



The Grumman-Northrop Grumman Retiree Club

Newsletter



November 2016

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CLUB HEADQUARTERS/ PARENT CHAPTER

Bethpage, New York

President, Betty Bohlander, (516-575-3777)

CHAPTERS / MEETING LOCATIONS:

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

California - San Diego / San Diego
President, Pete Belay, (858-484-7307)

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

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

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

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

Florida - Spacecoast / Melbourne
President, Bob Prais (321-242-5782)

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

Florida - Treasure Coast / Port St. Lucie
President, Dan Knowles (772-288-2758)

Georgia - Peach Pit / Milledgeville
President, Janet Sills (706-485-0839)

Maryland - Glen Arm / Belair
President, Rick Swinder (410-977-7829)

New England - New England North / Dorset, VT
President, Bill Egner (802-446-2062)

New York - Bethpage Chapter & Club HQ
President, Betty Bohlander, (516-575-3777)

New York - Eastern Long Island / Riverhead
President, Bert Moller (631-864-4377)

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

Pennsylvania - Northeast PA / So. Sterling
President, Charles Dowd (570-491-2125)

South Carolina
Coastal Carolinas / Myrtle Beach
President, Robert Joyce (910-575-2309)

Virginia - Central Virginia / Monticello
President, Fred Meiners (434-589-2882)

Thomas C. McKessey
October 15, 2016

Thomas McKessey joined Grumman Aerospace Corporation in 1963 as Lunar Module Group Leader, responsible for directing Manpower, Planning, and Control Functions for the LM Engineering Department. In 1967, he was appointed LM Program Control Manager. From 1968 to 1970, he was Manager - Program Control - Space. Tom served as Manager of Manpower Planning Projects for Grumman Aerospace, from December 1970 to January 1973,

In February 1973, Tom joined Grumman Data Systems as Director of Financial Planning and Analysis and then became Assistant Treasurer. Between 1979 and August 1983, he served as Treasurer and as the Vice President for Finance. Tom became Senior Vice President of Marketing and Program Operations in September 1983. In April 1985, he was appointed Senior Vice President - Information Services and Operations, for Grumman Data Systems Corporation.

Bernard J. St. John
August 17, 1921 – October 20, 2016

Ben St. John was a Grumman employee for 34 years. However, he was just a bit different from the rest of us. The day after December 7, 1941, when President Roosevelt declared that a state of war existed between Japan and the United States, Ben - who was already registered for the draft - decided that rather than be drafted, he was going to pick a branch of the service where he could do damage to the enemy. He decided that Naval Aviation was for him.

He became a Naval Aviation Cadet, Seaman Second Class, on July 17, 1942. After six months of physical and survival training, primary flight training, and Final Flight Training at Naval Air Station, Corpus Christi, Texas, he was awarded the Navy Aviator's Wings of Gold. Operational training as a Torpedo Bomber Pilot began and was followed by Carrier Qualifications, practicing landing on and taking off from a stationary simulated flight deck. He was then sent to Hawaii as a replacement pilot. Ben reported to Torpedo Squadron 18 in early August, then to the Intrepid Aircraft Carrier CV11 and headed to the combat zone. His first combat flight was on September 7, 1944 at Palau; his last combat flight was on November 25, 1944. He flew 23 combat flights (100 flight hours) between September and November.

Ben was presented with the Air Medal by the Secretary of the Navy for his participation in a strike against enemy installations at Tansui Harbor, Formosa. He destroyed two oil tanks and aided other airplanes in his squadron in repelling repeated enemy fighter attacks on October 12, 1944. In May of 1945, he was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross and on July 6, 1945 Ben was awarded the Navy Cross, the second highest decoration after the Medal of Honor. The notice from the Secretary of the Navy says, "By his outstanding airmanship, courage, and devotion to duty, Lieutenant, Junior Grade, St. John contributed to the infliction of costly damage upon the enemy and upheld the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service." The action that earned Ben the Navy Cross was on October 24, 1944. We are all proud of Ben and grateful to him.



Scholarship Applications for 2017

Applications for our 2017 Scholarship Awards Program may be obtained at Chapter meetings, at our web site (www.grummanretireeclub.org), or by sending a request for application, together with a stamped, self-addressed envelope, to the mail address below. Again, thank you. Your continuing, generous support ensured our 19th successful year of Scholarship Awards. It is the members' responsibility to provide the application and encourage our grand kids to participate! Remember: the only awareness our grand kids have of our Scholarship program is through you, the members.

QUARTERLY 50/50 RAFFLE

Members of All Chapters May Participate!

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

Winners announced in the Newsletter.

Send a filled-in raffle ticket (below) and a check (payable to Grumman Retiree Club Scholarship Fund), to: Retiree Club Scholarship program, PO Box 0748, Bethpage, NY, 11714-0748.

Each raffle entry is \$5.

Please indicate how many raffles you are purchasing.

This Raffle benefits the Scholarship Fund only.

<u>Scholarship Program</u> <u>SCHOLARSHIP 50/50 RAFFLE TICKET</u>	
Name _____	
Address _____	
Town _____	State _____ Zip _____
Phone (optional) _____	
Number of Raffles Purchased _____	

Scholarship Program Contributions

Your contributions are the engine that enables our Scholarship Award Program to be an on-going Retiree Club Program for all members.

Remember: Your Scholarship Program donations are tax deductible.

Every little bit counts . . . It all adds up. Please keep your (tax deductible) donations coming . . . Send your checks (payable to Retiree Scholarship Fund) to: Scholarship Fund, PO Box 0748,

Blood Drive

**Next Scheduled Blood Drive:
December 1, 2016**

Please call the office (516-575-3777) if you wish to donate.

Bethpage Chapter Calendar

Luncheons/Meetings

Membership luncheon-meetings are held on the 4th Wednesday of the month, unless otherwise noted.

All luncheons in 2016 will be held at the Crest Hollow CC.

November 15 - TUESDAY

Speaker: Northrop Grumman's Tom Tack - Director, Next Generation Electronic Attack

**December 14 - Holiday Luncheon
Reservation form is next to last page of this Newsletter.**



Bethpage / Parent Chapter

October 19, 2016

Near record high temperatures warmed the retirees coming to our October meeting. After a great lunch, the meeting began with Sergeant-at-Arms Nick Bazzicalupo leading the Pledge of Allegiance. A moment of silence was then observed for our departed friends and for the wellbeing of the men and women in the service of our country, who fight and die for our freedom.

President Betty Bohlander, returning after a protracted recovery from surgery (*Welcome Back, Betty!!*), greeted everybody and introduced guest speaker Jim Eng. Jim is a 33 year Grumman/Northrop Grumman employee and is currently employed by Northrop Grumman. Earlier in his career, he spent many years on the F-14 program as a Human Factors engineer. Jim is now a Human Factors & Systems engineer providing support to the Navy as Mission Package Integrator for the Littoral Combat Ship (LCS) program.

Jim noted that he does voluntary work for the Intrepid Museum in NYC. He spends every weekend talking to visitors about the six Grumman aircraft on the Intrepid's flight deck. The airplanes are an F-14 Tomcat (a/c #7), an A-6F Intruder, an F-9F Cougar, an F-11F Tiger, an E-1 Tracer. The oldest aircraft is a TBM Avenger from WW-2.

When he started as a volunteer, Jim had an excellent knowledge base with regards to the F-14, having been on the program for a number of years. To obtain background information on all the other aircraft, Jim found the History Center invaluable. He spent numerous hours there digging through the archives, until he felt comfortable that he had sufficient information about each aircraft to intelligently answer any and all questions posed to him from the visitors. He now has a book with great photos showing the airplanes demonstrating capabilities of each type such as in flight refueling, etc.

Making that book from the research work that Jim did in the History Center provided his now unflinching connection to the History Center. During this research, while studying the Avenger, Jim was given the name of Grumman retiree Ben St. John who, during WW-2 had been an Avenger pilot and, uniquely, had flown off the Intrepid. Jim met with Ben on numerous occasions and once went with Ben on an Honor Flight where veterans are transported to Washington, DC for ceremonies honoring the veterans. Jim touted this event and encouraged everyone to inform any WW-2 or Korean War vet to try and get invited on an Honors Flight. All vets deserve this acknowledgement.

Jim and Ben had a 2-hour meeting in early October with Ben relating story after story. He is a recipient of the Navy Cross, the US's second-highest decoration after the Medal of Honor. The Navy Cross is awarded for "extraordinary heroism" in combat. The Secretary of the Navy bestows the Navy Cross. Ben is also the recipient of the Distinguished Flying Cross and numerous other medals. Sadly, as a postscript to the Membership meeting, the following day we learned that Ben had passed away the day before. The Club will remember this hero in a future Newsletter.

Jim then spoke of his ongoing effort with the History Center. As you all know, Larry Feliu and Ken Speiser of the History Center have written many of the Grumman History Chapters for our Newsletter.

GRUMMAN RETIREE CLUB NEWSLETTER

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POSTMASTER: Send address changes to: Grumman Retiree Club, Inc. c/o Command Direct / 310 Oser Ave / Hauppauge, NY 11788-3608



Unfortunately, Ken passed in March of this year and Larry is having health issues so Jim was asked by Ken's sister, Mildred Speiser, and Ken's longtime partner, Myrna Braverman, to take on the task of continuing to write the historical articles for the time period of 1987 forward which will complete Ken's second book of Grumman History. Jim agreed and has already completed one article for the Newsletter relating to the 1987 period at Grumman.

Jim is drawing information from old copies of *Grumman World* of which he has scanned 5 years' worth to digital files. Jim gets to work early every day and diligently reads the files. He also references books published by George Skurla, Mike Ciminera, and Jake Bussollini. Jim noted that having the ability to read the back issues of *Grumman World* for that period, it is possible to see how we transitioned from a John Bierwirth company to a John O'Brien company and finally to a Renzo Caporali company.

In the future, Jim could make all this digital data available for all to read again at their leisure. Jim then offered a discussion of an ongoing effort that he is championing, that of starting an initiative between Northrop Grumman and the Intrepid museum to support many of the museum's present on-going STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering & Math) programs for NYC youth.

Jim concluded with an announcement that through his efforts with a retiring Navy Captain, a personal friend, he will be getting a Phoenix Missile for display alongside the F-14 at the museum. Jim was given a great round of applause and a gift as a token of our appreciation for what he is doing for the Intrepid museum and for his unending efforts for the benefit of the Club.

Jim then introduced Ken Speiser's sister, Mildred, and Ken's longtime companion, Myrna Braverman. Ken's sister briefly, spoke saying that Ken, a 51 year Grumman/Northrop Grumman employee, told her that he loved working at the company; was having a wonderful time being the club historian and writing the monthly articles, and he enjoyed the Retiree Club. She thanked everyone for the support that we all gave him through our enjoyment of the articles.

She was happy that Jim Eng will continue Ken's quest to document our history in detail.

Business – Betty Bohlander:

- Betty asked if there were any changes or additions to the minutes as they appeared in the July Newsletter. There being none, the June minutes were accepted as printed.
- It is time for the election of Officers for the next two-year term. If anyone is interested in volunteering for one of the positions (laughter from audience) or would like to recommend someone, the floor will be open for nominations. Please make any intentions known to the Club Office not later than November 8. The slate of Officers will be announced and voted on at the November meeting.
- The guest speaker for the November meeting is Tom Tack, Director of Next Generation Electronic Attack for Northrop Grumman. Tom is a retired Navy Captain who flew the EA-6B among many other accomplishments.
- The Bethpage Federal Credit Union will be celebrating its 75th Anniversary on October 28 at their Bethpage Main Offices. It will feature a Swing Band Dance Off, Best Baked Dessert Contest, Performances from the USO Girls, Food and refreshment, and a Sherman Tank. The club will provide the BFCU with timely memorabilia for display. Betty also noted that the BFCU would welcome volunteers to tell Grumman related stories.
- Betty thanked all who sent her beautiful Get Well Cards and notes. They brightened her days as she recuperated.

Special Announcements - 1st VP Bob Ripp made the following announcements before the Committee Reports were read:

- Starting next year, there will one more summer month Newsletter that will remind our membership of events occurring in September and October, such as the Fall Picnics and September and October Membership meetings.
- The Club is planning a 50th Anniversary Gala in 2017, to be held at the Cradle of Aviation. The likely date will be the last Wednesday in September and will replace our monthly meeting for September. More details will be forthcoming and Gala reminders will be put each month in the Newsletter. Put the final week of September 2017 aside in all your plans.



- Frank Rizzo’s wife, Patsy, passed away on September 22nd.

**Committee Reports –
Treasurer Reports –**

- Bob Ripp provided the Club Treasurer’s report for Frank Rizzo, and reported that next year’s dues for Bethpage members will remain at \$15.
- Scholarship Fund Treasurer Linda Perrotta presented the Scholarship Fund report. Both reports were accepted as read.

Community Relations – 2nd VP Pat Sullivan

- Pat will provide a detailed list of YTD contributions at the November Membership meeting.
- Ken Speiser’s family donated a number of copies of the book that Ken had finished, in response to a request to the Club from David Grumman. David had requested copies of the book for the extended Grumman family. John Egan, of the History Center, spoke with David Grumman explaining that Ken had passed away but the family still had some books. David arranged with John Egan that the Grumman family members would send in a request for the books and a check made payable to the Scholarship Fund. The Speiser family had asked that the monies be donated to the Scholarship fund. Approximately \$500 was donated from the sale of the books. *Thank You*, to the Speiser family.

Travel – Nick Bazzicalup: Available trips:

- (1) **12/30/2016 to 1/1/2017:** New Year’s Eve Celebration. Includes deluxe accommodations at the Desmond Hotel, two live shows, choice of Valley Forge Tour, casino, or shopping at the King of Prussia Mall, New Year’s Eve party with five hours of open bar, cocktail party with hot hors d’oeuvres’, pasta station, surf and turf dinner, Champaign toast at midnight and a New Year’s Day show. \$568pp.
- (2) **4/28/17 to 5/1/2017:** Mystical Ireland Tour. Eight days, seven nights, with 13 meals. Visit Dublin, Belfast, Derry, Westport, Bunratty, and more. Price includes all tours and airfare. \$2109pp.

Nick wowed the audience with his Halloween-appropriate “witch” joke and left us laughing.

Luncheons - The Holiday Luncheon will be held on December 14th at the Crest Hollow CC, in the Plaza Room upstairs. The Reservation form is in the Newsletter. The cocktail hour features cheese, crudites platters, and hot hors d’oeuvres. Dinner choices include NY Medallions of Beef, Sea Bass Oregonata, and Chicken Francaise. If you have two couples or more that would like to be seated together, please fill out one reservation form for everyone and submit one check to pay for all attendees.

Birthdays – Ruth Carr (93 on 10/23); Marion Abbott (81 on 10/28); and Rafael Castro (91 on 9/20). ***Happy Birthday to All.***

Get Well Wishes to Rafael Castro .You have our prayers and wishes for a speedy recovery.

Prize Winners
Community Relations 50/50: Ann Donohue, Carol Farley, Adrienne Johnson, and Peter Fales
Door Prizes: Jane Klinger, Louise Kubat, Diane Bryers, Louise Kubat (again). Louise who donated her prize to the Club.
Scholarship 50/50: Conrad Petersohn. Connie generously gave his winnings back to the Scholarship Fund. *Thank You, Connie.*

Next Meeting: Nov 15, at the Crest Hollow CC

By: Lou Kubat, Sec’y.

CALIFORNIA / Golden West

Our October meeting was held at the Eagles Lodge, in Oxnard, CA. Thirteen members attended the meeting.

Lunch was served and was followed by a business meeting.

Ralph Rossbach told us about his trip to Arizona to the Hot Air Balloon festival.

Don Coler and Craig Kaston split the 50/50 drawing and donated the money to our treasury.

By: Fred Syrett, President



CALIFORNIA / San Diego

No report of October activity.

We'll wrap up the year with our Christmas luncheon on December 14, at one of our club's favorite restaurants, the 94th Aero Squadron.

By: Bill Roeckl, Sec'y.
[billroeckl@cox.net]

FLORIDA / First Coast

No report of October activity.

Future Meetings: Nov. 15 and Dec. 13, at the Ichiban Buffet on US 1 south.

FLORIDA / Manasota West

President Ted Martines opened our October 12th meeting and welcomed eleven members after we recited our Pledge of Allegiance to our Flag. The Treasurer's report was provided by John Zinna, along with a short update on email received from snow-bird members returning south in October. Our meeting was conducted in the River View dining room at Pier 22, in Bradenton, FL, overlooking the marina and river.

Vice President Bob Nyberg also greeted everyone and shared tales of his Swedish heritage, which generated conversation of all our Nordic adventures and fond memories of Grumman travel experiences. Soon we were talking about the Swedish warship Vasa, built in 1628 and foundered just 1,400 yards into her maiden voyage due to insufficient ballast. She fell into obscurity. The ship was located in the 1950s, and raised in 1961. Since her recovery, Vasa has become a symbol of the Swedish "great power period" and is today a de facto standard for evaluating the historical importance of shipwrecks

During the 1961 recovery, thousands of artifacts and the remains of at least 15 people were

found in and around the Vasa's hull by marine archaeologists. Among the many items found were clothing, weapons, cannons, tools, coins, cutlery, food, drink, and six of the ten sails. The artifacts and the ship herself are now housed in a beautiful museum built around the ship. The ship and the artifacts have provided scholars with invaluable insights into details of naval warfare, shipbuilding techniques, and everyday life in early 17th-century Sweden.

VP Bob then entertained the group with his latest humor and was encouraged by Cathy DeGeorge who kept the group smiling, right through our transition to John DeGeorge's experiences while working for 25 years at Northrop Corp. This appropriately led to varied discussions of "where were you when the merger took place?" Good discussions and memories.

Jim Murray provided copies of his summer catch of Aerospace Magazines, which were raffled off along with our 50/50 drawing. No one was going to get rich on the 50/50 as so much of the winnings were donated back, but the magazines were gratefully taken.

Next Meeting: Nov 9, Noon, at the Pier 22 Restaurant in Bradenton, FL. We invite any Grumman or Northrop Grumman retirees or current employees who are in the area to stop in and enjoy the conversation.

By: John Zinna, Sec'y.
[941-705-2690; ezjohn1028@gmail.com]

FLORIDA/ Mid-West

October 2016

As Fall begins, we gathered for our annual picnic. As usual in Florida the day dawned in bright sunshine and only got better. There were 13 of us who visited for a couple of hours before we had lunch.

We were at the local beach with a restaurant where we could buy lunch . . . that way we do not have to carry coolers.



After lunch we played a few games of BINGO, and then left for home before the rush-hour traffic.

Our next gathering will be on December 15, for our Christmas party. We will have entertainment and lunch at the City Buffet on Route #50 in Brooksville.

FLORIDA / SouthWest

President Clem Moors opened our October 11th meeting at Golden Corral with the Pledge and prayer. Present were 17 members and two guests - Judy and Linda, relatives of Barbara Sidaras.

After lunch we had a brief meeting with various discussions. We decided to not have the Crime Prevention experts to our meeting until next year. Instead there is an interest to educate ourselves about mold. Linda Baldwin will contact a local environmental company to be our next speaker.

For old business, one of our members let us know that the young experts from Merrill Lynch we had as guest speakers have helped with his finances.

Tom and Mary Cummiskey have moved to an independent apartment with many amenities and are pleased to have done so.

Peter Harrington has volunteered to notify the membership by email of future meetings. This will be in addition to our Calling Post message.

Next Meeting: November 8, at Golden Corral on Route 41 Punta Gorda. Vote before you come.

Jan/Mar/May meetings will be the second Tuesday, at Golden Corral.

By:
Clem Moors [239-283-294; clemtony@juno.com]
Linda Baldwin [lsbaldwin48@gmail.com]

Ed. Note: The Chapter will not meet in December, February, and April.

FLORIDA / Space Coast

October 19, 2016

A bright post-hurricane sun welcomed more of our snowbirds back to the Suntree Country Club dining room for our October meeting. Following our Pledge, prayer, and buffet lunch, President Bob Prais introduced a very special speaker, our own Past President George Graefe, the head of our Grumman Gremlins Restoration Team.

George gave us a succinct narration detailing the past, present, and future of this talented group of artisans who have created a unique display of vintage aircraft at the Warbird Museum. It was 22 years ago that founder Harold Larkin pulled together a group of retired Grummanites with varying skills to tackle their first restoration job: a decrepit FM-1 (F4F-3) Grumman Wildcat, assembled by Eastern Aircraft (General Motors) from parts manufactured by Grumman. Incredibly, this aircraft, ditched in Lake Michigan during a training flight in September 1943, was recovered from the bottom of the lake by the Navy 48 years later, arriving at the museum in 1994. The Gremlins put in over 21 thousand volunteer hours and 19 thousand donated dollars restoring this aircraft to pristine conditions. Among other aircraft restored by this creative crew were a Grumman F9F-5 Panther, a Grumman F-11F-1 Tiger, and an ME-108 Messerschmitt, to name just a few.

Currently, the Gremlins are putting the finishing touches on a British Canberra B-2 jet powered bomber which was converted to a reconnaissance aircraft and used in mid-1953 to fly clandestine photographic missions over a Soviet long range missile testing site east of Volgograd. Work has also started on the restoration of a North American F-100 Super Sabre and the re-upholstering of the interior of a Boeing B-52 forward fuselage.

What next? The Samuel Oschin Air and Space Center, in Los Angeles, has requested that our Gremlins bring another "life" to another Grumman "Cat", an F-11F-1 Tiger which has been "resting" on a pylon for 30 years at the Admiral Farragut School



in St. Petersburg, FL. Due to arrive in December, it brings to our restorers a special challenge: the end product will have to meet California earthquake requirements as it will be hanging from the ceiling of the Science Center above the challenger Space Shuttle.

We trust that master mechanic Harold Larkin is looking down on the restoration hanger that bears his name and is proud of the accomplishments of the organization he created. George closed by making the point that there are many non-Grumman volunteers from the community at large who donate their time and talents to the restoration programs.

Sunshine: Chet Emery (321) 254-2562) reported that get-well wishes were sent out to Joe Mullings and Maryann Lau on their upcoming surgeries for hip and knee replacements.

Treasurer: Bill Waldron reported that the last of the supplementary scholarship payments have gone out to the schools of prior year winners, hopefully easing the cost of supplies for the coming year. The annual contribution from the Bethpage Federal Credit Union has been gratefully received, and, with the numerous contributions of 50/50 winners, the Scholarship Fund seems to be stabilized going into the end of the year.

Travel: Maureen Ayers, reporting in on her recent senior train excursion to West Virginia, gave rave recommendations to the sponsor, Rhodes Scholar. Based on this trip plus prior experience, she gives top rating to this organization for its 3 to 7 day educational trips. In West Virginia, they got to visit train buffs restoring vintage trains, had daily excursions that included Appalachian entertainment, and visited the formerly highly secretive Greenbrier nuclear shelter. This A-Bomb proof facility was buried deep in the ground, disguised as part of the Greenbrier Clubhouse building—cots were reserved by name for members of Congress during the Eisenhower administration.

New Business: There was considerable discussion of our Chapter's annual sponsorship of Thanksgiving Dinner for the residents of our local Veterans

Transitional Facility. This unique organization provides temporary housing and food for veterans and their families who are having difficulty finding jobs and/or adjusting to civilian life. Unfortunately, our point man for this effort, Joe Mullings, is indisposed while awaiting surgery, so many of the details of this year's meal were not available for this meeting. In spite of this, our generous membership was already contributing funds to support this festive occasion - over \$500 was booked as of this writing. We have always refused to classify this as "charity". This is just our Chapter's way of saying "Thank You" to some of our veterans.

Following a general discussion, we voted to donate \$300 to the Valiant Air Command for the specific support of the Grumman Gremlins.

Our November meeting will feature Mike Muller speaking about Long Term Care.

50/50 Drawing: There were six 50/50 winners. The grand prize, consisting of a gift certificate to Amici's Italian Restaurant and a bottle of wine, was won by Pat Postupack.

Congratulations to all!

Employees Birthdays October: Leonard Anderson, Everett Bennett, Peter Saladino, Terry Vourakis, Frank Filipo, Cindy Roberts, Richard Cheslack, and Gary Bigel.

Spouse Birthdays October: Trish Woodruff, Barbara Waldron, Patricia Cardile, and Susan Reilly.

Anniversaries October: Ron & Beverly Heuer, Chet & Anna Lee Emery, Leonard & Barbara Anderson, Bel & Josephine Carter, George & Maureen Haggerty, Peter & Virginia Saladino, Sal & Anne Cioffi, Gordon & Trish Woodruff, Bill & Camille Steenson, Ed & Katherine Barty, and Larry & Winnie Pike.

Bill Steenson, Sec'y.

Next Meetings: November 16, December 14



FLORIDA / Suncoast

The 10/19/16 Meeting of the Suncoast Chapter was opened at Noon, at the Hibachi Buffet, in Pinellas Park. FL by Vice President Lyn Mohr, with five members and one guest. President Ben Hurley had a family emergency. Sergeant-at-Arms John Kucin led the Pledge of Allegiance and Secretary Patricia Newark gave the Prayer.

The members expressed concern about the declining membership and the possibility that the Chapter should consider disbanding. Discussion on this subject will continue at our future meetings.

All of the members present paid their \$15 Dues for 2017, so that their Club memberships will continue even if the Chapter disbands.

50/50 Winners: Sofia Giouvalakis and Lyn Mohr.

Birthdays: Sofia Giouvalakis and Lyn Mohr. Two lucky ladies!

2017 Dues of \$15 are due. Make check payable to: *Grumman Retiree Club, Suncoast Chapter*, and mail to: John A. Newark, Treasurer, 4545 Plaza Way, St. Pete Beach, FL 33706-2513. [NewarkJohn@rocketmail.com; (H) 727-360-7339 or (C) 727-460-8841]

Future Meeting Dates:

11/16/16; 12/14/16 = Christmas Holiday Party; bring a Grab Bag Gift;
1/18/17; 2/15/17; 3/15/17; and 4/19/17.

By: Patricia E. Newark, Sec'y.
[(H) 727-360-7339 or (C) 727-460-8841;
LionPattySecretary@yahoo.com]

FLORIDA / Treasure Coast

Our October 20th meeting was held at the Allegro Inspired Senior Living.

Chaplain Larry Regier led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance and gave the invocation.

Lunch at the Alegro was a very pleasant occasion. The lunch was excellent and the service was very accommodating.

Funds for our scholarship were discussed; money for a high school student will be available in March or April.

Bob Watkins was at a function and had a conversation with David Grumman, son of Leroy. David told Bob the reason he did not work at Grumman after college: He felt it would be best to go out on his own. He did not want any employees thinking that there would be favoritism because he was the boss' son. He did very well on his own and is a CEO.

Birthdays: John Churchey - October 31.

Sick Members: None.

By: Janet Cuce
[772-344-1838; jjcuce@comcast.net]

GEORGIA / Peach Pit

The October 18, 2016 meeting at El Tequila Mexican Restaurant, Milledgeville, GA, started at 12:30PM. There were 16 present when Vice President Ted Zarkowsky called the meeting to order and asked Sergeant-at-Arms Designee Josephine Harrelson to lead attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance. Then, Chaplain Designee Mary Archer gave the Blessing. The meal and fellowship followed.

Old Business:

A motion to waive the reading of, and to accept, the September 20, 2016 Meeting Minutes was made by Josephine Harrelson and seconded by Paul Bernichon. There being no changes offered, either by proxy or by those present, the motion passed.

New Business:

1. VP Ted Zarkowsky welcomed those present, extended a Happy Halloween to all, and introduced



long term Grummanite Wanda Stanley who has joined our Chapter. *Welcome Aboard, Wanda.*

2. October Happy Birthday wishes were extended to: Florella Crouch [26th]; Jesse Griffin [17th]; Joe Lasker [2nd]; Mike McCabe [17th]; Earl Seagle [22nd]; and Jim Vinson [31st].

4. October Wedding Anniversary wishes were extended to: Mike & Pam McCabe [26th]; and Steve & Kathy Willis [27th].

Member Barbara Bernichon is having medical issues. We wish her well and a speedy recovery.

Jesse Griffin won the 75/25 Fundraiser raffle and donated his winning back to the Community Service Fund. *Thank You, Jesse.*

Community Service:

A Funds disbursement was made to Boys & Girls Club on Columbus Day [10/10/16].

Program:

Today's topic was Chapter Leadership for Years 2017 & 2018. The candidates who came forward to serve are:

- Paul Bernichon for President;
- Vince Ciampa for Vice President;
- Mary Archer for Chaplain;
- Ted Zarkowsky for Sergeant-at-Arms;
- Joe Sansotta for Treasurer;
- Lew Iulucci for Secretary.

Accordingly, the Secretary has prepared an election Ballot. A motion to forward the Ballot to all Chapter Members for a vote was made by Guil Mauldin and seconded by Jesse Griffin. There being no objections by those present or by proxy, the motion carried. And, all Chapter members voting, the Ballots are due back to the Secretary by Monday, November 14th so that results of the voting may be presented at our November 15th Meeting.

A motion to end the Business meeting was made by Mike McCabe and seconded by Mike Johnson. The motion carried and adjournment was 1:30PM.

Next Meeting: November 15, 12:30M, at El Tequila Mexican Grill [168 Garrett Way, Milledgeville, Georgia 31061].

By: Lew M. Iulucci, Sec'y.
[iulucci@windstream.net; 478-452-1357]

Maryland / Glen Arm

The Glen Arm Chapter did not meet in October.

Next Quarterly meeting: December 20 at 6:30PM, at the Golden Corral (7908 Rossville Blvd, Baltimore, MD 21236), in the White Marsh / Fullerton area.

Remember: Our Retiree Club Chapter is always looking to recruit new members. If any current member knows of fellow Grummanites who aren't members, but would like to be, please pass on our contact info.

If you have any suggestions, ideas, or questions, please present them at the meeting or contact President: Rick Swinder [410-977-7829 or rickswinder@gmail.com].

New England North

No report of Chapter activity.

NEW YORK
Eastern Long Island Chapter

President Bert Moller (back from Florida) welcomed 17 members to our October 19 meeting. VP Bob Albert read minutes of the September meeting and Treasurer Pauline Sandmann gave the financial report (we're still in the black). Both reports were accepted as read.



Dutch Rotzinger reported the passing of Fred Schaeffler (9/12), Adolph LoDuca (9/23), Vincent L. Giglio (9/24), and John L. Linsay (9/27).

Pauline Sandmann reported the passing of our long time Treasurer and storyteller Marty Getzeman this past summer. He will be missed.

Our condolences go to the families and friends of these dearly departed.

The group welcomed back Marguerite Gibbons and Bill Dwyer (back after surgery).

Pres Bert told our group of his European Trip and an air show in Greenwood NJ that he attended. Bert also reported that his grandson (NY Met pitcher) Steven Matz is recovering from elbow surgery.

We had three 50/50 wining tickets, all won by Bill Dwyer, who returned one. *Thanx, Lucky!*

Birthdays:

Bob Albert (11/4); Henry Bramwell (11/4); Frank DeQuarto (11/7); Ken Becker (11/14); Ronald Christiansen (11/15); Joan Day (11/17); Bill Hamilton (our 50/50 guy - 11/22); Edward Matthews (11/26); and Johanna Albert (11/28).

Anniversaries: Ken & Anita Baker, and Marilyn (Mickey) & Mario Obertis (50 years in September). *Congrats to all celebrants!*

Any Birthdays or Anniversaries missed or dates incorrect please contact Bob Albert [631-585-7987] *After 10AM. Please!*

Mytko Report: To report deaths, illnesses, etc. contact Bill Mytko [1-864-225-4927 or ermytko@yahoo.com].

Meeting Schedule;

Next Meeting: Nov. 16, at the Coram Diner (Route 25 & Route 112). Lunch (\$15), meeting to follow.

December 15 Meeting is on Thursday, at Pauline Sandmann's Riverwoods Clubhouse, in Riverside (Riverhead)

There is NO January meeting.

Our first meeting in 2017 iwill be February 15.

Club Dues are \$15

Honor Veterans Day on November 11.

Re-released songs for Seniors include: "Papa got a kidney stone" and "You make me feel like napping"!

By: Bob Albert, VP/Sec'y. [631-585-7987]

NORTH CAROLINA
Eastern Carolina Chapter

October 12, 2016

Fortunately for all who attended our meeting, we were spared with only minimal damage from Hurricane Matthew. Unfortunately for many in North Carolina, they are still dealing with the flooding and trying to get life back to normal. Whatever normal can be when you lose your house and all your belongings due to rising rivers. Our thoughts and prayers go out to them.

Our meeting was held at a cozy Italian restaurant, La Casetta, in New Bern, NC with 24 members and guests. The food was delicious, with canolis for dessert. It is always great to see the other members.

Many thanks to our Program Directors, Bernie & Kathy Kuntz.

President Pete Mc Namee opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance. Then, Tom Schroder, in the absence of Rudy Ramcke, gave the invocation.



Pete announced that Jim Karika and Tom Schroder will be Program Directors for November 9 meeting, which will be held at the Golden Corral in Jacksonville, NC.

Rudi & Marlene Wiehl will take care of the December meeting, at the Clamdigger, in Pine Knoll Shores. Our December meeting will be on either Tuesday, Dec. 6th or Tuesday, Dec. 13th. The final date for the December meeting will be announced during our November meeting.

Pete told members he had no sunshine report, which tells us that all our members are still healthy. He asked for suggestions for names of organizations to make a charitable donation to. We decided to donate to the North Carolina Baptist Men Disaster Relief, which does a wonderful job providing meals for the suffering victims of the floods, and to the Disabled American Veterans (DAV) to help those who served in the armed forces and need special help. Treasurer Bob Lamberson, told members since our treasury is in good shape we are able to give a sizeable donation to both of these organizations.

Pete turned the meeting over to Tom Schroder for a little entertainment. Tom was in rare form this day and his litany of jokes left everyone laughing.

Treasurer Bob Lamberson then called the 50/50 winners: Joan Willemsen, Tom Schroder, and Bernie Kutz.

Pete read the birthdays and anniversaries for October:

Birthdays: Mary Rice (10/3); Grace Lamberson (10/6); Jeanette Buchham (10/7); John Sullivan (10/14); Carol Peralta (10/17); Sandy Sullivan (10/18); Chris Albers (10/27); Roseanne Dispennette (10/30).

Anniversaries: 10/15 - Bob & Grace Lamberson 55 yrs; 10/9 - Pete & Nidda Mc Namee 48 yrs.
Congratulations to all!

Pete ended the meeting and wished everyone a safe trip home and a Happy Halloween!

By: Dottie Karika, Sec'y. [dotjimk@att.net]

PENNSYLVANIA
Northeastern Pennsylvania Chapter

It was a nice sunny day in Northeast Pennsylvania for an atrium luncheon. The Rademachers, Zupps, and Sparkowskis were in attendance.

Most of the conversation was about the Second Honeymoon of Marianne & Edward Sparkowski, celebrating their 50 years of marriage. They related their time with their youngest son, John, who - on October 6th - was celebrating his 26th anniversary. Those five days, which was only supposed to be a day and a half, was filled with great times and a fast evacuation from John's home in Kingsland, GA, to a campground 130 miles northwest of Kingsland near Macon, GA to escape the hurricane. We finally left the campground on Sunday the 9th, and arrived in Fort Wilderness in the afternoon. From then on it was a great time celebrating our anniversary.

Dues are due before the end of the year. Remember: our dues are still \$15. Send your check (payable to "The NEPA Grumman Retiree Club" and not to Fred) to Fred Rademacher, PO Box 1012, Milford, PA 18337-1012.

October Birthdays: Sal DeLuca, Albert Hey, Dan Knowles, and Richard Petrusa.

October Anniversaries: Albert & June Hey, and Edward & Marianne Sparkowski (50 years).

50X50 was won by Alberta Rademacher.

Next Luncheon: Nov 17, Noon, at the Boathouse, Route 507 in Hawley. Final arrangements for the Christmas Party and Last meeting of the year will be discussed.

By: Edward J. Sparkowski, Sec'y/Chaplain



SOUTH CAROLINA
Coastal Carolinas Chapter

Our October 5th meeting was cancelled due to Hurricane Matthew.

As the evacuations started on October 5th, and traffic on the roads was heavy, we felt it was in the best interest of everyone to be safe and avoid any unnecessary driving.

I sent an E-mail to our Club Members and - as far as I heard all - of our Chapter Members are doing fine.

Next Meeting: November 2, at Ryan's Family Steakhouse [843-272-1051], 3607 Hwy. 17 S., North Myrtle Beach, SC.

All Grumman, Northrop Grumman, and Northrop retirees in the area are welcome to join us. Guests are also welcome.

By: Kathy Fleischer, Sec'y.

VIRGINIA / Central Virginia

On a beautiful fall day, our second meeting of the season was held at Crab Louie's Restaurant, (Midlothian, VA) on October 12, 2016, with only five members able to make it. We opened our meeting with a silent prayer and then had a good time chit-chatting while we enjoyed the excellent seafood.

Attendees:

We had only 5 attendees: Ed Samson, Frank & Beverly Purstell, Maryanne Muller, and Anna Dannenhoffer.

Missing:

- Rich Benske and Jackie Howes: Rich had medical problems. Jackie (Rich's guest) informed us that, on October 22, she plans on moving to Louisville, KY to be with her older son. Rich and the rest of us will miss her. Good Luck, Jackie!
(Rich is also planning a future move to be closer to his daughter in Arkansas.)

- Fred & Marjorie Meiners, were traveling to Georgia with the Motor Home Club.
- Harold Case had another commitment
- Dot Marsh (ex. Sperry employee – Maryanne's guest) had to work.
- Frank Edwards is doing fine; he felt it was too far away for him to go.

Business:

- (1) We're still collecting cell phone numbers for reference. Please send to Frank Purstell [spurs@gmail.com]
- (2) Our Treasury was reported as being solvent.
- (3) Our dues for 2017 will remain the same, at \$15.

Next Meetings:

Nov 9, 12:30PM: at the Silk Mill, 101 Woodmark Street, Orange, VA [540-672-4010]. Directions: Exit 136 off I-64.... US 15 North. Go approximately 22.3 miles (about 40 minutes). After car dealership on the Right, make Right onto Woodmark Street. Restaurant is on Left. If you pass Sheetz station on US 15, you have gone TOO far.

Dec 14, 12:30PM: The Purstell residence - 317 Meadow Beauty Court, Waynesboro, VA. Directions: West on Rte 64. Take Exit 91 (Rte 340 North) one traffic light; turn left onto Lou Dewitt Blvd; go about 2 miles. Cross Route 250; road becomes Phelam Drive. Go seven streets on left, and turn left onto Meadow Beauty Ct. End of street on left corner: Number 317; Red Brick House.

Hoping to see MORE of you Grummanites . . . we'd like "y'all" to join us!

By: Marjorie Meiners

In Memoriam

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

Angst, William	Valley Stream, NY	10/01/2016
Calpakis, Thoedore	Brentwood, NY	09/30/2016
Giglio, Vincent L.	Middletown, NJ	09/21/2016
Lindsay, John L.	Manorville, NY	09/27/2016
LoDuca, Adolph (Duke)	East Islip, NY	09/29/2016
Massaro, Ralph	Williston Park, NY	10/17/2016
McKessey, Thomas	St. James, NY	10/15/2016
Odermatt, Patricia	Rockville Centre, NY	10/16/2016
St. John, Ben	Huntington, NY	10/20/2016

Note: In the October In Memoriam, George Frenzel's town of residence was listed as Babylon, NY. He lived in Bayshore, NY.

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 39

1987 - "Pressure Cooker" Year

(continued from the October Retiree Club Newsletter)

In mid-March, Grumman won a \$304 million contract for continued development of the Boost Surveillance & Tracking System (BSTS) for the U.S. Air Force. BSTS is a critical component of the Ballistic Missile Defense (BDM) program that uses satellites to detect and track ballistic missiles after launch to provide early warning of an Intercontinental Ballistic Missile (ICBM) attack. BSTS was the largest space-related contract since the Apollo program. The Grumman industry team was pitted against Lockheed in the development phase of the program. The next phase of the BSTS program, to build an experimental test bed, would be a winner-takes-all future competition.

The first Long Life Vehicle (LLV) built for the U.S. Postal Service rolled off the assembly line on April 15, at the Grumman Allied facility in Montgomery, Pennsylvania. The USPS ordered 99,150 LLVs, at a cost of \$11,651 per vehicle, in a contract worth \$1.1 billion. Production would last for the next six years with a full production rate of 95 vehicles a day, beginning in October.

The fate of the A-6F program was causing a feeling of uncertainty and anxiety amongst the 3,000 Grummanites working on the Intruder program. In June, the Senate Armed Services Committee zeroed the funding for the A-6F while increasing the funding for development of the Advanced Tactical Aircraft (ATA), the follow-on to the A-6 Intruder that would be the Navy's long range, very low observable, high payload medium-attack aircraft. An industry team of Grumman, Northrop, and LTV was in competition with a team consisting of McDonnell Douglas and General Dynamics for full-scale development of the ATA. The teams expected the contract to be awarded at the end of the year.

Grumman was back in the space business in a big way. On July 2, NASA chose Grumman to provide engineering support for the design and development of the space station, in a contract worth a potential \$1.2 billion. The 11-year contract to coordinate and integrate assembly of the space station would require over 1,000 engineers and technical specialists. The work would be performed by the new Grumman Space Station Program Support Division, to be headquartered in Reston, Virginia. Former Apollo astronaut Fred Haise would head up the new division.

In a company statement, Chairman John Bierwirth said, "Space played a major role in Grumman's past, and it is important to our future".

Amid the uncertainty in the A-6F program, the first A-6F was rolled out in a ceremony at Calverton, on August 3. This airplane was the first of five prototypes to be built during full-scale development of the A-6F. First flight of the A-6F was scheduled for later in the month.

A few days later, on August 5, Grumman was awarded a \$245 million contract to help the People's Republic of China's air force modernize their F-8 jet fighters with sophisticated radar equipment. The contract was actually with the U.S. Air Force, under the Foreign Military Sales (FMS) program. FMS is the linchpin of efforts at military cooperation between the two countries and is known as "Peace Pearl".

Grumman History - Chapter 39

1987 - "Pressure Cooker" Year

(continued from previous page)

A-6F Intruder prototype No. 1 took off on its maiden flight on August 26. The first prototype was built to test both the airworthiness of the A-6F, which had slight external differences from the A-6E, and the new General Electric F404 engines, which provided 1,500 lb more thrust per engine than the A-6E's engines. The airplane hit an airspeed of 300 knots and reached an altitude of 25,000 feet.

Grumman announced on September 30 that it had acquired Fairchild Republic Company's Long Island Engineering Center in Farmingdale, New York. The deal included the A-10 flight simulation laboratory and the 120-member engineering support team for the U.S. Air Force's A-10 aircraft. Most of the engineers were scheduled to work in Building 112, in Melville, as part of Grumman Aircraft Systems' Air Force Programs group, while the A-10 simulator and its staff would be housed in Plant 14, in Bethpage.

Speaking to the Grumman technical community at the company's headquarters in Bethpage, on October 15, Grumman President John O'Brien and Vice Chairman of Technology Will Bischoff announced the creation of the Office of Corporate Technology. "The Office of Corporate Technology is designed to bring Grumman's technological assets – our research efforts, technology development activities, facilities and people – into focus at the highest management level," said Bischoff. The Office would consist of five units: the William T. Schwendler Development Center; the Corporate Research Center; Engineering; Technology Development; and Advanced Concepts. The Office would go into effect on January 1, 1988 and would be staffed by approximately 275 Grummanites from the technical community. Will Bischoff became its new director.

A world-shaking global financial crisis unfolded on October 19. Infamously known as "Black Monday", a chain reaction of financial distress sent global stock exchanges plunging in a matter of hours. In the United States, the Dow Jones Industrial Average dropped 22.6%. It was the sharpest market downturn in the United States since the great depression. The Grumman Pension Fund, worth over \$1.9 billion, survived the stock market crash. Over 25,000 Grummanites were members of the Grumman Pension Plan at that time. While the stock market dropped about 23% during October, the Pension Fund's equity assets dropped only 13%. Management of the Pension Fund was performed in house. However, the equity fund of the Grumman Employee Investment Plan (EIP) did not fare much better than the rest of the stock market: While the entire stock market plummeted 30%, the EIP equity fund dropped 27%.

On November 14, Grumman chief test pilot Kurt Schroeder and back-seater Ed Flanagan took the first production F-14A+ on its maiden flight. The A+ used the new General Electric F110-GE-400 turbofan engines, which allowed the Tomcat to climb and accelerate faster, spend more time on combat air patrol (CAP), and catapult off the carrier flight deck without the use of afterburners. The engines gave the Tomcat thirty-percent more thrust than the Pratt and Whitney engines in the "A" version. The F-14A+ aircraft was an interim design until the new F-14D, with its advanced radar and weapon systems, could be delivered to the Navy in early 1990. Grumman had a contract to build 38 production

Grumman History - Chapter 39

1987 - "Pressure Cooker" Year

(continued from previous page)

F-14A+ airplanes and retrofit another 32 from F-14As. Less than two weeks later - on November 23 - the F-14D avionics development aircraft flew for the first time, at Calverton, NY.

On December 1, a Boeing-led team won the contract for NASA's Space Station Work Package One. This contract called for building two Space Station modules to be used as a laboratory and as crew quarters, along with environmental and life support systems and associated equipment. Grumman Space Systems Division had the responsibility to design and build the station's crew quarters. About 100 Grummanites, in Bethpage and Houston, worked on the project.

The U.S. Navy announced on December 23 that the industry team consisting of McDonnell Douglas and General Dynamics had been selected to develop the Advanced Tactical Aircraft. This was a huge disappointment to Grumman.

At year-end, Grumman President John O'Brien talked with Grumman World about the company's performance in 1987. When asked about his prediction the previous year that 1987 would be pressure cooker year, John O'Brien said, "Yes, new laws and regulations about how we finance our business continued to change, and pressures on the defense community and the defense budget mounted. Our people continued to be concerned about their jobs. We had several major development programs going on at the same time. All this put tremendous pressure on us."

By: James Eng

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**I wish to reserve seats at the December 14, 2016 Holiday Luncheon (Noon to 4 PM)
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<u>FULL NAME (please print)</u>	<u>PHONE NO.</u>	<u>CHECK ONE</u>			<u>CHECK ONE</u>	
		<u>BEEF</u>	<u>FISH</u>	<u>CHICKEN</u>	<u>RETIREE</u>	<u>GUEST</u>
1. _____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
2. _____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
3. _____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
4. _____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
5. _____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
6. _____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
7. _____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
8. _____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
9. _____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
10. _____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
11. _____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
12. _____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

- All tables seat twelve. A minimum of ten is required to reserve a table.
- Seven days notice is required to receive a full refund.

- Please send one check to cover lunch for you and your guests.

Attached please find \$ _____ representing \$35.00 per person for _____ people.

Ticket Purchase Deadline is December 7, 2016

Table Captain: _____

Address: _____

E-Mail address: _____

Remarks: _____

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Please mark envelope: "Holiday Luncheon"

No tickets will be issued.

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



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Newsletter

Editor: Neil Klaskin
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