to provide the most effective service.

There are three ways to receive your Aerograph:
1. Via: email (quicker and in color)
2. Via: regular USPS mail (slower and in black and white dues to costs)
3. Via: the website (always available, avoids large email files, color)

Currently we mail over 339 print copies per edition! This takes considerable effort produce and cost to the association. Please help us by updating your preference by emailing (Aerographpreference@navalweather.org) or by sending the Secretary-Treasurer a card or letter confirming you wish to continue receive a printed copy in the mail (now or when you renew your membership). See form on last page.

Thanks from your Aerograph TEAM!

This is going to be short and sweet! As you know, the Pensacola Chapter is working very hard to make the 40th reunion one to remember! I hope everyone who is able to travel will be here for the good times we have planned. We have one new life member since the last report, CAPT Kathy Shields, USN RET. Welcome Aboard!!

Our membership is now at 520 with 377 of those life members. Our e-mail list for the Aerograph is now at 197. Please keep me posted on any changes or corrections that need to be made. My files are only as good as the info I receive from the members.

Spring is here and summer will be almost over when I have to make my next report. Have a great spring and an even greater and warmer summer. Take Care! Hope to see you in Pensacola!!

FINANCE STATEMENT 31 MARCH 2014

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Submitted by Secretary/Treasurer Libby O’Brien

EDITOR’S DESK

At Reunion #40 I plan to announce that I would like to hand off the Aerograph editor’s duties after the August 2015 issue. I’d like to concentrate on assisting the NWSA with its website. If anyone has the time and interest to become the Aerograph’s editor, you have over a year to think about it and consult with the NWSA President and Board Members.

Google Analytics continues to crank out enough statistics on our navalweather.org website to make one’s head spin and eyes glaze-over. Since the last Aerograph issuance we’ve had just over 2000 visitors, about 1300 of which were first-time visitors. This is down slightly from the Nov-Jan period. Visitors typically view 3-4 pages. In the U.S. most of our visitors are on the coasts—no surprise there. Outside of the U.S., we have been getting most of our visitors from Brazil, Australia, Spain, the U.K. and Japan.

In a lighter vein:

Senior Officers – Messing with People’s Minds Since 1775
The cut-off date will be Sunday 20 July 2014 for the August issue of The Aerograph
E-Mail Gary at garylcox@charter.net (This is a NEW Email address!)
USPS Address: xAG2 Gary Cox USN REL
1405 West 31st St.
Cheyenne, WY 82001-2435
307 632-0656 (Please leave a message on the machine if we don’t answer.
I’ll get back to you ASAP.)

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Master-At-Arms: AGCM Tom Miovas USN RET
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Joe Mckinzie- Past President
Bill Bowers- Past President
Earl Kerr- Past President
Tom Miovas- Past President
Pat O’Brien- Past president
Advisory Members:
Jim Romano- Chapter President
Frenchy Corbeille- Member
Gary Cox- Aerograph Editor
Cap Casperson –Webmaster
Chuck Steinbruck- Finance Committee
Alan Davis- 1st VP
Jim Maxwell- President-Elect

REUNION #41 -- NASHVILLE
Sometime Between Mid-April and 7 May of 2015

Just a short note to inform members about the initial preparation that has been made for the Nashville Reunion. We have submitted a Request For Price (RFP) to the Convention and Visitors center. A very nice lady has submitted said RFP to hotels which she has confidence of having both an interest and the history of supporting a reunion such as that described in the RFP. Lynne and I will travel to Nashville on 24 April and will be available both April 25th and 26th to chat with those hotels which have shown “promise”.  We will then fly to Pensacola on 27 April with the hope of being able to present the hotel responses at Reunion 40. As experienced previously, we do expect to receive all sort of questions and discussion about which hotel is the overall best. I also expect to re-contact a few hotels to ask for clarification and, where there is hope, further concessions.  Spring is supposed to be the best time and Nashville has received all sorts of accolades for being one of the very best destinations. More after Reunion 40.

There are a great many things to do besides the Grand Ole Opry.  These include the County Music Hall of Fame, Andrew Jackson’s Hermitage, dinner on the General Jackson Showboat, a Dukes of Hazard place, and several Breweries. My “E” mail address is: k1937err@fidalgo.net and the post address is 15375 Deception Road, Anacortes, WA. 98221. I look forward to hearing from the members and especially if you have been to Nashville and have some “can’t miss” event.

Finally, can we canvas the group and determine two items:
1. Which days of the week are best, Wed-Sat, Sun.- Thur., or it doesn't matter?
2. Is the hotel cost more important than the start date, Yes, No, or it doesn't matter?

Thanks - Earl Kerr, Reunion Chairman for Reunion 41
2013 Sailors of the Year

AG1 (IDW/AW) Stella Grace Swartz

Stella Grace Swartz was born in Denver, Colorado to Gregory Swartz of Springfield, IL and Georgina Barba of La Paz, Bolivia. She grew up in the suburbs of Denver, graduating from high school in May of 2004.

Petty Officer Swartz entered active duty in September 2005. She completed basic training in November 2005 at Navy Recruit Training Command, Great Lakes, Illinois and transferred to the Center for Naval Aviation Technical Training Unit (CNATTU), Keesler AFB in Biloxi, MS to attend Aerographer’s Mate "A" school, where she finished at the top of her class and was awarded accelerated advancement. She then transferred to the Naval Aviation Forecast Component (NAFC) on Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base (NAS JRB) Fort Worth, Texas, as a Surface Weather Observer.

She transferred Keesler Air Force Base, Biloxi, MS, in July 2008 to attend AG-Cl School, where she earned the top of her class. She transferred to the Naval Oceanography and Anti-submarine Warfare Command (NOAC) Yokosuka, Japan in March 2009.

After the deadly earthquake and tsunami that hit Japan in March 2011, she was vital to Submarine Group SEVEN as Navy Area Commander Communications Center METOC Watch Officer during the Fukushima Nuclear Power Plant crisis, preparing radioactive plume dispersion forecasts that influenced U.S. military installation preparations and SEVENTH Fleet asset placement during operation TOMODACHI. During her tour she was awarded two FLOC’s from Commander, Submarine Group SEVEN and Commander, Naval Meteorology and Oceanography Command, her first Navy Achievement Medal, and was selected as Sea Junior Sailor of the Quarter (CY- 10) and Sea Junior Sailor of the Year (CY-10) In May 2011, she transferred to Fleet Weather Center San Diego, CA.

Upon arrival, she was advanced to First Class Petty Officer. She pioneered the Command's first Coalition of Sailors against Destructive Decisions (CSADD) committee. For her efforts she was awarded her second Navy Achievement Medal. In June 2013 she was hand-selected to take over as the N7 Department Leading Petty Officer and currently manages three divisions; Training, LIMDU and Fleet Liaison.

AG1 (IDW/AW/SWIEXW) Curtis J. Lester


After graduation from AG "A" school, he reported to the USS ENTERPRISE (CVN 65), in Newport News, Virginia. In February 1999 he reported to the USS NIMITZ (CVN 68), where he was promoted to Second Class Petty Officer in 2000. He was then assigned to the Mobile Environmental Team NAVCENTMETOCCEN Bahrain from March 2001 to March 2002. He was then assigned the Pre-commissioning Unit RONALD REAGAN from March 2002 to August 2004. While stationed aboard the USS RONALD REAGAN (CVN 76), he earned his Enlisted Aviation Warfare Specialist (EAWS) and Enlisted Surface Warfare Specialist (ESWS) qualifications. At the conclusion of his 3rd sea tour, he reported to AG "C" school in August 2004.

Upon completion of AG "C" school in April 2005, he reported to the Naval Central Meteorology and Oceanography Command Bahrain.

In September 2007, Petty Officer Lester joined the METOC Team at Naval Maritime Forecast Center/Joint Typhoon Warning Center - Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. In June 2008 he volunteered for an Individual Augmentee (IA) assignment to the Combined Joint Task Force - Horn of Africa. During this deployment, he qualified as an Expeditionary Warfare Specialist (EXWS). AG1 was selected as the NMFC Pearl Harbor Senior Sailor of the Year (2009).
He was ordered into his current assignment, Strike Group Oceanography Team - San Diego, California. He was assigned Team Leading Petty Officer onboard the USS Makin Island and led his division during the 2011-12 maiden deployment. Upon returning from deployment, he was selected as Strike Group Oceanography Team Department Leading Petty Officer. During this tour, he qualified as an Enlisted Information Dominance Warfare Specialist, and completed the USMAP Meteorologist Apprenticeship Certification. Petty Officer Lester's personal awards include the Navy and Marine Corp Commendation Medal, the Joint Service Commendation Medal, Navy and Marine Corp Achievement Medal(2), the Military Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal, Enlisted Information Dominance Warfare Specialist Insignia, Enlisted Aviation Warfare Specialist Insignia, Enlisted Surface Warfare Specialist Insignia, Enlisted Expeditionary Warfare Specialist and various unit and campaign awards.

**MY BEST EXPERIENCES WHILE ON ACTIVE DUTY**

This relatively new feature in the AEROGRAPH is intended to provide a forum for member to tell their stories and remind others of their experiences. Because our diverse membership has service which spans over 70 years the forum will be organized in decades. Please indicate the decade that the experience occurred so we place it correctly in the article. Please try to be brief (250 words or less), or send in a photo with a caption. If your submission does not make it in the next edition of the AEROGRAPH it means we were limited by space and printing costs. It will be included in a future edition. We will also post them immediately on the website. We prefer to receive submission by email but you can mail them in to the Editor if you are still using an old typewriter for correspondence.

For information please contact Mike Gilroy or Gary Cox at aerograph@navalweather.org

**Biographies Wanted!**

*(Before it is too late)*

LT Fred Bergman, USN (Ret.), has said, "I cannot count the number of times family members have requested information on veterans that have passed". This is an attempt to help resolve that situation, spearheaded by AGCS Lloyd Corbett, USN RET.

**What is a Biography?**

It is simply the history of a lifetime. It narrates the most important facts of someone’s life, his or her childhood, adolescence, military service, wars he or she lived through, educational background, professional life, marriage, children, and most outstanding achievements. Also, it tells anecdotes, memories, trips and dearly cherished moments. It is our most precious legacy to Shipmates.

**Basic Format**

Name
Childhood
Education

Family Ties
Wife
Children
Life Events before joining the Navy
Military Assignments and Duties
Most Awarding Assignment
Events and Accomplishments
Life after the Navy

AGCS Corbett suggests that BIOs be about 150 words and archived on CD/DVDs.

**MY FIRST FORECAST**

I had to leave PG School early before my meteorology class graduated to report to USS Kraus (EDD-849) out of Norfolk. Shortly after reporting on board and relieving the Ops Officer, Hurricane Donna started north up the East Coast. The captain sent me to FWC Norfolk to look at the weather charts and advise him as to what he should be considering since I had a degree in meteorology. I went to the Center and returned to advise him that we should get underway immediately, steam east into the deep water and that we would be OK. He responded to the flotilla commander while I was gone that the ship would go to the hurricane anchorage in Chesapeake Bay. I told him that we were going to get the s--- kicked out of us.

We went to the anchorage and put out two anchors at a 45 degree angle and 120 fathoms of chain to each anchor. The eye of Donna passed just east of us. As the eye was nearing us we were steaming at 10 knots into the hurricane anchorage in Chesapeake Bay. I told him then that we were going to get the s--- kicked out of us.

I was sailing as a Third Mate onboard the 585 FT Feltor, one of ORENAVIGATION CO's ships. We arrived in Sparrows Point, Baltimore to unload ore and there in the mail was letter from Uncle Sam telling me to report to the U.S. Army recruiter for a physical, as I was going into the Army. This was back in the days of the “Draft”. I called the Boston Navy Yard and told them of my problem. They asked me what type of duty I wanted and where. West Coast and on a LST, as that was about as close as a merchant ship as I could get. Soon I found myself onboard USS Mahoning County (LST-914) as the First LT and Gunnery Officer; loading cargo and enroute...
to the Arctic where I spent the next 5 months. Welcome to the U.S. Navy.

Submitted by CAPT Ace Trask, USN RET

North Atlantic Ocean, 1947

I was an AERM3 aboard the USS Huntington (CL-107) sailing home toward Philadelphia from a tour of the Mediterranean. We were part of a sizable convoy. It was September of 1947. The weather worsened. The Huntington and a destroyer received significant damage from the hurricane. The two damaged vessels were left to slowly escort each other home while the rest of the convoy steamed ahead. This bit of drivel commemorates the event:

North Atlantic Ocean, 1947

The sea and sky were angry.
The howling wind, force sev’n or eight,
Then ten or ‘leven
Tore the ocean asunder
And threw it in our face.
The rain was driv’n like pellets.
Both sea and air howled
Above the ship, and deep in her bowels.
The ship herself was screaming
As she twisted, groaned and creaked,
Straining steel and rivets.
There was no horizon.
The sea became mountains and valleys.
It was a struggle to maintain headway
Into wind and surging sea.
Great mountains of water loomed
High above her bow
Which dipped and dived; the ocean
Rolled majestically upon her deck.
The stern lifted her propellers
To spin without purchase
And howl in the foaming air
Until once more the bow rode up
As if to speak to God,
While the stern slammed down
Against the solid force of the sea.
Drive shafts and engines screamed.
A screw bent. A shaft tore bearings
From their beds.
An engine labored ‘til it was stilled.
Could the other props and engines
Maintain headway against the fury?
The storm had moved us backwards
As we faced it down that day.
“How far, how far is land?”

A seaman asked in fear.
The wheelman smartly answered,
“Only a mile or two,
Or maybe it is three,
That is ---
If you plot your course
Straight down into the sea.”

The dark sky darkened even more
As pale daylight fled from view,
And it became God-awful night
As long as a bight can last.
And still the storm washed over us
Another night and day.
The convoy steamed ahead of us
And left us on our own,
Two weather-wounded ships,
A Destroyer and a Light cruiser,
Each an escort for the other
As we lamely turn toward port,
Slowly make for Philadelphia.
Home.

As the responsible weather forecaster aboard the Huntington, with helpful information from the Weather Center in Norfolk, I predicted hurricane winds before we encountered them.

Edwin Folk
AERM3, USS Huntington (CL-107)
1947-1948

From Winter 2014 issue U.S. Navy Cruiser Sailors, United States Seagoing Marine Assn, Inc.
Submitted by LCDR Bruce DeWald, USN RET

MY MOST UNUSUAL OBSERVATION

While on duty on afternoon in 1960 at NAS Moffett Field in the Weather Office, it came time for me to make an hourly weather observation. I went up on the roof of the Operations Building and I made my observation for the hourly teletype report. What was unusual is that the temperature and the wet-bulb psychomotor read the same. My reading showed 100% humidity but there was no physical fog or rainfall. I went downstairs and reported my findings. Another observer went upstairs and duplicated my findings.

So how is that explained?

Submitted by xAG3 Robert Jaques, USN 1959-1961

Break out that Handbook of Meteorology and answer:
rjapilot@charter.net
So, You Think You Understand Sea Level (MSL)
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q65O3gA0-n4&feature=em-subss_digest
Submitted by LCDR Bruce DeWald, USN RET

BINNACLE LIST

Our good friend LCDR Walt Cottrell USN (Ret) is in a nursing home in Gloucester Courthouse, VA. Walt has Alzheimer’s. He has been in the home for a little over a year. Rosalie and I spent some time with him last week. He still has his good sense of humor but the disease is what it is. It would be nice if some of his old buddies would send Walt a card. Send it to him in care of: Heron Cove, 7385 Walker Ave., Gloucester Courthouse, VA 23061.

Got news that Jerry & Lora Delaney are having his and hers knee replacements. The only decision is who goes first.

Will Gould has been transferred to Georgetown Hospital for brain surgery. He has suffered increased bleeding associated with head trauma he sustained in a fall last week [Week of Mar. 24th]. Please continue to keep Will & Ella in your prayers. I will send updates as available.

Submitted by Jim Romano, POTCHAP Pres.

Eileen [Fifield] is 2/3 thirds through her radiation treatments and has tiredness and a little nausea from the radiation but is coping well.

Submitted by Chuck Fifield via Fay Crossley

Editor: See HRC News for additional member health concerns.

DO YOU DO FACEBOOK?
(You must be logged into Facebook to access either site.)

Find Facebook’s Navy AG group here:
http://www.facebook.com/#!/groups/34563272172/

Find Facebook’ Navy METOC Officers here:
http://www.facebook.com/#!/groups/98578891936/

LETTERS

Dear Mike,

Rec’d the Aerograph today, almost read the whole mag! Hope you can get some of your points in the next newsletter. Definitely the one concerning the constitution and by-laws (C&BL). I have a lot of catching up to do on that one.

Hey reunions are fun but it does not get out the middle age new members. Young Ag’s with families can’t afford to go so get them to your meetings locally that don’t cost much-then get them to go to the reunions later when they can afford them.

Guess I should have made this a letter to the Editor! Mike Gilroy’s ideas are pretty much in agreement with mine. I expect many of Mike’s ideas to come up this year and I hope we have a group that will help get that work done in the coming year. I think the main sources of new members are in their mid-years with the time and energy to complete these tasks.

Hope those “health issues” has disappeared by now. Afraid my “health issues” are with me for life. Age for one. Where did those years go? Afraid I ran out of (juice)-just don’t the energy anymore.

Pass the letter and info to the Aerograph. Best of luck in 2014.

PA. is cold this year!

Shipmate,

AGCS Leo Hortsch USN Ret

Above letter received and submitted by Mike Gilroy, NWSA Pres.

Editor’s note: NWSA member Hortsch’s obituary appears in ‘In Remembrance’ section. He passed on 24 March.

xAERM1C Donald Austin Williams, USNR REL

Dear Sir,

While going through old photos, I came across a photo of my father’s Naval Aerographer school graduating class (the back side is signed by all of the men in the class). From some other papers (?) perhaps now long gone) I had noted on the back of the photo:

Class #26, USN Aerographer School, Lakehurst, NJ, Naval Air Station.

During WWII [my father] was an “Aerographer’s Mate First Class V2 USNR” (Service # 652-07-97); in 1948 belonged to the American Legion, Post #23 Wake Island, Pacific Ocean (MM# 969078). Period of active duty with the USN was January 2,1942 - January 4, 1946. Ratings Held in USN: AS AER3C, AER 2C, AER
C, having completed training at AER School, Lakehurst, NJ for 12 weeks. Dad served in both the Atlantic and Pacific fleets during WWII, and ended with his final post at Wake Island. Following his military service he eventually found his way back to NOAA as a station meteorologist.

In checking on the website http://www.navalweather.org/contactus.html, I do not see the photo I have, pictured on the photo archives area (for class #26). Now that I have scanned it, I have this photo, along with others taken on Wake Island with Dad’s last posting with the Navy during WWII. I want to figure out how to share these and save them in some archive, beyond the family record. Dad was so proud of being a Navy man and a career meteorologist, that I thought to contact you for your thoughts on the matter.

Submitted by Karen Souhrada, daughter of xAER M1C Donald Williams

Editor's note: The photo and roster of 1942’s Class #26 is on the website

Sentries on the Weather Front
The Pensacola area attracts retired Navy meteorologists who call themselves ‘Weather Guessers’

Larry Warrenfeltz, Ray Malinowski, seated, Larry O’Brien and Dennis Maljevac are retired Navy meteorologists and members of the ‘Weather Guessers.’

Editor’s note: The title and photo above appeared as part of an article in the February 10, 2014 Pensacola News Journal.

- Iranian admiral: The US can expect heavy losses at sea should it attack Iran
By JPost.com Staff, Feb. 10, 2014

Submitted by xAG3 Terry Fouch, USN REL

Caption reads, “In 2003 the US Navy initiates its new ‘Terrorist Catch and Release Program’”.

In a humanitarian gesture, the terrorist was given $50 US and a 1962 Ford Fairlane automobile upon release from custody.

After being reminded by HRC Secretary Fay Crossley, this was ACTUALLY the USS Enterprise (CVA-65) testing its new catapults in early 1971. DON’T BELIEVE EVERYTHING ON THE INTERNET! But it sounds like an appropriate program....Editor.

Mike,

Yesterday, Roger Armstrong and I made the AMS Student Awards Luncheon and we both were much impressed with Mr. Austin A. Alford. Austin was the 2013 selectee for the Naval Weather Service Association Scholarship. He attends Oklahoma University (OU) Undergraduate School and is working on a major in Meteorology. We are of the opinion, he is top notch and we would accept him to be on our team. Several pictures were made during the luncheon, one of him and me accepting the NWSA Award. I am under the impression that the photos may be published in the AMS Newsletter. The attached picture is just a backup for our records.

The 2013 Freshman Undergraduate Scholarship Recipient, Mr. Kelton T. Halbert also attends OU, but did not make the AMS meeting.

I introduced Austin to some of the Vaisala Inc folks and they are currently looking for a Met Intern. He is not interested, but indicated that a fellow classmate may be interested and would pass the information along. Also, he will not make the Pensacola NWSA Reunion but has plans to attend the Nashville Reunion. His home is a few miles east of Memphis, TN. Daisy and I will sponsor him at the Banquet and pick up his tab for the dinner.

Submitted by AGCS Lloyd Corbett, USN RET

AMS Student Awards Luncheon

Austin A. Alford and Lloyd Corbett
What does a retired meteorologist do when the cold winds blow and all the lakes and streams are covered in ice? He builds a thermoscreen, of course. Having long since tired of bum readings caused by wrong exposure, I decided it was time to do what the Navy Weather Service did decades ago – house the sensors in a thermoscreen.

The honey-comb looking thing shown in the first photo is the temperature and RH sensor, plus a receiver/transmitter. It receives data from the solar-powered wind vane and 3-cup anemometer, along with data from the 4-inch tipping bucket rain gauge, both mounted on the roof of the thermoscreen, then periodically, at frequent intervals, transmits these data, along with temperature and RH, to the receiver and display unit inside our house.

The display unit houses its own barometer with a digital readout along with digital readouts of all other parameters. Max/Min values are available as are peak wind gusts. Software is available (free) to enable wireless computer connection using the provided USB transceiver but I will not activate that feature for a while (maybe never). The system is La Crosse Technology Model C86234 and sold for something over $70 at Costco.

Considering I paid more than $50 to acquire a 4-inch plastic rain gauge by mail order, it represents a real bargain. The anemometer spinning in close proximity to the rain gauge is so located to discourage birds from perching on the rim of the rain gauge. Time will tell if that part of the plan works. I only got it installed yesterday because I had to wait for the frost to get out of the ground in order to dig a deep post hole.

Sorry, but plans are not available. I made it up as I went. I can provide dimensions should anyone want them.

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Looking for Shipmates

Dear Sir,

What I would like, if possible, is information on some people I served with:

John (Jack) Gleason, a classmate in ‘a’ school. I understand that he made a career in the navy and eventually became an officer as a met officer. His hometown was in the New York area.

Chief Robert Mackie (Mackey?), my chief on the USS Kearsarge in 1969. Then he also got orders to Lemoore, Ca while I was there in 1970. While at Lemoore, he lived in Camarillo, Ca.

Chief Jack Knea, a chief at Lemoore while I was there. He was there at least from Oct. 1969 through November, 1971. I do not remember anything else about him.

Chief Bob Fancher, another chief at Lemoore during that same period.

LCDR Hallen, the met officer at Lemoore while I was there.

I would appreciate any information regarding these people.

xAG2 Carroll A Thomas, USN REL
carroll-thomas@att.net

Dennis Joe Crest

Looking for a shipmate AG2 Dennis Joe Crest. He was from Corpus Christy Texas.

Submitted by xAG2 Terry Fouch, USN REL
mr_worry_wart_99@yahoo.com

Travel via the Moon

If you were traveling during the months of January and February you may not have heard about the terrible weather we had back here in the USA….weather we don’t get every winter……yes, that’s right….it got up into the 80’s here in southern Calif….it was awful after high-noon on some days. There was also a rumor that on the other side of the Rockies, there were 77000 cancelled flights with more than 6 million stranded and another 43 million on delayed flights. During periods like this when you’re going to these areas of bad weather, call or email...
your airline before leaving the house/hotel and confirm that they ARE flying your flight.....in most cases, if your flight is in fact cancelled, there is no charge for rebooking on a following flight...but confirm that with the airline when you call. The 5 worst airports to be stuck in are IAD (Washington Dulles) LaGuardia (LGA), Atlanta (ATL), Philly (PHL) or (BOS) Boston... reason being...no place else to go, few hotels or easily over-crowded, few shops/restaurants...and to many folks, lack of free Wi-Fi to let other people know that you are stuck. But now the bad weather is over, right? Well, maybe not quite. Thunderstorms and tornadoes are still possible at many airports during the summer causing delays and going to “alternate” airports. Quite often the airline will pay for hotel reservations at your unexpected alternate airport and/or charter local buses to take you back to your destination, but weather does put a crimp in many travel plans. And, finally, one other weather happening that many airline passengers don’t consider – turbulence!!

In the past couple of months, numerous news articles mentioned the flights with people injured because of severe turbulence in the US....isn’t it just as easy to sit in your seat with the seat belt around you (loose is OK) and not risk the close-up view of the ceiling when unexpected turbulence occurs. The thinking that most turbulence occurs when the flight attendants come around with the food-cart – this has not been proven, but they could be related.

Airlines are expecting 2014 to have record profits. Your ticket price in not expected to go up as much as previous years and your choice of “low-cost” airlines continues to grow. So where do the profits come from? Well, how about choice of seats on some aircraft...roomier area between those in front and behind you, refundable fares (yes you can buy those…at slightly higher cost), or baggage charges that were unheard of years ago. But be aware of this and SHOP for lower priced tickets by calling different airlines and compare the prices (and ask the airline person if they don’t have a better price). And

This is a “biggie”....buy your refundable ticket at the right time--months in advance. Airline prices are lowest January to early April and then climb to their highest till mid-Sept and then decrease a little till early December. Planning can make a difference. Travel agents can help get you lower fares, but you will also pay them for their service.

But regardless of where or when, GO and ENJOY.  

In attendance: (22)  
Bob and Tammie Steiner, Bob and Carol Daigle, Fay and Donna Crossley, Frank Muscari, Doris Stepaniak, Howard Lee, Frank Shrout, Joan Akers, Dan and Carmen Lee, Mel Harder, Jack and Ann Salvato, Chip and Susan Franey, John and Ive Chubb and Chuck and Louise Steinbruck.

REGRETS received from:  
Bob Wright – Working  
Dave Milot – on business trip  
The Shafers - busy.  
The Nelsons – attending wedding.  
Kathi Clark – packing to visit VB starting in May.  
The Paulys – busy

The venue; The Lucky Oyster, was exceptional, Meet and greet started about 300pm. A blessing was given by Capt. Chuck and a moment of silence was observed in memory of our departed member Ted Lemond. The Pledge Of Allegiance was led by the CMAA Frank Muscari. A letter of appreciation to past president Chuck Fifield was read by the president Robert Steiner (enclosure 2). 50/50 drawing was held, Jack Salvato received $46.
Before the meeting got underway, a wedding cake was revealed and the newlyweds Bob and Tammie were asked to cut the cake. Donna and Joan, made sure that everyone got a big slice...Congratulations to the Steinners.

Meeting was called to Order by President Steiner about 425.

The Secretary Report was sent to the membership, a motion was made from Frank Muscari and Seconded by Ive Chubb to accept them as received, (takes too long to read), motion passed.

The Treasurer’s Report was read, with a balance of $3212.48. The Treasurer reported HRC contribution was sent to reunion #40 and that the Ad was also sent. (Enclosure 8) Motion was made to accept the report by Frank Strout and seconded by Frank Muscari, motion passed.

OLD BUSINESS:

…BINNACLE LIST: HRC was pleased to see many of our members OFF the list. Some members have not reported to the HRC officials concerning their status, all are requested to keep the HRC informed about their, or about others, concerning their health status. We are convinced, kind thoughts and prayers are beneficial to all. Please keep us aware of your situations.

Eve Muscari – in bed with a cold.

Donna Crossley – scheduled for knee replacement in June.

Eileen Fifield – radiation treatments going okay, she does have some burns and has a poor appetite, but only three weeks left in treatment.

Chuck Fifield – In hospital April 2 to 4 with heart problems, is at home and medications are helping. (Enclosure 3)

Bob Steiner – Cataract operations scheduled this month.

Kathi Clark – Awaiting kidney transplant, when available will take place in Idaho, but we are thrilled that Kathi will be visiting VA., starting in May, see you and All the Scotts at the July picnic Kathi. (Enclosure 4)

2. Capt. Chuck gave a report on the #39 reunion. Though low in attendance, the reunion was viewed as fantastic by the Steinbrucks. Allen Davis and his wife did a fantastic job. Though one of the tours had to be canceled the other 3 were huge successes. The Secretary reported the NWSA was attempting to get the two binders of reunion notes back together and was helping Mr. Kerr in this effort. As much information as available was sent to Mr. Kerr. Enclosure 5 is the HRC Final #37 report.

3. The special charity collection for the Spring meeting was the Union Ministries, suggested by the Fifields. $150 was collected and the Treasurer will see the funds are sent to the proper people. For the summer meeting, the charity suggested by John Chubb, was the USO. Motion was made by Frank Muscari and Seconded by Donna Crossley to accept the USO as our next charity, motion passed.

4. V.A. update was provided by Vice President Joan Akers. We are back on track to help the homeless, a trunk full of stuff was given to Joan. Joan and Frank will deliver the goodies to the V.A. Joan also reported that the V. A. is still attempting to find more suitable facilities, but the current hospital is still being utilized. Joan and Frank were upbeat about the situation. (Enclosure 6 refers)

5. For the good of the order was discussed. HRC would like to use this portion of the meeting to talk about things going on in our lives, not health issues but GOOD things and things that will be of interests to the HRC community and perhaps NWSA.

….We discussed reunion #40, Chuck and Louise will be there.

….We talked about BSA.

….Vice President Joan Akers said that everything was going great with her including the arrival soon of Great Grandchild.

….Dan and Carmen Lee are expecting their first great grandchild soon.

….Howard Lee had the arrival of Great Grandchild last week.

….Bobby and Tammie Steiner have a granddaughter getting married soon, and also there is a Great Grandchild on the way. They also thanks HRC for their kind thoughts and prayers and reported that Tammie’s daughter is now doing great.

….Ive and John Chubb reported their son was teaching at Fort Meade and doing a lot of traveling.

6. Frank Muscari talked about the work that is being done on the Museum in Pungo and the USS Wisconsin project. Frank is making great strides in hunting down equipment and information for these projects. Frank thinks if we can come up with a design for these weather offices we might get some help from the Pensacola Museum. Frank will continue to work towards these goals. It will be suggested at the next meeting in July that a committee be formed to help Frank with the designs, by then we might know more about where some equipment can be found. To this end, Fay is working with MIC retired Al Rusnak of the NWS who had a museum in Charleston WV, in the hopes his stuff can be located. Have requested Capt. Chuck to see the Pensacola museum if time permits about equipment as well. HRC would like to thank Mel Harder for the box full of publications that he has donated to this effort. The Secretary will inventory the box and deliver it to Frank Muscari for safe keeping.

NEW BUSINESS

1...NWSA Scholarship fund: Since the passing of Ted Lemond who, specifically asked that a donation be made in his name be given to the Cancer Society vs. The Scholarship Fund. Some of the board members
were concerned about the Scholarship Fund and the new administration of the money through the AMS. **Capt. Chuck** put our concerns to rest by giving an outline as to how it is working. In order to make departed HRC members wishes followed through, a review of the By-laws will be conducted. Membership will be asked to vote on a policy for HRC to follow in that donations will be on a case by case basis and a set amount will be sent.

2…**Ted Lemond’s** obituary was well done in the Aerograph, a copy will be part of HRC records. (Enclosure 7).

3…HRC will no longer be organizing Flag Retirement programs, however, anyone wanting to have flags retired properly, our own **Dave Milot’s** Boy Scout Troop can do that. Have advised Mr. Dempsey of the FRA concerning his flags. It was also brought up that the V.A. often needs flags to place on Veterans when they are cremated.

4…The Summer HRC Meeting will be held at the **Chubb’s** picnic area on Saturday July 5th. Information will be forthcoming on directions and the like. Members are asked to volunteer (2 required) to meet with the Treasurer at noon the day of the picnic to audit the HRC books. Please contact the Secretary to volunteer.

5…A discussion took place concerning the possibility of HRC hosting the #43 reunion. Membership was asked to think about it, and that a motion would be made YEA or NAY to proceed at the Fall meeting of the HRC. More discussions will take place at the July meeting.

6…**Capt. Chuck** was the official Tides weather observer at the game played between the Baltimore O’s and the Tides on Saturday March 29. The Capt. was required to climb a ladder to the roof to take the observations. He accomplished the task with ease and had a great time fulfilling the mission. The pay that he received will be donated to the NWSA Scholarship and the SE VA. Food bank. Thanks Chuck for the great service. Bet you want to do that again next time. A review of the event can be seen in (Enclosure 9).

7…The HRC will continue to support the Hermitage Elementary School as they want. They have a weather station and would like to set it up and set up procedures, they will contact HRC through Fay when they are ready.

8…Our January meeting place (Cagney’s) has been sold and will soon be a Mexican eatery. It is hoped an HRC member will test out the new place when it again opens, decision concerning the January meeting place will be made at our Fall meeting in October.

A moment of silence was observed for our military, especially those that have lost their lives in horrible situations, the ship shooting at the Norfolk base, and the Fort Hood shootings.

Copies of any Enclosures can be obtained by contacting HRC Secretary.

Submitted by Fay Crossley, HRC Secretary

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**SOCAL CHAPTER**

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<tr>
<th>Pres</th>
<th>John Rodriguez</th>
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<tr>
<td>V. Pres</td>
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This year’s Reunion in Pensacola is upon us. Looking forward to another one of those outstanding Reunions.

More and more it seems like I have to start off these reports with the passing of another member or spouse. Once again that is the case.

Larraine Garrett, wife of the late LCDR Dick Garrett, USN RET, passed away on Wednesday, 12 February 2014 after suffering a massive stroke on Sunday, 9 February 2014.

Lois Welch, wife of CDR Paul R. Welch, USN RET passed away on 20 February 2014, after a long illness. She and CDR Welch were married on 16 November 1946. She accompanied Paul for 26 of his 29 years of service.

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**CHAPTER ACTIVITIES**

Our annual Valentine’s Day Champagne Brunch was held on Sunday, 16 February 2014 at the ADM Baker Navy Golf Course Restaurant. Attendees were **Morry Summey**, **Bernie & Dolores Cohenour**, **John & Fujii Rodriguez**, **Bob & Sheila Clark** with their daughter, and **Bill Bridge** who came with five guests. The outing was enjoyed by one and all, particularly since we were able to have a table on the club’s outdoor, sunny patio.

The Chapter held the April Chapter business/luncheon meeting on Thursday, the 3rd, at the ADM Baker Navy Golf Course Restaurant. Attendees were **John Rodriguez**, **Morry Summey**, **David & Lois Rue**, **Bernie & Dolores Cohenour**, and **Bill Bridge**. One of the major items of business for this meeting was the nomination and election of Chapter officers for the coming Chapter year (1 July 2014 through 30 June 2015). A proposal was made to continue all Chapter officers for an additional year. A vote was taken and unanimously carried. **President John Rodriguez, Vice President David Rue, and Secretary/Treasurer Morry Summey**.
MEMBER ACTIVITIES

John Rodriguez and Morry Summey will be representing the SOCAL Chapter at the Reunion in Pensacola. We are both hoping to see a big turnout there. Good luck Pensacola.

On March 21st Bernard Cohenour attended CDR Chris Arends retirement ceremony at the Bay View Restaurant, Marine Corps Recruit Depot. Keynote speaker was RADM Bryan Brown, Commander Naval Meteorology and Oceanography Command. Attendance was great and a good time was had by all.

LT. COL Michael Rue, son of Lois & David Rue, will be transferred in July to Ramstein Air Base in Germany from the country of Mali. He was the Defense Attaché at the Embassy in Bamako.

Submitted by Morry Summey SOCAL Sec/Treas.

CENTRAL COAST

President Harry Nicholson
Sec/Treas. Glenn Handlers

Howdy,
The New Year came in with another very dry month. Jan. normal precipitation is 3.52 Inches and this year we got 3% of that with 0.12 inches. The category of drought was the highest label of Exceptional.

Up to the last 3 days of Feb. the drought did not change, then we started getting some rain which brought us up to 47% of normal for The month of Feb.

March continued with light intermittent periods of rain the first and last week of the month which placed March at 77% of Normal. The season total is up to 52% of normal. This has not changed the drought criteria from Exceptional in Central CA except in the Santa Lucia Mountains which are downgraded to Extreme.

Despite the late light rains which have helped raise the snow pack in the Sierra Nevada CA and much of the west is still hurting for water.

There have been a lack of information channeled to me this quarter and no information of anyone on the pinnacle list or any of us old timers checking out of our life here to the next category so will submit this short report for the Central Coast Chapter.

Zane E. Jacobs AGC USN RET

POTOMAC CHAPTER

Jim Romano – President
Elroy McLeod – Vice President
Pete Weigand – Secy/Treasurer

Greetings from the shores of the Potomac River. Quite a number of our members will be in Pensacola for #40. Looks like it’ll be very comfortable setting for a bunch of old “Airdales.” It looks like ROMANO, COSTA, BERKERIDGE, SMITH, McEOD, DELANO as well as MARGE CRUSE.

Wednesday April 9, we are planning a luncheon meeting a TOPOLINO Italian Buffet in Camp Springs, MD. We’ll discuss the reunion in Pensacola, find new officers for the next year and also plan for a fall outing.

Some bad news just came today..AGCS LEO (Tiny) HORTSCH passed away late last week in York, Pa. He was interned in St. Mary’s cemetery, Bryantown, MD on March 31. Full obituary can be found in the Maryland Independent Newspaper. Leo was 87. Leo was a great gentleman and we shall miss him.

Got news that Jerry & Lora Delaney are having his and hers knee replacements. The only decision is who goes first. Work hard on the therapy kids. That’s the secret!!

Walt Cottrell is in a nursing home in Gloucester Courthouse, VA. Jim & Rosalie visited him last weekend and he’s in good spirits considering the damage Alzheimer’s is causing. His dear wife Alice is at his side most of the time. She’d love to see a few cards come his way. It’s Heron Cove..7385 Walker Ave..Gloucester Courthouse, VA. 23061.

Not a lot of good news this time but most of us are doing ok. Looking forward to a big time in the Home Of Naval Aviation!!

Submitted by Jim Romano, POTCHAP Pres.

PENSACOLA CHAPTER

President Bernie Bauer
Sec/Treas. Pat O’Brien

Greetings,
The Pensacola Chapter has been working tirelessly readying everything for the upcoming 40th reunion. They met at the Red Lobster Restaurant in March and had one of their largest turnouts in years. In addition to President Bauer and Secretary/Treasurer O’Brien, the following members attended: Libby O’Brien, AI and Helen Atwell, Greene and Marion Hawks, Larry and Nancy Warrenfeltz, Denny and Helen Maljevac, Paul Belt and Cheryl Alter, Dave and Jane Driggers, Gay Lynn O’Hara, Ed and Gerrie Marsch, Ken and Barbara Overholt, Elspeth Lloyd, Dick and Elizabeth Tokryman, and their two newest members; Ed and Patti Straten.

Pat and Libby O’Brien are coordinating reunion events and are currently trying to tie up the loose ends. They thank all members of the Chapter for the work they’ve done in helping put together the Association’s 40th reunion. Bernie Bauer, laid the groundwork in
getting the Crowne Plaza as our reunion site, and he has been in constant contact with Tim Warner (son of CWO Chuck Warner) who owns and operates Gulf Coast Trophies. Bernie has worked with Tim on selecting and purchasing many of our reunion items i.e., t-shirts, mugs, vases, etc. and has been a main player with regards to reunion decision making.

Dick Tokryman has been the Chapter’s man about town seeking businesses to advertise in the reunion booklet. Since Dick is a retired used car salesman, he was a perfect fit for the job. Dick was also involved in weekly reunion planning meetings and decision making. Denny Maljevac was tabbed to be our reunion treasurer. He set up an account with Wells Fargo Bank and has had the responsibility of managing that account. He also monitored incoming registration forms and maintained spreadsheets on reunion events. Denny was also part of our planning committee, and he provided weekly treasury updates and registration numbers to those other members on the planning board. Nancy Warrenfeltz designed and made beautiful center pieces for each table at the banquet, and she and Gay Lynn O’Hara provided much needed advice on how to go about seeking donations from local businesses.

Larry Warrenfeltz volunteered to be the guest speaker at the reunion, and to be the Chapter’s point of contact with the Naval Oceanography Command at Bay St. Louis, Mississippi. Through his efforts, the Chapter received a letter from RADM Brian Brown, CNOC, welcoming attendees to our reunion. He also convinced the Admiral to attend the reunion and address the membership at the second general meeting. Through the Admiral, Larry was also able to get this year’s information on the CNOC Sailors of the Year most expeditiously.

We have Marion Hawks to thank for our reunion logo. She presented several ideas for the logo, and we all agreed the logo that included the Blue Angels and the five flags that have flown over the city of Pensacola as the one we should use. She also volunteered to head up the reunion’s silent auction. Through her efforts, and with the help of Nancy Warrenfeltz, Gay Lynn O’Hara, Gerrie Marsch, and Elizabeth Tokryman, they obtained items worth over two thousand dollars. Well done ladies!

Elspeth Lloyd and Gerrie Marsch volunteered to manage the reunion’s hospitality room. Dave Driggers volunteered to head up the golf outing at the Naval Air Station, and when he asked for an assistant, Paul Belt stepped up. Sixteen attendees signed up to participate in the golf event. John O’Hara works at the Naval Flight Academy, and he volunteered to conduct a tour of this facility for the seventy-one attendees who signed up for the Museum/Blue Angel Tour. John’s wife, Gay Lynn, volunteers at the museum, and she will be one of the tour guides for our group. Ray Malinowski made prints of our reunion logo that are suitable for framing. One copy was placed in each goodie bag. Ed Straten came across a deal he couldn’t pass up at the Navy Exchange. The Exchange was selling Aerographers Mates T-shirts at a reduced price, and Ed offered to purchase all the shirts for an even lower price. He purchased them, and then turned around and donated them to the Chapter as possible sale items at the reunion.

The O’Briens are sure they’ve forgotten others who contributed their time and efforts on behalf of the Association, but thank one and all for everything they did to make the 40th a success.

When not tied up with reunion planning, the O’Briens and Bernie Bauer have enjoyed going to Pensacola Ice Flyers’ ice-hockey games. The Flyers just won their second consecutive Southern Professional Hockey League Championship. The three of them are also season ticket holders for the Pensacola Blue Wahoos double-A baseball team. Thirty-one reunion attendees signed up to attend a Blue Wahoo game while here in Pensacola. Pat contacted Gerry Dufford about attending the reunion, but the Duff said Cathy is struggling with some mobility issues and has knee replacement scheduled, and therefore were unable to make it over from Tallahassee. Bernie Bauer traveled to Honolulu, Hawaii, in March to attend his daughter’s, Le-Ann’s, wedding.

The Fraziers, Rose and Arthur, have had a very busy winter and spring, so far. Their son, Timothy, who is 16 yrs old, was involved in the Milton High School Indoor Percussion and had competitions most weekends. Rose and/or Arthur chaperoned most of the them and also the annual Band trip, which was a cruise to the Bahamas during spring break. Along with all the school activities, they are very involved with church activities, and taking care of Rose’s Mom, Irma Gastel. Rose is continuing to deal with her Fibromyalgia and Rheumatoid Arthritis, which is worsening. Doctor visits for all of them have kept them running the roads of Milton and Pensacola. Arthur has made several out of town trips for the Methodist church and also to Dallas to help with his Mother. Rose keeps busy at home with various crafts and reading while Arthur spends a lot of time exercising to keep his back from locking up. Timothy stays very busy with 4 honors classes, band and Spanish. He has maintained an A average all year so far and is ranked 27 in his class of 458 sophomore students at Milton High. Summer will bring lots of band practice for Tim, uniform work for Rose, and gardening for Arthur. They are also planning a trip to Atlanta and Helen, GA in June to relax and sightsee.

Submitted by Pat O’Brien, Pensacola Sec/Treas.
CAPT Gary Clay Fisher, USN RET

July 1, 1938 to February 10, 2014

Gary Clay Fisher, 75, of Oak Harbor passed away on the 10th of February, 2014, of cardiac arrest. He was born in Santa Rosa, California on 1 July 1938 to Clay and Beatrice Fisher. He grew up during WWII while his father was aboard ship with the U.S. Navy in the Pacific. He worked for his Grandfather and Uncle on their farms and had a Farm Driver's License at age 14. He went to Santa Rosa High School and majored in Future Farmers of America hoping one day to be a veterinarian. He received an appointment to the Naval Academy but due to his defective color vision he was not accepted. Rather than give up, he joined the U.S. Navy at age 17 and for 8 years was a Naval Weatherman at Kodiak, Alaska, Alameda, California and Holy Loch, Scotland after schooling at NAS Lakehurst, New Jersey. As the first weatherman on a Submarine Tender at Holy Loch, he was notified he was accepted for Officer Candidate School at Newport, Rhode Island, then to Supply Corps School at Athens, Georgia where he became a Supply Corps Officer. Assignments afloat, ashore and overseas include Supply Officer of a Fleet Oiler and on two Aircraft Carriers. He was Aide to three of the Senior Admirals in the U.S. Navy and was selected as Captain, U.S. Navy while as Executive Officer at Subic Bay in the Philippines. He retired from Philadelphia, PA after 32 years of active duty.

He earned a BS in Business Administration and an MS in Material Management at the Naval University in Monterey, CA with Doctoral Studies at the University of Tennessee. After retirement, he was Professor of business subjects at several colleges and universities for 15 years retiring in 2003. He was recognized as Instructor of the Year in 1993 and received the Director's Award in 2002. He received many awards including the Outstanding Young Man of America in 1973, President of the United States Award for Life Saving in 1984 and 4-H Co-leader of the Year in 2000 with his wife Lois. They were leaders of the 4-H club Colonial Critters receiving a record number of awards at the Island County Fair. He started the 4-H club Weather or Not in 2010 to teach youth about world weather.

During retirement, he was a volunteer firefighter, Fireman of the Year in 1992 and President of the Fire Association for 3 years. Other volunteer activities included Co-president of the Whidbey Playhouse, Boy Scouts of America Woodbadge Award and BSA District Commissioner, Ducks Unlimited District Chairman, President of Whidbey Sportsman's Clubs, American Red Cross Board and ARC Disaster Team, Conservation Futures Fund Board member, Chairman Island County Fair Board and trained on the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) for Island County.

He was a judge at the Miss America Pageant in Atlantic City in 1985. He was a Life Member of NRA, North American Hunting and Fishing Clubs, American Sheep Industry Association and American Livestock Breeds Conservatory.

Gary loved farming and with his wife, Lois, developed a state-of-the-art farm, Camelot Downs. They raised Colonial livestock being one of the few in the U.S. to do so. Camelot Downs was declared the Merit Farm of Whidbey Island for conservation of natural resources, wetlands and creating wildlife habitat plus animal husbandry. In 2010 Camelot Downs granted a Conservation Easement to Farmland Trust. He loved his pets and critters.

A good story-teller, he enjoyed sitting at a campfire at the family retreat, Rocky Top, in Ellensburg, WA with his family. He enjoyed hunting all his life and was a conservationist and preservationist to the end.

He is survived by his wife of 54 years. They were married in Santa Rosa, CA in 1959. They were united after attending Santa Rosa High School together, graduating in 1958. They had 3 children, Geoffrey Clay, Marsha Rae (Deiter) and Glenn Merritt plus six grandchildren, Jake and Jared Deiter, Courteney, Tyler, Gabrielle, and Emily Fisher and four great grandsons, Ethan and Ean Deiter, Jayden Funnell and Jack Ogren. He is also survived by his sister, Delainy Wicklund, and nephew and nieces, Douglas, Dawn and Dorann Wicklund.

Submitted by LCDR Dick Gilmore, USN RET

CDR Frederick K. "Fred" Martin, USN RET

Passed December 10, 2013 at Age 80

Frederick K. Martin, 80, of Melbourne passed away on Tuesday December 10, 2013 in Rockledge. He was a retired Commander and Meteorologist in the U.S. Navy serving in Korea and Vietnam where he was awarded the Bronze Star. He moved to Brevard County in 2004 from Albuquerque, NM.

Survivors include his wife Virginia Martin, sons Stephen & John Martin and daughter Elaine Martin from
a previous marriage, stepdaughter Susan Bentel and
granddaughter Antonia.

Military Honors will be given at a later date in the
Florida National Cemetery.

Published in FLORIDA TODAY on Dec. 13, 2013.

Not sure if all of you knew him or not, but Frederick K.
“Fred” Martin (CDR/RET) passed away December 10th
in Melbourne, FL at 80 years of age. He was diagnosed
with Alzheimer’s only a few years ago, and I had just
spoke to him in the last year and he was doing pretty
good, so I suspect he may have died from other causes.

Fred spent a lot of his very long career at FWC Norfolk
and NWOC Pearl Harbor and was once the CO of the
Naval weather school at Chanute AFB. He also served
in Korea and Vietnam and had a Bronze Star.

I worked for Fred 1972-75 as a young AGAN-AG2
when he was a CWO4-LDO LT at FWC Norfolk (the
ORIGINAL FWC Norfolk!), and then many years later, I
showed up at NWOC Pearl Harbor as an LDO LT to
work for CDR Martin. He had put me on report once as
an AG3 in 1973 for being late for a barracks fire watch
(later dismissed…), and the day I checked into NWOC in
1990 said, “Didn’t I write you up once for being late for a
watch?” It was embarrassing that he remembered. We
became good friends at NWOC and once sang a
(slightly) drunken karaoke duet of Tex Ritter’s “Your
Cheatin’ Heart” in the Yokosuka “O” Club while on a
Command Inspection trip …it wasn’t pretty. Fred retired
about 1993 with 44-years active duty, surpassing CDR
Chuck White by (I believe) a few months…much to
Chuck White’s eternal consternation. One of my last
official tasks at NWOC was to write a draft Legion of
Merit for his end-of-tour award….a difficult task for which
I was honored to perform.

Fair Winds and Following Seas my friend…..the
forecast is done, the watch is over, you may now rest
in peace…

Submitted by CWO4 Chuck Yengst, USN RET

LCDR Roger C. Warren, USN RET
December 7, 1929 to February 24 2014

Roger was born in Lima, Ohio. After graduating from
high school there, he worked as a gas pipeline
maintenance repairman for about six months before
deciding that he wanted to join the Navy and see the
world. After boot camp at Great Lakes in 1947, he
completed AG “A” school at Lakehurst, NJ. Due to his
outstanding performance, he was as selected to remain
at Lakehurst as a primary weather school instructor and
promoted to AG3 (6/48-12/50).

Eager to get out in the fleet he lobbied for and was
assigned to Fleet Air Wing 14 at San Diego followed by
a tour aboard USS Mt McKinley (AGC-7) operating out
of Yokosuka, Japan (12/50-6/53). His continuing
outstanding performance got him promoted to AG2 and
AG1 and quickly identified him as a hard charging
professional. Over the next 24 years, he would continue
to serve with distinction in a wide variety of important
and challenging operational assignments wherever the
Navy needed him:

NAS Whidbey Island (6/53-12/54), Fleet Weather Central
Panama, CZ - Promoted to AGG - (7/55-5/57), ASO
Philadelphia - Promoted to LDO Ensign - (5/57-1/60),
Fleet Weather Central Port Luaytey, Morocco - Promoted to
Ltjg - (3/60-1/63), Fleet Weather Central Norfolk - Promoted to
LT - (1/63-2/66), USS Northampton (CC-1),
While aboard this command ship serving as ship's
meteorological officer he was assigned additional duties in
support of the embarked JCS team and got himself trained as
and stood underway OOD watches. He concurrently
accomplished other additional duties as ship's training officer
and administrative officer. (3/66-6/68).

Fleet Weather Central Suitland - Conducted satellite data
interpretation seminars around the world at various commands
and schools - Promoted to LCDR - (7/66-6/72)
Fleet Weather Central Rota, Spain - (7/72-6/76), NWSED
Whiting Field, FL, OIC - (7/76-7/77) - Retired upon completion
of 30 years of continuous outstanding service.

After retirement, Roger moved around looking for the
ideal retirement locale and lived in Annapolis, MD,
Shady-side, MD, and then Pace, FL (just north of
Pensacola). Along the way, Roger met a sharp and
lovely para-legal in Washington, DC (Cheryl Harvey),
moved her and brought her to Florida. Roger and
Cheryl were both active members of the Pensacola
NWSA chapter for about 10 years. However after
encounters with some significant medical problems (both
had open-heart surgery) and several major hurricanes,
they reluctantly but wisely decided to move to North
Carolina to be nearer to some close friends and family
members and several top rated medical facilities:(Wake,

In spite of a number of challenging medical issues,
Roger continued to meet each and every day with
determination and optimism. In a few moments of
reflection, he recently wrote the following: "I’ve seen a
good bit of the world and had fun doing it. … I am very
satisfied with what I have accomplished and could not
have wished for much more. My plan for the future is to
enjoy the time I have left.”

The Pensacola NWSA chapter continues to wish
Roger’s wife, Cheryl and other family members, “Fair
Winds and Following Seas” in the days ahead.

Submitted by AGC Al Atwell, USN RET

AGC Robert Wiorek, USN RET
Passed February 7, 2014 at Age
85

Robert Wiorek, 85, of Toms River,
passed away Friday, Feb. 7, 2014,
at his home. Robert is a retired veteran from the United States Navy and from the Postal Service. Robert was a member of the Knights of Columbus 4969, Fleet Reserves Post 124 in Lakehurst, and National Weather Service Association. He was active in his parish, Saint Joseph's Church of Toms River.

Robert is predeceased by his sister, Audrey Polaski. He is survived by his wife, Lucille of 62 years; his son, Robert and wife Laura of California and daughter, Cyndi Wiorek-Tilley and her fiancé Ron Demeraski of Toms River. He is also survived by his loving grandchildren, Sasha Blackshear, Colin & Jackie Blackshear, Shannon Siegel, Caitlyn & Keith Jeronimus, and Edward Tilley and fiancée Lauren Koch and a sister, Arlene McCue and brother-in-law Harry Polaski in Wisconsin and three great-grandchildren.

Burial occurred follow at NJ Veterans Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Van Dyke Hospice. Condolences can be sent to: carmonabolenf.com

His devoted wife Lucille provided the following information:

Bob was born and raised in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. He joined the Navy upon graduating from high school. After completing boot camp in Chicago, IL, he was sent to school at the Naval Air Station in Atlantic City, NJ. While there, he met his wife, Lucille DeFalco, from Vineland, NJ on a blind date.

After finishing school, he was off to the USS Columbus CA74. Handwriting continued between them which resulted in their marriage on February 2, 1952. In May of that year Bob received orders to the icebreaker, Edisto. Upon his return in December 1952, he was off to Patuxent River, MD. Their son Robert was born in February 1953. Bob was ordered to “C” school in Lakehurst in December 1953.

March 1954 it was off to Pensacola aboard the USS Monterey. In 1955 it was Lakehurst for “B” school. It was back to FL to Cecil Field and their daughter Cynthia was born in 1957.

In May Bob and Lucille received orders to Kodiak where they remained until July 1960. Bob was sent to the USS Independence CVA62. March 1962 it was back to Lakehurst. May 1964 sent the Wiorek family to Naples, Italy where they remained until May 1967. It was back to Lakehurst until Bob retired in 1971.

After the Navy life for Bob, he went to work for the US Postal Service until February 1991. This began he and Lucille’s lives enjoying time spend with Caitlyn and Eddie their grandchildren.

Submitted by Pam Elliot, Airship Chapter Secretary

AGC Charles A. Rinesmith, USN RET
June 23, 1939 to Nov. 23, 2013

RINESMITH Charles Allen "Charlie" Sr. passed away on Nov 23, 2013. He was born on June 23, 1939 in Nicholas County, Kentucky and was preceded in death by a sister, Doris Gail Rinesmith, his father, Sanford Dailey Rinesmith, born in Bourbon County, Kentucky, and his mother, Golda Mae Gilbert, born in Olive Hill, Carter County, Kentucky.

He is survived by his brother, Bill Rinesmith of Lexington, Kentucky; two sisters, Barbara Hodgson of Asheville, NC and Clair Coughlan of Montgomery, Alabama; two sons, Charles Allen Jr. of Bremerton, Washington, and Kevin Gilbert of Mount Vernon, Washington; a daughter, Kalen Gail Sonka (John) of Lemon Grove, California; six grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Mr. Rinesmith was a graduate of Lexington Catholic High School, class of 1957, and held several academic degrees of higher learning. After 24 years of service he retired from the United States Navy where he specialized in meteorology and oceanography. After military service he worked as a Realtor and as a pari-mutuels teller at various thoroughbred race tracks around the country.

One of his pastime pursuits was researching and recording family history. Mr. Rinesmith was an active member of several veterans organizations including The Fleet Reserve Association, The American Legion, The Veterans of Foreign Wars, The Disabled American Veterans and The Sons of American Legion.

Published in Lexington Herald-Leader on Nov. 27, 2013.

xAERM3 Alphonse J. Parisi
Died December 29, 2013 at Age 85

Alphonse J Parisi, 85 of Dayton died, Sunday, December 29, 2013 at home surrounded by his loving family. Born in Staten Island, NY where he was a longtime resident, before moving to Millstone in 1995 where he resided until 2013. Alphonse was a United States Navy Veteran. He retired in 1988 with over 40 years of service as an Instrument mechanic with Procter and Gamble, Staten Island. He was a member of St. Joseph’s Church, Millstone and the Holy Name Society, a member of St. Joseph’s Church of Toms River.

As a member of several veterans orga

Francis Buie
August 11, 1920 to February 27, 2014
Wife of LT George Buie USN RET
I just got off the phone with LT George Buie, USN-RET and he told me about the passing of Francis last evening. No arrangements have been made and he said that her cremation will take up to ten days.

George and Ms. Francis (Brabham) Buie were married on February 05, 1941 at NAS Jacksonville, FL. She was a resident of Orange Park, Fl. After his retirement they returned to Jacksonville, FL for a couple of years before making their final move to the Advent Christian Village in Dowling Park, FL. For two and a half years they served as house parents and counselors for teenagers, they then purchased a home and hung out their shingle “DUN ROMIN” where they lived for the next thirty seven years.

Francis was born in Jacksonville, Florida on August 11, 1920 and married George on December 05, 1941. She passed at 10:30PM on Thursday, February 27, 2014 at the Live Oak, Florida Hospital. They were married for 72 years. Francis had been in the Dowling Park Nursing Home for the last five and one half years.

Her Address:
George Buie
10446 233rd Road
Live Oak, FL 32060-5851
Phone: (386) 658-3166

Submitted by AGCM Lloyd Corbett, USN RET

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Joan Ann Suydam
Passed November 22, 2013 at Age 85
Wife of xAGAN William Suydam

Joan Ann Suydam (nee Bardes), 85, of Toms River, NJ, passed away on Nov. 22, 2013. Born in Mineola, Long Island, NY, Joan grew up in Hempstead, NY. Married in 1955 to William (Bill) Suydam, she moved to Chatham, NJ and started her family. She lived in Villanova, PA for a short time and then moved to Roseland NJ where she spent 21 happy years raising her family and working as a legal secretary at Stickel, Frahn and Lloyd of Chatham, NJ.

Joan was involved in many activities. She enjoyed her Woman's Club in Chatham, Roseland, NJ, and later in Toms River, where she moved in 1991. She served as president of the Woman's Club there for many years and was a columnist in the Pine Cone community newspaper.

She was active in many charitable groups, including Greenbriar Woodlands Outreach. She enjoyed organizing fundraising activities, including card parties, fashion shows, auctions and holiday gift giving for the needy.

Joan was a golfer, an avid bridge and mah-jongg player who enjoyed being with her many friends and her family.

She leaves her beloved and loving husband of 58 years, William; her son, Tyler and his wife Emily; and daughter, Karen Andrea McGahan and her husband, Timothy, all of whom she loved dearly and who loved her so much. She was an extraordinary wife and mother who will never be forgotten. A memorial service will be arranged at a future date. In lieu of flowers, please send donations to the Greenbriar Woodlands Outreach or the Brick Township Women’s Club.

Published in Star-Ledger on Nov. 24, 2013
Submitted by Pam Elliot, Airship Chapter Secretary

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CDR Richard “Dick” Herman, USN RET
December 4, 1923 to January 7, 2014

Richard “Dick” Herman, age 90 of Walnut Creek, California died Tuesday, January 7, 2014.

Dick was born in Oshkosh, Wisconsin on December 4, 1923. He met the love of his life, Patricia “Pat” O'Donnell, while stationed in Honolulu and they married in 1950. They had two children, Jan and Candy. Dick was a loving husband, father, and grandfather. Pat passed away in 2008. Dick is survived by immediate family, Jan Roskelley (Doug), Candy Funk (Jim) and 3 grandchildren, Kyle Roskelley, Lexy Funk, and Sam Funk.

He was an Aviator and Meteorologist in the US Navy from 1942 to 1965. After his Navy Career, he taught math at Del Valle High School in Walnut Creek. His hobbies and activities included golfing, bowling, fishing, hunting and woodworking. He travelled in all 50 states and 47 foreign countries. He and Pat retired to Cocolalla, Idaho just outside of Sandpoint ID and lived there for 17 years before moving back to Walnut Creek.

Dick enjoyed a full life and considered his friends as family. He was genuinely interested in everyone he came in contact with. He was a beloved and iconic teacher. He remembered every student he had during his teaching career and stayed in contact with many.

When he moved back to Walnut Creek he became a Docent on the USS Hornet in Alameda. He loved going to the Hornet and made many incredible friends. He cherished time on the ship sharing stories of his days as a Carrier Pilot and reminiscing with fellow docents. Please feel free to post photos and leave comments at: http://www.hullschlorpe.com/Obituaries.

A future memorial service is planned on the USS Hornet in Alameda. He will be interred with his wife at Arlington National Cemetery.

Submitted by Candy Funk, his daughter
AGCS Leo J. “Tiny” Hortsch, USN RET
August 9, 1926 to March 24, 2014

Leo J. Hortsch, AKA Leon J. Hortsch, 87, of York, PA passed away March 24, 2014 at Hanover Hall, York, PA. He was born August 9, 1926, on farm in Buckman, MN. He was the son of the late Frank Hortsch and the late Barbara Hortsch.

In September 1945 he enlisted in the Navy, served on various ships and stations, and most noteworthy was the Antarctica 1964-1965. Then he worked for The Weather Service, Upper Air Branch at various locations in the Washington, DC area until 1982. He had served at 24th & M Streets, NW Washington, DC while in the Navy, from 1949-1951 and again at this location with the Upper Air Branch 1965. This location was the Headquarters of the old Weather Bureau.

Noteworthy experience: In 1949 Leo ran into President Truman early one morning while the President was taking his early AM walk along Pennsylvania Avenue. Leo was transferring to a streetcar on his way to work.

In addition to his parents, Leo was predeceased by his loving wife of 55 years, Faye E. Green Hortch, brother, Lambert Hortsch and grandson, Allen Harvey. He is survived by his sons, Charles Harvey (Janet), Gary Hortch (Mary), brothers, Lawrence Hortsch, Vern Hortsch, sister, Luella Marthaler, 4 grandchildren and 6 great grandchildren.

He loved to fly, held a Private license and was working on his commercial license. While living at Shoreham Beach he was the Treasurer of their association for 19 years. He belonged to Knights of Columbus, 4th Dog and the Fleet Reserve Association. He was a past member of the US Meteorological Society.

Interment occurred at St. Mary’s Catholic Church, cemetery 13715 Notre Dame Place, Bryantown, MD 20617.
Arrangements provided by Brinsfield Funeral Home.
Submitted by Jim Romano, POTCHAP Pres.

AGC Albert L. Seeke Jr., USN RET

SEEKE, ALBERT L., Jr.
Age 73, passed on Thursday, April 18, 2013, of N. S. Beloved husband of Anna Marie (Gray) Seeke; loving father of Albert L. III, Roxanne (Rick) Palmieri; brother of Mary Ann (Jr.) Schraeder and Fredericka (John) Cook; loving grandfather of Richard, Albert IV, and Samantha; great-grandfather of Alexander; loved by many nieces, nephews, and friends. A loyal and dedicated Navy Chief for 21 years, a member of the F.R.A., the American Legion, and the Allegheny Elks Lodge 339 of N. S.
Published in Pittsburgh Post-Gazette on Apr. 19, 2013:
Submitted by Mike Gilroy, NWSA Pres.

Lorraine Garrett
Widow of LCDR Dick Garrett, USN RET

Lorraine Garrett, wife of the late LCDR Dick Garrett, USN RET, passed away on Wednesday, 12 February 2014 after suffering a massive stroke on Sunday, 9 February 2014

Lois Evelyn Welch
Wife of CDR Paul R. Welch, USN RET

Lois Welch, wife of CDR Paul R. Welch, USN RET, passed on Thursday 20 February 2014, after a long illness. She and CDR Welch were married on 16 November 1946. She was a homemaker and accompanied Paul for 26 of his 29 years of service. Private service.

Two obituaries above submitted by Morry Summey, SOCAL Sec/Treas.

xCAERM Thomas B. O’Reilly, USN REL
April 1, 1920 to Nov. 23, 2013

Thomas Bronson O’Reilly passed away on Nov. 23, 2013 at Cottage Hospital with his wife and children present. Though slowing down in recent years, he was still walking,, keeping up with events and storytelling until the final 10 days of his life. He was 93.

Thomas was born in Plainfield, NJ in the gatehouse of the Johnson Lodge on April 1 1920 and grew up on Shelter Island, NY. His mother Mary (Meehan) O’Reilly and father Luke O’Reilly were Irish immigrants and he had two brothers, Luke and Gil. He graduated from Shelter Island High School in 1937 and after much frustration for work in NYC, he joined the U.S. Navy in 1938 and trained as a meteorologist.

On Dec. 7th 1941 he was stationed at the Kaneohe Naval Air Station in Oahu when the Japanese attacked first this air base and minutes later Pearl Harbor. During the attack he and three of his mates ran to get Springfield rifles and firing from the Administration building shot down the only Japanese plane lost in the attack on Kaneohe.
During the war he went on many flights over the Pacific Ocean into enemy territory to study the approaching weather patterns and typhoons. He recounted his war experiences and also the unexpected cruelties he observed.

On a reconnaissance/bombing flight up the Yangtze River in China his seaplane was damaged by antiaircraft fire. Tossing all they could overboard, they made it back to the naval fleet but had not noticed that an enemy plane had followed behind to escape radar detection. The Kamikaze peeled off as they approached and hit the USS Curtis with much loss of life.

As the war went on, he made a commitment to himself that, if he survived, he would do all he could to promote a world without war. He had an unwavering moral compass that guided him and impressed so many people that he touched through his business, political and personal life.

After the war, he studied political science at Colgate University, graduating in 1948. Soon after he met the charming Lillian Scheideler while she was vacationing on Shelter Island and they wed in 1949.

As a Democrat representing Suffolk County in NY, Tom made an unsuccessful bid for U.S. Congress in 1956. Working with his lifelong friend and classmate, Richard Bates, he campaigned from a horse-drawn covered wagon with the “Pioneer in Politics”. A strong advocate of education, he ran on the issue of the U.S. falling behind the Soviet Union in educating engineers and scientists.

Tom and Lillian, and their growing family, moved to Washington State for seven years, before settling with their children in Santa Barbara, CA in 1964.

Starting in the early 50’s, Thomas was a sales representative and later an executive and entrepreneur, importing and inventing typewriters and business machines. In 1960 he envisioned a personal flight vehicle and working with engineer Don Moore, they built a small helicopter, which they hoped would provide air transportation, a la Henry Ford, to the modern family.

Thomas was always active in politics and civic life and he acted on his convictions. As a parishioner of the Old Mission Santa Barbara, he became aware of and visited the Saint Francis Orphanage in Pusan, South Korea.

As a travelers himself, he had a soft spot for his fellow travelers.

He loved to share the many stories that influenced him throughout his life. Thomas wrote letters, eulogies and two books, Business in the Third Dimension in 1961 and his autobiography, Footprints in the Sands of Time.

Thomas O’Reilly is survived by his wife, Lillian, his children Kevin (Jean), Maureen (Murray), Colleen, Shannon (Ninoska), Rory (Laura), Tara, Siobhan, and Cathlin (Peter), 20 grandchildren and 4 great-grandchildren.

Services were held at the SB Mission on Nov. 27th. There were tears and all sang his favorite song, “Oh, What a Beautiful Mornin”. A celebration in memory of Tom was held on New Year’s Eve 2014 at the family home. The family requests that anyone so inclined consider a donation to Direct Relief International.

Submitted by Lillian O’Reilly, wife of xCAERM O’Reilly

Editor’s note: The above obituary is abridged from one written by Tom O’Reilly’s children, Shannon and Tara. The full article will be available on the Necrology Announcements webpage of the NWSA website. xCAERM Thomas O’Reilly was in 1940’s Class 20 along with CDR Don Cruse.

Rich became very interested in weather during his younger years when he worked as a commercial fisherman and crabber on the Chesapeake Bay. He spent over six years in the Navy with tours of duty at the Fleet Weather Central/Joint Typhoon Warning Center, Agana Guam, at the Fleet Numerical Weather Central, Monterey, CA, and finally, at the NWSED, Patuxent, MD.

Rich entered the National Weather Service (NWS) in June 1985 and he has had tours of duty as Meteorologist Intern in Greensboro, NC; Meteorologist/Forecaster in Albany, NY and Washington, DC; Science Operations Officer in Blacksburg, VA; Warning Coordination Meteorologist at WFO Pittsburgh, PA; and, most recently, he served as the Meteorologist-in-Charge of the Pittsburgh office.

Rich earned an A.A. degree (1973) from Essex Community College near Baltimore, MD, a B.S. in meteorology (1982), and an M.S. in meteorology (1985) from the Pennsylvania State University.

Rich has authored or co-authored numerous research papers on topics such as: the precipitation characteristics of large thunderstorm complexes, cloud-to-ground lightning characteristics of severe thunderstorms, the relationship between cloud-to-ground lightning and heavy rainfall, and forecasting heavy rain and flooding throughout the Eastern Region of the NWS.

Rich Kane, Meteorologist-in-Charge of NWS Pittsburgh and xAG1, retires after 35 years of government service
Rich’s plans for retirement include catching every fish in Lake Arthur, keeping the freezer stocked with game, and watching severe weather and snow storms from his living room.

Submitted by Fay Crossley, HRC Secretary

Boosting Military Retiree Health Costs Would Save Billions

Raising TRICARE costs for retirees is the most effective way to curb rapidly increasing military health care expenses at the Defense Department, according to a new analysis from the Congressional Budget Office.

Funding for military health care jumped by 130 percent between 2000 and 2012, thanks primarily to legislative efforts to expand coverage to cover all out-of-pocket costs for Medicare-eligible retirees and a dramatic increase in the number of active and former military personnel who enroll in the coverage. Of the 10 million individuals eligible to receive health care coverage through TRICARE, 8 million -- a majority of whom were retirees and their families -- elected to do so in 2012. Defense now pays $52 billion annually -- about 10 percent of its base budget -- toward health care.

CBO looked at eliminating the TRICARE Prime option for working-age retirees as the department’s most cost-effective option. Prime, the most expensive coverage option for the Pentagon, is the most popular enrollment plan, with 5.2 million participants. The approach examined by CBO would allow retirees younger than 62 years old to participate in TRICARE Standard or Extra coverage after paying an annual enrollment fee.

That plan would reduce TRICARE outlays by $85 billion over the next 10 years, though total savings to the federal government would be closer to $60 billion due to deferred costs to the Veterans Health Administration and the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program, as well as reduced tax revenues.

Defense could find savings less dramatically by allowing retirees to keep their existing coverage options, but making them pay more for it, according to CBO. By increasing enrollment fees, copayments and deductibles for working-age retirees using TRICARE, Defense could save $24 billion over 10 years, though the net savings to the federal government would be $18 billion.

A third option would require a fixed cost that Medicare-eligible retirees would have to pay out of pocket, after which point Medicare and TRICARE would combine to cover 100 percent of costs. CBO used an initial out-of-pocket annual cap of $3,025 in its analysis, which would reduce the federal deficit by $31 billion over the next 10 years.

While CBO study did not factor in any changes in coverage to active-duty military personnel and their families -- all of whom receive Prime enrollment with no annual fee -- adjusting benefits to military retirees has proven politically difficult in recent weeks. The December bipartisan budget agreement found $6 billion in savings from reducing working-age military retirees’ pensions, which prompted an uproar from lawmakers in both parties. The omnibus spending agreement that Congress passed this week repealed some of those cuts, and legislators have vowed to roll back the rest of them.

“Some military retirees argue that they initially joined the military and remained for their entire careers with the understanding that they would receive medical care for free or at a very low cost after retiring,” CBO said in its report. “Significantly limiting TRICARE coverage for military retirees and their dependents would impose a financial cost on many of those beneficiaries and could adversely affect military retention.”

CBO also noted, however, only a “small fraction” of military personnel serve long enough -- 20 years -- to become eligible for TRICARE as retirees. The analysis also examined cost-saving measures such as better management of chronic diseases and more effective administration, but CBO concluded it offered only a fraction of the savings that increasing TRICARE costs would yield.

As required by the 2013 National Defense Authorization Act, the Pentagon currently is reviewing military pay and benefits -- including health care programs -- with its Military Compensation and Retirement Modernization Commission, which is scheduled to issue a report in early 2015. Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel has said the status quo cannot continue.

“We will work with Congress to bring the rate of growth of our compensation and benefits programs in line with budget limitations and fiscal realities,” Hagel said in December, in response to the budget deal.

President Obama also proposed TRICARE fee hikes targeting military retirees in his fiscal 2014 budget. (The preceding is a write-up from NEXGOV that discusses an increase cost, especially for us after becoming of age to have Medicare (65 years old). Look at paragraph six (6) that starts with; A third option. I do not like the annual cap of $3,025.00 that we will have to pay.)

Submitted by AGCM Lloyd Corbett USN RET via LCDR J.E. Kerr, USN RET
2014 NWSA REUNION ITINERARY

SUNDAY 27 APRIL
0900 - Reunion Preparation Committee meets in Lobby
1300 - Hospitality Room opens
1300 - Registration station opens
1500 - Executive Board meets in Broad Street Station (On 2nd Floor)
1600 - Hotel Check-in (Rooms may be available earlier)
1600 - Hospitality Closes to prepare for Welcome-Aboard Party
1730 - Welcome-Aboard Party in the hospitality room
???? - Hospitality Room closes

MONDAY 28 APRIL
0600 - Hospitality Room opens (Coffee and doughnuts)
0800 - Registration Station opens
0900 - Tour bus departs for downtown Pensacola Tour, Two-Bell Ceremony at Veterans Park,
      lunch at McGuire’s Irish, and a trip to Joe Patti’s Seafood Market
1000 - 1100 Hospitality Room closes for Two-Bell Ceremony (reopens following the ceremony)
1400 - Tour Bus returns to Crowne Plaza Hotel
1500 - First General Membership Meeting in ballroom
1700 - Trolley departs hotel for the Blue Wahoo’s Baseball Game
???? - Trolley returns to the Crowne Plaza Hotel after the game
DINNER ON YOUR OWN TONIGHT
???? - Hospitality Room closes

TUESDAY 29 APRIL
0600 - Hospitality Room opens (Coffee and doughnuts)
0815 - Tour Bus departs for N.A.S. Pensacola for tour of National Aviation Museum,
        Blue Angel Practice Show, lunch at the Officer’s Club, and tour of the National
        Flight Academy (Bring your camera for group pictures)
1630 - Last trolley departs for the Crowne Plaza Hotel
DINNER ON YOUR OWN TONIGHT
???? - Hospitality Room closes

WEDNESDAY 30 APRIL
0600 - Hospitality Room opens (Coffee and doughnuts)
0730 - Golfers depart for AC Read Golf Course at NAS Pensacola
1200 - Bidding on Silent Auction items ends
1400 - Second General Membership Meeting in Broad Street Station
Executive Board Meeting in Broad Street Station immediately following general meeting
1600 - Hospitality Room closes for banquet
1745 - Group picture at the Atrium
1800 - No-Host Cocktails in Ball Room
1900 - Banquet

THURSDAY 1 MAY
0600 - Hospitality Room opens (Coffee and doughnuts)
1200 - Hotel Check-out
Membership Renewal and Address Change Form

Eligibility: Any person, military or civilian, who has served honorably, or been closely associated with any unit of Naval Weather Service, its branches or detachments, ashore or afloat, is eligible for membership. The spouse of a deceased member shall be eligible for continued membership in the NWSA.

Life membership: $175.00 (includes Membership Plaque if requested)
Active Duty: $20/year
Retired/Inactive: $20/year + $10 Registration fee (new members)
Annual Renewals: $20/year
Expired Membership (lapsed more than 1 year): $20/year + $10 Registration Fee

Make all Check Payable to: Naval Weather Service Association, 515 Ashley Road, Cantonment FL 32533-5610
Questions: NWSASecTreas@panhandle.rr.com Tel: 850 968 0552 (No Credit/Debit Cards)

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What You Missed at Reunion #40 in Pensacola!

Don’t Miss Out on #41 in Nashville!!!