



The Grumman-Northrop Grumman Retiree Club

Newsletter



December 2014

Volume 47, Issue 11

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CLUB HEADQUARTERS/ PARENT CHAPTER
Bethpage, New York
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California - San Diego / San Diego
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Florida - First Coast / St. Augustine
President, Fred Bauer (904-819-9817)

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Florida - Mid-West / Spring Hill
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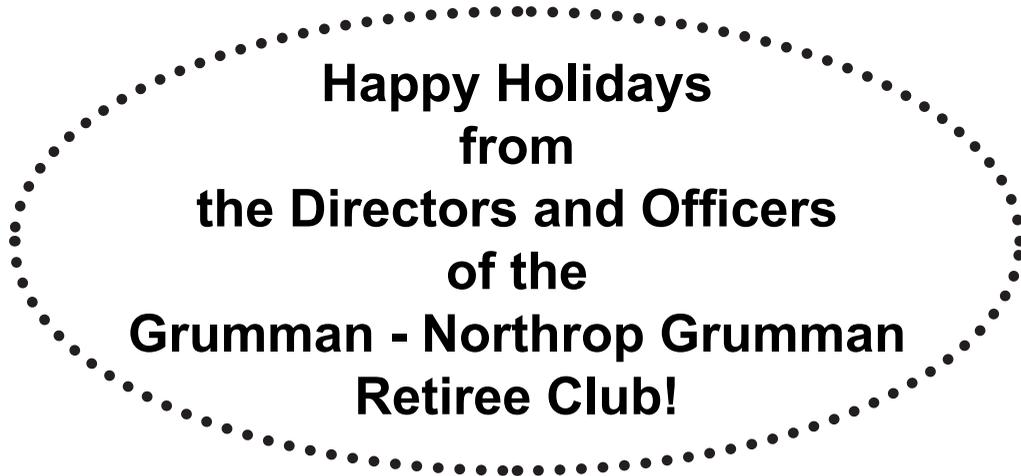
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**Happy Holidays
from
the Directors and Officers
of the
Grumman - Northrop Grumman
Retiree Club!**

**Interesting E-2C/E-2D update can be found in the
Space Coast Chapter report, page 10.**

Holiday Scam Warning: see page 3.





Scholarship Program Contributors

The Scholarship Fund Directors and the Retiree Club thank the following for their donations:

**Bergwerk, Joseph
Savasta, Robert
Scheuing, Dr. Richard**

**Grumman Retiree Club
2015 All Chapter Scholarship Awards
Program**

Application forms for the Scholarship Awards program for 2015 are now available. It is the members' responsibility to provide the application and to encourage our Grandkids to participate! Remember: the only awareness our Grandkids have of our Retiree Club Scholarships is through you, the members.

Applications may be obtained at your local meetings, or at grummanretireeclub.org, or by mail (self-addressed stamped envelope to Scholarship Fund, PO Box 0748, Bethpage, NY, 11714-0748).

Thank you for continuing the Grumman tradition of supporting education. Your contributions are the Engine that enables our Scholarship Award Program to be a continuing Program for all Retiree Club Members.

GRUMMAN RETIREE CLUB NEWSLETTER

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Please Keep Your (Tax Deductible) Donations Coming . . .

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

**2015 Scholarship Program
50/50 RAFFLE**

Members of All Chapters May Participate!

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

Winners announced in the Newsletter, after each quarterly drawing.

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

Everyone has a chance to win.

**This Raffle benefits the
Scholarship Fund only.**

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

Name _____
Address _____
Town _____ State ____ Zip _____
Phone (optional) _____
Number of Raffles Purchased _____



BE ON THE ALERT: THE HOLIDAY SCAM SEASON IS HERE!

Just when you think you've heard it all, here comes another scam. This one is very clever. Be very careful out there! One could easily fall for this - - - Beware of people bearing gifts!

Someone it happened to says it works like this:

“Wednesday a week ago, I had a phone call from someone who said that he was from some outfit called: “Express Couriers” asking if I was going to be home because there was a package for me. The caller said the delivery would arrive at my home in roughly an hour. About an hour later, a uniformed deliveryman turned up with a beautiful basket of flowers and wine. I was very surprised since it did not involve any special occasion or holiday, and I certainly didn't expect anything like it.

Intrigued about who would send me such a gift, I asked who the sender was. The deliveryman's reply was, he was only delivering the gift package, but allegedly a card was being sent separately (the card never arrived). There was also a consignment note with the gift

He went on to explain that, because the gift contained alcohol, there was a \$3.50 “delivery charge” as proof that he had actually delivered the package to an adult, and not just left it on the doorstep where it could be stolen or taken by anyone.

This sounded logical and I offered to pay him cash. He then said that the company required the payment to be by credit or debit card so that everything is accounted for.

My husband pulled his wallet out of his pocket with the debit card, and the delivery man asked my husband to swipe the card on a small mobile card machine which had a small screen and keypad where Frank was also asked to enter the card's PIN and security number. A receipt was printed out and given to us.

To our horrible surprise, between Thursday and the following Monday, \$4,000 had been charged/withdrawn from our credit/debit account at various ATM machines.

It appeared that somehow the “mobile credit card machine” which the deliveryman carried now had all the info necessary to create a dummy card with all our card details.

Upon discovering the illegal transactions on our card, we immediately notified the bank that issued the card, and our account was closed. We also personally went to the police, where it was confirmed that this is definitely a scam because several households had been similarly hit.

WARNING: Be wary of accepting any surprise gift or package, which you neither expected nor personally ordered, especially if it involves any kind of payment as a condition of receiving the gift or package. Also, never accept anything if you do not personally know, or if there is no proper identification of, the sender.

Above all, the only time you should give out any personal credit/debit card information is when you yourself initiated the purchase or transaction!”





Bethpage Chapter Calendar

Luncheons/Meetings

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

January 28: Luncheon Meeting, Crest Hollow CC.

Reservation form: page 22 of this Newsletter

February 25: Luncheon Meeting, Milleridge Inn

Reservation form: page 22 of this Newsletter

2015 Defensive Driving Course

Volunteer(s) Needed to Manage this Program!

Liz McGowan, who for years has handled the Defensive Driving courses four times a year, will be stepping down. The Club needs another volunteer to take over her responsibilities or we will be forced to terminate this activity.

A little work . . . a lot of satisfaction . . . and a great big help to your fellow Club members.

**Volunteer. Call the Club office now:
516-575-3777**

Senior Blood Drive

**Next Golden Donor Bloor Drive:
January 7, 2015 - Noon to 6 PM
at the Long Island Blood Center
1200 Prospect Avenue, Westbury, NY.**

If you need directions, please call Marion Haberman at the Blood Center at 516-478-5018.

Bethpage Chapter

As the members entered Milleridge Inn for our November 19 Luncheon and Business Meeting, they could all be heard singing one song: "Baby It's Cold Outside". The temperature was in the high 20s, courtesy of the "Polar Vortex." Everyone was soon warmed up by the wonderful fireplaces in the Milleridge Inn, which were all ablaze, generating festive light and welcome warmth. Everyone was treated to a great Milleridge meal complete with the famous Milleridge Inn hot popovers.

President Betty Bohlander called the meeting to order at 1:30PM. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Past President Marion Abbott after which Betty called for a moment of silence for deceased members and prayers for our Armed Forces throughout the world.

Due to the early date of the meeting, because Thanksgiving is next week, the November newsletter had not yet been received, however, it did arrive in the mail that afternoon.

Guest Speaker Jean Kelly was introduced. Jean spoke at a meeting ten years ago and left a lasting impression. As the Executive Director of the Interfaith Nutrition Network (INN), it seemed appropriate to ask Jean to speak again, one week before Thanksgiving. In 1983, Jean was among a small group of concerned Long Islanders who established the INN's first soup kitchen. She was a member of the INN's Board of Directors for the first ten years, serving as President of the Board for five years. Prior to joining the INN, Jean was VP of a LI-based advertising agency and then marketing services manager for JBL, the world's largest manufacturer of Hi-Fi loudspeakers. Jean has been honored by the League of Women Voters, the Mental Health Association, the National Association of Women Business owners, Molloy College, St. John's University, and the NY State Senate. She has also received the Martin Luther King Jr. Award, the Kairos Award, and the Public Citizen of the Year Award from the National Association of Social Workers -NYS Nassau County Division. Jean is in the LI Business News Hall of Fame as one of the top 50 Women on LI.



Jean thanked the Club for its support over the years, and then described how this wonderful food and support network has grown over the years, starting with the first soup kitchen in 1983 in the Village of Hempstead as an interfaith or no faith operation. Soon after its start, they recognized that the problem of hunger had become widespread on Long Island, so the group expanded the kitchens to other communities. Then, in 1984 when two guests who had been eating in the soup kitchen one night were found frozen to death in a car the next morning, the INN realized that soup kitchens were not enough and responded by opening its first emergency shelter that now offers temporary refuge and supportive services. With staff support, the guests search for a home while working or looking for employment.

The INN's network has grown to 14 soup kitchens, in 21 locations, three emergency shelters, shower facilities and donated clothing for their guests and 21 units of long-term, low-income housing. The INN'S network of soup kitchens and shelters feed approximately 8000 people each week and shelter approximately 200 men, women, and children each night. In addition, the INN network is collaborating with the V.A. Medical Center in Northport and provides housing and supportive services for homeless veterans in recovery from substance abuse. Finally, the INN determined that chronic homelessness exists and is now providing safe, well maintained, and affordable housing accompanied by a full range of supportive services aimed at enabling families to become self-sufficient. All of these services are administered with the utmost dignity to the guests. In the early spring of 2014, the Mary Brennan INN and EAC network, a not-for-profit human service agency based in Hempstead, began a partnership introducing its Employment Readiness Initiative Program to the guests of the INN. The mission of this program is to help homeless persons become employed by providing vocational and supportive services to assist homeless individuals in becoming self-sufficient. To date, 66 guests have been assisted with resumes and employment case management services. Out of the 66, 43 have had scheduled interviews, and 20 have become gainfully employed.

Jean is delighted with the response of caring Long Islanders. The retiree club's Care Cats help the

organization, along with more than 1500 other volunteers. Jean mentioned that this year she has received between 3000 and 4000 phone calls from ordinary people volunteering their services for Thanksgiving Day. She suggested that all Optimum users look at Channel 12 on Thanksgiving Day and see Jean and her husband for their annual video presentation.

Jean is a compelling and inspirational speaker. She held everyone's attention for her entire talk. So much so that she ended her presentation by telling us that if we need to raise funds, we could rent ourselves out as an audience. She also stated that she is impressed that our Club is still together and holding meetings and providing a forum for our members to meet and interact with each other; something that Jean feels is important to the human spirit.

At the conclusion of Jean's talk, 2nd VP Pat Sullivan presented Jean with a donation of \$500 from the Club for the INN. Jean was overwhelmed and expressed her sincere gratitude.



L to R: Pat Sullivan, Jean Kelly

Club Treasurer's Report- Frank Rizzo provided the near year-end account reports, adding that the Club is financially secure with continued contributions, which have generously been consistent over the years.

Frank also related a story about a book that he just finished reading. The book is "Frozen In Time," by Mitchell Zuckoff, a professor of journalism at Boston University. This true story relates a WWII tale about an issue that arose while the US was sending





warplanes to England. These airplanes were flown on a route over Canada, Greenland, and Iceland, and then ultimately to England. On November 5, 1942, a C-53 U.S. cargo plane slammed into the Greenland ice cap. Four days later, a B-17 on the search-and-rescue mission also crashed while searching for the crashed C-53. Miraculously, all nine men on the B-17 survived. The U.S. military then launched a second daring rescue operation using a J2F-4 Grumman Duck. Unfortunately, the Grumman Duck amphibious plane sent to find the men also vanished. The story relates the survival efforts of the B-17 crew over 148 days, as they were kept alive with periodic food drops until the weather relented and they were finally rescued. It then goes on to modern times when the ill-fated Grumman Duck was found frozen in 40 feet of ice and the author joins the Coast Guard and North South Polar, Inc, on a dangerous expedition to recover the remains of the lost plane's crew. Frank recommended the book for exciting reading.

Scholarship Fund- Harry Daum provided the fund status with a reminder that the 2015 scholarship season has started and that the fund is relying on the member donations for the majority of its financial success.

Community Relations - Pat Sullivan read the list of charitable organizations to which we have contributed so far this year they include LI based charities: Don Monti Memorial Foundation, Grumman Scholarship Fund, Island Harvest, John Theissen Children's Foundation, LI Visiting Nurses Association, Rebuilding Together LI, St. Vincent de Paul Society, Wounded Warrior Project, BFCU 6th Annual Turkey Drive, and the INN.

Holiday Luncheon - Marion Abbott

Our Holiday Luncheon is rapidly approaching.

Put December 10 on your calendar.

* Luncheon will be held at the Crest Hollow, from Noon to 4PM.

* Entrée Choices: Roast Beef, Sea Bass Oreganato or Chicken Milanese.

* Reservation form is in the November newsletter. Deadline: December 3.

* The price is \$35 per person.

*Reservation deadline will have passed by the time you read this in the December Newsletter. For possible late reservations, call the Club office at 516-575-3777.

The Retiree Club sends heartfelt and sincere Thanks to Marion Abbott and Pat Sullivan for volunteering to organize the Holiday Luncheon and the Scholarship Luncheon.

Get Well Cards - Get well wishes are sent to both Mike Leogrande and Charlie Farley. We all hope you get well soon, guys.

Sympathy Cards - Our condolences were sent to Bob Ripp and his family on the passing of his wife, Peggy.

Travel - Nick Bazzicalupo

Prime Time Travel 631-286-6866

• 12/13, 12/16: Manhattan Holiday Lights Tour- Narrated tour; lunch at Carmines before tour. See the decorations at Lincoln Center, Time Warner Bldg, Cartier's, Gucci, Tiffany's, Saks 5th Ave, Lord & Taylor, Macy's, St. Patrick's Cathedral, Bryant Park, Rockefeller Center Christmas Tree, and the World Financial Trade Center Atrium. \$90pp.

• 12/31: Celebrate the New Year At Noon - Daytime Midnight Madness, One hour open bar, All-star band and comedian, Dancing, full course meal with wine or soda. \$107pp.

Birthdays - Frank Lugiudice (86 yrs, 12/21); Milt Farkas (73 yrs, 11/12); Ruth Winness (85 yrs, 11/08); and Justin Perrotta (72 yrs, 1/12). Happy Birthday, All!!!

Anniversaries - Sal & Angela Sakellaridis (62 yrs, 12/21); Milt & Ola Farkas (50 yrs, 1/3). Congratulations on your milestones.

Prize Winners

* Community Relations 50/50: \$35 door prizes were won by Harry Prodromides, Carl Puma, Grace Cox, and Claudia Cinelli who generously donated \$20 to the Scholarship Fund. *Thanks, Claudia.*

* Scholarship 50/50: Harry Daum

* Door Prizes: Diane Bryers, Ray Mason, and Dorothy Leogrande



New Business – Bob Ripp

— Liz McGowan, who for years has handled Defensive Driver courses four times a year, will be stepping down. The Club needs another volunteer to take over her activities or we will be forced to terminate the activity.

— At the October Board of Directors’ meeting, it was decided that there will be a \$2 per year dues increase for each member. The additional money is needed because of increased publication and mailing costs along with decreasing membership. Together, these factors have made the cost of the Newsletter rise from \$11 to more than \$13 per member per year. This \$2 increase will not fully cover Newsletter costs; the remainder will be subsidized by the Club as has been done every year.

— Bethpage members will now pay \$15 dues (\$13 for the Newsletter and \$2 for other activities); other chapters will charge their members the \$13, which is to be remitted to the club plus whatever the chapters need to cover yearly activities. The chapters will retain the discretionary charges over \$13.

— The Club will continue to provide an annual stipend to each chapter for the chapters’ discretionary use.

— In addition to the dues increase, Board of Directors decided to reduce the number of Newsletter issues from 11 to 10 annually, eliminating the September issue since few, if any, chapter activities are conducted in August and reported in the September issue. Therefore, there will be no August and September issues starting in 2015.

Many thanks go to Marion Abbott and Pat Sullivan for arranging our lunch today.

Our last meeting of 2014 will be our Holiday Luncheon, on December 10, at the Crest Hollow CC.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made, seconded, and approved. The meeting was adjourned at 3PM with the singing of God Bless America.

By: Lou Kubat, Secy.

CALIFORNIA / Golden West

Meeting dates: 1/13 and 2/10

Our November 11th meeting was held at the Eagles Lodge in Oxnard. President Fred Syrett opened the meeting at Noon, and Sergeant-at-Arms John Urgo led us in the Pledge of Allegiance. John Torkelsen gave a prayer noting the importance of the Veterans Day celebration in giving meaning to our national character.

Our new Grumman - Northrop Grumman Retiree Club banner was displayed at the meeting.

Our program included viewing the second half of “In the Shadow of the Moon,” the spectacular Apollo-story film produced by Ron Howard. It was especially meaningful for us because so many members worked on the Lunar Module development and test program in Bethpage or at the Kennedy Space Center in Houston, TX, and White Sands, New Mexico.

It so happened that the successful moon landing made available a supply of talented labor just as the F-14 Weapons System Program at Naval Station Point Mugu, CA, was starting up. It turned out to be great timing.

Plans were made for our December meeting, which will be our traditional Christmas party.

By: Paul Aanerud, Sec’y, and John Torkelsen, Vice President.





CALIFORNIA / San Diego

No report of November activity.

FLORIDA/ First Coast

Thirty-nine members attended our November 18 meeting at the Royal St Augustine Golf & Country Club. President Fred Bauer welcomed us and led us in the Pledge, which was followed by an invocation by Chaplain Janet Cassford.

As we were finishing our meals, Fred thanked all who attended and contributed to our successful October picnic.

Fred has received correspondence from Bethpage that all chapters will be receiving a yearly stipend from Club HQ, to be used for local contributions and good will. Also, there will be one less newsletter delivered [each year, starting] in 2015 due to Summer inactivity as a cost savings to the Club. We have also received a new club banner to display at our meetings and events.

Recently, Fred and Treasurer Bob Rathje attended Employee Appreciation Day at the St. Augustine facility, where they chatted with some old friends and some new faces.

We will be having a guest speaker from the company at our December meeting on Tuesday, December 9, here at the Royal St Augustine Golf & Country Club.

Treasurer's report: "We are solvent." Please note - Bob will Start collecting 2015 dues of \$15 ea, beginning at the December meeting. Those members who wish to mail a check may do so: to Bob Rathje, 11046 Castlemain Circle East, Jacksonville, FL 322056.

Note: There has been an increase of \$2 per member for the annual dues that go to Retiree Club HQ in Bethpage, but we will NOT be raising our \$15 fee to our members at this time.

Reminders: Next month's meeting will have a 50/50 draw and several "Turkey" checks will be awarded as well.

This Saturday, Nov 22, there will be a free car show on the grounds of the school for the Deaf and Blind in St. Augustine. Come on down and join the fun at Noon.

October Birthdays: Jeanne Burhans, Ron Davies, Janet Cassford, Corinne Foley, John Saar, Laura Pinter, Denise Fleming, Tom Walsh, Carla Congro, Rose Dispennette, and Marcus Oakley.

November Birthdays: Anne Wilke, Stella Trella, Jennifer Foster, Brenda Bernier, Marie Miller, Lauren Davies, Don Kowalski, Richard Konig, Anthony Tavormina, Cathy Decrescenzo (Mrs. Waxey), and Paul Coronato.

October Anniversaries: Carol & Peter King, and Gloria & Richard Kelly.

November Anniversaries: Rena & Marcus Oakley, Cathy & Joe Decrescenzo, Dolores & Harry Munson, Barbara & Chuck Dolce, Janet & Ted Cassford, Betty & Paul Rosone, Barbara & Bob Mehl, Ruth & Art Goehler, Laura & Ray Pinter, Mary and Don Martin, Cindy & Allen McCaffery, and Marie & Tony Miller.

To all: Have a Safe and Happy Thanksgiving Holiday! Celebrate Life!

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

FLORIDA / Manasota West

No report of November activity.



FLORIDA/ Mid-West

Our November 2014 meeting was opened by President John Cornacchia at 11:30AM, with fourteen members present.

Birthdays: Bill Shay, Oct 10; Madeline Arso, Oct. 17; Gus Krayner, Nov. 2; and Bertha Seigl-Podury, Nov. 28. We wish you all health and happiness, and many more.

November Anniversary: John & Kathy Cornacchia, 52 years. Congratulations.

There were no corrections to the minutes. The Motion to accept the minutes as read was made by Judy Folde and seconded by Madeline Arso. The minutes were accepted unanimously.

The Treasurer's report was given by Gus Krayner. The motion to accept the Treasurer's report was made by Hank Mehl and seconded by Madeline Arso. The report was accepted unanimously.

Sunshine Committee

Citrus Co: We are sorry to announce the passing of Jessie Gabrus. Unhappily, her husband Frank has broken his hip.

Hernando Co: We were happy to see Arti Bellion at the meeting today, but sorry to hear that Joan is in a rehab center. We will keep you posted on her progress.

New Business: We received a letter from Retiree Club HQ in Bethpage telling us that:

1. HQ again will provide \$300 to each Chapter to be used at our discretion.
2. There will no longer be a September Newsletter.
3. The most important item: dues [that each chapter sends to HQ for each member] will be increased by \$2, beginning in 2015. Therefore, we will be increasing our dues by that amount.

Reminder: bring an unwrapped Toy for any age to be given to "Toys for Tots."

After our lunch break, we were serenaded by Tony D. We all really enjoyed him.

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

A fun time was had by all.

Future Meetings: Dec 18 & Jan 15, 11:30AM, at the Buffet City restaurant on Route 50 in Brooksville.

By: Kathy Cornacchia, Sec'y.

FLORIDA / SouthWest

President Clem Moors opened our November meeting at Tara Woods Community clubhouse with 22 members and guests. After the Pledge to our flag and a prayer, we remembered our member James DeCarmine who passed away in March.

We welcomed our new member Paul Baldwin, brother of Clem, into our chapter. Paul recently relocated to North Fort Myers. Paul played the taps in honor of our veterans who have passed.

George and Janet Daly planned a New York deli lunch for the group. The menu consisted of Matzo ball soup, Reuben sandwich (corn beef) or Rachel sandwich (pastrami), cold slaw, and dessert. Gloria Conklin baked a chocolate cake. Beverages were supplied. George was helped by Tony Perre, Jon Gold, and Barbara Roland.

We recognized several November birthdays: Ethel Czerwinski, Willy Wolter, and Gloria Conklin.

Celebrating anniversaries in November are: Tom & Mary Cummiskey (55 yrs), and Tony & Clem Moors (50 yrs). December birthdays include Tony Moors, Thomas and Mary Cummiskey.

Dues were collected by Willy Wolter. The 2015 dues will be \$15 and are payable to Willy Wolter, 5061 Winter Rose Way, Venice, FL 34293. Checks should be made payable to *Grumman Retiree Club*.

Clem read a letter from Bethpage HQ of the Grumman Retiree Club. The letter indicated the dues that each chapter will send to Bethpage, for each member, have increased to \$13.





Club HQ in Bethpage is allocating \$300 to each chapter to be used either as for donation to a charity of our choice and/or for operating expenses. We are to send the names of the charity of our choice and Bethpage will send a check on our behalf. We will discuss our charity at our January meeting.

The letter from HQ indicated there will be ten Retiree Club newsletters per year, starting in 2015, instead of the previous eleven issues per year.

We received from Bethpage the newly designed Northrop Grumman Retiree Club banner. We will display the new banner at our meetings.

Several members brought in memorabilia from their service days. Tom Cummiskey and Paul Baldwin brought in photos. Jon Gold had picture of his ship while in the Navy, and Jim Hodder had a framed display of his medals from service.

Willy & Mello Wolter spoke about their grandson who has volunteered for the Peace Corps, and is currently in training in Africa. They will keep us posted on his assignments.

50/50 winners: MaryEllen Gold, Tom Cummiskey, and Gloria Conklin.

Next Meeting: Jan 13, 11:30AM, in the meeting room of the Golden Corral, in Punta Gorda, FL.

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

Florida / Space Coast

On a bright but seasonably cool, dry, day, seventy-seven attendees at the November 19th meeting at the Suntree Country Club rose for the Pledge of Allegiance and Ed Romano's thoughtful prayer.

Following the usual tasty lunch, VP John Lau gave an informal introduction for our guest speaker, Northrop Grumman VP Bart LaGrone, Director of Airborne Early Warning & Battle Management Command and Control System — E-2D program. Bart's Naval career, including Reserve service until 2011, was in E-2 operations, paralleling his

experience at Northrop Grumman.

"Defense Begins With Detection" was his theme as he detailed how the range limitations of ship-borne radar were enhanced beyond the curvature of the Earth by the airborne systems of the E-2. He noted that the first two weeks of air strikes against ISIS were exclusively Navy, with E-2Cs providing Command and Control. He detailed how the original mission has been expanded to provide greater range for the missiles, and actual mission control and strike capability. Tribute was paid to the ruggedness of the E-2C airframe that saw fleet introduction in 1973. The E-2C has been used for air traffic control in civil emergencies when airport towers have been shut down. Bart even told of an E-2C confirmed "kill" when a drug smuggler flew into a mountaintop while trying to avoid the E-2 tracking.

The new E-2D is a dramatically enhanced aircraft designed with an emphasis on command and control - the new transmitter weighs 2,000 lbs and 60% of the fuselage has been re-designed. The Navy is procuring 25 aircraft in the present 5-year program, with funding set at \$3.6 billion. The first squadron is scheduled for deployment in March of next year. There is the possibility of additional foreign sales in the future.

Bart also touched on the venerable C-2 aircraft and the potential to extend the structures' life to 15,000 hours. Boeing is proposing replacement with a version of the Osprey, but reduced range and load capacity, along with lack of pressurization, seems to favor the modified C-2 proposal.

Our members appreciated the very informative presentation by Vice President Bart LaGrone, and we welcome him and his people to our neighborhood.

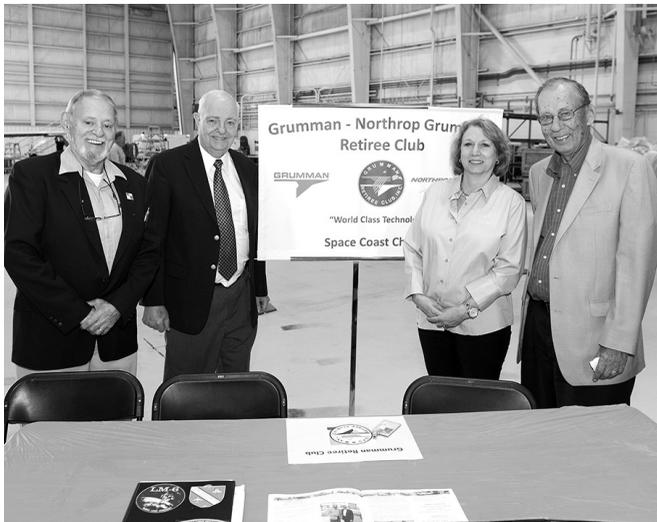
President Bob Prais then moved to a matter of new business: a letter from Bethpage informing us that (1) they could no longer absorb the increased costs of printing and mailing the monthly newsletter; (2) dues [payable to Retiree Club HQ by each chapter] would be increased \$2 per year [per member], and (3) the September newsletter will be eliminated, beginning in 2015. The letter also indicated that HQ will be providing \$300 to each chapter to support a charity of the chapter's choice or to help cover



operating expenses. After discussion, we decided that the Executive Committee would come back to the membership with their recommendations at the December meeting.

Bob also called attention to our new club banner and stand, provided by the parent chapter, which recognizes the club name as depicted in the Newsletter. He then asked for action on the slate of officers as presented at October's meeting. With no proposed revisions, the existing officers were re-elected with the addition of John Casco as second Vice President.

Our presence at the local Northrop Grumman facility for Employee Appreciation Day was reported on. During the Appreciation Day event, some 1000-1200 employees were served lunch by their management. Our representatives – President Bob Prais, VP John Lau, and Treasurer Bill Waldron - manned our display, which was equipped with our new banner proclaiming that our club welcomes both new and old corporate employees. While there, they had an opportunity to interface with Pat McMahon, corporate Vice President in charge of all military aircraft systems.



L to R: Bill Waldron, John Lau, NGC VP Pat McMahon, and Bob Prais

Treasurer: Besides reporting on the usual income and expenditures, Bill Waldron took time to review with the membership the history of our club dues over the years, citing how much goes to Bethpage

and how much goes to support our scholarship program: essentially the 50/50 supports the bulk of our operating expenses and other charities. Bill also reported the presence of visitor Dominick Chiaiese a prospective new member.

Travel: Our chapter gypsy, Maureen Ayers, reported on a local day trip to Leland to visit an inspiring spiritual attraction, Cassadaga Spiritualist Camp. She also touched on last month's visit to Las Vegas, Death Valley, and Lake Mead (now at 37% of capacity). Maureen also endorsed the use of "Road Scholars", an organization that runs educational tours with no travel agent fees.

Community Relations, Historian, Scholarship and Communications: No Report

Community Support: Joe Mullings recounted how last year we digressed from our usual holiday program of providing presents to a senior home and instead had members make donations to the Space Coast Honor Flight, which sponsors fully funded trips for World War II veterans to the various military memorials in Washington, DC. Joe, who paid his own way as an escort, described it as the most moving moments in his life. The membership agreed to repeat this program with our chapter also contributing as we did last year. Details will be firmed up at the December 17th meeting.

Veterans Transition Facility: Last month, the membership voted to fund the Thanksgiving dinner for the veterans and their families residing temporarily in the dedicated Melbourne facility while they transition to civilian life. Ron Stinton reported that - as happened last year - an anonymous member has volunteered to cover the cost of the meal while a second anonymous member will provide the pies and ice cream. The allotted club funds will be used to provide Christmas gift cards for the children at the facility.





President Bob reminded us that next month's meeting will be on December 17th and will celebrate Christmas and Hanukkah.

The meeting closed with six 50/50 awards plus a special grand prize gift basket consisting of two bottles of wine and a \$25 gift card to Publix won by Chet Emery. Congratulations to All!

Employee Birthdays November: Pat Reilly, Theodore Felber, Joseph Morales, Richard Passarella, Edward Franits, Richard Higbie, and Dan Postupack

Spouse Birthdays November: Janet Grusauskas, Camille Steenson, Susan Willoughby, Katherine Barty, Dolores Dooley, Evelyn Dunn, Marie Morgan, Joseph Mullings, and Virginia Dillinger

Anniversaries November: John & Gayle Middleton, John & Lillian Lopopolo, Frank & Fran Daidone, Nick & Anne Milonas, Albert & Julie Gagliano, Arthur & Barbara Hudson, Russ & Donna Weinert, Leonard & Anita Leslie, Jerald & Susan Willoughby, Larry & Cindy Roberts, and John & Francine Adrion

By: Bill Steenson, Sec'y.

Next Meeting: December 17, 2014

FLORIDA / Suncoast

Our November 19th meeting, our first meeting of Fall, was on a cold day here in Florida: the temp was 47 Degrees. But all true Grumman Retirees were out in full force and bundled up!

President Ben Hurley opened the luncheon meeting at Noon, with nine retirees in attendance. John Kucin led the Pledge of Allegiance. John Newark gave the Invocation. Patricia Newark gave a special Thanksgiving prayer for our retirees and Armed Services men and women serving in harm's way.

Dues for 2015 were paid by all the members in attendance. Your Treasurer thanks you. For mailing in your Dues, please mail your \$15 check (made out to: *Grumman Retiree Club, Suncoast Chapter*) to: John Newark, Treasurer, 4545 Plaza Way, St. Pete

Beach, FL 33706-2513.

President Ben displayed our new chapter banner, which was provided to us by the Grumman - Northrop Grumman Retiree Club. We thank you very much and will display it proudly at all our meetings.

Nominations and Elections: The current officers were nominated and agreed to serve for 2015. There were no other nominations. Nominations were closed. Therefore the current officers are re-elected for 2015:

Benjamin Hurley	President
Lyn Mohr	Vice President
Patricia Newark	Secretary
John Newark	Treasurer
John Kucin	Sergeant-at-Arms

Birthdays to Celebrate:

Lyn Mohr and Sofia Giouvalakis.
Happy Birthday and many more.

Anniversaries to Celebrate: Ben & Anna Hurley, 53 years; Tony & Sofia Giouvalakis, 62 years.

50/50 Winners: Ben Hurley, Ben Hurley again, and returned to the treasury, Lyn Mohr, and Patricia Newark.

Meeting closed at 1PM.

Next meetings: 12/17/14, 1/21,15, 2/18/15, 3/18/15, & 4/15/15. All meetings at Noon, at the Greek Village, Seminole, FL. Everyone enjoyed their delicious dinners.

By: Patricia E. Newark, Sec'y,
(727-360-7339) lionpattysecretary@yahoo.com



FLORIDA / Treasure Coast

Our November 20th meeting was held at Manero’s Restaurant with 53 members and two guests attending.

President Bob Watkins opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance. He announced the death of Charles Mongelli, a former Plant Manager at the Stuart Facility, and Betty Praeg, the wife of Harold Praeg. Our condolences to their families. Art Hill is undergoing chemotherapy and Fred Meyer is recuperating from a fall at the Life Care Center in Port St. Lucie. We wish them both a speedy recovery.

In the absence of Larry Regier our chaplain, Dan Knowles gave the invocation.

Our guest speakers were two representatives of the Martin County Police Department. Our first speaker was Steve Leighton, a member of the Community Ops Unit. We were happy to hear that crime is 18% down from last year. He said that we can use Facebook to find information regarding activities in Martin County, such as why do I see a canine unit patrolling the area, or a helicopter circling in the sky, or police roadblocks?

In addition to Steve, our second representative was Trisha Kukuwka, a Certified Florida Crime Investigator. She encouraged us to use the Internet or to call 911 to report any suspicious activity. She pointed out that - especially during the Holiday Season – we need to be aware of our surroundings. Also, we should always use our house and car alarms. If you see any suspicious actions in parking lots, do not go to your car: call 911. Trisha also suggested a free Residential Survey, provided by her Department. The Survey will offer suggestions to safeguard your home. Good Information.

Danny Knowles, our medical insurance guru, announced an increase in premiums by Florida Blue for 2015. His suggestions for prescription coverage are Humana-Walmart or Sigma, as an increase is in the works for Well Care. He also suggested calling 1-855-832-0976 for further information or help.

Anniversaries: Ron & Connie Gomes (59 years)

Birthdays:

- Ron Gomes (80) and Janet Cuce.
- Correction for John Borgan: he is 93, not 96

Next Meetings: Dec 18, 2014; Jan. 15; Feb. 19.

Happy And Healthy New Year To All!

By: Joan Savio, Sec’y. fj99savio@bellsouth.net

GEORGIA / Peach Pit

Our November 18, 2014 meeting at Crockett’s Cafeteria on N. Columbia Street Milledgeville, Ga. started at 12:30PM. There were 11 present when Vice President Janet Sills called the meeting to order and asked Sergeant-at-Arms Designee Jesse Griffin to lead the Pledge of Allegiance. Chaplain Designee Mary Archer gave the Blessing, which was followed by the meal and fellowship.

Old Business:

A motion to accept the October 21, 2014 Minutes was made by Paul Bernichon and seconded by Jesse Griffin. There were no changes by those present or received by proxy, so the motion passed.

New Business:

1. President Ted received a letter from Retiree Club Headquarters indicating a future annual stipend to assist with Community Service endeavors and Chapter administration expenses. Also, a new banner as follows: GRUMMAN- NORTHROP GRUMMAN RETIREE CLUB, with Grumman, Northrop Grumman, and Retiree Club logos, plus “World Class Technology”, and Peach Pit Chapter to complete the description. [Note: lettering is blue, the Club logo has not changed, and all on a 44” x 28” white field. By the way, there are roughly 2,000 residents who have worked full time for 12 months at either Grumman and/or Northrop Grumman; these and/or their next of kin meet the one-year employment eligibility for membership in our Public Charity Club. Please encourage them to join Club ranks.

2. Secretary Lew Iuliucci:





- November Happy Birthday wishes to: Marvin Avant [9th], Tim Collum [10th], and Brenda Miller[24th].
 - November Wedding Anniversary congratulations extended to: Ruby & Marvin Avant [27th], Diane & Alvin Gurr [25th], and Joe & Pat Sansotta [20th].

2015 Chapter Officers: Secretary Lew Iuliucci reported 66 Ballots were mailed and 45.5% of Chapter members responded to accept each candidate listed. Following discussion, a motion to accept the Secretary’s report was made by Earl Seagle and seconded by Mike Johnson. There were no dissenting votes, either by proxy or by those present; each candidate is thereby elected. Accordingly, Year 2015 Chapter Officers are:

Janet Sills	President
Ted Zarkowsky	Vice President
Joe Sansotta	Treasurer
Lew Iuliucci	Secretary
Wendell Barr	Sergeant-at-Arms
Willie Collins	Chaplain

Swearing in of Officers will be at the January 2015 meeting since our December meeting is a social event.

Treasurer Joe Sansotta reported:

- We have a positive bank balance
- Joe continues to request additional member donations to support “feeding the needy” with the Community Food Pantry donation at Christmas.
- Also, the Club’s stipend is a welcome addition to Chapter income and we thank Retiree Club HQ, in Bethpage, for the generosity.
- New Club member John Noack has submitted an application, bringing the Chapter to 67 members. *Welcome Aboard, John.*

Illnesses: Club members Bill Gruwell and Bill Holsenbeck, who had been hospitalized, have returned home. Both are in our prayers for a speedy recovery.

75/25 Fund Raiser Raffle: Joe Sansotta won the raffle and donated the winnings to the Community Service Fund. *Thank You, Joe.*

Our prayers of Thanksgiving are extended to volunteer and vocational First Responders who “Protect and Serve” others.

Community Service:

- a.] Volunteerism continues as members, and spouses, aid various causes including Pints of Blood/Platelets.
- b.] Per our 2014 Donation Plan, a gift check to the Baldwin County Volunteer Firefighter’s Fund was made on Veterans Day [November 11, 2014].

Program:

Today’s topic was the new Club banner and cover letter describing a Chapter annual stipend. Accordingly, the former banner is retired and the new banner will be displayed along with the American Flag at future Chapter meetings, be they public or private. Also, various options were suggested by those present regarding the use of the stipend. The Chapter’s Executive Committee is considering these options, which will result in a response by President Ted to Club leadership regarding the portion of the \$300 allocated for Chapter use and that for Community Service/Charity gifts. A motion to end the meeting was made by Earl Seagle and seconded by President Ted. The motion carried and adjournment was 1:45PM.

Next Meeting: Dec 16, 12:30PM – This will be a Social meeting at Crockett’s Cafeteria, on North Columbia Street in Milledgeville, starting.

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

Maryland / Glen Arm

We are sad to report the loss of our friend and fellow Grummanite, Jim Harper.

Our November meeting was cancelled because a number of members were not able to make it.



We hope everyone had a Happy Thanksgiving!

Reminder: Chapter Dues forwarded to NY are to increase in 2015. Our chapter dues will be due soon. Notices will be sent out shortly after our next meeting. We will discuss possible revisions to the amount of our chapter dues at our next meeting.

General Elections are over and we hope that everyone got out to vote and their choice in candidates game out on top.

Known November / December Birthdays:

Bob Dietz (11/21); Bill Kolbus (11/15); Jim Odom, Jr. (11/5); John Snyder (11/4).

John Higgs (12/3); Rick Oden (12/9); Joan Gebhardt (12/11); Dave Rutherford (12/31)

Happy Birthday to you all!

Unless Notified Otherwise: Our meetings are held the 3rd Tuesday of the month. Daytime meetings are at 1PM; Evening meetings are at 6:30PM.

Upcoming meetings:

Dec 16, at 6:30PM

Jan 20, at 1PM.

All meetings are held at the Golden Corral Aberdeen Md.

Remember: the club is still recruiting members. We are trying to contact Glen Arm Grummanites who might not be Club members. If you have contact information, please forward it to one of the officers listed below.

Questions? Suggestions? Please contact:

President: Rick Swinder

(410-977-7829) rickswinder@gmail.com

Sergeant-at-Arms: Rolfe Feser

(410-661-2580) poppyro@comcast.net

Treasurer: Joe Svach

(443-567-6433) jam.svach@comcast.net

New England North

Chapter is on Winter break.

New Jersey Garden State Chapter

Our November 18, 2014 meeting was held at the Crestwood Family Restaurant with eight members present. President Bill Staples called the meeting to order at 1:15PM. The minutes of the previous meeting were accepted as amended. The dues for this chapter will be \$15 per regular member. The Treasurer's report was read and accepted as read.

Sunshine Report – There was nothing to report.

November Birthdays - John Zator (13th), Bill Stokes (15th), and Elsie Hayden (17th).

November Anniversary - The only anniversary is that of Don & Joyce Smith on the 11th, their 64th.

Old Business – Dues for 2015 will be \$15 for members, \$19 for couples, and \$4 for associates. Members were asked to bring their dues to the next meeting.

New Business - President Bill Staples displayed the new banner for the members to see. He also reminded everyone that the Christmas luncheon will be at Italy's Best at 1.00 P.M.

Ways and Means - Everyone present received a present.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:20 P.M.

Next Meeting: Dec 16, Christmas Luncheon at Italy's Best Restaurant on Route #70, at the in Lakehurst Traffic Circle.

By: Carolyn Kerr, Secy. (732-244-4483)





NEW YORK
Eastern Long Island Chapter

President Bert Moller welcomed 14 Members to our Nov19th meeting at “Cliff’s Rendezvous, in Riverhead.

Minutes and Treasurer’s Report were waived: Treasurer Lynne Miller was ailing.

Bert then unfurled our new Club Banner (courtesy of our Parent Chapter). Thanx!

Bert announced dues for 2015 will be \$15 and the September newsletter will no longer be published, due to dwindling membership (club is aging) [and to much increased printing and mailing costs].

November Birthdays: Ken Becker (11/18), Jo Albert (11/28)

December Birthdays:
Herman Prager (12/6), Joseph Barszczewski (12/20), Tommy Block (12/20), Chester Reeve (12/29), Ray Lanza (12/30).
If any birthdays or anniversaries were missed, let me know.

Mytko Report: Bob Irwin, Richie Myers, and Lynne Miller are all ailing.
We hope you all Get Well Quick!

To report any deaths, illnesses, etc, contact Bill Mytko (1-864-225-4927 or ermytko@yahoo.com).
NO meeting in January 2015.

Next Meeting: February 2015. Place is TBD (Coram Diner proposed)

2015 Dues: \$15 – check payable to **ELI Grumman Retiree Club**: Send your check to Bert Moller, 33 Ramsey Road, Commack, NY 11725. Please print your Name, Address, and Phone Number on the check . . . or use Form in Newsletter.

No Dues = No Newsletter!

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

NORTH CAROLINA
Eastern Carolina Chapter

Veteran’s Day, Nov. 11, found 30 members at “Famous Restaurant” in New Bern, NC, for our monthly meeting. Our Program Directors were Joe Mele and Flossie Johnson. The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance led by Ken Gruebel and a moving invocation remembering all those who lost their lives in all wars to safeguard our freedom. He also remembered two members who passed this last month, Wes Johnson and Dave Shannon.

Joe read excerpts from a sermon his pastor wrote about Armistice Day, now known as Veterans Day. He mentioned that the Armistice to end World War I took effect at the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month in 1918. In Europe, the day is known as Remembrance Day. He also related that during World War II he worked on the B29 in the Mojave Desert making bomb racks to hold the A-bombs that were dropped on Japan.

President Pete asked for the Treasurer’s report. Bob Lamberson told members that the treasury was in good shape.

Bernie & Cathy Kuntz are Program Directors for our December 10 meeting, which will be held at the River Bend Country Club in New Bern, NC.

Bob told members he would be collecting dues today and at the December meeting. We will also have Marines at that meeting to collect “Toys for Tots”, so we are asking all who attend to bring an unwrapped toy. Artie Miller will be sending his usual trivia contest that has become a yearly event. We sure miss seeing him & Fran at our meetings.

Voted on were our charitable contributions for the year. We decided to send \$100 to the Grumman Scholarship Fund, Wounded Warriors, and the Shriners.

Tom Schroder took the floor for his usual standup comedy routine. He never disappoints us! Tom also remembered Wes Johnson, telling members Wes & Pat were charter members of the club. Wes was known as “Mr. 50/50” because he held that job since the beginning until he gave it up two years ago. He



also was Chairman of our nominating committee.

Bob Lamberson then called the 50/50 winners: Ken Gruebel, Mary Olstad, Karl Herrnkind and Tom Schroder.

President Pete announced the birthdays & anniversaries. He also noted the beautiful new Grumman - Northrop Grumman Retiree Club banner that we received from Retiree Club HQ. He wished everyone a safe trip home and a Happy Thanksgiving.

Birthdays: 11/4 - Bill Parker; 11/6 - Ruth Shannon; 11/9 - Elenor Lyons; 11/12 - Karl Herrnkind; 11/14 - Diana Peterson; 11/16 - Hank Vroom; 11/17- Rudy Ramcke; 11/19 - Bob Leun; 11/20 - Tony Peralta; 11/21 - Vincent Rizzi; 11/22 - Paul Heim; 11/24 - Bill Lyons; 11/28 - Otilie Condolff.

Anniversaries: 11/8 - Dick & Helen Guarino; 11/18 - John & Sandy Sullivan; 11/21 - Bill & Denise Stanton; 11/24 - Bill & Elenor Lyons.

By: Dottie Karika (dotjimk@att.net)

PENNSYLVANIA
Northeastern Pennsylvania Chapter

Our November meeting was very poorly attended. The group consisted of the Zupps, the Rademachers, and the Sparkowskis. We hope more will come to the Christmas Party.

A correction to last month's Newsletter: I stated that Anker Peterson was at the meeting. I was wrong: it was Bill Herling. Can't get them all right. Still say we need nametags.

The Treasurer received a letter from Retiree Club HQ, in Bethpage. They are increasing the dues amount, per member, to be sent to the HQ by \$2. This means Fred must send in \$13 instead of \$11. This increase is due to the increased cost of printing and mailing of the Retiree Club Newsletter. Since our dues are \$15, we decided to keep our dues at \$15 for the time being.

Therefore, **dues are due at this time.** Send your

\$15 check (payable to *NEPA Grumman Retiree Club*, not payable to Fred!) to Fred Rademacher, PO Box 1012, Milford, PA 18337-1012.

Also in the letter from HQ was a copy of the new Club Banner. Fred also received a stand, which can display the two banners.

We discussed changing the day of our meeting. Those in attendance cannot make it on weekends, and neither can some of the other members who did not make this meeting. Therefore, our meetings will remain on the 3rd Thursday of the month.

Fred Rademacher received word that Joseph Renderio passed away on October 30th. The Secretary will send a card from the Chapter. Lets keep Gloria and family in our prayers.

Sickness:
— Marie Dowd underwent knee surgery.
— Ed Sparkowski recovering nicely from his operation.

Motion was made and seconded to take the \$300 from Bethpage and donate \$150 to the Gino Merli Veterans Center and \$150 to the St. Francis Commons for Homeless Veterans.

The Officers for the coming year as of now are:

President	Chuck Dowd
Vice President	Open
Secretary	Edward J. Sparkowski
Treasurer	Fred Rademacher
Sergeant-at-Arms	Open.

This month we discussed old TV comedians, shows, and how TV is not what it used to be when we were younger. We had a lot of fun recalling some of the old stars.

Birthdays for November - Mary O'Malley, Albert Schrage, John Saggese, and Stanley Wroblewski.





Anniversaries for November - Marie & Chuck Dowd, Betty & Fred Heppler, and Peggy & Anker Petersen.

Otherwise nothing else happened. We adjourned around 1:30PM and headed home to look forward to the December meeting.

As you will probably be receiving this after Thanksgiving, I hope you all had a good time with family and friends.

Next Meeting: Dec 18, at 11:30AM - Our Annual Christmas Party (note the time change), at Kays Restaurant in Lake Ariel. The Club will pick up the tabs for the Hors d'oeuvres and one round of drinks. After that lunch, etc are on the member. As per custom, we will be raffling off a turkey. If for some unforeseen reason it should snow on the 18th, then we will meet the next day, Dec 19th, at 11:30 AM. So come out and have a good time.

Remember: Our December get together is our last meeting until April. Will keep you updated during our down time if I get stuff to send out.

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

SOUTH CAROLINA
Coastal Carolinas Chapter

November 5, 2014

We welcomed Ed Raulsome and his wife Barbara, who reside in North Carolina. Ed is currently a member of the Bethpage Chapter of The Grumman Retiree Club.

Secretary Nancy Webber called the meeting to order and led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance as well as a moment of silence.

Happy Birthday to Dot Hoffmann and Gene Watson.

The Secretary read the October meeting minutes, which were approved. The Treasurer's report was given by Don Webber. The report was approved.

Please keep Dot Hoffmann, Lee Mascara, and Sally Banker in your prayers. They each have some health issues that they are coping with at the present time.

The winner of the 50/50 drawing was none other than our guest, Ed Raulsome. Congratulations, Ed!

Hopefully, we will have a speaker for the January or February 2015 meeting. In the meantime, if you are aware of anyone whose profession or hobby would be of interest to the Club, please submit their name and telephone number to Nancy Webber (nfwebber@twc.com, or 843-347-2113). All suggestions are welcome.

It is time to think about submitting your 2015 dues, which are \$15 per member, and \$5 per spouse. Make checks payable to Don Webber, 4713 National Drive, Myrtle Beach, SC 29579. Dues must be paid in full in order to receive the Retiree Club Newsletter. Any questions, call Don at 843-347-2113.

Last year we contributed to two charities in December, one in North Carolina and the other in South Carolina. We will need to make these decisions at the December meeting. All suggestions need to be submitted and voted upon.

I am in the process of acquiring 2015 meeting places, and the list will be sent to all members, ASAP. If you have any suggestions for meeting places, please submit them to Nancy Webber before December 2014.

All Grumman, Northrop Grumman, and Northrop retirees are always welcome to participate in our meetings. All guests are welcome too. Each meeting is held on the first Wednesday of each month at 12 Noon, unless otherwise stated.

By: Nancy Webber, Sec'y. (843-347-2113)
nfwebber@twc.com





TEXAS / Houston

VIRGINIA / Central Virginia

Our November 18 meeting was held at the Clear Lake Park Building, NASA #1 Pkwy. The meeting opened with Mary Zucka leading us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

The 50/50 was won by Joe DeBonis.

A silent prayer was made for departed members Ed Voit and Billy Berglund.

Nine members attended the meeting. Our roving correspondent, Ken Maloney, updated the membership with news and activity of his travels.

Jim & Josie Travlos baked a cake in celebration of Angelo's 92nd Birthday.

Our new banner and stand was on display during the meeting. Thank you, Bethpage!

A memo to the Houston Chapter members: Dues are due at this time \$13. Please make checks out to "Grumman Retirees". Send to: Ms. Sandy Howell, PO Box 8142, Bacliff, TX 77518

Again Houston Chapter Dues Due *** \$13 *** No Dues No News

No meeting in December.

Next Meeting: Jan 20, 2015. Time and place to be advised.

Have a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Houston Chapter Dues are Due * \$13 *****

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

On a bright sunny November 12, enjoying the Fall colors in the Blue Ridge Mountains, we arrived at the Edelweiss German Restaurant in Stuarts Draft, VA. After prayer, we enjoyed a delicious traditional German fare

In attendance were seven members and one guest: Frank & Beverly Purstell, Maryanne & Ray Muller (so happy to see you, Ray), Rich Benske, his guest Jackie, and Fred & Marjorie Meiners

Get well wishes and a prayer for missing members Tom O'Rourke, Barbara Edwards and others who have traveled south to warmer weather. We miss you.

With a New Year comes our 2015 DUES request: DUES will remain at \$15 per member. Send checks (payable to: *Grumman - Northrop Grumman Retiree Club, Central VA Chapter* or to *Frank Purstell*) to Frank Purstell, 317 Meadow Beauty Ct., Waynesboro, VA 22980.

Our Christmas Luncheon, at the Waynesboro Country Club, is scheduled for December 10.

First Meeting In 2015:

January 14: 12:30PM, at Shadwells Restaurant Take Exit 124 off I-64, rte 250 west (Pantops area), go approx 1 mile; on left, in front of the Hilton Hotel (previous site of Topeka Steak House). Please call or email Fred Meiners (434-589-2882 or frmeiners@embarqmail.com) or Frank Purstell (434-282-1303 or srpurs@gmail.com) not less than two days before the meeting so seating can be arranged.

We Hope You can ALL Join US!
Without your participation we do not have a Grumman Retiree Club!!!

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





Grumman History

Chapter 26 - What's Next (1975)

(continued from November Newsletter)

Burton's first stop in Iran was to the U.S. Embassy where the finance officer, after being briefed, summed up Burton's mission by saying, "The Iranians will never sign an agreement." As Project Persian King (the Iranian's name for the F-14 program) was an Iranian Air Force program, the undaunted Burton had to brief the U.S. Air Force Military Assistance Advisory Group (MAAG). The MAAG was not encouraging but signed the MOU. Other US military officials briefed by Burton were similarly skeptical. Into all of this negativity Burton remarked, "Just stay out of my way!"

Now Burton had to face the Iranians. First on his list was General Abdolhosain Minousepehr, the leader of the Iranian F-14 program. Satisfied with Burton's briefing, General Minousepehr introduced Burton to General Ali Mohammad Khatami, the commander of the Imperial Iranian Air Force (IIAF). Khatami was a very notable figure as the major F-14 base near Isfahan was named after him. Additionally - and perhaps most importantly- he was the Shah's brother-in-law. Burton also received his concurrence and a meeting was rapidly arranged for Burton to see General Toufanian, Vice Minister of War and a four-star general. As Burton entered Toufanian's huge office he was also confronted with eight senior officers and senior staff. With confidence Burton presented his case, occasionally being asked sharp questions that he crisply answered. At the end of the one-hour briefing and after some caucusing among the Iranians in Farsi, Toufanian concurred with the proposed agreement. How did Burton do it!

Burton's strategy was brilliant. He noted that by signing the MOU Iran would not be going through the U.S. government but would be contracting with Grumman. This would save them the 12% government fee and possibly another 30% markup from the contractor. The result would be a savings of between \$75-\$100 million. General Toufanian commented to Burton after the briefing, "This is the first time any contractor came to Iran and briefed me on how to save money." General Toufanian, after conferring directly with the Shah, signed the MOU.

Skurla would say that this document was the crux of the F-14 program's success in Iran. It should be noted that because of this agreement Grummanites did not have to build tables out of shipping crates and sit on boxes as did other contractors. Burton was another Grumman hero who rose to the occasion to resolve the F-14 "what's next" issue.

By: Ken Speiser and Larry Felio

In Memoriam

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

Alexander, Donna	Moorpark, CA	09/10/14
Berglund, William	Friendswood, TX	10/14/14
Binder, E. Harold	Alstead, NH	11/01/14
Butler, Thomas E.	Lake Grove, NY	02/06/14
Clohessy, Maryann	Lake Worth, FL	01/01/14
Dickman, Paul	Farmington, ME	09/05/14
Frederick, Joseph	Chapin, SC	11/04/14
Foglino, Henry (Hank)	Smithtown, NY	10/26/14
Forbes, Bernadette	Sayville, NY	10/28/14
Jepperson, John	Camarillo, CA	09/20/14
Martin, Art	Camarillo, CA	07/07/14
Massaro, John	Islip, NY	10/11/14
Moore, William	Merrick, NY	10/29/14
Renderio, Joseph	Bath, PA	10/30/14
Rybacki, Theodore	Farmingdale, NY	10/07/14
Sardone, Joseph	Franklin Square, NY	10/25/14
Schimmel, Charles	Bethpage, NY	11/06/14
Scott, Jay	San Francisco, CA	10/20/14
Tartas, T (Phil)	Camarillo, CA	10/02/14
Voit, Edward	Houston, TX	10/12/14
White, James	Bay Shore, NY	11/09/14

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

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Newsletter

Editor: Neil Klaskin
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